

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 1

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 1, 1774–Sept. 2, 1775
EUROPEAN THEATRE: Dec. 6, 1774–Aug. 9, 1775

Part 2 of 8

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caulk as much of her bottom as possible which is at present in a very leaky Condition. I shall be greatly obliged to your Excellency for one or Two Transports a few days to take in her Stores while this work is in hand. I have the Honor to be with great regard. Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston 31st March 1775.

I have had the pleasure to receive your Letter of this Day, respecting your having Occasion for Two Transports to take in the *Somersets* Guns and Stores, which I shall order immediately to Attend and to give you every Assistance possible.

I have the honor Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston 31st March 1775.

Having received Information of some Disturbance about Freetown Swansea and Dighton, I am to beg the Favor of you to write a Line to Captain [James] Wallace ² to give them such Assistance as he is able; If the Captain can send up any vessel to make Enquiry into Matters, and inform the People he has sent it by my Application, and to acquaint me of the best Places to procure Quarters for Troops, I apprehend it would be Sufficient.

I am with great Regard, Sir, &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Commander of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, at Newport.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 31 March 1775

I have sent Captain [James] Wallace A Copy of your Excellency's letter to me, of this Morning, with Orders to comply with your requests therein mentioned. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

1 Apr.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1775

Providence, April 1.

We hear a Number of Fire Arms, with a Quantity of Ammunition, have been sent from on board a Man of War at Newport, to Col. Thomas Gilbert, and his Tory-Adherents, at Freetown.

2 Apr. (Sunday)

SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES, A NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATE IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

Hayes [Edenton] 2d April 1775

Dear Sir I hope this will meet you safely arrived at the Grand Scene of Action, where you will have a most important part to act.² The conduct of the Yorkers seems to have given the Ministry hopes of effecting a Division in the Councils of America, imagining that a Majority of the Assembly speak the sense of the people, from some late proceedings in the House of Commons it would appear that Administration would gladly make a drawn Battle of it could they get an opening at which they might with decency creep out, without incurring the imputation of acting inconsistently but this I am afraid will be impossible while the people of America are so much and so justly irritated, unless the Congress, without giving up essentials, could by appearing to concede bring about a Negotiation, it is to be hoped the present Wound might be closed at least for some time, and it is obvious of how great importance it is to gain time, as the rapid increase of inhabitants in America will for some years exceed all Calculation and will enable us in the Course of a few years to ask with a better Grace than at present greater immunities than are at this time thought of by the most sanguine of our friends.

We have been alarmed with an Account of an Engagement between a Detachment of 1200 of G. [Thomas] Gage's Troops and a body of the N. England Militia, but I suspend my belief till further accounts to confirm it.³

Old Barter is just arrived from Pool and has imported some merchandize I have not heard what, the Committee were sitting this afternoon deliberating what steps were to be taken with him,⁴ I have not heard their determination, I suppose Bob Smith will inform you he is among them.

I would wish to know by the earliest opportunity whether any probable plan is thought of among the Merchants for procuring an importation of Goods this Fall or whether any possibility of giving such conditional orders as can with safety be executed, you know my reason for desiring this information and hope you will not refuse giving me your sentiments on the subject. . . . pray let me hear from you what is doing and what is expected to be done, and believe me always Dear Sr [&c.]

Sam Johnston ⁵

1. Johnston Collection, HL.

2. Hewes and William Hooper were enroute to Philadelphia to attend the Second Continental Congress, scheduled to open May 5, 1775.

3. A rumor several weeks in advance of the fact.

4. For violating the Continental Association.

5. Johnston (1735-1816) was president of the North Carolina Provincial Congress.

3 Apr.

LIBEL IN ROYAL VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY ¹

Court of Vice-Admiralty at Boston April 3, 1775

ALL Persons claiming Property in Thirty-six Casks of Wine, and nine Boxes of Lemmons, seized at Lynn, for Breach of the Acts of Trade, are hereby Notified

to appear at a Court of Vice-Admiralty, to be held at Boston, on Friday the 14th Instant, at 10 o'Clock, Before noon, and shew Cause (if any they have) why the said Wine and Lemmons should not be decreed Forfeit, pursuant to an Information filed in said Court for that Purpose.

1. *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston Weekly News-Letter*, April 6, 1775.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1775

Newport, April 3.

Yesterday morning as the ship *Rose* was moving further into this harbour (for what reason is not certainly known) she ran upon the north-end of Goat Island, where she lay till night.

We hear one of Col. [Thomas] Gilbert's sons, and one or two others, came down from Freetown on Saturday night [April 1], in a small rowing boat, and went on board the above ship; perhaps those persons are Jonases.

It seems that the Freetown gang of traitors is almost broke up, many of the poor, *deluded* creatures not being able to procure victuals for themselves or families, their noble Colonel's magazine being nearly exhausted.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA, IRELAND ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 3d April 1775

we have already wrote you that we sent 3660 bushells of yr Salt to Hallifax the Remndr we put on Board a Sloop for Georgia & when on board we sold it for 10d pence this Money p bushell say for 2500 bushells (this we though[t] would be more to yr advantage in the End tho we are obliged to give Six Months Credit) than to have shipped on your own Acct & we are sure that your salt will turn out more to your Advantage in the End than a Cargo of the Same article that came here the same time from Bristol did for the owner ² upon the whole we hope you will be satisfied that we have done for you as if the Interest had been our own.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Probably the Ship *Sally*, William Moat, master, from Bristol, which entered on March 7, 1775, with 4,000 bushels of salt and 24 servants.

4 Apr.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO BENJAMIN TITCOMB, FALMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 [April, 1775]

You will find long ere this as your son Jos ² did not receive a letter from you as soon as he Expected that he was dispatched without loss of time & we hope to your Satisfaction & we think that he was only two weeks here . . . We wish Sincerely that matters were settled between England & this Continent & from the last accts we have Reason to hope a turn to our advantage however all well wishers to this Continent here are preparing for the worst. Yet I am sorry to say we have A Number of Professed Tories & Still a Greater Number that will not say which Side the[y] are off. Yet I think more than the half are in favour of the Measures we are Entered Into (that is them that avows them Publickly) & we suppose on the whole we have three Fourths on our Side. boath Publick & private

& we have Reason to think the Province in General are friends, save the Scotch & a few that the[y] can Influence

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Joseph Titcomb, master of the sloop *Cumberland*, sailed for Falmouth, in the Province of Maine, on February 14, 1775, with a cargo of 450 bushels of corn, 230 barrels of flour, fifty barrels of bread, and two tons of bar iron.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS GREG¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 [April, 1775]

We wrote you the 11th last Month Informing you of the Arrival of the Brig *Henry & Joseph* with Salt for Jas Forde Esqr in Dro[g]heda, & of our Intentions of sending the Salt to Hallifax & Loading the Vessel acct of Mr Forde. we Shipped 3660 bushells of the Salt for Hallifax on board the Schooner *Betsy Isaac Snow* Mastr the Remndr we Shipped for Georgia & Sold after it was Shipped. we have now almost 5000 bushells of Wheat on Board the Brig also 125 balls flour we hope She will take 7000 bushells if so we do suppose it will Cost 1400 £ Sterling of which plase take notice on acct of Insurance Indeed if the Wheat will not Cost so much there will be other articles that will make that Same

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA¹

[Wilmington] Wednesday, April 4th. [1775]

Mr. Alexander Hostler applied to the committee to have their advice concerning a ship called the *Clemantine*, which was coming to his address from London, commanded by Dick Wier, which is lost on the middle ground near the Bar of the River. At the same time Mr. Hostler delivered to the committee, an Invoice of sundry stationary goods shipped on board the said vessel, which he requested the committee to take also into consideration and direct him what may be done with the said ship, stores and materials and stationary goods.

Ordered, That it is the opinion of this committee that the vessel, with her stores and materials may be legally sold without any breach being made in the General Association, but as the stationary goods are landed at Brunswick, this committee think they don't come under their direction.

1. Loring, ed., *Safety Committee of Wilmington, N.C.*

5 Apr.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir,

Boston April 5th 1775.

I take the Liberty to enquire of you whether you have any Ship or armed Vessel at or near the Penobscot River, or whether you have any that could be Sent thither on a temporary Service? I shall take an opportunity to see you and converse with you on the Service I have in View to perform.

I shall at the Same time be obliged to you for your opinion of the Number of Troops that the Boats belonging to your Squadron in the Harbour would be

able to take on board should I have occasion to make Application to you for their Assistance

I have the honor to be with great Regard and Esteem Sir [&c.]

Thos. Gage

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir I have received your Excellency letter relative to the affair of Penobscot &c and will do myself the Honor of calling upon your Excellency tomorrow Morning at 10 o'clock. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

Wednes 5 April 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.

6 Apr.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO SAMUEL SOLLY WENTWORTH, MERCHANT IN DOMINICA¹

Sir

New London April 6th 1775

by our Frind Capt John Deshon who was in a Vissell of mine last Summer I find that you assisted him in the Sale of his Cargo of Mules,² and the Obligations were left in your hands, as by your Rect to the Amount of Twenty Five hundred & Seventy Seven pounds 8/5 and Accot in my favour – I should be Glad you would Collect the Money in Good Bills, of Exchange pay in London – Should Choose the Persons bills who bought the Mules Especially Mr Nelsons – and hope you'll not take any but what will be paid with Honour – of this you must be the best Judge – and when you have Recd the Bills forward them to me by the first Oppory the Mules trade, and shall give my Captains, Orders to Call att Domineca & if the Markitts thair are Agreeable shall give them Directions to Call on you to Dispose of their Cargoes – but as to trade for the future, the Whole Depends on the Brittish Parliament Repealing the American Acts – I have Sent you sum of our News Papers by wich you'll see that we are Determin'd and Unanimous to Abide by the Resolutions of the Continental Congress – I am Sir – [&c.]

Nathel Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

2. Mules, brought from the Mediterranean in 1774.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO ELEAZER POMROY, GUADELOUPE MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

New London April 6th 1775. –

Dear Sir, I Recived a line from you at St Eustatia and find that you had Sold your Cargoe and was to Return back to Guadulupe hope You'll Make Money by it – I Effected the Insurance you wrote for in N York and now Intend, to Mention to the Underwriters, that You did not Proceed on the Voyage no further then St Eustatia and that I think it Reasson able the Risque now must be from St Estatia to New London when you Come home but I am Much at a Loss when to Mention

of my Opinion of your Returning . . . I hope you'll be Abe to Collect all the Debts that I have Demand Ship the Effects in Some of my Vissels The Jin you Shipt home was Seized at New Port and your Bro Bot it at Vendue for 10/6 Sterg p Case and was Obliged to pay the freight he has Shipt it to New York its very Slow Sale. Nothing will Command Cash but Molls and Powder I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

ALEXANDER McDougall to Josiah Quincy, Jr.¹

[Extract]

New York, April 6, 1775

During the Ship *Buelah's* stay in the Bay she was continually watched by a Sub-Committee, and did not enter. But while she lay at the Hook waiting for a fair wind, the night before she departed threatened a storm; and as the Boat, on board of which the Sub-Committee attended, was not so well provided with ground-tackling as the Ship, the Boat was obliged to go into a cove of safety, at some distance from the Ship. The owners,² who had some goods on board, having previously meditated a plan to land them availed themselves of this opportunity, and effected it in the night. Of this they were suspected, and our Sub-Committee of Observation, and the Committee of Elizabeth Town, having got a clue to a discovery, the owners confessed the matter upon oath. Our citizens were so enraged at them for the horrid deed, that it was with great difficulty they were prevailed upon not to banish them. The fearful apprehensions of these persons, and the terms on which they are suffered to abide here, are fully expressed in the printed papers which you have herewith. This is the only violation of the Association we have had since it took place. The punishment they now and will endure is sufficient to deter any man, however base, from another breach.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 284. McDougall (1732-86) was a New York radical who had commanded a privateer in the French and Indian War.

2. Robert and John Murray.

7 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 7th [April, 1775]

The *Margueritta* returned from Piscataqua and Captain [Andrew] Barkley acquainted the Admiral that the *Canceaux* had not been able to sail for Halifax before the *Margueritta's* Arrival, and that he had sent her to Falmouth in Casco Bay according to the Admirals Order.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 62, MassHS Transcript.

INSURANCE POLICY UPON THE CARGO IN THE BRIG *Mount Holly*¹

WHEREAS *I Stepn Collins* as well in *my* own Name, as for and in the Name and Names of all and every other Person or Persons, to whom the same doth, may or shall appertain, in Part or in all doth make Assurance and causeth myself and them and every of them to be Insured, lost or not lost, at and from *Philadelphia*

To London upon all Kinds of lawful Goods and Merchandizes, loaden or to be loaden aboard the good *Brig* called the *Mount Holly* whereof is Master for this present Voyage *George Carr*² or whosoever else shall go for Master in the said Ship, or by whatsoever other Name or Names the same Ship, or the Master thereof, is, or shall be named or called, beginning the Adventure upon the said lawful Goods and Merchandizes from and immediately following the Loading thereof on board the said *Brig* aforesaid, and so shall continue and endure until the said Goods and Merchandizes shall be safely landed at *London* aforesaid. And it shall and may be lawful for the said Ship in her Voyage to proceed and sail to, touch and stay at any Ports or Places, if thereunto obliged by Stress of Weather, or other unavoidable Accident, without Prejudice to this Insurance. Touching the Adventures and Perils, which we the Assurers are contented to bear, and to take upon us in this Voyage, they are, of the *Seas, Men of War, Fires, Enemies, Pirates, Rovers, Theives, Jettisons, Letters of Mart, and Counter Mart, Surprisals, Taking at Sea, Arrests, Restraints and Detainments, of all Kings, Princes, or People of what Nation, Condition or Quality soever, Barratry of the Master and Mariners*, and all other Perils, losses and misfortunes, that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said Goods or Merchandizes, or any Part thereof. And in case of any Loss or Misfortunes, it shall be lawful to and for the Assured *his* Factors, Servants and Assigns, to sue, labour and travel for, in and about the Defence, Safeguard and Recovery of the said Goods or Merchandizes, or any Part thereof without Prejudice to this Insurance, to the Charges whereof we the Assurers will contribute each one, according to the Rate and Quantity of his Sum herein Assured. And it is agreed by us the Assurers, that this Writing or Policy of Insurance, shall be of as much Force and Effect, as the surest Writing or Policy of Assurance heretofore made in Lombard-Street, or elsewhere in LONDON. And so, we the Assurers are contented, and do hereby promise and bind ourselves each one for his own Part, our Heirs, Executors and Goods, to the Assured *his* Executors, Administrators and Assigns, for the true Performance of the Premises, confessing ourselves paid the Consideration due unto us for the Assurance, by the said Assured or *his* Assigns at and after the Rate of *Two Pounds Ten Shillings P Ct* And in Case of Loss, the Assured is to abate *Two Pounds per Cent.* and such Loss to be paid in three Months after Proof thereof. And it is agreed, that if any Dispute shall arise relating to a Loss on this Policy it shall be referred to two indifferent Persons, one to be chosen by the Assured, the other by the Assurer or Assurers, who shall have full Power to adjust the same; but in Case they cannot agree, then two such Persons shall chuse a third, and any two of them agreeing, shall be obligatory to both Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE the Assurers have subscribed our Names and Sums Assured in *Philadelphia* the *Seventh* Day of *April* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy *Five*

Memorandum. *Salt, Wheat, Indian Corn, Peas, Malt and dried Fish stow'd in Bulk, and Tobacco in Casks, are warranted free from Average, unless general, or the Ship be stranded. All other Goods free from Average under Five Pounds per Cent. unless general, or the Ship be stranded.*

The Assured shall allow the Office-Keeper or Broker Half per Cent. for his Trouble, in collecting any Loss that may happen on this Policy, paying the same in due Time, and registering it in the Office-Books.

£ 100, One hundred pounds *John Bringhurst*

£ 100, One hundred pounds *Theo & Rich Bache*

£ 100, One hundred pounds *Jereah. Warder Jun.*

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC. This is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics.
2. According to Custom House Records, the brig *Mount-Holly*, G. Carr, for London, was entered outwards and cleared just prior to April 3, 1775. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 3, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1775

Williamsburg, April 7.

Captain Sampson, of the snow *Elizabeth*, of Bristol, who was lately published as a violator of the association, and an enemy to American liberty, for refusing to take on board again his cargo of salt, which the Norfolk committee had permitted him to unload, till he could get his vessel repaired and in order for sailing, has at last found it convenient, after repeated prevarications and much indiscreet and disrespectful behaviour, to take in his load of salt, and is sailed back for Bristol, without any other cargo.

JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

North Carolina, New Bern, April 7th 1775.

I am bound in conscience and duty to add, My Lord, that Government is here as absolutely prostrate as impotent, and that nothing but the shadow of it is left. It is indeed alike the Case in every other Colony that I hear of except New York, where the virtue of the Assembly has as yet supported it. I must further say, too, my Lord, that it is my serious opinion which I communicate with the last degree of concern that unless effectual measures such as British Spirit may dictate are speedily taken there will not long remain a trace of Britain's dominion over these Colonies.

1. Saunders, comp., *Records of North Carolina*, IX, 1212-1214.

8 Apr.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE, COMMANDER OF FORT POWNALL, PENOBSCOT ¹

Sir

Boston 8th April 1775

Considering the present State of the Country, and the most daring and illegal Attempts that have been made against his Majesty's Government even to the Seizing and dismantling his Forts. Lieut [Thomas] Graves Commander of his Majesty's Armed Schooner *Diana*, together with a Detachment of His Majesty's 64th Regiment, are Ordered to Fort Pownal, with directions to take onboard all

the Artillery and spare Arms belonging to, and in Store at said Fort; and this is to require you to deliver said Artillery and spare Arms into the Charge of said Lieut Graves, that they same may be secured for the present, and returned at a proper Season

I am &c

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston April 8th 1775

The Detachment of the 64th Regt ordered with Lieutenant [Thomas] Graves ² to Penobscot will be on Board their Vessel this Evening and ready to follow the Lieutenant's Orders.

I transmit you my Letter to the Commander of Fort Pownall under a flying Seal, for your own and Lieut Graves Perusal, which he will please to close and deliver, and I am to beg of you to give Lieutenant Graves orders in Consequence of the Contents thereof.

I also enclose you a Copy of my Orders to the Subaltern who is to command the Debarkment of the 64th

I will take this opportunity to mention that Mr Thomas has twice informed me of his application to you concerning stationing an armed Vessel Some time longer at Marshfield, which I should be glad was complied with if you have no objections to the contrary.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Commander of H.M. Schooner *Diana*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

New London April 8, 1775

I returned yesterday from Newport & Providence I assure you that you are very diligent in getting in readiness, but I am much afraid that we have not a Sufficiency of powder have you any lately arrived or do you Expect any in. let me know in yr next & what its sold for.

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

9 Apr. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 9th [April, 1775]

The *Diana* and a Sloop sailed for Penobscot with Orders, after dismantling the Fort there, putting all the cannon, ammunition and Stores aboard the Sloop, and seeing her safe out of the Bay on her way to Boston, to proceed to Falmouth and endeavour to press Seamen for the Fleet, but to return to Boston in one month.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 62, MassHS Transcript.

10 Apr.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF FALMOUTH, MAINE PROVINCE ¹

Committee of Inspection Chamber

Falmouth, Mass., April 10, 1775

To hold a man up as an object of general detestation, to deprive him of the benefits that result from society, is disagreeable, is painful; but, on the other hand, to neglect the interest of our Country, to disappoint the just expectations for our constituents is dishonourable and base. The Committee of Inspection of the Town of Falmouth, therefore come forward, to discharge the duty they owe the publick, and the trust reposed in them by their fellow-citizens.

On Thursday, the 2d ult., the Sloop *John and Mary*, Henry Hughes, Master, arrived here from Bristol, supposed to have goods on board for Captain Thomas Coulson, of this place; and as the late Continental Congress had, by their Association, prohibited the importation of any goods from Great Britain after the first day of February last, this Committee, chosen by the said Town of Falmouth to observe the conduct of all persons in said Town touching said Association, immediately convened, and after employing some persons to see that nothing was taken out of said Sloop during their debates, they proceeded to consider the circumstances of the case; and being informed by Captain Coulson that said Vessel had on board sundry Rigging, Sails, and Stores, sent him by Mr. Garnet, Merchant in Bristol, for a new Ship lately built here by said Coulson, for said Garnet, the said Committee, after a full and serious consideration of the matter, gave it as their opinion, that his taking said Rigging and Sails out of the vessel in which they arrived, and appropriating them to rig his new Ship, in order to send her to England, would be a violation of the Continental Association, and therefore that the said Rigging, Sails and Stores, ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the packages thereof.

Of this opinion the said Coulson had due notice, but not making any preparations to comply therewith, the said Committee again convened on Tuesday following, viz; the 7th ult. Captain Coulson then attended, agreeable to the desire of this Committee, and being asked why he had not sent away the goods, agreeable to the opinion of this Committee, founded on the aforesaid Association, he said, because it was not for his interest; and further said that the vessel wanted repairs, and therefore was unfit to go to sea, and that he did not choose to procure another, or to send back the said Rigging and Sails, otherwise than by rigging his said new Ship with them, and thus to send them back in the said new Ship; but that he would consent to have them stored at the Committee's risk until the vessel was repaired, and then he would re-ship them, and send them out of the harbour. But being asked whether he would send them back to Bristol, he declined giving the Committee any assurance that he would, though he was willing to send back the two hogsheads of Lines which came in said vessel.

This Committee then sent for a Committee of Carpenters, Riggers, and Caulkers, who had been on board to view her, at the request of a number of the inhabitants of this Town, and they informed us that the vessel wanted some repairs, but that in their opinion, she might be repaired, fit to return, in about

two days, without taking out the goods. Upon which the Committee passed the following Resolve, and sent a copy of it to Captain Coulson, viz:

That seven days be allowed said Coulson, from this time, to repair said vessel, and to make the necessary preparations for sending her back; and if he does not at the end of that term (wind and weather permitting) send said vessel out of this harbour to proceed to Bristol, this Committee will forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published, agreeable to the Continental Association.

At the expiration of said term, viz: on the evening of the 14th ult., the Committee met again, and although a deposition, signed by several persons, some of whom were merchants, masters of vessels, and ship-carpenters, was then handed in to this Committee, purporting that said vessel was unfit to go to sea until the goods were taken out, and she thoroughly repaired, yet it appeared that Captain Coulson had not taken due care to get said Sloop repaired, nor had endeavoured to procure another, in which to reship the goods to Bristol, and would give the Committee no assurance that he would send them back, in any other manner than he at first proposed. The Committee then adjourned to the 15th ult., and then passed the following Vote, viz:

That if Captain Coulson will re-ship the aforesaid goods in some other vessel, and send them back immediately, without breaking any of the packages, it will be satisfactory to this Committee.

To this Captain Coulson (who was again desired to attend, to hear the Committee's determination) would not consent, though one of this Committee offered him a vessel gratis, to carry them to Halifax or Newfoundland.

We, the said Committee of Inspection, do therefore, agreeable to the directions of the said Continental Congress, as expressed in the said Eleventh Article of their Association, hereby publish the name of the said Thomas Coulson, as a violator of the Continental Association.

By order of the Committee:

Enoch Freeman, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 311, 312.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Dear Sir

New York April 10th 75

I have yours of the 1st Inst p Jno Heeny and note its Contents – I sent you 30 Barrells flower p David Harris & the Remaining 120 Brls to make up 150 will come by Heeny who will sail On Tuesday or Wednesday –

note what you say about Obtaining Clearence for Sugar, Should [Edward] Chappell come down for this Purpose, shall apply to our freind as before & if it can be done with Saifty, but have not had time since last Saturday evening to see our friend – no Molasses now at Markit and its much Wanted, the Current price is 23d, and its a doubt with me if best Retailing Molass. would not bring 2/ Just now, unless some should fall in – very best Sugars would sell at 53/ to 56/ as the best Quality be scar[c]e & Common plenty Coffee is green & good 11d flower 16/ & Superfine 22/ – the Accot in Edes & Gills Paper² alarms us, but am in

hopes it will Unite us the more, as it will Effect the Tories & you may depend we Will not Suffer the association of the Congress Violated & the Tories be afraid of the Whigs, I am – [&c]

Peter Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. *Boston Gazette*.

11 Apr.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Cambridge] Tuesday April 11, 1775

A Letter from Mr [John] Barber read;

Thereupon, Ordered, That it be committed to Doctr [Samuel] Holton, Mr [Nathaniel Peasley] Sargeant, and Colo [Seth] Pomeroy, to consider thereof, and Report.

The Committee thereon reported, Verbally, that Colo [Samuel] Thompson be desired immediately to repair to Brunswick, Casco Bay, Woolwich, Georgetown, and other places, and take the most effectual measures to acquaint the people that one Mr Perry [Parry] ² is in the Eastern part of the Country, endeavouring to supply our Enemies with Masts, Spars and Timber, and to make use of all proper & effectual measures to prevent their aiding him in procuring said Articles.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

2. Edward Parry, whose activities are covered in a number of subsequent letters and documents.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

April 1775 Tuesday 11th	P M sent on board of a Schooner which Captn [Andrew] Barkley hired for to Carry dispatches to Adml [Samuel] Graves at Boston, Bread 224 pounds, Beer 4 Hhds, Beef 32 pieces, Pork 32 pieces, Butter 24 pounds, pease 1 Bushell, Oatmeal 12 Gallons, Water Caskes 10, Bisket Bags 7, 6 Black Musquett, 6 Pistols, 6 Swords, 12 Cartouch Boxes with Belts & Frogs, 10 pounds of Musquett Shot, 6 pounds of Pistol Shott & 10 pounds of Powder; at 2 the Master & Seven Men went on board the Schooner, & sailed for Boston –
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1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 11th. April 1775

The *Hope* Schooner has brought from Rhode Island the Tents and Camp Equipage &c for the Marines, and is placed at the entrance into this Harbour between Point Shirley and Deer Island.

Upon the death of the man who deserted from the *Gaspee* at Falmouth (of which I acquainted you in my Letter March 4th and of the Court Martial thereupon) some of the Inhabitants of the place thought fit to threaten to destroy the *Gaspee* or any other Kings Ship that should come there; insomuch that Lieut

[William] Hunter judging it unsafe to send a Boat on shore, and wishing to avoid the Civil Power there taking Cognizance of the Seaman's death, returned to Boston; Upon his Acquittal I instantly ordered him back to Falmouth, partly with a View of getting the Deserters, but principally to check the Insolence of threatening the Kings Ships, by assuring them that if they committed any act of violence against the persons of his Majesty's Officers or Seamen or destroyed any of the Kings Stores, that I would take the severest Measures to distress them the Law would allow. This Message had the proper Effect; they reply'd civilly to Lieut. Hunter's Letter, and the people of the *Gaspee* went ashore as usual without being insulted, but the Deserters were not in the Town, and the *Gaspee* after remaining on the Coast her appointed time proceeded to Halifax to get ready to attend the Fisheries this Summer in the Bays of Chaleur and Gaspee.

I had fully purposed to send the *Asia* to New York according to what I formerly mentioned to you and Lieut. Governor [Cadwallader] Colden, but a Vessel arriving at Salem in six weeks from Falmouth with Accounts of the Proceedings of Parliament to the middle of February,² and of the *Falcon* being either sailed or upon the point of departing, I determined to wait her Arrival before I sent any of the large Ships from this Harbour, in order to be in a Condition fully and effectually to execute any Orders I might have the Honour to receive from their Lordships.

The *Asia's* Decks and sides have been caulked, she is completed with Stores, and is in all respect fit for Service; I have ordered her for the present to lie in Kingroad.

We have been obliged to lighten the *Somerset* by taking out her Guns, Cables, &c. Upon stripping the sheathing from her Bottom, we found the Ocham in her seams entirely rotten and the Butt Ends open; these Defects have been repaired, her Decks and sides well caulked and I have placed her, where the *Lively* and *Canceaux* formerly lay, between Charles Town and Boston. It is very likely that in this situation she will be of considerable service. They have not yet finished caulking the *Boyne*, but this Ship will in a few days be compleat; The sudden Departure of these Ships from England prevented perhaps, their being as well fitted and stored as they otherwise would have been. It is certain they came to me with a very scanty allowance of Stores, and their upper works in a leaky Condition. I have endeavoured in the most frugal manner to make up these Deficiencies and equip them for Service; but the want of Men is another impediment. The Squadron is already upwards of 160 short, and from the same Causes, vizt Death and Desertion, it is likely this number will be increased. I have therefore ordered Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* at Virginia to press for Seamen, if Volunteers cannot be had.

It has now become almost unpardonable for Pilots to take Charge of the Kings Ships and Vessels, several have been driven from their Homes and threatened with death for assisting his Majesty's Fleet. I therefore encourage them to come to me, and have at this time several Pilots in pay, more than are immediately necessary, thinking these very usefull people should not all be suffered to abandon the Coast when the King's Service may very soon require their assistance. I endeavour to retain them upon the cheapest Terms I can for the King without re-

garding the established rules of payment, excepting not to exceed them. I hope their Lordships will approve of my bearing some of these persecuted Pilots on this emergency, rather than let them quit the Country, as I think the necessity for this measure cannot long exist.

Their Lordships have been pleased to order me to hire two Schooners for the particular Service of this Harbour, which with the *Falcon* they imagined would be sufficient for the purpose of guarding it; I have accordingly hired a Sloop and a Schooner, and caused them to be manned, victualed and stored as their Lordships have directed. One of these Vessels at the pressing Intreaty of the Inhabitants (and the Generals desire) has been chiefly employed at Marshfield,³ and where, tho' she is at present in this Harbour, I must send her or some other again. The other hired Vessel has been to and from Piscataqua, Marblehead and Salem, on business for the Squadron, and is now in this Harbour assisting in preventing the unlawful Entry of Vessels.⁴ I have also hired a small Sloop of 25 Tons which I have placed between Nodles Island and the Main near Winnisimmet Ferry; through this passage I find much Smuggling has been carried as it is extremely convenient and near to the two Towns. The small Sloop now placed there will answer every purpose of a much larger and more expensive Vessel. Frequent attempts are every week made to enter this Harbour, some in the night, and others upon various pretences of Distress, Ignorance and of bringing provisions imagining that provisions might be brought in without complying with the mode prescribed by the Act of Parliament; and smuggling is carried to such a height, and so systematically followed, that without the utmost Vigilance and care, there is no detecting them to Condemnation: We have however caught several lately.

The posts are become somewhat insecure, two of my last Letters have been opened at Philadelphia, and a Letter from Captain [James] Wallace at Rhode Island has been absolutely taken away from a special Messenger; Other Departments of the Crown have experienced the same treatment. If this practice gains ground I shall be obliged to hire some good going small Vessels by way of Advice Boats to carry dispatches to the different Ships when opportunities do not offer by any Vessel of the Squadron; but I do assure their Lordships, that whatever Expedients the necessity of the times obliged me to, no Expences shall be incurred but such as the Safety of his Majesty's Squadron and the good of the Service make absolutely necessary.

As the *Canceaux* was aground in Piscataqua River last January, I have ordered her to Halifax to have her Bottom examined and then to proceed on the Survey; Lieut. [Henry] Mowat is also directed in his way to Halifax to put into Falmouth to protect a new Ship lately launched there, and another Vessel that has brought her Rigging Sails and Stores from England; both these Vessels are threatened with being burnt; I have therefore ordered Lieut. Mowat to get them round as soon as possible to Marblehead or Portsmouth where they can be secured from danger.

Lieut. [Thomas] Graves in the *Diana* with a Land Officer and a party of Soldiers in another Sloop, at the desire of the General, are gone to Penobscot to bring away certain quantities of Arms and Ammunition in the Fort⁵ that they may not fall into the hands of our Adversaries.

The *Glasgow* is again well repaired and afloat; we are using every means to get her fitted and ready for Sea.

I am anxiously expecting the Arrival of the *Falcon*; Their Lordships may depend upon my executing whatever Orders I receive by her with the utmost punctuality.

Sir &c

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 63-67, MassHS Transcript.
2. By the middle of February, 1775, the House of Commons was considering a bill introduced by Lord North on February 10, "to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, the Colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein mentioned under certain conditions and for a time to be limited."
3. H.M. Schooner *Diana*.
4. H.M. Sloop *Margaretta*.
5. Fort Pownall.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Apl. 11th [1775]

The Admiral gave orders to all the ships at Boston not to suffer any Stock to be taken off the Islands in the harbour without permission, and as the situation of things became more and more critical, and he was solicited to guard Boston against any attempt from Charles Town side, he caused the channel of the [Charles] river to be sounded, and, finding there was room enough for a large ship to swing at low water, ordered Captain [Edward] Le Cras to place the *Somerset* exactly in the Ferry way between the two towns, which he accordingly did.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 70, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Apr. 11. [1775]

Col. [Thomas] Gilbert of Freetown has fled to the man o' War in this port - Yesterday above a Thousand Men assembled in Arms at Freetown to lay Col. Gilbert as they had heard he had risen up against his country. They came from all parts round as far as Middleboro' Rochester &c - They took about 30 of his men and disarmed them, tho' they had lately taken the Kings Arms.

1. Stiles, II, 31, 32, LC.

12 Apr.

ENOCH FREEMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF FALMOUTH, TO SAMUEL FREEMAN, A DELEGATE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

[Falmouth] April 12, 1775

[Thomas] Coulson no sooner arrived, but the next day had the Canso Man-of-War ² up to Town, and his old Bristol Sloop alongside of his new Ship, taking out the goods. But it seems he cannot get any of our people to help him; and I

do not think he will be able to get his Ship loaded and rigged unless he gets the Man-of-Wars men to do it. And I hear that Capt. [Henry] Mowat has been pressing men; some he releases, and some retains; and it is suggested by some, that his design is to supply Captain Coulson with men from his own Ship. We shall do all we can to prevent any other person from breaking the Association. I do not think it will be amiss for you to acquaint some of the Committee of Inspection in Boston of Captain Coulson's conduct, with which the People in general in Town and Country, are very much dissatisfied.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 318.

2. His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux*.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JOSIAH MARTIN, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA¹

(Copy).

Boston 12th April 1775

Sir. Your Letter of the 16th March I have now the Pleasure to receive & am glad to hear many of People in your Province are begin[nin]g to find they are misled and that they seem inclined to disengage themselves from the Arbitrary Power of the Continental Congress and of their Committees. I wish I could say as much of the People of this Province who are more cool than they were but their Leaders by their Acts and Artifices still keep up that seditious & licentious Spirit that has led them on all Occasions to oppose Government & even to Acts of Rebellion. The late Accots from England have embarras'd their Councils much they have applied to the New England Governments and doubtless will to those to the southward to assist them but I hope the madness of the Latter is wearing off and that they will get no encouragement from thence This Province has some times been & now is in the new fangled Legislature termed a Provincial Congress who seem to have taken the Government into their Hands what they intend to do I can't pretend to say but they are certainly much puzzled how to act Fear in some & want of Inclination in others will be a great bar to their coming to Extremities tho their Leaders use every Measure to bring them into the Field. I am sorry it is not in my Power to supply you with the number of Arms you Request I have them not to spare in the present Conjunction of the Service here I may assist you with some Powder but can get no safe Opportunity from this to send it to you I shall order you a supply by way of New York and whatsoever may be in my Power to assist you to keep up the present good Disposition of the Loyal part of your Province I shall be happy to do and am sorry I cannot at present do more –

I have the Honour to be with great Esteem [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

[Endorsed]

a true Copy certified by – Wm Hy Drayton. chairman²

1. Hayes Mss. (P.C. 117), NCDAH.

2. Enclosed in the South Carolina Committee of Intelligence to the Committee of Wilmington, June 6, 1775.

"A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, DATED APRIL 12"¹

One Col. [Thomas] Gilbert, a high prerogative man in Boston government, about thirty miles from hence, with 60 or 70 of his neighbours, armed themselves; they agreed to defend themselves from the insults of the sons of liberty; but some militia men, zealous in the cause, went in chase of them. The Colonel took refuge on board a man of war in this harbour. The others, except 20, made their escape; these 20 are now confined in Providence gaol, where they were conducted last evening. What will be the event time must discover.

1. *London Chronicle*, from June 15, to Saturday, June 17, 1775, Postscript.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 12 [April, 1775]

I wrote you the 3d Inst since then none of your favrs this goes by [Henry] Tickell who is now Loaded & will Sail tomorrow his Cargo amts to 2426-17s-0 . . . I hardly think that I shall ship any more for Mr [James] Forde unless a Vessell comes out for it as the high price & low Exchange will prevent me on acct of his Interest. Tickell would not allow the Plank &c. for Lineing his Vessell to be Charged him neither would he allow a Commisn. on the 70 £ Sterling advanced him as he thought he should not pay a Commssion on the Receipt of his Salt freight what I advanced him above the 70 £ he allowed a Commisn. that he would not pay, but as he was not to Receive his freight for the Salt until he arrived at Dro[g]hada. I think he must pay the Commisn. & I beg you may get the Matter Settled between him & Forde. I also think as there was no mention made who should line the Vessell that Tickell should do it as it is the Custom of this place.

You should guard against such disputes for the future who you Charter a Vessell [Alexander] Kennedy² not yet arrived Billy has not made his Appearance³ when he does Shall send the Schooner to you⁴ I long to hear from you. As we have had no arrivals lately I cannot expect it, but hope soon to have that pleasure.

I shall write you soon by a Vessel for Dublin

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Alexander Kennedy, master of the ship *Baltimore Packet*.

3. Billy Salmon.

4. Schooner *Industry*.

° LEVINUS CLARKSON TO DAVID VAN HORNE¹

Hon Sr

Chs Town 12th. April 1775

Inclosd youll please to Receive Mr White Second of Exchange, First I hope is long since Reced I have taken your Advice Relative to Mr Rapelya Purchas of Indiceo, A Quantity was offer him a 25/ wch he was Checkening, Tho it was first Offerd me & when I found he was so eager after I Imediately Purchasd wch is about 800lb Wt, I could not git it on Board [Hurst] as she was cleard out Shall Ship it on Board a Sloop that will sail in 10 days Capt Godfrey Master at

wch time a Philadelphia Vessel will sail when I shall order you to make Insurance, By wch means it gives me a chanze to save the Insurance

In the mean time look out for a Purshaur I Judg it wil sell from 9 to 10 York [currency], Tho dispose of it to the best advantage & as soon as Possable as you are in Advance for me, I will allow you Intrist, If you can point out any way that I may save myself I Shall Remit you the £700 York wth its Intrist of 5 pct the young Chancllr Decreed against me, Tho not assurd no Bills Shall pass me – Please to pay Major Bayard for Mr Lysles Horses, Send me your Accot Currant – I have sold Rose for £360, £30 of wch is paid me & the Remainder I have taken Thos Elliott & Jacob Velks Bond wth 8 pc Intrist from the date until time wch is wil be 9 Months. The most Impudent Bitch I ever meet wth This Bond is Undoubtly good Despaired to her Purchaser that if they would not send hir Back to New York she would destroy hir Self Otherways I could have got more money for hir

Thank Major Bayard for his Horse I can git £400 Currancy for him when Poly leaves this the Price of the Horse & Chier is £100 Stg wch I am sure I can git, Rapelyas Horse are not liked Consequently the Expences attending them will run a way wth the Profits should there be any – There is a Brig coming up from Salem, I Judg hir to be Messs Bethune & Prince Brig of Boston to my Address As they wrote me Lately on that head Mr Kelly is wth us and Intends leaving this in a few days by land, If my Plan Succeeds wth Hamilton I shall make a great Voyage I am as much Coarted for the Preferanc of his Homeward Cargo, As Lord North is for Pentions Rice Still at 50/ & if this Sloop will take it in low I shall ship 100 Cask wch be Pleasd to mention to those most likely to purchase for it gives me more Concern to find by Major Bayard Letter you Refused payin for a long time for the Horse, This Mr Marston must know Consequently many other Merchants, And of coarse it must be bad with him Dr Sir Rest Assurd you shall be paid in a few Week days did I know how, And I Assure you Dr Sir I shall be Careful how I owe you Mony again, For what you have done I sincerely thank you for tho I am Apprehensive you have Blasted my Reputation as a Merchant wth those of New York, had you Refusd £1500 instead of £50 Some thought might be given, For an Excuse, to give to the Major I am at a Loss wh is the Reason of my Silence.

We are all well & am Dr Sir [&c.]

Lev^s Clarkson

To David Van Horne Esqr New York

1. Levinus Clarkson Papers, 1772–1793, LC.

13 Apr.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N. TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir. Yesterday Governor [John] Wentworth sent on board His Majesty's Ship under my Command, John Johnson, a deserter from the 43d Regiment desireing I wou'd keep him on board until an Oppertunity offerd to send him to your Excellency. I will therefore send him in the first Kings Vessel that goes for Boston, he seems very sensible of his past error, in desirting of His Majesty's

Service in this Country, and acquaints me there is ten or twelve deserters at New Boston, the Town where he has been at who mean to return to their duty if they can by any means get to this Town, if they shou'd I shall take care to keep them safe til an Opportunity offers to send them to you.

I shall be very happy if I could be of any service to your Excellency in this part.

Inclosed I have sent you a Letter that accompanied the Deserter.

I am [&c.]

[Andrew Barkley]

Scarborough at Portsmouth April 13th 1775.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 13th [April, 1775]

The Admiral had also caused the utmost Dispatch to be used in getting the Ships with him fit for Sea. The four large Men of War had been ordered to rig a month sooner than usual; and the *Asia* Being destined for New York was ready in every respect by the Middle of March. They were all victualled for three months, and their Stores compleated as far as could be supplied, their Boats having been repaired during the Winter; in short every thing possible was done, that the Season would admit, to have the Squadron very early in a state for Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 70, MassHS Transcript.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1775

New York, April 13.

Yesterday afternoon the *King Fisher* Sloop of War, weighed anchor and proceeded to the North River, in order to protect two Transports, which lately arrived here from Boston, to take in necessaries for carrying on the Siege of that Place.

On Tuesday arrived the Ship *Earl of Dunmore*, Captain [John] Lawrence, in a short Passage from London. and Yesterday, the *Harriott* Packet Boat, Captain Lee, in 7 weeks and 3 days from Falmouth, by whom we have the London Papers to the 23d February.

Capt. Lawrence informs us, that one paper of the 23d Feb. (which we could not get) mentions the vote having passed the house of commons, for the *suspension* of the several American acts.

14 Apr.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER" ¹

April 1775 The Master & 7 Men returned on board after being drove on Shore
 Friday 14th & the above Schooner ² beat to pieces on the back part of Plumb
 Island near Newberry Lost the above Stores & saved only the
 Schooners sails & Lower rigging

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. See Journal for April 11, 1775.

To the Inhabitants of the *City and County of* New-York.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

NOTWITHSTANDING the present alarming situation of America in general, and the town of Boston in particular; as well as the utter abhorrence which you lately expressed at the conduct of Messrs. USTICKS, for supplying the army under General GAGE, who is now carrying on the siege of Boston, with implements of war, &c. and, notwithstanding that this matter had been previously and earnestly recommended to your most serious attention by the General Committee; yet, are there men to be found, who are base enough, for lucrative considerations, to continue supplying the troops with necessaries, for effecting the immediate destruction of our brethren and fellow-subjects in Boston, who are now suffering the most unjust and cruel hardships in the common cause of America, which, if accomplished, will finally overtake the inhabitants of all the colonies. The consideration of which, induced a number of the Freemen, Freeholders, Merchants, and others, to meet at the house of the Widow VAN DE-WATER, in order to devise the most prudent and efficacious means for averting the impending ruin, that such a conduct must inevitably involve us in, and that to the eternal reproach of the community.

Accordingly a Committee was appointed to wait on those persons, to dissuade them from acting so base and unnatural a part; but, to our inexpressible grief, they were found to be so infatuated with the hopes of gain, that no impression could be made on their minds, of the cruelty, or injustice of their conduct. It was therefore thought by the Meeting, absolutely necessary, once more, in the present posture of affairs, to collect the sense of the city and county, on the propriety of furnishing the troops with hay, straw, &c. as well as boards and plank; the former of which will enable the General (as indeed without it, he cannot) more effectually to take the field, and the latter to make platforms for the artillery, &c. And, as there are now two transports sent here for those articles, as well as others, no doubt.--And as *Ralph Thurman* and *Robert Harding* have been employed to furnish the aforesaid articles, it is earnestly requested that the Freemen, Freeholders, and other inhabitants of the city and county will meet at VI o'clock on next Saturday evening, at the LIBERTY-POLE, in order to signify their sense on the present occasion; as those persons both persist in supplying the army with every necessary, in their way.

Thursday Night,
April 13, 1775.

By Order of the Meeting.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 14th [April, 1775].

By the *Nautilus* the Admiral received their Lordships Orders, of January the 28th 1775, to purchase four Schooners and estalish them as armed Schooners, and to station a Sloop at Savannah in Georgia.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 71, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April 14 [1775]

Some of Col. [Thomas] Gilberts Men it is said seized a Soldier of the Regulars a Dissenter who was teaching Military Exercises at Freetown, and were about carrying him to Gen. [Thomas] Gage at Boston. The night before last 50 men marched from Dartmouth to join a large Body with a view to rescue the Soldier. By a letter from Boston I am informed that p[eo]ple are removing out of Boston very fast – and that Mr. [John] Hancock and Mr. [Samuel] Adams in particular, who are at the provincial Congress now sitting at Concord, do not design to return into Boston –

1. Stiles, II, 32, LC.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1775

Williamsburg, April 14.

Two sloops, belonging to the Eastern Shore, were condemned last Wednesday at the Court of Vice Admiralty;¹ and a New England vessel is now on the stocks, for trial.²

1. "By decree of the court of Vice Admiralty, on Tuesday the 18th of this instant (April) will be sold at Burwell's ferry, for ready money, the sloop *BETSEY*, with her rigging, tackle, and apparel; also the sloop *LIBERTY*, with her rigging, &c. 16 hhds of rum, one bag of coffee, and a box of chocolate. JAMES COCKE, Marshal." *Ibid*.
2. "By decree of the Court of Vice Admiralty, on *Tuesday* the 25th of *April* will be sold, at *Burwell's* ferry, for ready money, the schooner *ENDEAVOUR*, with her rigging, tackle and apparel, 1300 bushels of corn, 2 hhds of tobacco, 2 hhds of rum, and a barrel of coffee. JAMES COCKE, Marshal." *Ibid*, Friday April 21, 1775.

15 Apr.

RETURN OF ARMS TAKEN FROM FORT POWNALL, ON PENOBSCOT RIVER ¹

(Copy)

A Return of Sundry Artillery Stores &ca delivered the 15th of April 1775. By Orders of Thomas Goldthwaite Esqr Commandant of Fort Pownall to Lieut Graves Commr of a party in his Majesty's Service –

- 8 Cannon – 6 pounders with Carriages, Beds, Quoins and all other Appurces.
- 6 Cohorns
- 2 Small Mortrs with the Beds &ca
- 308 – 6 pound Shott
- 176 – 4 pound Do
- 6 Rammers with Spunges

7 Wormers
 7 Ladles
 13 Boxes of Grape Shott
 15 Boxes of Cannister Do.
 5 Boxes of Cohorn Shells charged
 45 Small Arms.

Jon^a Lowder, Gunner of sd Fort

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

16 Apr. (Sunday)

COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

Sir,

Fort Pownall April 16th 1775

I have only time by this conveyance to advise you that there arrived here yesterday two Armd schooners & a detachment from the 64th Regt with orders to me from his Excellency the Governor to deliver the Commanding officer of this party all the Artillery & spare Arms belonging to this Fort which I accordingly have done. There now remains for the use of the Fort only 26 Arms besides a few at the Armourers unfit for use, about half a hundd wt of musket ball, & a small quantity of Powder. The establishment for the Garrison being near expired; the people murmuring at not being paid as usual; & much discontent among the Indians on account of the english settlers encroaching too near their town, makes it expedient for me to ask your advice which I shall be glad to receive by the first opportunity

I am [&c]

Tho Goldthwaite

I have dd Sixteen peices of Cannon of all sorts together wth Carriages Beds Quoins &c.

308 6 pound Shott	13 Boxes Grape Shott
176 4 pound Do.	15 Do Canister Do.
6 Rammers with Sponges	5 Do Cohorn Shell charges
7 Wormers	45 small Arms
7 Ladles	

I have since dd the arms at were at the Armourers Shop to repair ²

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. W. Molineux, who was a gunner at the fort, gave his account of the affair, as follows:

On Friday Eveng the 13th Apl came into penobscott river a Top sail Schooner which Anchor'd near Fort Pownall, which myself and others took to be a Merchantman going up the River to purchase Lumber and early next Mornng we saw Another Schooner who came too & Anchored near the Former soon after came ashore some sailors from the first mentioned Vessel to beg some Milk for their Breakfast and said they were going up the River to get Lumber - Immediately after came on Shore an Officer who enquired for the Commander of the Fort and on seeing him presented an Order from Genl [Thomas] Gage, for the cannon & spare Arms. he then return'd on board and immediately appeared a large Number of Soldiers on the Deck (which before was not seen) who directly got into Boats & came ashore & March'd into the Fort and went to work in Getting out the Cannon wch was carry'd on board - I am Convinc'd at that time it was not in Colo [Thomas] Goldthwaits

power to have prevented them with the least Degree of success having only 6 or 8 Men in the Fort and but half a Barl powder which the Gunner shew me in the Magazine – I further declare that I remain'd at said Fort 'till the news came of the Battle at Lexington immediately on which (tho' late at Night) Colo Goldthwait dispatched a Number of Men in his Barge to go 20 Miles up the River and advise the people of the News and recommend to them to Immediately Call a Meeting to consider what was most Eligible to be done – the Meeting was accordingly held the 6 day of May when Colo Goldthwait presided as Moderator thereof I attended the Meeting myself, and found, that after Colo Goldthwait's conduct was represented to them that they were Universally satisfy'd wch they manifested by a General Vote – during the whole of the above transactions I was at the Fort, and look'd on Colo Goldthwait to be a Strong Advocate for the Liberties of his Country

The above if Requir'd, am ready to make Oath to

W Molineux

I would further add that the Officer which Commanded the party said that if Colo G. refus'd delivering the above Canon &c 'twas his Orders to destroy the Fort &c immediately

Watertown 23 Octr 75

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

COLONEL THOMAS GOLDTHWAITE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Fort Pownall Apr. 16th. 1775

Yesterday I had the honour of receiving your Excellys letter of the 8th instant with orders to deliver to Lieut [Thomas] Graves the Artillery & Spare arms belonging to this Fort which I immediately comply'd with & delivr'd them agreeable to the inclosed list.

There are now left for the use of the Fort 26 Arms about half a hundd wt of musquet balls & about 10 lb of powder which is a very small stock. It has been usual to send a supply of ammunition every year to the Fort but its now near two years since I have had any, supply & indeed the peaceable state of the Indians has made it less necessary. Tho the Indians have lately shewn a good deal of discontent at the english settling so near their town; & however insignificant the Penobscot Indians may be tho't which I believe dont exceed sixty men able to bear arms; yet if they are join'd by the Canada's Indians & other strangers who hunt with them upon this river they may if they are so inclined, give this part of the province at least a good deal of trouble. I shall be always ready to obey your Excellys commands when I've the honour of receiving them. –

I am [&c.]

Tho Goldthwaite

1. Gage Papers, CL.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 16th [April, 1775]

When the *Nautilus* and *Falcon* (which last came in today) arrived from England in want of many men and stores, and very leaky, having had blowing Weather in their passage, the *Asia* was in Kingroad, the *Boyne* and *Preston* before Boston, the *Somerset* between Boston and Charles Town, the *Mercury* in Nantasket Road, and the *Glasgow* just hawled from the Ways, after receiving a very considerable repair. The *Falcon* was ordered to remain before the Town, and the *Nautilus* went above the *Somerset* to lie off the Magazine Point . . . But it

may be necessary here to take notice that these few Kings Ships were then upwards of one hundred men short of their lowest peace Complements.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 72, MassHS Transcript.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO THOMAS RICHARDSON, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 16 April, 1775]

We now request as yr Gunsmith is making ten Musketts by my G.W. or[der] that you desire him to make the Bayonates the same as the Kings Troops. We also request that he will put good Locks on them & also that he may have them hear by the time agreed on. Mr Thos Jones Requests yr getting him a Gun made the same size of the ten he is now making the Bayonett to be the same as the one made for G.W. . . . there is an Acct that the Parliament will enforce the acts & that there are more troops & Men of War Coming out

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

17 Apr.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1775

Boston, April 17.

Friday last the *Nautilus* (in natural History a simple Shell) arrived here from England with Dispatches for his Excellency General Gage: — In her came Passenger the Quarter Master of his Majesty's 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons . . .

Yesterday the *Falcon* Sloop of War also arrived here from England.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April 17. [1775]

Capt. [John] Hathaway of Freetown Militia being in Newport, was this day seized and carried aboard the *Rose* Man o' War, as was said, to be sent to Gen. [Thomas] Gage for taking away the Kings Arms from Col. [Thomas] Gilberts Men — They detained him about [blank] hours and dismissed him. He is about commencing an Action against the Officers of the *Rose* for false Imprisonment.—

1. Stiles, II, 33, LC.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Dear Sir

New York April 17, 1775

This Incloses you a piece Called the Crisis Published in London & Signed by the Author & the Printer & Republished here, am told the third Number is also in this City — no Molasses yet come in, nor not a hhd to be had in this place & Coffee still 11d & flower 16/ hope the flower & Heeny &c is to hand, I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

“AMICUS JUSTICIAE” TO THE PRINTER OF THE *Pennsylvania Packet*¹

[Philadelphia, April 17, 1775]

The following affidavits were taken some time past, and might have been ready to insert in last Paper, but by accident were detained; however, by giving them a place in next Packet the Public in general will probably receive a satisfaction, as well as

AMICUS JUSTICIAE.

We have, no doubt, generally seen an attempt made in a late number of the *Pennsylvania Packet* by Dashwood Bacon and others (probably confederates,) in order to exculpate the perpetrators of the atrocious fact [attack] committed upon the body of George Taylor, in his own vessel, in the King's road, by some of the *Diana's* crew, under the command of Captain [Thomas] Greaves.² That they should attempt to clear themselves, in the manner they have, is not much to be admired, since it commonly happens that the most daring murderers plead “Not guilty” but when those who are called men, are grown so callous as to be insensible of the compunctions of conscience, and hardened as to deny the voice of truth, even in the face of the Sun, it then becomes necessary more methodically to arraign them, and investigate their conduct before the tribunal of the People, that so, if possible, they may be subjected to the punishment and contempt which they justly deserve; for which purpose the following depositions relative to the aforesaid abuse, are here presented to the world, viz:

Wilmington Borough, ss.

Personally appeared before me John M'Kinley, Esq; chief Burgess of said borough, Nathan Wood, who being solemnly affirmed, doth declare and say, that he was lately a passenger on board George Taylor's shallop, at the time when on her passage from this borough to Philadelphia, she was brought to by a party belonging to the King's armed schooner *Diana*, Captain Greaves Commander, that on coming on board the shallop, an officer asked what was on board, and being answered by Taylor, only rum and limes, and the officer demanding proper papers, Taylor immediately produced them, The hatch was then opened and the hogsheads counted and compared, which agreeing with the papers, the officer asked further, whether Taylor had not something more on board, or in the cabin, and in a very scoffing manner enquired whether he had not some teas, Taylor replied, he was welcome to go into the cabin and see himself, assuring him at the same time that nothing was on board besides the rum and limes: then the officer and two sailors went into the cabin and stayed some time, on which Taylor went to the cabin door and looked in; the Officer asked what he wanted, Taylor replied, I did not know there was any body in the cabin but you – the officer then got into a violent rage, cursing and swearing in the most dreadful manner, and coming upon deck used many horrid imprecations and threats against Taylor, that he would kick him over-board, &c. for suspecting the King's men, and still vaunting that he was a King's officer, at the same time striking and wounding Taylor so that the deck was prodigiously besmeared with his blood. – And this affirmant farther saith, that Taylor gave not the least provocation, but, on the contrary, both in his words and behavior shewed the greatest respect and sub-

mission, and never resisted or attempted to touch the officer. The shallop coming a breast the schooner, the Officer told Captain Graves, who was walking on the quarter-deck of the schooner, that "this fellow has rum and limes on board" whereupon the Capt. immediately got into the boat with several sailors, came on board the shallop and without any examination highly approved of the conduct of the officer in beating Taylor, (who at that time was leaning bleeding violently in the cockpit) and said that if he had been on board he would have given him twice as much, and threatened to kick his teeth down his throat, and to take him on board the schooner, and there to tie him up and whip him. – The Capt. then ordered four men into the boat to tow the shallop along side the schooner, which had then drifted a small distance a stern, but findings they could not tow her against the wind and tide, the anchor was ordered out, and the Captain asking for the papers, they were handed to him, and he having examined and found them authentick, ordered Taylor to go about his business after having been detained nearly an hour and a half. – And further this affirmant saith not.

Nathan Wood.

Affirmed this 1st day of April, 1775, before

John McKinly.

Likewise, William Carter, Mary Johnston, and Daniel Nicholson, being solemnly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do severally depose and say, that they, respectively, were on board George Taylor's shallop, at the time aforementioned, and were particularly attentive to the transactions aforerelated, and that what Nathan Wood, the above affirmant, hath declared in his examination, is just and true, and particularly, that George Taylor gave not the least provocation, but on the contrary, behaved in the most respectful and submissive manner,

William Carter.

Mary Johnston.

Daniel Nicholson.

Sworn this 1st day of April, 1775, before

John McKinley

Now, if conduct of this kind is permitted with impunity, let us no longer exclaim against the piratical states of Barbary for committing outrages upon the subjects of George the Third, since we see British barbarians, the subjects of George the Third, under his commission, sanction and authority, commit such audacious outrages upon the persons and property of his subjects. From what hath been heretofore offered against the present cause of complaint, some may, perhaps, have been ready to treat it as a fiction, but since the matter is here so amply confirmed, may we not with confidence look to the King, and call aloud upon him, or those who represent him in cases of this nature, strictly to examine into this conduct of his servants, so that justice which is the boasted glory of the English nation, may take place, and that they may thereby, in some measure, redeem the honour and dignity of the Crown from the obloquy and contempt to which such conduct has too justly subjected it.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 17, 1775.

2. See *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 13 and 27, 1775.

Image unavailable.
See the printed volume.

18 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 18th [April, 1775]

The Boats of the Squadron, by desire of the General were ordered to assemble along side the *Boyne* by 8 o'Clock in the Evening, and their Officers were instructed to follow Lieut. [John] Bourmasters Direction. These Boats were to take in the Troops and land them in the Night at Phipps Farm; which being done they marched up the Country.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 73, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Boston] 18th April 1775

At 8 this night the Commanding Officers of Regiments were sent for to Headquarters, and ordered to have their respective Grenadiers and Light Infantry Companies on the beach near the Magazine Guard exactly at 10 o'Clock this night, with one day's provisions in their Havresacks, and without knapsacks – They were directed to order their Companies to parade quietly at their respective Barracks, and to march to the place of Rendezvous in small parties, and if Challenged to answer "Patrole." – The Companies of our Regiment (the 23rd) marched accordingly, and were the first, complete, at the place of parade; Here we found a number of the Men of War's and Transports boats in waiting. – As there was no public Officer attending to superintend the Embarkation, which it was evident would take up a good deal of time, our two Companies with the approbation of the Officers of the Navy, embarked in the nearest boats, and pushed off a little way from the shore. As the other Companies arrived soon after, as many men embarked as the boats would contain. By this time Lieut Colo [Francis] Smith of the 10th, who was to have the Command, arrived, and with him Major [John] Pitcairn of the Marines. The boats then put off, and rowed towards Phipps's farm, where having landed the troops they returned for the remainder and landed them at the same place. This was not completed until 12 o'Clock . . .

The town was a good deal agitated and alarmed at this Movement, as it was pretty generally known, by means of the Seamen who came on shore from the Ships, about 2 o'Clock, that the boats were ordered to be in readiness.

1. Mackenzie, I, 18.

"REMARKS &CA ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

April 1775

Moored between Charles Town and Boston

Tuesday 18 P M All our Boats employed attending the Troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906. The journal was kept by Captain Edward Le Cras, R.N.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775 Moor'd in the North River abreast of the Town [of New
York]

Tuesday 18 Arrived here a Transport sent the Marines on board Transport
to protect her from the Mobb, while Loading.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

19 Apr.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1775 April 19th

[The troops] were attacked . . . at Lexington by the Provincials. The instant this was known, and that the latter returning to Charles Town, the Admiral ordered all the Marines on Board to be ready to land at a Moments Warning upon a Signal for that purpose, and by desire of General [Thomas] Gage, they were landed in the afternoon at Charles Town under the command of Captain Lieut. James Johnson to cover the retreat of our harrassed Soldiers. But it was the *Somerset* alone that preserved the detachment from Ruin. The vicinity of that formidable Ship to Charles Town so intimidated its Inhabitants that they (tho' reluctantly) suffered the Kings Troops to come in and pass over to Boston, who would otherwise have been undoubtedly attacked, and in their defenceless conditions such a proceeding must have been fatal to all the Land Forces on that side, exhausted as they were with Fatigue and without Ammunition; & the consequence of their destruction might have been that of the rest of the army in Boston, for, had the Charles town people massacred those poor harrassed Soldiers just returned from Lexington, there can be no doubt but they would have immediately crossed to Boston, where they were certain to find 19 out of 20 willing and ready to assist them in finishing their work.

At an interview this Evening with General Gage the Admiral advised the burning of Charles town and Roxbury, and the seizing of the Heights of Roxbury and Bunkers Hill, (indeed the latter had been begun to be fortified, but that work was discontinued for some reasons with which the Admiral was unacquainted); to this Proposal the General objecting the weakness of his Army, the Admiral replied that he would strengthen it to the utmost of his power by landing what few Marines remained aboard his Fleet, and, if the General would withdraw the 64th Regiment from Castle William, he would garrison it with his Seamen and be answerable for its safety. Such a plan pursued, at the same time that the three Line of Battle Ships lay opposite to the town full of Rebels and their Goods, would probably have chequed the most daring and have given such an Appearance of activity to our Operations that things might have continued a long time quiet. It was indeed the Admirals opinion that we ought to act hostilely from this time forward by burning & laying waste the whole country, & his inclination and intentions were to strain every nerve for the public Service.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 73, 74, MassHS Transcript.

Week Days	No Days	Winds	Remarks Boston Harbour
April			for all the Marines of the Fleet to go on board the Commodore set all the Boats in the Fleet Employed Transporting the troops who had been out, over to Boston and carrying the Marines and third Brigade over to Charles Town from Boston. At 11 PM the Falcon's guard boat brought two men on board on suspicion of taking up arms against the Hinge Troops. All heard several volleys of small arms which proved to be the Hinge Troops engaging the Rebels. at noon made the signal for all Boats to attend Manned and Armed.
Thursday continued.	20	W. by N. 10. 5	
Friday	21	P. D.	Mod. and Cloudy. P.M. sent the Boats to bring the Marines and third Brigade over from Charles Town the first on board and the latter to Boston. At 6 began to unmoor and warped a cable length further to the Northward and moored again and blift spring on our cables. At the guard boat brought four prisoners from the main guard that were taken under arms against the Hinge Troops.
Saturday	22	ESE	Foggy with Drizzling rain. P.M. the Asia's Marines came on board to be ready for a Detachment.

Tuesday	18	SE	D.W. Received on board some fresh Beef.
Wednesday	19	P. D.	D.W. at 9 PM sent the Boats Manned and Armed to the Bayne to wait for orders. at 2 AM they returned after having Transported A Number of Troops over Cambridge River.
Thursday	20		Fresh gales and cloudy. at 1/2 past 4 P.M. made the sign for all Lieutenants. at 1/2 past 5 hoisted a Red flag at the Main Topmast head and fired a gun as a Signal.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour.

Wednesday 19

at 2 A M they [the boats] returned after having Transported A Number of Troops over Cambridge River. at ½ past 4 P M made the signl for all Lieutenants. at ½ past 5 hoisted a Red flag at the Main Topmast head and fired a Gun as a Signal for all the Marines of the fleet to go on board the *Somerset*, all the Boats in the fleet Employed Transporting the troops who had been out, over to Boston and Carrying the Marines and third Brigade over to Charles Town from Boston. at 11 P M the *Falcon's* guard boat brought two men on board on suspicion of taking up arms against the Kings Troops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

BRITISH ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD ¹

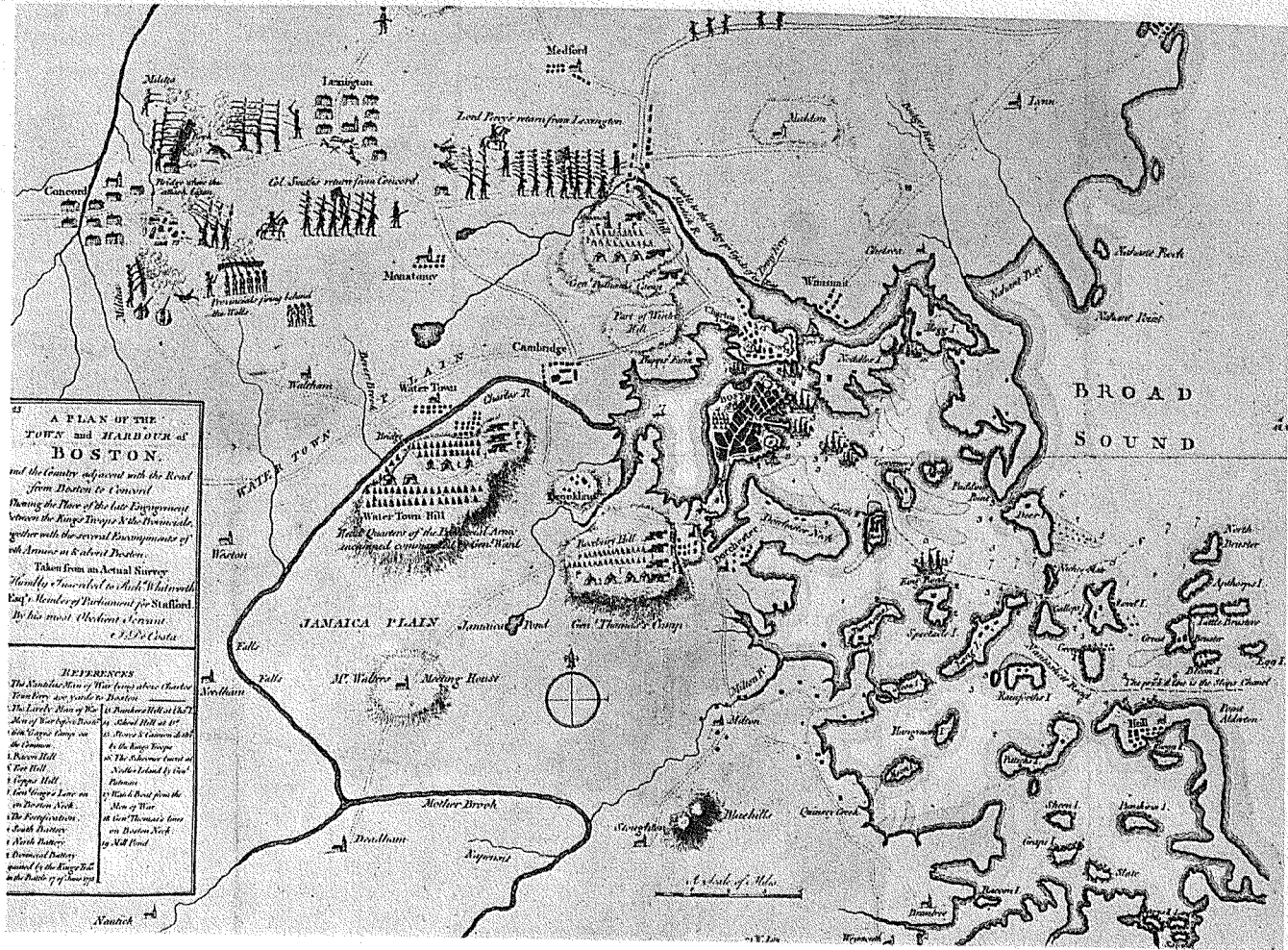
A circumstantial Account of an attack that happened, on the 19th April, 1775, on his Majesty's Troops by a number of the people of the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay –

On Tuesday the 18th of April, about half past 10 at night, Lieutenant Colonel [Francis] Smith of the 10th Regiment embarked from the Common at Boston with the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the troops there, and landed on the opposite side from whence he began his march towards Concord where he was ordered to destroy a magazine of military stores – deposited there for the use of an army to be assembled in order to act against his Majesty & his Government – The Col: called his officers together and gave orders that the Troops should not fire unless fired upon, and after marching a few miles detached six Companies of Light Infantry under the command of Major [John] Pitcairn, to take possession of two bridges on the other side of Concord; soon after they heard many signal guns, and the ringing of alarm bells repeatedly which convinced them that the Country was rising to oppose them and that it was a preconcerted scheme to oppose the King's troops, whenever there should be a favorable opportunity for it. About 3 o'Clock the next morning the Troops being advanced, within two miles of Lexington, intelligence was received that about 500 men in arms were assembled, and determined to oppose the King's Troops: and on Major Pitcairn's galloping up to the head of the advanced companies, two officers informed him that a man (advanced from those that were assembled) had presented his musket, and attempted to shoot them, but the piece flashed in the pan. On this the Major gave directions to the troops to move forward, but on no account to fire, nor even to attempt it without orders. When they arrived at the end of the village, they observed about 200 armed men drawn up on a green, and when the troops came within one hundred yards of them, they began to file off towards some stone walls on their right flank, the Light Infantry observing this run after them. The Major instantly called to the soldiers not to fire but to surround and disarm them. Some of them who had jumped over a wall, then fired 4 or 5 Shot at the troops; wounded a man of the

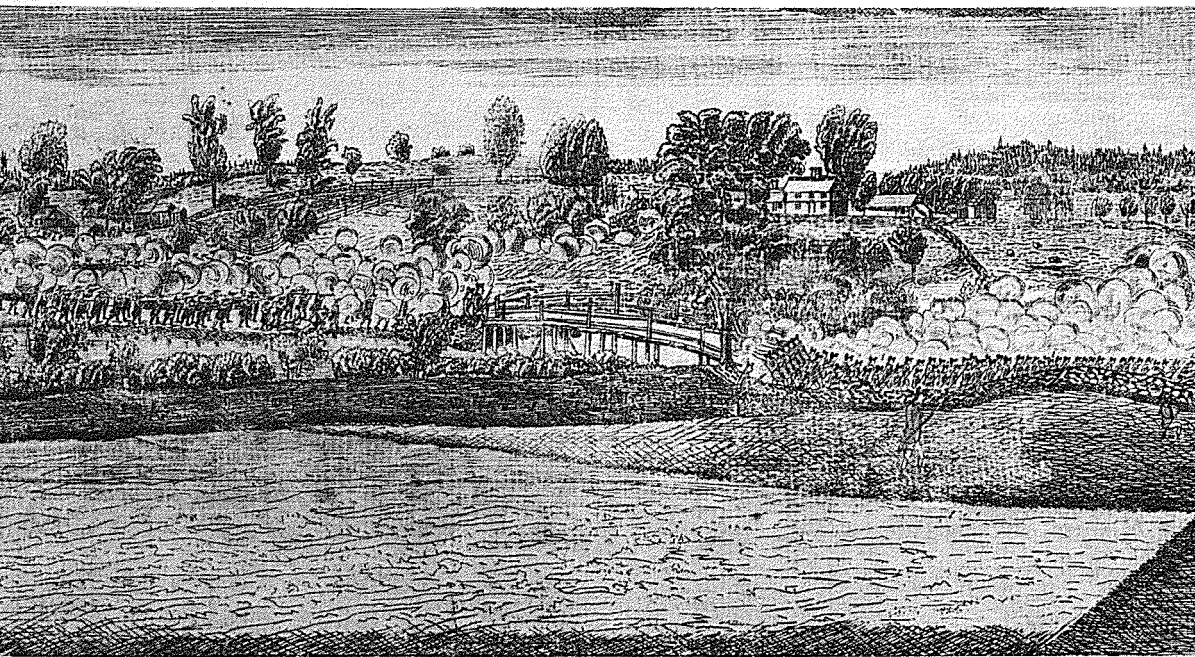
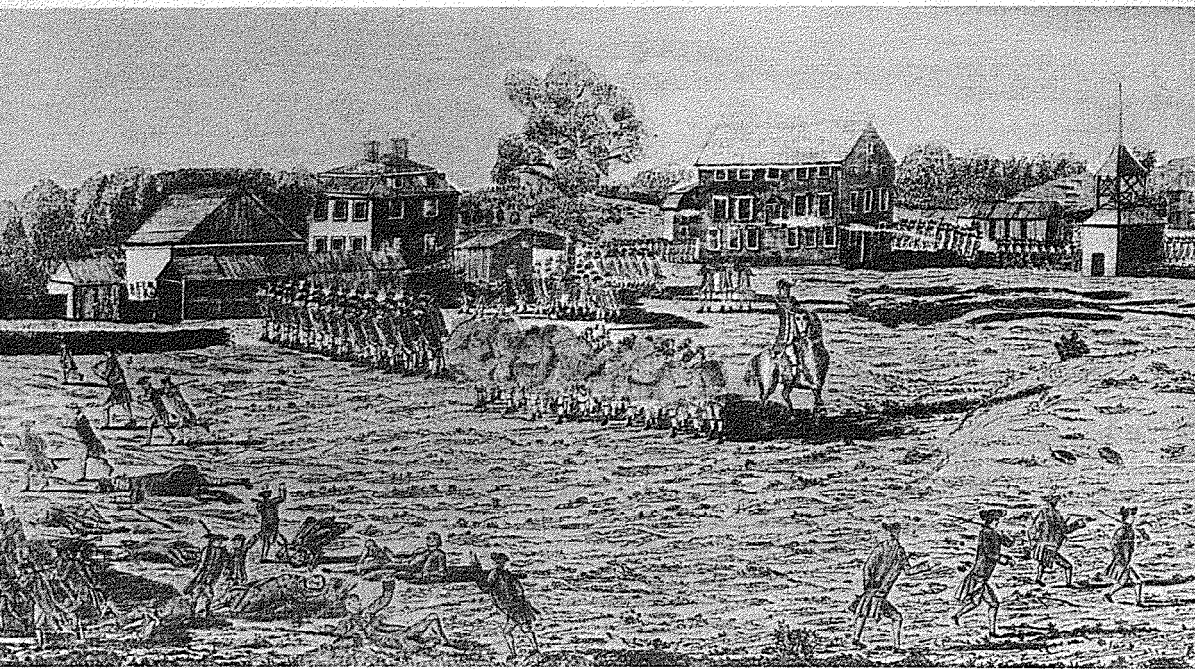
10th Regiment, and the Majors horse in two places and at the same time several shots were fired from a Meeting-house on the left – Upon this without any order or regularity the Light Infantry began a scattered fire, and killed several of the country people, but were silenced as soon as the authority of their Officers could make them.

After this Col: Smith marched up with the remainder of the detachment, and the whole body proceeded to Concord, where they arrived about 9 o’Clock without any thing further happening; but vast numbers of armed people were seen assembling on all the heights. While Col: Smith with the Grenadiers, and part of the Light Infantry remained at Concord to search for Cannon &c. there; he detached Capt. Parsons with six Light Companies to secure a bridge at some distance from Concord, and to proceed from thence to certain houses where it was supposed there was Cannon and Ammunition. Captain Parsons in pursuance of these orders, posted three companies at the bridge, and on some heights near it under the command of Capt Laurie of the 43rd Regiment and with the remainder went and destroyed some Cannon-wheels powder and ball – The people still continued increasing on the heights, and in about an hour after a large body of them began to move towards the bridge; the Light Companies of the 4th and 10th then descended and joined Capt Laurie, the people continued to advance in great numbers, and fired upon the King’s troops, killed three men, wounded four officers, one serjeant and four privates; upon which (after returning the fire) Capt Laurie and his Officers thought it prudent to retreat towards the main body at Concord, and were soon joined by two Companies of Grenadiers. When Capt Parsons returned with the three Companies over the bridge they observed three soldiers on the ground, one of them scalped, his head much mangled, and his ears cut off tho’ not quite dead; a sight which struck the soldiers with horror. Capt Parsons marched on and joined the main body, who were only waiting for his coming up, to march back to Boston – Colonel Smith had executed his orders, without opposition by destroying all the military stores he could find. Both the Colonel and Major Pitcairn having taken all possible pains to convince the inhabitants that no injury was intended them, and that if they opened their doors when required, to search for said stores, not the slightest mischief should be done. Neither had any of the people the least occasion to complain; but they were sulky and one of them even struck Major Pitcairn

Except Capt Laurie at the bridge, no hostilities happen’d from the affair at Lexington, until the troops began their march back. As soon as the troops had got out of the town of Concord they received a heavy fire on them from all sides from walls, fences, houses, trees, barns &c which continued without intermission, till they met the first brigade with two field pieces near Lexington ordered out under the command of Lord [Hugh] Percy to support them; Upon the firing of the field pieces the people’s fire was for a while silenced, but as they still continued to increase greatly in numbers they fired again as before from all places where they could find cover, upon the whole body and continued so doing for the space of fifteen miles – Notwithstanding their numbers, they did not attack openly during the whole day, but kept under cover on all occasions. The troops were very much fatigued, the greater part of them having been under arms all night, and made



Plan of Boston and vicinity, 1775.



(Top) *The engagement at Lexington, 1775.* (Bottom) *The engagement at Concord, 1775.*

a march of upwards of forty miles before they arrived at Charlestown, from whence they were ferried over to Boston –

The troops had above fifty killed, and many more wounded; reports are various of the loss sustained by the country-people, some make it very considerable, others not so much.

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, 762, ConnSL.

RICHARD REEVE TO SIR GRAY COOPER, SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH
TREASURY ¹

Sir I am directed by the Commissioners to transmit to You for the Information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury the inclosed Copies of two Letters from Mr [Robert Stratford] Byrne Surveyor of the Customs at Bohemia and Sasafras with Copy of a Letter from the Collector & Comptroller of the Port of Chester and Petapso and the annexd Copy of Mr Byrnes Deposition, containing the Particulars of a violent Outrage committed upon him in the execution of his Duty on the 2d ultimo in the neighbourhood of George Town by a daring and licentious Rabble, together with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Governor and Council of the Province of Maryland thereupon –

And I am further directed to acquaint You for Their Lordships Information that the Commissioners have ordered Fifty pounds to be paid to Mr Byrne, by way of compensation for his Losses and sufferings and have granted him leave of absence for six Months upon his appointing a proper Person to officiate for him – I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Rich^d. Reeve

Custom House Boston 19th April 1775

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Treasury Papers, Bundle 438.

"REMARKS &CA. ONBOARD THE *Somerset*" ¹

April 1775 Moored between Boston and Charlestown
Wednesday 19 A M The Boats ret'd at 6 sent the Marines to Charlestown P M
Received the Marines on board: Boats employed carrying the
Troops from Charlestown to Boston. Stopped all Communication
between Charles Town & Boston Pr Order

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/906.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 19th. [April, 1775]

Last night between 10 and 11 oclock all the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army making about 600 Men (under the command of Lt. Coll. Smith of the 10th and Major Pitcairn of the Marines) embarked and were landed upon the opposite shore on Cambridge Marsh; few but the Commandg. Officers knew what expedition we were going upon. After getting over the Marsh where we were wet up to the knees, we were halted in a dirty road and stood there 'till two oclock in the morning waiting for provisions to be brought from the boats and to be divided, and which most of the Men threw away, having carried some with

'em. At 2 oclock we began our March by wading through a very long ford up to our Middles: after going a few miles we took 3 or 4 People who were going off to give intelligence; about 5 miles on this side of a Town called Lexington which lay in our road, . . . we waited a considerable time there and at length proceeded on our way to Concord, which we then learnt was our destination, in order to destroy a Magazine of Stores collected there . . . we march'd into the Town after taking possession of a Hill with a Liberty Pole on it and a flag flying which was cut down; the Yankies had that Hill but left it to us; we expected they wou'd have made a stand there, but they did not chuse it . . . having done the business we were sent upon, We set out upon our return; before the whole had quitted the Town we were fired on from Houses and behind Trees, and before we had gone $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile we were fired on from all sides, but mostly from the Rear, where People had hid themselves in houses 'till we had passed and then fired; the Country was an amazing strong one, full of Hills, Woods, stone Walls, &c., which the Rebels did not fail to take advantage of, for they were all lined with People who kept an incessant fire upon us, as we did too upon them but not with the same advantage, for they were so concealed there was hardly any seeing them: in this way we marched between 9 and 10 miles, their numbers increasing from all parts, while ours was reducing by deaths, wounds and fatigue, and we were totally surrounded with such an incessant fire as it's impossible to conceive, our ammunition was likewise near expended . . . When we got to Menotomy there was a very heavy fire; after that we took the short cut into the Charles Town road, very luckily for us too, for the Rebels thinking we shou'd endeavour to return by Cambridge had broken down the Bridge and had a great number of Men to line the road and to receive us there; however we threw them and went on to Charles Town without any great interruption. We got there between 7 and 8 oclock at night, took possession of the hill above the Town and waited for the Boats to carry us over which came some time after; the Rebels did not chuse to follow us to the Hill as they must have fought us on open ground and that they did not like . . . we embarked and got home very late in the night. Thus ended this Expedition, which from beginning to end was as ill plan'd and ill executed as it was possible to be; had we not idled away three hours on Cambridge Marsh waiting for provisions that were not wanted, we shou'd have had no interruption at Lexington, but by our stay the Country People had got intelligence and time to assemble. We shou'd have reached Concord soon after day break, before they cou'd have heard of us, by which we shou'd have destroyed more Cannon and Stores, which they had had time enough to convey away before our arrival; we might also have got easier back and not been so much harrassed, as they wou'd not have had time to assemble so many People; even the People of Salem and Marblehead above 20 miles off had intelligence and time enough to march and meet us on our return; they met us somewhere about Menotomy but they lost a good many for their pains. Thus for a few trifling stores the Grenrs. and Lt Infantry had a march of about 50 Miles (going and returning) through an Enemy's Country, and in all human probability must every Man have been cut off if the Brigade had not fortunately come to their Assistance; for when the Brigade joined us there were very few Men had any ammunition left, and so fatigued that we cou'd not keep

flanking parties out, so that we must soon have laid down our Arms, or been picked off by the Rebels at their pleasure – nearer to – and we not able to keep 'em off.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 31–37.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

New York April 19th 1775

The following very interesting Accounts were this Day received by the Snow *General Johnson*, Capt Dean, in 31 days from England.² The Writer is a Person of undoubted Veracity & the best means of Intelligence, who may be depended on, having for these Twelve Months past, always furnished the most certain Advices of the Ministry's Designs &c. In Consideration of which & the present Posture of Affairs in America in general; but more particularly, on Account of the Situation of your Province, and the Consequences to which it is more immediately liable; it is thought an indispensable Duty to give you this late Advice. – It is unfeignedly wish'd that you may improve it to your own Safety, as well as to the Advantage of the whole Continent. We have the honor to be with great respect, your obedient servants

Henry Remsen, Deputy Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 45.

2. Letters from London of February 24 and March 1, 1775, which will be found under those dates in the European Theatre section.

20 Apr.

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1775

Boston, April 20.

Last Tuesday night the grenadiers and light companies belonging to the several regiments in this town, were ferrying in long boats from the bottom of the Common over to Phips's farm in Cambridge; from whence they proceeded on their way to Concord, where they arrived early yesterday. . . . A general battle ensued, which, from what we can learn, was supported with great spirit on both sides.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston April 20th 1775

I shall be Obligated to you, if you would Order Another Schooner as soon as possible to Marshfield, as Mr Thomas is Writing to the Inhabitants to come away here; and I propose at same time to Order Capt Balfour to come off with his detachment, and you will be so good to take all Steps that can facilitate this Business with all dispatch –

I have the honor

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston 20 April 1775

I have ordered Lieutt [George] Dawson, in the *Hope* Schooner, to sail immediately, with Two wood Sloops that I have prest, to bring away Capt Balfour's detachment from Marshfield, and all the friends of Government And your Excellency may depend that not a Moments time shall be lost in executing this Service. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775

Remarks Boston Harbour.

Thursday 20 A M heard Several Vollies of Small Arms which proved to be the Kings Troops Engaging the Rebels. at noon made the Signl for all Boats to attend Mann'd and Arm'd. P M Sent the Boats to bring the Marines and third Brigade over from Charles-Town The first on board and the Latter to Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 20th [April 1775]

. . . general Orders were issued by him [the Admiral] to the respective captains & commanders of his Majesty's ships & vessels that all scows, sloops, schooners & boats of every Kind (except the fishing boats) should be brought as they could be picked up & Kept to the Southward of the long Wharf under the care of a Guard & none to be allowed to pass in the Harbour except with the Kings troops without his written leave; and every Ship was Kept clear for Action during the Night, with Boats armed alongside ready to be manned. The number of Guard Boats was doubled and every necessary direction given to the Ships in case the Rebels should attempt to force the lines, some thousands in Arms having already assembled at Roxburgh [sic! Roxbury]. Capt [Edward] LeCras was ordered to acquaint the Select Men of Charles Town that if they suffered the Rebels to take possession of their town or erect any works upon the Heights, the *Somerset* should fire upon them; Captain [John] Macartney at Nantasket had directions to keep a strict look out upon point Alderton, a report being spread that the Rebels intended to fortify it. Captain [Thomas] Bishop was ordered to caution the Inhabitants of Marblehead against assisting the Rebels upon pain of being considered as such and of having their Town destroyed. The *Falcon* Sloop was ordered to hawl as far into Gallows Creek to the Southward of Boston as possible. The Captain of the *Nautilus* off the Magazine point, was directed to arm a flat bottomed Boat, and with the assistance of Boats from other Ships to take care that Guard should be rowed every night as high up the River as possible. The *Somerset* was to suffer no person to cross the River without the Governors permission . . . And

after Gunfiring in the Evening no Boat was to pass till day light, except those rowing Guard.²

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 74, 75, MassHS Transcript.

2. Most of the orders issued by Graves at this time are contained in the Appendix to his narrative.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] Apr. 20 [1775]

At VIII o'Clock this morning an Express arrived in Town from Providence, with the following Letters —

Providence April 19th 1775

Sir

10 o'Clock at Night

Having received Intelligence that our Breth[ern] in Mass: Bay are attacked by a body of regular Troops and that many of our Friends are slain.— These are to request your Honor that you will be pleased to call the Genl. Assembly of this Colony to meet together as soon as possible (by Monday next at furthest) that they may make such necessary preparations for the comon Defence as shall be thot necessary—We are your Honors Obed. Servts.

P.S. There are two Gentlemen here from the Prov. Cong. now waiting to confer with the Assembly. We beg your Honors Answer — Copy —

N.B. The foregoing is directed to Gov. [Joseph] Wanton and is signed by 26 of the principal Inhabitants of Providence.

Sir This Evening Intelligence hath been rec'd that about Twelve hundred of the Regulars have proceeded from Boston towards Concord, and having fired upon and killed a number of the Inhabitants of Lexington are now actually engaged in butchering and destroying our Brethern there in the most inhuman manner, that the Inhabitants oppose them with zeal and courage and numbers have already fallen on both sides—Reinforcements were at Ten o'clock under Motion from Boston, and the Provincials were alarmed and mustering as fast as possible, it appears necessary therefore that we immediately make some provision for their assistance, and his Honor the Lieutenant General desires your immediate Attendance to advise and order in that behalf. His being very ill occasions my writing in his Behalf—We shall impatiently wait your Arrival, as Numbers are ready and wait only Orders to proceed —

The Countrys Friend and Yours

S[tephen] Hopkins

Providence, Wednesday night Ten o'Clock
To Major General [Stephen] Potter.

Upon Receipt of this news the Town was thrown into Alarm, and all went into preparation — The Govr. issued Warrants for calling the Assembly to meet at Providence next Saturday. Gen. Potter (who lives at Bristol) set off this morning with numbers from Bristol and Warren. None have marched from Newport

to day, tho' Col. Dayton tells me this afternoon that there are five hundred armed and ready to march, waiting only the Governors Orders. The Tories have, in order to intimidate, circulated thro' the Town that Capt. [James] Wallace of the *Rose Man o' War*, insolently says he will fire upon the Town, and lay it in ashes, if any march from hence – This intimidates some people. They are training, exercising and preparing all day; It is said that the Regulars coming up with about 30 minute men exercising at Lexington, ordered them to lay down their arms – that upon Refusal, the Regulars dastardly fired upon them and killed six – that the others returned the fire and killed some of the Regulars – But of this there is no certainty – Gov. Hopkins does not inform the basis of his Intelligence – dont even date his letter – And it is not known whether the Troops marched to Lexington Yesterday Morning, or before. It is probable the whole Country is thrown into the same alarm as last September.² The good Lord direct and overrule all for his glory, and the good of his Chosen—It is happy that the Troops have given the first blow – the way is open and clear now for the Americans. If they will but tarry out of Boston a few days, I doubt not the Americans will give a good Account of them. But I fear their cowardice has made them instantly return to Boston. All that I rely upon in this News is that they have marched to Lexington, and killed a few men. I am not a little apprehensive that it may prove only another false alarm designedly excited by our people to prevent the Troops from marching out of Boston into the Country –

1. Stiles, II, 33-35, LC.
2. The September alarm was occasioned by a report that the British were bombarding Boston. The false news was flashed by express through Rhode Island and Connecticut and aroused much excitement during September 3, 1774, until it was disproved. See Stiles, I, 209, 210.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING¹

April 1775 Moord abreast Burwels Ferry in James River
Thursday 20th at 3 A M landed 20 Men Armed to take some Gunpowder out
of the Magazine at Williamsbg at 6 the people returned with 15
half Barrs lost one Scabbard for Bayonet by handing the Arms
into the Boat at 1 P M had Intelligence that the Inhabitants at
Williamsburgh were under Arms and threatened to Attack. the
Schooner got in readiness loaded with Round & Grape and
put the Vessel in a State of Defence

the Governor's waggon, escorted by a detachment of marines from the armed schooner *Magdalen*, now lying at Burwell's ferry, and lodged on board that vessel.

1. This report, prevalent at the time, was due to a discussion in the House of Commons concerning the possibility of repealing certain acts in favor of more conciliatory measures.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1775, SUPPLEMENT

Williamsburg, April 21.

To the MERCHANTS and MASTERS of Vessels.

THIS day the schooner *Endeavour*, Michael Dyer commander, was tried and condemned in the court of Admiralty, for taking on board Indian corn without having previously given a non-enumeration bond; when the Judge was pleased to declare, that he should not consider the toleration allowed by the officers of the customs, in not requiring the bond to be given until the Captain went to clear out, as any excuse for the skipper, but that he could in future, enforce the severity of the laws upon every delinquent.

22 Apr.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO THE HAMPTON COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE¹

[Extract]

Newburyport, April 22, 1775

We were unhappily thrown into distress yesterday, by false accounts received by two or three persons, and spread abroad, of a number of Soldiers being landed at Ipswich and murdering the inhabitants. We have since heard that it arose in the first place from a discovery of some small Vessels near the entrance of their River – one, at least, known to be a cutter – and it was apprehended that they were come to relieve the captives there in Jail.

I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

B. Greenleaf

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 374.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Watertown, April 22, 1775 4 o'clock P.M.

Ordered, That Mr. Gerry, Colonel Cushing, Colonel Barrett, Captain Stone, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Watson, and Esquire Dix, be a Committee to take Depositions *in perpetuum*, from which a full account of the Transactions of the Troops under General Gage, in their route to and from Concord, &c. on Wednesday last, may be collected, to be sent to England by the first ship from Salem.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 765, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 22d April 1775

Sir, Captain [John] Collins in his Majesty's Sloop *Nautilus* arrived here the 14th. in the Evening and Captain [John] Linzee in the *Falcon* the 16th. By these Vessels I have received their Lordships Orders, your Letters, with Duplicates there-

of according to the annexed Schedule. I am extremely happy in their Lordship's Approbation of my Conduct and can at present only repeat my Assurances of paying the strictest attention to all their Commands.

After the Arrival of the two Sloops above mentioned I ordered the *Nautilus* to get ready for Sea again immediately, intending to send either her or the *Swan* to Georgia, where their Lordships have been pleased to order a Sloop to be stationed in future; and have appointed the *Falcon* to lie within Hull point, between it and Pettick's Island, where I have long desired to place a Sloop; but the March of part of the Army and their being unexpectedly attacked by the Rebels on the 19th. instant has entirely put a stop to my stationing these Vessels as I had intended.

On the 18th in the Evening all the boats of the Squadron landed the Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army near the entrance of Cambridge River, from whence they marched towards Concord; and in the Morning a Brigade followed them round by the way of Cambridge Bridge. I am concerned to acquaint you that meeting with a considerable body of armed Men an Engagement ensued wherein many were Killed and wounded on our side. The Rebels followed the Indian manner of fighting, concealing themselves behind Hedges and Trees, and skulking in Woods and Houses, where they galled the Soldiers exceedingly . . . The Troops returning that Evening to Charles Town, and every Boat was employed to bring them over to Boston. I can with great truth inform you that the *Somerset* being within a Quarter of a mile of Charles Town Kept its Inhabitants in awe and thereby secured to the Troops an unmolested retreat into that Town, and a peaceable Embarkation for Boston.

Accounts of this Battle you may imagine instantly flew to all parts of the Country, and great numbers of their Militia and Minute Men are assembled at Cambridge and Roxbury and its Neighbourhood. They are at this time intrenching themselves at Roxbury, and have absolutely prohibited every kind of provision from being brought to Boston. They are so elated with having destroyed a few of the King's Troops that they talk of erecting Batteries at different places to destroy the Men of War, of bombarding the Town, and taking Castle William. I have sent to acquaint the Inhabitants of Charles Town with my determination to destroy it whenever I perceive them making any preparations for erecting Batteries to annoy the Kings Ships, which I shall most certainly do the moment I perceive them fairly at Work.

Last Night the Rebels were reconnoitring Castle William in Canoes, and upon being challenged fired at the Centinels. They escaped by the darkness of the Night, but today the *Asia* and *Hope* Schooner are so placed that every Attempt upon the Castle must be fatal to them.

The *Falcon* is in Gallows Creek. The *Nautilus* at the N.W. End of Boston. Every Sail is kept in Town, and the utmost precautions are taken for the general Safety . . . Their Lordships may depend on my heartily co-operating with the General and on my giving him every assistance in my power in support of such measures as shall be thought best for his Majesty's Service. I am &c.

Sam Graves

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1775

Williamsburg, April 22.

Last Thursday night [April 20] Capt. [Henry] Collins, with a party of men, belonging to the *Magdalen* armed schooner, by command of Lord Dunmore, came to this city, from Burwell's ferry, and privately removed out of the magazine, and carried on board the said schooner, about 20 barrels of gunpowder belonging to this colony. The inhabitants were alarmed with the intelligence early yesterday morning, the Common Hall assembled, and the following address was presented to the Governor.

To his Excellency the Right Hon. John Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant, Governor General, and Commander in Chief of the colony and dominion of Virginia.

The humble Address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of Williamsburg.

My Lord,

We his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Common Council, of the city of Williamsburg, in Common Hall assembled, humbly beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that the inhabitants of this city were this morning exceedingly alarmed by a report that a large quantity of gunpowder was in the preceding night, while they were sleeping in their beds, removed from the public magazine in this city, and conveyed, under an escort of marines, on board one of his Majesty's armed vessels lying at a ferry on James river.

We beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that as this magazine was erected at the public expence of this colony, and appropriated to the safe keeping of such munitions as should be there lodged from time to time, for the protection and security of the country, by arming thereout such of the militia as might be necessary in case of invasion and insurrections, they humbly conceive it to be the only proper repository to be resorted to in times of imminent danger.

We further beg leave to inform your Excellency, that, from various reports at present prevailing, in different parts of the country, we have too much reason to believe that some wicked and designing persons have instilled the most diabolical notions into the minds of our slaves, and that therefore the utmost attention to our internal security is become the more necessary.

The circumstances of this city, my Lord, we consider as peculiar and critical. The inhabitants, from the situation of the magazine, in the midst of the city, have, for a long tract of time, been exposed to all those dangers which have happened in many countries from explosions and other accidents. They have, from time to time thought it incumbent on them to guard the magazine. For their security they have, for some time past, judged it necessary to keep strong patrols on foot; in their present circumstance, they, to have the chief and necessary means of their defense removed, cannot but be extremely

alarmed. Considering ourselves as guardians of the city we therefore humbly desire to be informed by your Excellency, upon what motives, and for what particular purpose, the powder has been carried off in such a manner; and we earnestly request your Excellency to order it to be immediately returned to the magazine.

To which his Excellency returned this verbal answer: That, hearing of an insurrection in a neighbouring county, he had removed the powder from the magazine, where he did not think it secure, to a place of perfect security; and that upon his word and honour, whenever it was wanted in any insurrection, it should be delivered in half an hour; that he had removed it in the night time to prevent any alarm, and that Captain Collins had his express commands for the part he had acted; he was surprised to hear the people were under arms on this occasion, and that he should not think it prudent to put powder into their hands in such a situation.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON¹

[Extract]

Charles Town So Carolina 22nd April 1775

p *Swallow Packet*

the people of this province are so alarmed by Lord North's conciliatory plan which they conceive is intended more effectually to enslave them, that they are, from the example of General [Thomas] Gage when he Seized Arms & Amunition which were private property, taking Such measures as "prudence & necessity" dictate – *they* have removed all the provincial Muskets Bayonets &c. which belong indeed to them Selves, from the public Armory to places more accessible to *themselves* & *they* have also taken into their possession all the Gun powder which was in the public Magazines Besides. I Say *they*, from common report, as well as from probability – *they* do not Stop *here*, but are concerting measures for enlarging their Stock of Arms & Amunition & probably will not fail – a poor figure Some people think the Carolina Militia would make in the field – I hope they will never appear there in opposition to British Troops – I hope British Troops will never provoke them to fly to the last resource – be that as it may – there appears a general determination against a tame Submission – & the[y] *Will*, will in the worst event by arms, remain unconquered – yet I think I can answer at the hazard of my fortune & Life that not a Man in this province wishes for independence upon Great Britain or but wishes to return to, & remain in that State of dependence & Subordination which had for more than a Century been found to promote the honour & dignity of the Mother Country – the Interest & happiness of both parties – Your Administration have been egregiously imposed upon by false information & they Seem now though Sensible of their errors, determined to persevere in them – Let them go on & work the destruction of the Kingdom in which they reside – God forbid! – I have Still hopes that Wisdom will interpose & Save *them*.

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.



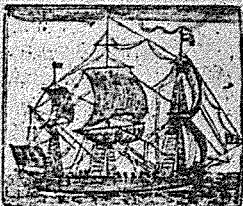
COL. IV. DUNLAP'S NUMB. 191

Pennsylvania

OR,

GENERAL

M. O. N. D. A. Y.



Packer

THE

ADVERTISER.

JUNE 19th, 1775.

the encouragement of the Spanish fish-
 eries, Lord North moved the following Reso-
 lution, that it is the opinion of this Com-
 mons, that the following bounties should be paid
 (1) for 25 casks of the burden of
 upwards, that shall first arrive from
 with a cargo of Bank fish and not
 in tale; and disposing of the same,
 second cargo of the same, /
 that 20l. per vessel, for 100 vessels,

at Boston.

BASSE FERRE, St. Christopher, April 22.
 On Thursday last arrived here from England,
 his Majesty's ship Hind, Capt. Garner, hav-
 ing put in here for a pilot, her destination is
 to be between St. Eustatius and the Day and
 Pickley pear, to prevent the American vessels
 trading to St. Eustatius.

CAMBRIDGE, June 8.
 We have the pleasure to inform the public,

On 14 May arriv-
 ed, Captain T.
 three days from Car-
 ion reports, that a
 May General Order
 board three regiments
 regiment, at the
 embark, and that
 full for New York,
 be expected.
 Yesterday one M.

(Top) Section from a map of North America showing the West Indies, 1775. (Bottom) Extract from the Pennsylvania Packet, June 19, 1775.

"NEWS ITEM FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES"¹

Basseterre (St. Christophers) April 22. [1775].

On Thursday last [April 20] arrived here from England, his Majesty's ship *Hind*, Capt. Garnier, having put in here for a pilot; her destination is to be between St. Eustatius and the Dog and Pickley-pear, to prevent the American vessels trading to St. Eustatius.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 19, 1775.

23 Apr. (Sunday)

JONATHAN JACKSON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE, PORTSMOUTH¹

Gentn

Newburyport 23d April 1775.

In Answer to your Letter by Mr Morrison we have first to inform you we have among other Regulations that are expensive, kept Expresses going between us & our Army ever since the first Alarm – we have no Assistance from any Towns to the Southward of us, & can't think you expect any from us between here & your place – We shall be always ready to give you every Information in our power worth communicating, & if any Alarms come of Danger approaching us or you we will endeavour to give it immediately by Expresses of our own – when we know the Regulation of your Carrier, we will if not interrupted by Business still more important have all Dispatches of Intelligence ready for him – We are informed Hampton has proposed joining you in the Expence –

With Respect to our Army we have many Accounts of their number & state – but as the Advices to us from their Leaders do not touch upon these matters, we can refer you to none more to be depended upon than Colo Timo Pickering's Letter Capt Burnham of Hampton Falls carried along & your Printer Mr Fowle intended to take with him to Portsmo – With Respect to Marblehead we were informed last Eveng by Mr [Elbridge] Gerry (one of their Selectmen) who left it about Noon – that Capt [Thomas] Bishop of the Frigate² there sent for the Selectmen of the Town to confer with them upon it's Safety in consequence of Orders he had received – Mr Gerry added, the Report [w]as, he mentioned *it* with Tears in his Eyes – Mr G[erry] did not choose to trust himself on board & came here – the other Selectmen he told us determined to go on board – we are informed To day not by Express but by a Person who left Salem at 4 oClock yesterday P M that it was there reported that the Town of Marblehead had submitted & upon the following Terms – To send no Men nor Provisions to our Army nor give them any Assistance & not to be seen with any Arms – whether their Port is to be kept open or not, we are not told – The town of Salem have appointed a Committee to meet Tomorrow mornng with Committees they proposed shou'd join them from the other Trading Towns in this County – this Town has appointed a Committee also – I am Gentn p[er] order and in Behalf of the Committee [&c.]

Jon^d Jackson

P S At present we keep Expresses for every 24 Hours

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. William Whipple (1730–1785), prominent New Hampshire merchant.
2. The 20 gun ship *Lively*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Concord], Sunday, April 23, 1775.

Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry read in his place a Letter from Marblehead, reporting that the British Man-of-War *Lively* was lying off the Harbour of that Town; representing that their means of defence were inadequate to repel attack; and asking direction and aid; upon which,

Resolved, That the matter subside until further information.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 765, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Boston April 23d 1775

When the Ship is under sail and so far out, that there is no possibility of her returning; Captn [John] Bishop to examine every letter on board her those directed for Doctr [Benjamin] Franklin, [Arthur] Lee, [William Bollan] Borland &c to be sent to Boston; any other Suspicious letters to be put under Cover to the Secretary of State, and given to Lieut [Joseph] Nun,² Capn Bishop telling his Lordship, that he was directed in this Critical Juncture, to send him the Inclosed for his perusal, as they might contain some Intelligence of the Rebels here – [Endorsed] Copy of a Memorandum sent Admiral Graves April 23d 1775

1. Gage Papers, CL.

2. Graves to Stephens, May 13, 1775; "My last Letter to you dated April 22d went by Lieut. Nunn in a Brig from Salem." Graves's Conduct, 84, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES'S SECRETARY, G. GEFFERINA, TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LECRAS, R.N.¹

Sir

Boston 23d April 1775

I am commanded by the Admiral to acquaint you that an Officer & a Party of Marines from the *Asia* are at Work on the Hill opposite the *Somerset* under the direction of Col. [Thomas] James of the Artillery, and that the Admiral would have a Marine Officer with a Party from the *Somerset*, equal in Number to the *Asia*'s, take this Work day by day about until it is finished, or you have the Admirals further directions herein, – Your Party to go on shore tomorrow Morning at 5 o'Clock.²

The Admiral directed me to say that he has agreed with the General for his Aid de Camps to grant Passes by his Excellency's Order, and that therefore the Generals Pass signed by an Aid de Camp and the Admirals signed by himself are to be the only means whereby Persons can either come in or go out of Boston in future, therefore Mr Windship must, after he is in again in Boston, have a regular Pass before he is allowed to return to Charles Town. I am &c

G. Gefferina

Captain Le Cras

Somerset Charles Town Ferry

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix 407, 408, MassHS Transcript.

2. The battery on Copp's Hill, the erection of which, according to Graves, "afforded much pleasantry to the Garrison, particularly among those who did not readily conceive the intent [to protect the *Somerset* from flanking fire] it was christened soon by the name of the Admirals Battery and always spoken of with a smile." Graves's Conduct, 78, MassHS Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING ¹

April 1775 Moord abreast Burwels Ferry in James River
Sunday 23d at 8 A M Captain [George] Montagu took the powder with him
on board the *Liberty* Sloop and immediately made for Hampton
Road

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.

24 Apr.

FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA, TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Halifax April 24th 1775

It gives me great pleasure that his Majesty, approves of the measures I took to preserve the peace of this Colony from those Popular & Tumultuous Disorders, which have arisen even to open Acts of Rebellion in some of the other Colonies in America, the examples then made had its proper effect, & there has not since been the least Tendency of that sort, a Ship Driven from New York ² has arrived here, & are Selling some of their Goods, & Storeing others without the least kind of Opposition, nor to the free importation of every kind of Merchandize tho we are loudly threatened from the Continent of their breaking of[f] all intercourse of Trade with us. I hope this instance of the Obedient Conduct of this Colony on these Occasions will recommend them Strongly to the Consideration of his Majesty and Parliament

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 217/51: 175.

2. The ship *Beulah*; see *New York Gazette* March 13, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] April 24, 1775

Resolved, That the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be, and hereby are absolutely forbidden to fire upon, or otherwise injure any Seamen belonging to the Navy, under the command of Admiral [Samuel] Graves, unless fired upon by them, until the said inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden receive orders from this Committee, or the General of the Provincial Forces, to do so.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 745, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Sunday, April 24, Afternoon, 2 o'clock

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Narrative of the Massacre on Wednesday last [April 19]

Ordered, That Dr. [Benjamin] Church, [Jr.], Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, & Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, be that Committee.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO FRANCIS LEGGE, GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 24th April 1775

Lieutt Cumming who will have the Honor to deliver to your Excellency this Letter, can inform you fully of the disturbed State of this Province, of the Action between the Kings Forces and the Rebels of the 19th instant and of their prohibiting every kind of Provisions from being brought to Town. My particular Request to your Excellency on this Occasion is that you will please to allow small Vessels to come from Nova Scotia with fresh Beef, Mutton, Poultry, Vegetables of all Kinds, Butter, Cheese, and in general every kind of Provision Each Vessel to have your Excellency's Pass to prevent her being seized as New England Property, and to be directed to proceed straight to Boston. If the Inhabitants in your Excellency's Government will be diligent on this Emergency, they may reap very considerable profit and be of great service to the Kings Forces here; And your Excellency may rest assured that nothing shall be taken from them without sufficient payment, and that they will be permitted to return whenever they think proper. I am satisfied your Excellency will on this Occasion facilitate as much as possible the bringing Supplies to Boston on which the Good of his Majesty's Service here so much depends. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 408, 409, MassHS Transcript.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Worcester 24th April 1775 (Mondy even)

Mr. [Samuel] Adams & myself just Arived here & find no intellegance from you & no Guard, we just hear an Express has just past thro this Place to you from New York informing that Administration is bent upon pushing matters And that Four Regements are expected there; How are we to proceed? Where are our Brethren? Surely we ought to be supported I had rather be with you, & at present am fully dertimened to be with you before I proceed. I Beg by the Return of this Express to hear from you & pray furnish us with Depositions of the Conduct of the Troops the certainty of their firing first, & every Circumstance relative to the Conduct of the Troops from the 19th instant to this time ² that we may be able to give some Accot of matters as we proceed & especially at Philadelphia -³ And I beg you woud order your Secy to make out a Copy of your proceedings since what has taken Place & what your Plan is What Prisoners We have & what they have of ours, who of Note was kill'd on both sides who Commands our Forces & are our Men in good Spirits? for God's sake do not suffer the Spirit to subside untill they have perfected the Reduction of our Enemies. Boston must be Entered the Troops must be sent away - Our Friends are Valuable but our Country must be saved I have an interest in that Town, what can be the Enjoyment of that to me if I am oblidged to hold it at the Will of Genl. [Thomas] Gage or any one else I doubt not your Vigilence your Fortitude & Resolutions. Do let us know how you proceed - we must have the Castle the Ships must be - Stop up the Harbour against large Vessels coming [in]

you know better what to do that[n] I can point out Where is Mr [Thomas] Cushing is Mr. [Robert Treat] Payne & [John] Adams to be with us, What are we to depend upon we travel rather as Deserters which I will not submit to, I will return & join you if I cannot travel in Reputation – I wish to hear from you Pray spend a tho't upon our scituations. I will not detain the Man as I want much to hear from you. How goes on in the [Provincial] Congress; who is your President; Are the Members hearty Pray remember Mr. Adams & myself to all Friends God be with you I am Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock

pray Give me a particular Answer to my Queries

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 107–109.

2. Since the battle of Lexington and Concord.

3. Hancock was enroute to attend the Second Continental Congress.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1775

Newport, April 24.

Last Wednesday morning [April 19] the point ferry-boat had two shot fired at her from the tender of the ship *Rose* in this harbour, one of which went between the post-rider and the ferryman.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF
NEW YORK ¹

Monday 24 April [1775]

A Council – summoned to meet instanter 12 O'clock

The Town alarmed Yesterday with News from Boston & sundry Commotions here in consequence of it.

The Populace had seized the City Arms after demanding the Key & the Magazene out of Town and taken out 12 Hundd Weight of Powder & threatened to attack 106 Soldiers under the Command of Major [Isaac] Hamilton.

The Qn What is to be done? – Agreed that to know our own Strength the Judges in Town the Field officers of the Militia the Mayor & Recorder attend by ½ after this Afternoon –

Met again. As before & were joined by Apthorpe with Colo [Leonard] Lisenard Judge [Thomas] Jones & the Mayor – Lisenard said he could give Govt no aid from the Militia, for they were all Liberty Boys who would keep the Peace of the City in other Respects – The Mayor said that the Magistratic Authority was gone . . . We were thus unanimously of Opinion that we had no Power to do anything & the best mode of proceeding for private Safety and general Peace was to use Diswasion from Violence.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 221.

OFFICERS OF THE INDEPENDENT MILITIA COMPANY OF FREDERICKSRURG TO
CAPTAIN WILLIAM GRAYSON ¹

(Copy)

Fredericksburg [Virginia] 24th April 1775.

Sir From undoubted Authority we receiv'd here this day Morning – the very disagreeable Intelligence that in the Night of Thursday last Capt [Henry] Collins Commander of one of his Majesty's Sloops of War by – Command of his Excellency

the Governor assisted by a Company of Marines carried off all the powder from the Magazine in the City of Williamsburg & deposited it on board his Vessell which lay at Burwell's ferry, about five miles below the City.

The said Authority informs us that the Corporn of the City of Wmsburg addressed the Govr on that occasion The people had received no Satisfaction nor are they likely to recover the powder tho' it is so very necessary for the security of the Country.

This being a day of Meeting the independt Co of this Town, they considered it necessary, to take the Matter into serious Considn and are come to an unanimous Resolution that a Submission to so arbitrary an Exertion of Government may not only prejudice the common Cause by introducing a suspicion of a defection of this Colony from the noble pursuit but will encourage the tools of despotism to commit further Acts of Violence in this Colony and more especially subject the Arms in the Magazine to the same fate of the powder.

In these sentiments this Compy could but determine that a Number of public spirited Gentn should embrace this oppority of showing their Zeal in the grand Cause by marching to – Wmsbg to enquire into this Affair and there to take such steps as may best answer the purpose of recovering the powder & securing the Arms now in the Magazine to this End they have determined to hold themselves in readiness to march from this place as light horse on Saturday Morning and in the mean time [su]bmit the Matter to the deterrn of yours & the neighbouring Counties whom Expresses are purposely forwarded We address you in the [na]me of our Co as their Officers & are Sir yr very hble Servt

Hugh Mercer	G. Weedon
Alexr Spotswood	Jno Willis

1. Washington Papers, vol. 14–15, 1868, LC. This is printed in S.M. Hamilton, ed., *Letters to Washington, 1775–1777* (Boston and New York, 1898–1902), vol. 1, 163, 164.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

Dear Sir,

Chantilly 24th April 1775

We had heard of the Lords ² flight before your letter came, and we apprehend it to be for fear of reprisal, as we suppose one part of the Ministerial plan has been already executed in Boston by seizing the Massachusetts proportion of the proscribed Americans, of which there are 32. Some Virginians are in the black list. Manuscript intelligence from London 10 Feby from our most vigilant sensible well informed friends, put the determined hostility of Ministry beyond doubt – They have to a Man both publicly & privately, solemnly avowed it. The notorious practice of this profligate Administration being to deceive with lies and flattering appearances in the very moment of determined vengeance would render belief in any thing they say or do, sottish in the extreme. When they offer any thing favorable, a wise American should say with the cautious Trojan "*Timeo Donais et dona ferentes*" – Unluckily for the Liverpool news, that Greenwood who conveys it, is a Ministerial Agent, and his name is here among those Villains who were Securities for the safety of the Ministerial Tea sent to S. Carolina. You may be assured Sir that the Ministry and all their Agents will lie, deceive, and blind by all manner of means; well knowing they have no chance for success but by such

Dear Sir,

Charlottesville 24th April 1775 (178)

We had heard of the Lords flight
before your letter came, and we apprehend it to be
for fear of surprisal, as we suppose one part of the Min-
-isterial plan has been already executed in Boston by
seizing the Massachusetts property of the proscribed
Americans, of which there are 82. Some Virginians
are in the black list. Manages of intelligence from
London 18th? from our most vigorous sent? 16th

for fear (178) that some Capt. Collins may be in waiting to
intercept it. You may be assured that the plan of
Ministry is fixed to compel immediate submission
by force of arms, well knowing that if our Associates
have time to work, that their ruin is infallible.

God put us into the hands of
better men and better times, which will surely
be the case if we provide ourselves immediately
with arms & ammunition, learn the discipline,
behave like men, and stick close, religiously
close to the Association.

Friend

Yours dear Sir Yth Affed.
Richard Henry Lee

infamous ways, and by putting their Adversaries off their Guard. We propose sending a Pilot boat immediately for Gun Powder and she can bring the Richmond quantity if their Cash is quickly collected – But of this no mention should be made but to the most trusty and secret Gentlemen for fear that some Capt. Collins may be waiting to intercept it.³ You may be assured that the plan of Ministry is fixed to Compel immediate submission by force of Arms, well knowing that if our Association has time to work, that their ruin is infallible.

God put it into the hands of better men and better times, which will surely be the case if we provide ourselves immediately with Arms & Ammunition, learn the discipline, behave like Men and stick close, religiously close to the Association.

From dear Sir [&c.]

Richard Henry Lee

1. R. H. Lee. Papers, VHS.

2. John Murray, Lord Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia.

3. Captain Henry Collins of H.M.S. *Magdalen*, which had long been stationed in Hampton Roads.

JOHN HAWKESWORTH'S SHIPPING INVOICE TO STEPHEN COLLINS¹

Shipped by the Grace of God, in good Order and well Condition'd, by *John Hawksworth* in and upon the good *Brig* called the *John* whereof is Master, under God, for this present Voyage, *John Ashmead*² and now riding at Anchor in the *Carlisle Bay* and by God's Grace bound for *Philadelphia* to say *One hhd Rum on Accot & Risque of Stephen Collins Mercht there* being mark'd and number'd as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Condition'd, at the aforesaid Port of *Philadelphia* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *Sd Stephen Collins* or to *his* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said *Rum twenty Shillings* with Primage and Average accustom'd. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirm'd to 2 Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which 2 Bills being accomplish'd, the other *1* to stand void. And so God send the good Ship to her desir'd Port in Safety. *Amen.*
Dated in *Barbados April 24. 1775*

John Ashmead

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 12, LC. Printed form with handwritten insertions in italics.

2. Extract from the Voyages of Captain John Ashmead, typescript in HSP: "Made several voiajes [in the brig *John*] when the American Revolution war came on, and I was at Barbadoes at the time of the Battle of Lexington. That voiage I was almost too late, but fortunately got into our bay and in a fog passing the men of war without being seen, and the Brig was laid up when I got home. I had stopped at Antigua in my way home to collect money for the owner, but the Merchant would not or could not pay."

25 Apr.

STEPHEN HOOPER TO COATES & REYNELL, MERCHANTS OF PHILADELPHIA¹

Newbury Port April 25th 1775

Esteem'd Friends Reynell & Coates² My last to you, was of the 27th Ultimo p[er] Capt. [Samuel] Nowell, which suppose you have received, since which your much esteem'd of the 23 Ultimo has come to hand, with Bill of Loading of the particular Iron I wanted, & for which am much obliged. I imagine in this, you will be advis'd of our unhappy Situation in this Province, by which you will find, the improbability of Capt Nowells getting in here safe with his Cargoe of

Flour &c,³ which is much wanted with us, for I see nothing but Famine staring us in the Face, & unless kind Providence should alter the present Appearance of Things, we are an undone People; in Consequence of these Troubles, I have sent dispatches to Capt [William] Willcomb who may be momentarily expected to proceed to your Address, with his Cargoe of Molasses &c., & should he luckily Escape our Cruisers & arrive safe with you, please to dispose of his Cargoe for the most you can, & supply Capt Willcomb, with Money sufficient to pay off his People; & I should be obliged you will take out a Register in your Names, for said Vessell & improve her to the best Advantage for my Interest, keeping the N[e]t Proceeds of said Cargoe in your Hands untill further Order[s.] I should like to have her take freights to any Part of the Globe you may think best, & return to you again, & if she should be employ'd abroad, to advantage, & so continue until Times are settled in this Province, tho I think the further she is out of the Continent the better; ⁴ if he goes to Spain, pray get her a Pass; If she will obtain £700 sterling you may sell her if you think best – When she arrives please to direct your Letters to Henry Merchant Esqr in Newport, & pay the Postage in Philadelphia, as the Communication thro Boston is entirely stopped, so that no Letters in the common Way will come to hand

Your particular Attention to this Concern will greatly oblige your Friend

Stephen Hooper

Pray forward the enclosd

If Capt Willcomb inclines to go back to the West Indies for another Load of Mollasses, & you can procure Molasses Hhds & Heads, to Load him please to fill his hold with your Lumber, & between Decks with Flour in small sizd Barrells, & Money to the amount of 1500 Your Currency including the Cargoe on Board & [s]end him back to Guardaloop. I imagine he may make a good Voyage as Molasses will be cheap there – & 1500 Your Currency will be enough to Load him –

1. Feinstone Collection, DLAR.

2. The partnership was "Coates & Reynell" not "Reynell & Coates" as Hooper addressed them.

3. Captain Nowell, in the sloop *Mermaid*, from Piscataqua, entered the port of Philadelphia about April 15, 1775, and cleared for Portsmouth a week later. *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 17 and 24, 1775.

4. *Ibid.*, May 22 and June 12, 1775. Captain Willcomb, in the brig *Industry*, entered the port of Philadelphia about May 20, 1775, from Guadaloupe, and was cleared around June 10, for Falmouth, England.

Essex Gazette, TUESDAY, APRIL 18 TO 25, 1775

Salem, April 25.

Last Wednesday, the 19th of April, the Troops of His *Britannick* Majesty commenced Hostilities upon the People of this Province, attended with Circumstances of Cruelty not less brutal than what our venerable Ancestors received from the vilest Savages of the Wilderness. The Particulars relative to this interesting Event, by which we are involved in all the Horrors of a civil War, we have endeavoured to collect as well as the present confused State of Affairs will admit.

On Tuesday Evening a Detachment from the Army, consisting, it is said, of 8 or 900 Men, commanded by Lieut. Col. [Francis] Smith, embarked at the Bottom of the Common in Boston, on board a Number of Boats, and landed at

Phips's Farm, a little Way up Charles River, from whence they proceeded with Silence and Expedition, on their Way to Concord, about 18 Miles from Boston. The People were soon alarmed, and began to assemble, in several Towns, before Day-Light, in order to watch the Motion of the Troops. At Lexington, 6 Miles below Concord, a Company of Militia, of about 100 Men, mustered near the Meeting House; the Troops came in Sight of them just before Sun-rise; and running within a few Rods of them, the Commanding Officer accosted the Militia in Words to this effect: ———— "*Disperse you Rebels – Damn you, throw down your Arms and disperse:*" Upon which the Troops huzza'd, and immediately one or two Officers discharged their Pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the Firing of 4 or 5 of the Soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general Discharge from the whole Body. Eight of our Men were killed, and nine wounded. In a few Minutes after this Action the Enemy renewed their March for Concord; at which Place they destroyed several Carriages, Carriage Wheels, and about 20 Barrels of Flour, all belonging to the Province. Here about 150 Men going towards a Bridge, of which the Enemy were in Possession, the latter fired, and killed 2 of our Men, who then returned the Fire, and obliged the Enemy to retreat back to Lexington, where they met Lord [Hugh] Percy, with a large Reinforcement, with two Pieces of Cannon. The Enemy now having a Body of about 1800 Men, made a Halt, picked up many of their Dead, and took Care of their Wounded. At Menotomy, a few of our Men attacked a Party of twelve of the Enemy, (carrying Stores and Provisions to the Troops) killed one of them, wounded several, made the Rest Prisoners, and took Possession of all their Arms, Stores, Provisions, &c. without any Loss on our Side. – The Enemy having halted one or two Hours at Lexington, found it necessary to make a second Retreat, carrying with them many of their Dead and Wounded, who they put into Chaises and on Horses that they found standing in the Road. They continued their Retreat from Lexington to Charlestown with great Precipitation; and notwithstanding their Field Pieces, our People continued the Pursuit, firing at them till they got to Charlestown Neck, (which they reached a little after Sunset) over which the Enemy passed, proceeded up Bunker's Hill, and soon afterwards went into the Town, under the Protection of the *Somerset* Man of War of 64 Guns.

In Lexington the Enemy set Fire to Deacon Joseph Loring's House and Barn, Mrs. Mulliken's House and Shop, and Mr. Joshua Bond's House and Shop, which were all consumed. They also set Fire to several other Houses, but our People extinguished the Flames. They pillaged almost every House they passed by, breaking and destroying Doors, Windows, Glasses, &c. and carrying off Cloathing and other valuable Effects. It appeared to be their Design to burn and destroy all before them; and nothing but our vigorous Pursuit prevented their infernal Purposes from being put in Execution. But the savage Barbarity exercised upon the Bodies of our unfortunate Brethern who fell, is almost incredible: Not content with shooting down the unarmed, aged and infirm, they disregarded the Cries of the wounded, killing them without Mercy, and mangling their Bodies in the most shocking Manner.

We have the Pleasure to say, that, notwithstanding the highest Provocations given by the Enemy, not one instance of Cruelty, that we have heard of, was

committed by our victorious Militia; but, listening to the merciful Dictates of the Christian Religion, they "breathed higher Sentiments of Humanity."

The Consternation of the People of Charlestown, when our Enemies were entering the Town, is inexpressible; the Troops however behaved tolerably civil, and the People have since nearly all left the Town.

The following is a List of the Provincials who were killed and wounded.

KILLED. Messirs. *Robert Munroe, *Jonas Parker, *Samuel Hadley, *Jonathan Harrington, *Caleb Harrington, *Isaac Muzzy, *John Brown, John Raymond, Nathaniel Wyman, and Jedediah Munroe, of Lexington. ——— Messirs. Jason Russell, Jabez Wyman, and Jason Winthrop, of Menotomy. ——— Deacon Haynes, and Mr. ——— Reed, of Sudbury. ——— Capt. James Miles, of Concord. ——— Captain Jonathan Willson, of Bedford. ——— Capt. Davis, Mr. ——— Horsmer, and Mr. James Howard, of Acton. ——— *Mr. Azael Porter, and Mr. Daniel Thompson, of Woborn. ——— Mr. James Miller, and Capt. William Barber's Son, aged 14 of Charlestown. ——— Isaac Gardner, Esq; of Brookline. ——— Mr. John Hicks, of Cambridge. ——— Mr. Henry Putnam of Medford ——— Messrs. Abednego Ramsdell, Daniel Townsend, William Flint, and Thomas Hadley, of Lynn. ——— Messrs. Henry Jacobs, Samuel Cook, Ebenezer Goldthwait, George Southwick, Benjamin Daland, jun Jotham Webb, and Perley Putnam, of Danvers. ——— Mr. Benjamin Peirce, of Salem.

WOUNDED. Messirs. John Robbins, John Tidd, Solomon Peirce, Thomas Winship, Nathaniel Farmer, Joseph Commee, Ebenezer Munroe, Francis Brown, and Prince Easterbrooks (a Negro-Man) of Lexington. ——— Mr. ——— Hemmenway, of Framingham. ——— Mr. John Lane, of Bedford. ——— Mr. George Reed, and, Mr Jacob Bacon, of Woborn. ——— Mr. William Polly, of Medford. ——— Mr. Joshua Felt, and Mr. Timothy Munroe, of Lynn. ——— Mr. Nathan Putnam, and Mr. Dennis Wallis, of Danvers. ——— Mr. Nathaniel Cleaves, of Beverly.

Missing. Mr. Samuel Frost, and Mr. Seth Russell of Menotomy.

Those distinguished with this mark[*] were killed by the first Fire of the enemy.

We have seen an Account of the Loss of the Enemy, said to have come from an Officer of one of the Men of War; by which it appears that 63 of the Regulars, and 49 Marines were killed, and 103 of both wounded: In all 215. Lieut. Gould of the 4th Regiment, who is wounded, and Lieut. Potter of the Marines, and about twelve soldiers are Prisoners.

Mr. James Howard and one of the Regulars discharged their Pieces at the same Instant, and each killed the other.

Our late Brethern of Danvers who fell fighting for their Country, were interred, with great Solemnity and Respect, on Friday last.

The Public most sincerely sympathize with the Friends and Relations of our deceased Brethern, who gloriously sacrificed their Lives in fighting for the Liberties of their Country. By their nobel intrepid and Conduct in helping to defeat the Forces of an ungrateful Tyrant, they have endeared their Memories to the present Generation, who will transmit their Names to Posterity with the highest Honor.

We suppose a circumstantial Account will be prepared and published by Authority. The above is the best we have been able to obtain. We can only

add, that the Town of Boston is now invested by a vast Army of our brave Countrymen, who have flown to our Assistance from all Quarters.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] April 25, 1775

Resolved, That Colonel [Nathaniel] Freeman, of Sandwich, be directed to take such a number of Men as may be sufficient for the purpose, and secure the Whale and such other Boats at Cape Cod, as may be of use to this Colony.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 745, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, April 25 1775, Afternoon

A Letter from Salem [was] read, setting forth the expediency to the Depositions we are now taking to be forwarded as fast as possible, the same [was] ordered to be sent to the Committee for that purpose at Lexington, immediately.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO COMMANDERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS AT BOSTON ¹

By Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the Blue &ca &ca

Permit Mr Samuel Pepper Master of the Schr *Polly* to carry out of this Place his Wife and three Children with their bedding and other Necessaries; taking up this Pass and returning it On board the Flag

Dated On board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the 25th of April 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Winslow Papers, DAC.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

Boston 25th April 1775

I am Informed of Numbers of the Inhabitants getting out of Town, with Passes Signed by you, two of which I have seen. As it is of the greatest Consequence they should be kept in till the whole have leave to retire, and that it is regulated for the friends of Government to come in without Molestation, I am to beg the favour of you to grant no more passes for the present, without a Certificate of their having my leave—

I have Just received good Intelligence that the Rebels are carrying all the Boats, from Charles Town to Cambridge upon Trucks, and that three Trucks are now ready and more Collecting. I should therefore wish that the *Somerset's* Boats were Immediately Employed to Seize all Boats that can be found, at or near Charles Town, and that they may be secured so that the Rebels may not be able to get them. You see what I have Often mentioned; that it is of the greatest Consequence to Seize all the Boats you can lay your hands on every where—

I have the honor to be &

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston 25 April 1775.

In answer to your Excellency's Letter of this Evening I have the Honor to acquaint You that a few passes have been granted by me to some known friends to Government, And to an inconsiderable number of transient people & fishing Vessels; but I shall very readily comply with your Excellency's desire not to permit any more to leave the Town, but such as produce to me Your Excellency's Certificate of leave.

Having four days ago issued the strictest orders to have every Scow Punt Canoe and Boats of all denominations collected to the Southward of the Long wharf and not to be taken from thence except by Your Excellency's directions or my own, I have every reason to believe these Orders have been punctually obeyed And that the Captains of His Majesty's Ships would not be so Neglectful at this Juncture as to suffer any boat to be afloat or near any place where there was the least probability of her falling into the hands of the Rebels – I shall notwithstanding order Captain [Edward] Le Cras to make a strict Search and Secure every Boat that can be found at or Near Charles Town.

Your Excellency May be assured, that I shall always Comply with every requisition you May have occasion to Make for the good of the King's Service and of my chearfully affording You all the Assistance in My power. I am Sir with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, [TUESDAY],
April 25 [1775]"¹

There are now two ships of war lying off here, the Captains of which threaten to fire on the town if a man goes out to the assistance of our most unhappy brethern at Boston.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 6, 1775.DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] Apr. 25 [1775]

Gov. [Samuel] Ward yesterday wrote a letter to Messrs. Malbones received today: advising the Merchants to get their Vessels to sea or out of New England with all speed: and recommending to the people at Newport to remove themselves and Effects speedily, as there was certain Danger of Immediate Seizure, in Consequence of Measures adopting by the Assembly. This has thrown the Town into great Consternation and Panic: and many are all day putting up their effects and preparing for removal. To heighten the Terror, the Men o' War give out that if Newport takes part with Providence and New England they will lay the Town in ashes. This day came here Mrs. Gordon from Roxbury removing to Philadelphia for safety – Mr. Gordon tarrying behind and determining to share the fate of War. There may 30 or 40 families remove, but they must leave 1500 behind.

1. Stiles, II, 40, LC.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT¹

Sir/

New London April 25th 1775

Agreeable to your Desire I have Sent up Eighty Three Barrels of Powder to Colo Jed. Huntington² Containg about 108 Each the Remainder is in this Town I hourly Expect Thirty Two Barrels more that I have Account of the Capt having it on bord the Remainder of what Moneys was in My hands Capt [William] Packwood left with Capt Jno M'Shibbin who is in One of my Vessels in the West Indies to Lay out in the first Powder that Arives, he says that a large Quantity was Daly Expected he purchased all that Could be had and thought it best to push home with this Rather than Tarry Longer – this Quantity he Obtain'd through the Influence of the Famous Palunkey (who was An Old Commander of a Private Tear the Warr before Last[]) who Prevailed with the Governour of the Cape to take it out of the Kings Store – In Short Packwood Says the French Seem to be Disposed in the Islands to Assist in this way as Much as in their power, I Intend he Shall Sail Again for the Cape Next Week and I Don't Imagine he will be Gone More than Six weeks If you Intend to have any more Money Laid out in that way it will be a good Oppertunity Tomorrow by the Post I Expect to hear from Phila Relative to Lead I am Sir [&c.]

Nathan¹ Shaw Junr

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Jedediah Huntington (1743–1818), Colonel of Connecticut Minute Men before Boston.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO PETER VANDERVOORT & CO., NEW YORK¹

Dear Sir

New London April 25th 1775

The Bearer in the Sloop *Macaronia* has on Board fifty One Hogsheads and Eleven Terses of Mollasses and four hogsheads of Cocoa which Despose of for my Accot and hope Youl Save the Duty's in the Cocoa I have Drawn on you in favour of James Tilley for One Hundred & Eighty Pounds York Currancy & in Favour of Thomas Allen for Eighty Pounds York Currancy pay Twenty Days. I want Five Hundred wt of Powder, fifteen Hundred Flints and Eighteen Hundred weight of Lead and beg Youl be Careful in Shipping it in Some of the Small Boats. I Expect Capt [John] Chapman in with a Load of Melasses Very Soon which I shall Send Immediately Down without Unloading. I hope youl be Able to Send me four or five Hundred Pounds by [Peter] Rogers, and if there is Any Good Boards you may put as many On Board as he Can Conveniently Take and Six Cask of Ship Bread we have no further News from the Eastward only that there is Thirty Thousand Provential Troops in the Neighbourhood of Boston, the Communication between the Town & Country Intirely Stopd and I believe its our Intention to keep it so. I think its now high time that all the Tory Party should be Made to be Silent Our generall Assembly Setts Tomorrow and I pray God Almighty to Direct them to Adopt Such Measures as will be for the Interest of America. I Am [&c.]

Nath Shaw Junr

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

26 Apr.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

April 1775 A M Fired a 9 Pounder shotted & brought too a Snow from
Wednesdy 26th the West Indies, Impressed 4 men from her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Cambridge] April 26, 1775.

On the twenty-fourth of April it was resolved that the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be, and hereby are absolutely forbidden to fire upon or otherwise injure any Seamen belonging to the Navy, under the command of Admiral [Samuel] Graves, unless fired upon by them, until the said inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden receive orders from this Committee, or the General of the Provincial Forces, so to do:

Resolved, That the Resolve of the twenty-fourth instant, respecting the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden, be reconsidered, and ordered that it be immediately remanded; also,

Resolved, That the inhabitants of Chelsea and Malden be hereby desired to put themselves in the best state of defence, and exert the same in such manner, as, under their circumstances, their judgment may direct.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 746, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, April 26, 1775, 8 o'clock, A.M.

Ordered, That the Letter drawn by the Committee to send to Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, as Agent, be copied and authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

The Depositions taken by the Committee for that purpose, laid on the table, and ordered to be read.

Ordered, That the Committee make duplicates of the same, and Captain [Josiah] Stone, Jonas Dix, Esq; Colonel [John] Tyng, Colonel [Nathaniel] Dwight, Captain [Samuel] Whittemore, Major [Archelane] Fuller, and Mr. [Samuel] Freeman assist as scribes in that business.

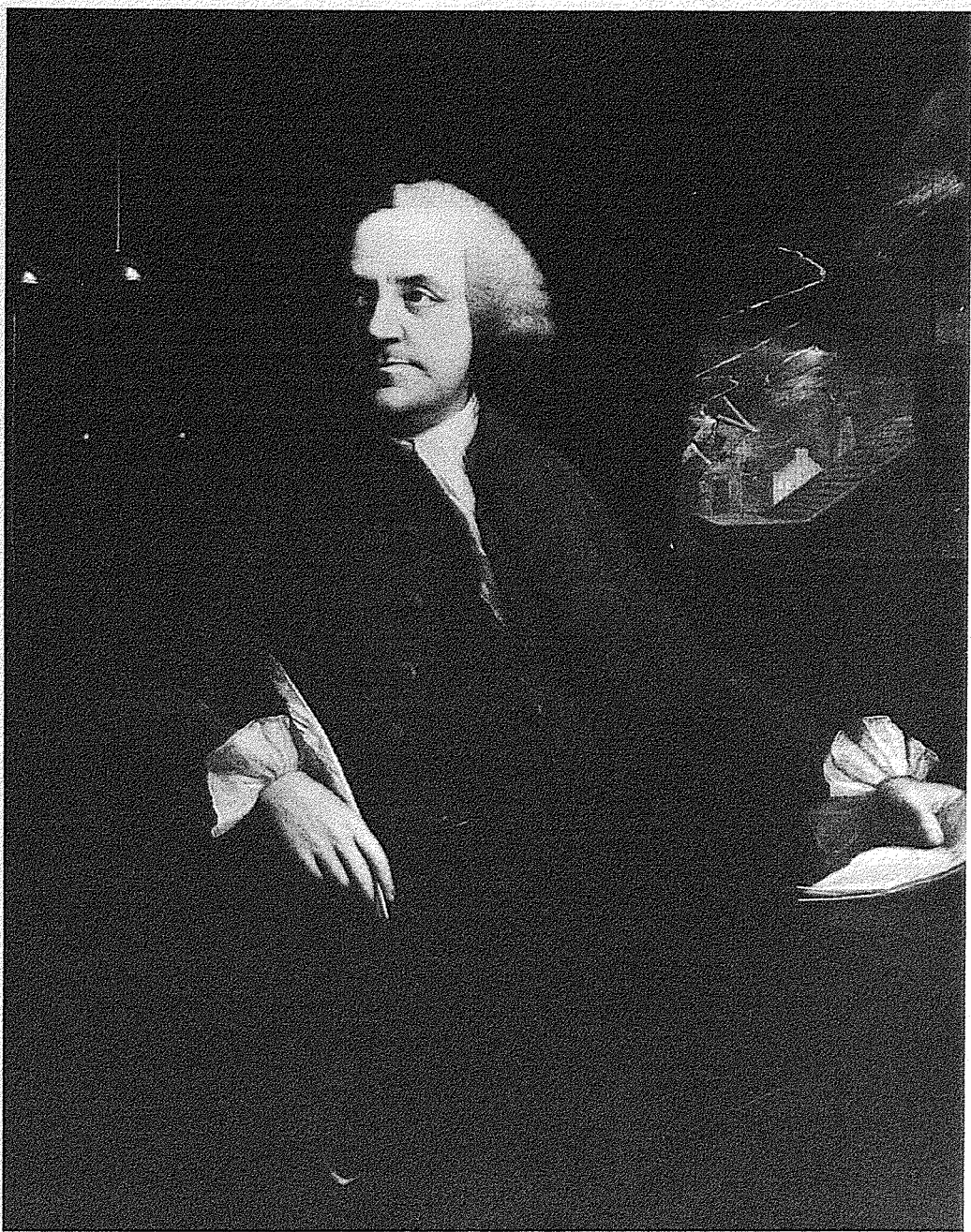
Afternoon

Ordered, That the copies of the Order to the Honourable Richard Derby, Esq; for fitting out his Vessel for a Packet, be taken and authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

Ordered, That the honourable Richard Derby, Esqr's, Orders to the Treasury, be also authenticated by the President *pro tempore*.

Ordered, That the Committee of Supplies, directed to draught the Letter to our Agent in Great Britain, be requested to send the same with the papers now preparing for that purpose.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 769, 770, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.



Benjamin Franklin. By Mason Chamberlin, 1762.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

Sir,

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, April 26, 1775

From the entire Confidence we Repose in your faithfulness and Abilities, we consider it the happiness of this Colony, that the important trust of Agency for it, in this day of unequalled Distress, is devolved on your hands, and we doubt not, your Attachment to the Cause and liberties of Mankind, will make every possible Exertion in our behalf, a Pleasure to you; altho' our circumstances will compell us often to Interrupt your repose, by Matters that will surely give you Pain. A singular instance hereof is the Occasion of the present letter. The Contents of this Packet, will be our Apology for troubling you with it.

From these, you will see, how and by whom we are at last Plunged into the horrors of a most unnatural war.

Our enemies, we are told, have dispatched to G[reat] Britain a fallacious Account of the Tragedy they have begun; to present the operation of which, to the Publick Injury, we have engaged the Vessel that conveys this to you, as a Packet in the service of this Colony, and we Request your Assistance in supplying Captain [John] Derby, who commands her, with such Necessaries as he shall want, on the Credit of your Constituents in Massachusetts Bay.

But we most ardently wish, that the several papers herewith Inclosed may be immediately printed, and Disperced thro' every Town in England, and especially communicated to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the city of London, that they may take such Order thereon, as they may think Proper. And we are Confident your fidelity will make such improvement of them, as shall convince all, who are not determined to be in everlasting blindness, that it is the united efforts of both Englands, that may save either. But that whatever Price our Brethern in the one, may be pleased to put on their constitutional liberties, we are authorized to assure you, that the inhabitants of the other, with the Greatest Unanimity, are inflexibly resolved to sell theirs only at the Price of their lives.

Sign'd by order of the Provincial Congress

Joseph Warren, President, P.T.

[Endorsed] A true Copy from the original Minutes

Samuel Freeman, Secretary, P.T.

1. Papers of the Continental Congress, 65, I, 9, NA. Hereafter cited as Papers CC, NA. Because Franklin had returned to Philadelphia from London when this letter reached England, it was delivered to Arthur Lee.

VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES'S SECRETARY, G. GEFFERINA, TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, R.N.¹

Sir

Preston [Boston] 26 April 1775

The Admiral having ordered a Boat with Fire Grapnels from the *Somerset*, *Boyne* and *Glasgow*, to be on board your Sloop by half after seven o'Clock this Evening, I have his Commands to acquaint you therewith and to signify his Direction that you do dispose of the said Boats during the Night in the most

effectual manner to prevent any Attempts of the Rebels either to destroy the Kings Ships, or to land on Boston side The Admiral hopes there will be the strictest Look out kept, and desires the Boats may at Day light be ordered on board their respective Ships. I am &c.

G. Gefferina

Nautilus Charles River

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 409, 410, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] April. 26. [1775]

Two Vessels full of Passengers sailed this morning for Philadelphia.² The Town in great Panic – The Assembly proceed with Vigor, tho the Upper House hesitate – The Tories elated – Great Dejection on most countenances – but some revive their spirits. this afternoon the two Providence Packets loaded with 4 or 500 Bbs. flour here to-day, sailed for Providence, but were immediately stopt by the Man o' War Capt. [James] Wallace, who seized them, and intends to send them to Boston. They have dismissed all the people, except Mr. John Brown of Providence, whom they retain as a prisoner, in revenge as is supposed for his being concerned in Burning the *Gaspee* Schooner a year or two ago.³ There were great quantities of Goods in the Packets removing to Providence—

Just at night a Vessel from N York advises that the p[eo]ple at N York have risen and seized the Fort and turned out the Kings Troops, and took possession of it, last week on Thursday. What a wonderful Coincidence of the bursting forth of the public Spirit. The affair of Lexington on Wednesday – of New York on Thursday ⁴ – and by Friday an American Army of 20,000 men actually raised and assembled!

1. Stiles, II, 40, 41, LC.
2. The brig *Polly*, N. Coddington, and ship *Saunders*, C. Moore, were entered in at the Philadelphia Custom House from Rhode Island on May 15, 1775, *Pennsylvania Packet*, May 15, 1775.
3. Burned by a band of men from Providence on June 9, 1772; although the culprits were well known, they were never identified to the British authorities.
4. This is a slight exaggeration of what actually happened in New York on Sunday, April 23, 1775, upon the news of Lexington reaching that city. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, April 24, 1775.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*" ¹

April 1775

Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour

Wedsdy 26

Light breezes and Calm, P M Spoke a Schooner from No Carolina with Tarr Seiz'd the Sloops *Diana*, and *Abigal* with 300 Barrels of flour bound to Providence for the Rebel Army, sent an Officer and 10 Men on board the *Diana* ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.
2. The journal makes no mention of the fact that Mr. John Brown, of Providence was seized on board one of the sloops. See Joseph Wanton to Gage, April 27, 1775.

CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Kingsfisher, New York, 26th April 1775.

Sir, As I understand all the Letters sent by the last Post for the Navy & Army were intercepted, have sent you herewith a duplicate of my last of the 23d. Instant.

The Major part of the People here are almost in a State of Rebellion, they have broke open the City Hall, and distributed the City Arms to the Mob, were it not for the Assistance I have given the Transports, make not the least doubt but they would have burnt them agreeable to their determination. – They have frequently formed Plans of destroying the King's Stores at Turtle Bay and up the North River, but with the Assistance of the Troops here, have always frustrated their designs. – I have taken the Powder onboard, out of the Store at Turtle Bay and the Arms & Powder out of the *Count[es]s Darlington* Transport, so that the Ship is now quite Lumbered up.

I am informed their next Plan, is to attack the *King's fisher*, be assured, I am prepared & hope to give them a warm reception. I am Sir [&c.]

James Montagu

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

WOOLSEY AND SALMON TO WILLIAM WILLCOCKS & CO., CORK ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 26 April 1775

We wish matters were onct settled between G.B. & these Collenys but from the last accts we se[e] little prospect. No doubt if the difference Subsists much longer but what the Collonies will suffer severely. but at the same time we think England will feel it much more, as here the real Necessarys of life for the poor will come much lower than in England & if the Collonys should hold out & keep from fighting we think in the end it will make them more Industerous than the[y] have been & of Course less extravagant . . . [John] Smith in a brig ² is arrived here with Servants from yr – port the[y] answer well –

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *James*, fifty tons burden, from Cork, in ballast and with sixty-seven servants, entered April 20, 1775, Port of Entry Books, 1745–75 MdHS.

WILLIAM GRAYSON AND PHILIP RICHARD FRANCIS LEE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir,

Dumfries 26th Apl 1775

We have just recieved a letter from the Officers of the independant Company of Spotsylvania which I have herewith inclos'd; ² I immediately call'd together this Company and had the vote put whether they would march to Williamsburgh for the purposes mentioned in that letter which was carried unanimously.

I have nothing more to add but that We are well assured you may depend on them either for that or any other service which respects the liberties of America. We expect yr answer and determination by Mr. Daviss.

We have the honor to be [&c.]

By order of the Co

Will^m Grayson
Phil. R^d Fran^s Lee

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See letter to Grayson, April 24, 1775.

27 Apr.

JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JR.¹

Dear Sir –

Cambridge Thursday 27th April 1775

I came into this place through Roxbury last evening & find great numbers of troops or rather armed men in much more confusion than I expected, but perhaps with as little as possible in this disordered state of the Massachusetts; most of the soldiers here are inhabitants of this Province who are now enlisting in a regular manner – General [Artemus] Ward is at Roxbury – Genl [Israel] Putnam is commander in chief at this place – they have both of them too much business upon their hands – I wish our General officers as soon as appointed might immediately repair to Head Quarters; they will at this crisis of Provincial politicks be very cordially accepted & be of eminent service – The Committee of Safety who are the premium mobile in the military movements are crowded with business – It is expected by many that the inhabitants of Boston will have leave to come out this day with their effects, provided they leave their arms and provisions – It is said that Pork sold there yesterday for pistareen pr. lb, and milk for pistareen pr quart. many are suspicious that the General intends to deceive them till he gets possession of their arms – An experienced Engineer deserted to the Castle the 25th Inst Mr. Josiah Quincy is arrived from London in a very low state of health and not expected to live – The restraining Act is come by the same Ship – the reinforcements from England were not to sail till the middle of April – I will if possible inclose you a Salem paper – I expected to have seen brother Joseph by this time Your [&c.]

Jed Huntington

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Cambridge] April 27, 1775

Resolved, That Captain [John] Derby be directed and he hereby is directed, to make for Dublin, or any good port in Ireland, and from thence to cross to Scotland or England, and hasten to London. This direction is, that so he may escape all cruisers that may be found in the chops of the Channel to stop the communicating of the Provincial Intelligence to the Agent.²

Ordered, That Colonel John Glover³ take such effectual methods for the prevention of Intelligence being carried on board the *Lively* ship-of-war, Captain [Thomas] Bishop, commander, now lying in the harbour of Marblehead, or any other as may have a tendency to injure the most important cause we are engaged in, and that he take such effectual methods for carrying this order into execution, as shall appear best calculated to effect this purpose.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

2. Derby, carrying the news of Lexington, did not follow instructions. In the interest of speed, he dared the Channel successfully.

3. John Glover (1732–97) was a Colonel of the Marblehead Regiment formed in January, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP, R.N.¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 27 April 1775

Sir I have received your Letters April 22d and 24th The Vessels laden with Provisions and Naval Stores I could wish might come to Boston, but in doing this we must not (I find) use Compulsion, but endeavour (by making it their Interest) to entice them to supply us. I therefore desire that you will make it publick, that all Vessels who shall bring to Boston for sale live Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Pulse, Fruit, Grain, Flour, Oats, Hay, Vegetables, & other Necessaries of Life, shall have my Protection and be at Liberty to depart with their Vessels and Crew, whenever they have disposed of their Cargoes, and finding that detaining New England Property is not likely to answer our intended purpose, you may allow all Vessels to pass as you please. I have no objection to the Friends of Government and Women and Children removing where they like from any apprehended Danger, and therefore approve of what you have done on that head. The Fishing Vessels may also continue to navigate as usual and depart with their Merchantable Fish to Market, as I cannot at present authorize the detention either of their Persons or Effects.

I desire you will get the brig *Sukey*, Peleg Ewell Master, late from New Providence and now lying at Salem, from thence, and send somebody in her to see her safe to Boston; – giving the Officer Directions not to suffer any thing to go out of her without my written Order. In regard to your Situation you must act according to the best of your Judgment. I wish you to keep your Station as long as possible without risking the Ship. Whenever you are in danger move into a place of Safety without waiting for my particular Directions. The Tidesmen belonging to the Custom house are to have leave to go to Marblehead in the King's Schooner, and when there, if insulted by the Mob, or they are driven from the Shore, you are to receive them on board and victual them as your Ships Company.

I would have you be very diligent in causing all foreign Letters to be delivered to you upon the Arrival of any Ship from abroad, particularly from Europe, as they may contain Intelligence of Importance, the Letters to be packed up and sent to me.

I have nothing more to add at present, but to express my Confidence that upon any sudden Exigence you will act according to the best of your Judgement for the Safety of the King's Ships and People entrusted to your Care.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves*Lively* at Marblehead.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 410–412, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GUY CARLETON, GOVERNOR OF CANADA, AT QUEBEC¹

Sir

Preston Boston 27th April 1775

As there is great Reason to expect the Rebels will continue to prevent all kinds of Provisions being brought to Boston in order to distress not only the friends of Government, but the Kings Forces; And as we have no Resources but in the

Provinces of Nova Scotia and Canada, I have written to Governor [Francis] Legge desiring his Assistance on this Exigency and I also intreat your Excellency to give Encouragement to the Exportation of live Cattle, Poultry, Roots and in general such Provisions as your Excellency well knows will be acceptable to a numerous body of People likely to be soon destitute of all Refreshments. Your Excellency will be so good to assure whoever bring provisions to this Market that they shall be allowed to return whenever they please and neither their Vessel or People detained upon any Account. I shall with great Pleasure render your Excellency any Services in my power and desire you will be assured that I am with the greatest Regard and Respect, Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 412, 413, MassHS Transcript.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO PRESIDENT OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Sir,

Providence April 27. 1775.

Yesterday Mr. John Brown, one of the principal Merchants of this Town, being at Newport, as an Agent for this Colony, appointed by the General Assembly to purchase Provisions, for the Use of this and your Government, was seized upon in a Freight or Packet Boat coming to Providence. He was carried and confined on Board a Man of War lying in Newport; and about 300 Barrels of Flour, in that Packet and another Freight Vessel, taken by the Ship of War. It is said the Captures are to be sent to Boston for Condemnation – We are greatly alarmed at this open Force and Hostility; and cannot but expect that the worst of Treatment will be offered to our Agent.

We have thought Proper to send you this Notice, to the End that you may detain all such of the King's Officers, or others in his immediate Service, as may be in your Hands, to answer and be accountable for the Conduct and Treatment, which may be had and acted to Mr Brown, and such as may be captured with him in the said two Vessels; and that you would on your Part in the common Cause do your utmost to make Reprisals of Persons to stand as Security in like Manner, not doubting but you will chearfully do those Things, which by the Laws of Nature and Nations are justifiable to be done to those, who put themselves in a State of War with others.

We are sorry to inform you that the first Struggle, which hath happened in our Colony, hath been unfavorable; an Event which could not have come to pass, but by the Faithlessness of some of the Members of our Assembly, who must have revealed their Proceedings, although the Oath of GOD was upon them to Secrecy.

Reprisal, recommended by the Continental Congress, and sanctified by the several Colonies, appears to be a good remedial Provision, and in this Instance highly necessary to be put in Practice; and we shall not fail ourselves to make Use of it at every Opportunity, and make the Life of every Crown Officer in our Power Security for the Safety of John Brown and those captured with him.

I am, Sir, for myself and in Behalf of all the true Friends of Freedom in this Colony [&c.]

Step Hopkins ²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 80.

2. Stephen Hopkins (1707–85), Rhode Island merchant and politician.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

April 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
 Thursday 27 P M sent the Sloop *Abigal* to Boston²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

2. John Brown was sent a prisoner in this sloop.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] Apr. 27 [1775].

This day at noon sailed the two Provid[enc]e packets seized yesterday, and in one of them Mr. Jno Brown is carried off for Boston, whither also they have sent the flour.

1. Stiles, II, 41, LC.

JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir,

Newport, April 27th 1775

Yesterday, Capt. [James] Wallis [Wallace] of His Majesty's Ship *Rose*, stationed in this Harbor, stopped a small Sloop, bound to Providence with a Quantity of Flour, consigned to Mr John Brown, Merchant in that Town, who was a Passenger on board said Sloop, with a regular Sufferance from the Custom House for the Flour; notwithstanding which, Capt. Wallis detained Mr Brown on board His Majesty's Ship *Swan*, and contrary to my Request for his dismissal has sent him round to Boston, to the very great Distress of his Family and numerous Connexions – The Pretext Capt Wallis may have for so extraordinary a Proceeding, I am not acquainted with as he has not answered the letter I wrote him in behalf of Mr Brown; nor given me the least Information in that Matter, which renders it necessary I shou'd address your Excellency in behalf of this unfortunate injured Gentleman, and to assure you, that he is a Person of considerable Fortune, One of the largest Traders in the Colony, and universally esteemed; his detention, Sir, will also be attended with the most ruinous Consequences to his Business, he being Owner of a large Number of Vessels, many of which are hourly expected from different Voyages; Considering these Circumstances and the peculiarly hard fate of Mr. Brown, in being forced out of his Business, and sent such a Distance from Home, I hope your Excellency will excuse me, when I intreat you to exert your Influence in this Affair, that Mr Brown may, without too great loss of Time, be restored to his Family and Business – I have the Honor to be, with great Respect Your Excellency's [&c.]

J Wanton

1. Gage Papers, CL.

SIMON PEASE TO NICHOLAS BROWN & Co.¹

Gentn

Newport April 27, 1775

I receivd yours thanking me for my endeavours for the Release of your Brother from on board the Man of Warr, When I heard of his Detention tho' I had no very great intimacy with Capt [James] Wallace The thoughts of his Family & their Distressd Situation cou'd not but move every Person of the least Hu-

manity & on seeing him the Sympathising Tear trickled on my Cheek. I was from four oClock in the morning till 10 or 11 in Soliciting & taking every method to effect it but in vain, but I make no doubt of his Release when He comes to Boston and to effect this I gave him Letters to Lieut Govr [Thomas] Oliver, Generall [Thomas] Gages Secretary & Major [William] Sheriff & my Brother Winslow & desired their Interest & Endeavour in his Favour, I have now wrote to Mr [Thomas] Fluker & Mr [Richard] Lechmere which will be delivered you with this also to my Brother again & hope they will be effectual which would give me Satisfaction, I inclose you a Letter for your Brother which I took up since He went away.

We are much alarmed at our Critical Situation Here as we Know not what may take place. I am sending off what Merchandise I have by me & you will oblige me in Letting me Know if 6 or 7 Crates of yellow ware would sell at Providence as almost all Business is at a Stand Here I heartily desire a Settlement of this unhappy Dispute & soon or otherways our Trade will be I am afraid entirely ruined. Make my Compliments to Mess. Russells to whom I would have wrote if I had Time I am yrs

Simon Pease

If you have heard of the Familys' leaving Boston you'll much oblige me to inquire after Mr Peases Family & if any of them at Providence to let me know.

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA ¹

[Philadelphia] Committee Chamber, April 27, 1775

Whereas the Continental Congress did resolve in the following words, viz: "And we further agree and associate, that we will have no trade, commerce, dealings, or intercourse, whatever with any colony or province in North America which shall not accede to, or which shall hereafter violate this Association, &c." ²

And whereas the Parliament of Great-Britain, in pursuance of their plan for subjugating and distressing the colonies, have passed a Bill for depriving our brethren in New-England of the benefit of fishing on their own coasts; Therefore,

Resolved, That all exportations from this city to Quebec, Nova-Scotia, Georgia and Newfoundland, or any parts of the fishing coasts or fishing islands, ought, in the opinion of this Committee, immediately to be suspended; and that it be accordingly recommended to every merchant immediately to suspend all Exportations to those places, until the Continental Congress shall give further orders therein.

By order of the Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia.

Jonathan B. Smith, Secretary

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 3, 1775.

2. Continental Association, agreed to by the First Continental Congress, October 20, 1774.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

April 27th [1775] at a meeting extraordinary of the Com.

The Committee having just now received Intelligence that the Magazine of powder at Williamsburgh had been seized on Thursday the 20th Instant in the

night by Captn. [Henry] Collins commander of one of his Majestys Sloops of War and by the Governors directions was deposited on Board his Vessell, thought it adviseable to forward this Information to the Committee of Philadelphia which was Accordingly done immediately.

1. Balt. Com., LC.

PEYTON RANDOLPH, FOR THE CORPORATION OF WILLIAMSBURG, TO MANN PAGE, JR., LEWIS WILLIS AND BENJAMIN GRYMES, JR.¹

Gentlemen

Williamsburg the 27th April 1775

In compliance with your request we give you a candid Relation of the Disturbance which happend last Week in this City about the removal of the Powder from the Public Magazine. Early on Friday morning [April 21] the Inhabitants were universally and much alarmed at the Report that the Powder had been removed the preceding Night under an Escort of Marines and carried on board an Armed Vessel at Burwell's Ferry. The Common Hall assembled and presented the address which we presume you have seen with the Governors Answer. The Inhabitants were so much exasperated that they flew to their Arms; This incensed the Governor a good deal and from every thing we can learn was the principal Reason why his Answer was not more explicit and favourable. His Excellency has repeatedly assured several Respectable Gentlemen that his only motive in Removing the Powder was to secure it, as there had been an alarm from the County of Surry which at first seem'd too well founded, tho it afterwards proved Groundless; besides what he has said in his Public Answer, he has given private assurances to Several Gentlemen, that the Powder shall be Return'd to the Magazine, tho he has not condescended to fix the Day for its Return. So far as we can Judge from a Comparison of all Circumstances, The Governor considers his Honor as at Stake; he thinks that he acts for the best and will not be *compell'd* to what we have abundant Reason to believe he would Cheerfully do, were he left to himself – Frequent Messages have been sent from the Neighbouring Counties to enquire into the State of this unfortunate affair with the most friendly and Spirited offers of assistance and Protection. The City could not but hold themselves exceedingly obliged to those Gentlemen as they do to you Gentlemen, and the rest of our Worthy Country Men, by whom we understand you are sent, We hope that you and the other Gentlemen can have no doubt of our paying the utmost attention to the Country's Interest as well as our own Security in particular. If We then may be permitted to advise, it is our opinion and most earnest request that Matters may be quieted for the present at least; we are firmly persuaded that perfect Tranquility will be Speedily Restored; by pursuing this Course we foresee no Hazard or even inconvenience that can ensue; whereas we are apprehensive, and this we think upon good Grounds that violent measures may produce effects, which God only knows the consequence of.

We beg that our thanks and best Wishes may be presented to the several Gentlemen of this Country who have interested themselves in our Behalf and are Gen: [&c.]

Peyton Randolph for self and the
Corporation of the City of Williamsburg

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE COMMITTEES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS AND PARISHES OF THE PROVINCE ¹

[Extract]

Charlestown, April 27, 1775

Gentlemen, The General Committee thinking it of the highest Importance that the Committees in the interior Parts of the Colony, and that, through them, the People at large, should from Time to Time be informed of all such Affairs and Transactions as have any Relation to the American Cause; they have for the Management of so necessary a Service nominated a Committee of Intelligence.

We are very sorry that at our entering upon that Service we are to announce to you that there is but little Probability of deciding the present unhappy Public Disputes, by the pacific Measures we have hitherto pursued. However, even this Circumstance, we hope, will be of Service to our Cause; for we have no Doubt, but that the Ministry having thus turned a deaf Ear to the Complaints of the Colonies, these will be confirmed in their Resolution to complain in a louder Tone, and be ANIMATED to meet those Difficulties and Dangers they can now no longer avoid, with Honour to themselves, and Safety to their Liberties.

On the 9th of *February* the two Houses of Parliament addressed the King. In Substance, they declared to His Majesty that *America* was in a State of actual Rebellion; they desired the King, by all possible Means, to enforce the late Acts of Parliament against *America*; and they assured him that in such a Measure they would support him with their Lives and Fortunes. The King acquiesced, and some Days after desired from Parliament an Addition to his military Forces – it was granted without Hesitation. In consequence of these Measures, Reinforcements of Troops and Ships are ordered to *Boston*; where, when they shall be arrived, General [Thomas] Gage may have under his Command about 10,000 Men. *But what are 10,000 Men against THE UNITED POWERS OF AMERICA!*

Amidst this Gloom, some Rays of Light break in, and cheer us in this Extremity of Affairs. The City of London has declared in our Favour; in a few Hours, some of her Mercants subscribed 26,000 l. Sterling for the Relief of *America*, and public Subscriptions for the same Purpose are industriously promoted. *London*, and other considerable Towns, have petitioned Parliament, and continue to exert themselves vigorously in our Behalf. The most illustrious Noblemen, and the most eloquent Orators, are loud in our Defence.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 930, 931.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE COMMITTEES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS AND PARISHES OF THE PROVINCE ¹

[Extract]

Charlestown, April 27, 1775

On the 8th of *March* a Bill passed the House of Commons, *restraining* the Provinces of *Massachusetts Bay*, *New Hampshire*, *Connecticut*, and *Rhode Island*, from fishing on the Banks of *Newfoundland*; and from exporting to any Part of the World, but to "*Great-Britain*, or some of the *British Islands* in the *West Indies*." Thus, as these four Provinces have by the *American* Association contracted not to export to those Places, THEIR EXPORTS ARE TOTALLY

STOPPED. And the Act further says, *that into those Provinces shall NOT be imported* any "Sort of Wines, Salt, or any Goods or Commodities whatsoever (except Horses, Victual, and Linen Cloth, the Produce and Manufacture of *Ireland*, and Goods for the victualling of his Majesty's Ships, and for his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons, or the Produce of the *British Islands* in the *West Indies*) upon any Pretence whatsoever, unless such Goods be shipped in *Great-Britain*, and carried directly from thence." Thus, as those Provinces are bound by the Association *not to import FROM Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies*, it is evident that *their IMPORTATION in the Way of Trade is TOTALLY PREVENTED*. If the Blockade of *Boston alone* ROUSED the whole Continent to their Rescue and Support, HOW VIGOROUSLY ought we to exert ourselves, NOW that *four entire Provinces* are blockaded by an Act of Parliament, and CUT OFF FROM ALL MANNER OF TRADE! And, Gentlemen, remember, *this violent Measure* has been executed SINCE the Introduction of Lord North's conciliatory Motion.

This arbitrary Conduct on the other Side of the Water has driven the People of this Capital, and the neighbouring Country, TO DESPAIR of a Redress of American Grievances, without an EFFUSION of AMERICAN BLOOD – OF THIS they are virtuously willing to contribute their Quota, and even *more* than their Proportion, to procure *this invaluable Relief*. These Advices arrived on the 14th and 19th Days of this Month; and on the Night of the 21st Inst. the Public Armory and Magazines were opened, and a considerable Quantity of Arms and Ammunition were taken, without Doubt, for the Ends for which they were originally procured – THE PUBLIC SAFETY.

Last *Wednesday*, the 26th Instant, the General Committee passed a Vote, that the Provincial Congress be summoned to meet in *Charlestown* on *Tuesday* the 20th Day of *June*. We make no Doubt but that you will exert yourselves to give a general Notification of it, that the Congress may be as full as possible, as it is expected Affairs of the HIGHEST Importance will be the Subject of Deliberation.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 935, 936.

28 Apr.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO MESSRS. SMITH & ATKINSON, BOSTON ¹

Gentlmn

Portsmouth April 28, 1775

Your fav. of 24th Inst I recd duly, & observe the Contents – The late unhappy Event, has put by all business for the present. Your order to Charter or purchase a Vessel is Impracticable here – Therefore decline an attempt – A Vessel cou'd not be man'd, with the greatest assurances for the seamans safety from an impress, nor is it possible to procure a Master & men for the purpose of taking any Familys from Boston by Water, as the people are Convinc'd none can go off with their Effects in that way, but such as have Immediate Interest or Connections with the Power that prohibits a free Intercourse – The Alarm given by the Troops Cruel Proceedings Annimates with double Fire – God only Knows the Event – I

heartily wish some Concilliratory measures might be adoptd before its too late to save both Country's –

I will exert myself to Collect your debts here – No doubt ere this you have seen Cap. Cartwright his people that were of this Town, are got home & inform me the *Betsey* was cast away on their Passage to Georgia. – Cap. Turner arrived yesterday from Granada by him I am inform'd Bettenham is at Grenviel Bay that Mr Scoot wou'd not take him up havg taken Umbrage at your Letter by that Vessel – no doubt you are Particularly advised by Cap. Bettenham Roberts was at Granada cou'd not do any thing there & Cap. Turner tels me proceeded to Jamaica – Greno has not been at that Island. Therefore I conclude he stopt at Nevis where he expected to Load – Mr Rose writes me of 3d Fey that he shou'd Load Follet – I am sorry to hear the low Sale of Dowees Cargo – You desire me not drawg any further – I must to make up the Sum of £200 last mentd to you, if it were possible to sel effects or Collect any of your debts I shou'd not need to call on you, at present – but that is impossible at present

I sincerely Condole the unhappy situation of the Inhabitants of Boston I hope they will soon be Releived, as the Post informs the General has promis'd to suffer the People & Effects to move out of Town soon as the Arms of the Inhabitants are delivered up – My Respectful Compliments as due Concludes me Gentlman [&c.]

Josh. Wentworth

1. Atkinson Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Provincial Congress Watertown 28th April 1775

Whereas a worthy Friend to the Liberties of America, Mr John Brown of Providence hath been lately seized, & with two other persons carried on board a British Ship of War at Newport.

Ordered, That Samuel Murray & such officers of Gen [Thomas] Gages Army as are now prisoners of War & not disabled from travelling on account of their Wounds be immediately sent under a Sufficient guard to Providence & delivered to the Hon: Stephen Hopkins Esqr or other Friends of said Mr Brown; to be made such Use of as they shall think proper for obtaining the liberty of the said Mr Brown.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO STEPHEN HOPKINS ¹

In provincial Congress Water Town April 28th 1775.

It [is] with the deepest Concern that We find Mr [John] Browne, that devoted Friend to the Cause of America, betrayed into the Hands of our common Enemies & every Measure for his Release that can be pursued by us shall most earnestly be adopted

We have ordered Samuel Murray son of the Mandamus Counciller & such officers of General [Thomas] Gages Army as are prisoners of War & not disabled

from travelling to be immediately sent under sufficient Guards to providence, & think it best that Murray & the Officers should write to their Friends in Boston acquaintg them that Mr Brown's Friends have the same Advantage over these as General Gage hath over Mr Browne—

We beg leave to suggest to You the critical Situation of the Colony at the present Time which disables this Congress from immediately seizing every Crown Officer in the Government – Boston is closed & the Numerous Inhabitants so obnoxious to our Enemies are imprisoned therein – several of our Seaports are blocked with Ships & threatned Destruction if they joyn the Army – under this Situation the Inhabitants of these Places most in Danger are Day & Night removing their Furniture & Effects & We hope soon to see it generally done – should We therefore seize the Crown officers as proposed it may hurl on our Numerous Seaports sudden Destruction before they have had opportunity of saving themselves.

We had it in Contemplation to send a Letter to the General acquainting him that We should treat the Crown Officers with Severity if Mr Browne should be so treated by him, but We are apprehensive it would rather produce an unhappy than good Effect as he has greater Number of our valuable Friends than We can shew of his – We desire you to give us your further Sentiments on the Matter & if any Way is left wherein the Congress can serve Mr Browne it shall be readily pursued

We are &

[Endorsed] Afternoon, April 28, 1775

The Committee appointed in the Forenoon to take into consideration a Letter received from the Honourable Stephen Hopkins Esq reported

The Report was accepted, and ordered to lie on the table for the present.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 86.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen,

Providence April 28 1775.

Mr Joseph Brown, and Mr Moses Brown of this Place, principal Merchants, and Gentlemen of Distinction and Probity, will wait upon you with this Letter – Their Brother Mr. John Brown of this Town Merchant, was two Days ago forcibly taken at Newport in a Packet, as he was coming from thence with a Quantity of Flour, which he had purchased there. He was carried on Board a Ship of War and confined, and we have since heard, that he is sent round to Boston with the Flour.

I request you to give to the Bearers any Aid and Assistance in Your Power, for procuring the Relief and Discharge of their Brother – In my Letter of yesterday to the Congress, the Measure of Reprisal in this Instance was recommended, and if it may be, I wish it may be pursued.

I am your Friend [&c.]

Step Hopkins

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 82.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT, TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Hartford April 28th 1775

The alarming situation of public affairs in this country, & the late unfortunate transactions in the Province of the Massatts Bay, have induced the General Assembly of this Colony, now sitting in this place to appoint a Committee of their body to wait upon your Excellency to desire me, in their name to write to you relative to these very interesting matters –

The inhabitants of this Colony are intimately connected with the people of your Province and esteem themselves bound by the strongest ties of friendship, as well as of common interest, to regard with attention whatever concerns them. You will not therefore be surprized that your first arrival at Boston with a body of His Majesty's troops for the declared purpose of carrying into execution certain Acts of Parliament, which in their apprehension were unconstitutional and oppressive should have given the good people of this Colony, a very just and general alarm.

Your subsequent proceedings in fortifying the town of Boston & other military preparations greatly encreased their apprehensions for the safety of their friends and brethern – They could not be unconcerned spectators of their sufferings in that which they esteemed the common cause of this country, but the late hostile and secret inroads of some of the troops under your command into the heart of the country and the violences they have committed, have driven them almost into a state of desperation – They feel now, not only for their friends, but for themselves and their dearest interests and connections – We wish not to exaggerate; we are not sure of every part of our information, but by the best intelligence that we have yet been able to obtain the late transaction was a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and property of His Majesty's subjects, and it is represented to us, that such outrages have been committed as would be a disgrace even to barbarians; much more to Britons, so highly famed for humanity as well as bravery – It is feared therefore that we are devoted to destruction and that you have it in command and intention to ravage and desolate the country – If this is not the case, permit us to ask why have these outrages been committed? Why is the town of Boston now shut up & to what end are all these hostile preparations that are daily making & why do we continually hear of fresh destinations of troops for this country? The people of this Colony, you may rely upon it abhor the idea of taking arms against the troops of their sovereign and dread nothing so much as the horrors of civil war; but at the same time we beg leave to assure your Excellency that as they apprehend themselves justified by the principle of self-defence they are most firmly resolved to defend their rights and privileges to the last extremity; nor will they be restrained from giving aid to their brethern if any unjustifiable attack is made upon them – Be so good therefore as to explain yourself upon this most important subject as far as it is consistent with your duty to our common Sovereign – Is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute from

coming to extremeties? Is there no alternative but absolute submission or the desolations of War? By that humanity which constitutes so aimable a part of your character as well as for the honour of your Sovereign and by the Glory of the British Empire we entreat you will prevent it if it be possible – Surely it is to be hoped that the temperate wisdom of the Empire might even yet find expedients to restore peace, that so all parts of the Empire may enjoy their particular rights honours and immunities. Certainly it is an event most devoutly to be wished for – And will it not be consistent with your duty to suspend the operations of war on your part, and enable us on ours to quiet the minds of the people at least until the result of some further deliberations may be known? The importance of the occasion will we doubt not sufficiently apologize for the earnestness with which we address you, and any seeming impropriety which may attend it, as well as induce you to give us the most explicit and favourable answer in your power—

I am with great esteem and respect in behalf of the Genl Assembly Sir [&c.] ²

1. Trumbull Papers, Force Transcript, LC. Jonathan Trumbull (1710–85) had been Governor of Connecticut since 1769.
2. This letter and Gage's reply of May 3, which was well received in England, were published together in *The Gentlemen's Magazine*, London, June 1775. Most public communications of importance and many private letters appeared in the periodicals.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

New York April 28. 1775 11 OClock at Night –

My Dear Sir In great haste I wrote you but a very few lines by [Edward] Chappell this day in Answer to all your letters, wch I beg you will Excuse, for our City has been in Such Tumult & confusion ever since Sunday last that Scarcely any Business has been done, and every day we have had People Marching booth day & Night through the Streets with Arms & they are Exercising & Entering into Companies every day – there has been no Such thing as Collecg mony since the News from Boston, as most Refuse to pay & hope your People will have a Little Patience with me & I beg you will advise all my friends, that they Send nothg down here Just now, for their Interest is Saifer in their own hands, than here. I am Determind to sell nothing but for Cash in hand now & most People be of the same Mind & I want much to git my family & Effects from this place for from what we can learn this Place is to be the Seat of War in America and we have Reason to Expect the Troops booth from England & Boston will make their head Quarters here & many are Sending out their families & Packing up their goods to Send them off – yesterday a very great Number of People (some suppose about 300 with arms) met in the Common from whence they Proceeded to our Collector about two Miles out of Town to Request he would Clear no Vessells with Provision or Lumber, but his Oath would not admit his Consenting (he being obliged to Clear all Vessells that Properly Applied) from wch they went to the Custom house & obtained the Keys, so that no Vessell can Just now be Cleared or Enterd wch Seem to me to be a hardship, for all Vessells in Ballast ought to be Cleared out & all Vessells not Contrary to Congress ought to be admitted to Entry – but hope in a few days all will be put Right – this City is now in as much Confusion, as if we Expected an Attack from a foreign Enemy –

This day a great Number of Cannon is Removed from this Town to Kingsbridge & Expect a great Number will go tomorrow as also powder & Ball – the People begin to Unite & those we deemed Tories before now come out hearty in the Cause, and I Judge some out of fear – the Western Provinces are heartily United, as is North Carolina in a Particular Manner – our Cause is good & if we be only serious, we shall Baffle all the Designs of the Ministry –

our Cause of Liberty gains fast here & if no Troops Come for one month, we shall be better United than any Province, a Provintial Congress is Called to Meet here the 22d of Next Month, as also in Jersey the 15th & Expect they will Unite – the Ministry Mean to Push hard against us, but when they come to have True Accots in England from Boston & this, make no doubt the Populace will Oblige them to desist their opperation

the Jersey People have sent Word they will come to our assistance when Called for, & Many People from your Province are now on their March to Kingsbridge – I am [&c.]

Peter Vandervoort

P S. I beg you will Caution all to send nothing down here untill We know how Matters are like to go with us

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 28 April, 1775]

. . . was our troubles settled I would not make the least doubt of our getting business Enough. but troubles sams to Come Heavier for the troops & people in N. England have had an Engagement in which we think the troops are worsted the best acct we have yet here I now Inclose you but have not mentiond it to any person on yr side but yr self.² how matters will now end God knows. but as trade is likely to be stopped I would advise you to remain where you are untill I write otherwise Unless you wd chuse to Come out here to take up arms which we are all doing but should the affairs be settled soon it must be to our advantage Hereafter your remaining where you are as I have no doubt of yr living at as chape a rate as possible & you may be assured I will do the same . . . the Schooner is now here ³ & I hope to have her Loaded in Eight days with Boat boards Staves & 100 bbbs flour for Dublin. I have wrote to G[eorge] D[arley] to Insure the Hull in England as Cash is Scarce with me I shall Insure the Cargo Here. I suppose the Hull is worth 250£ Sterl & I would advise her to be sold with you if it Could be done to advantage. . . . when I get the Schooner Away I am afraid I shall be obligd to draw on G.D. for 100£ Sterl but shall not do it if I can help it. . . . in the present Distracted situation of affairs to the N.ward & the little prospect of their being settled I wonder how I got myself to write so much as I have done but be matters as they will I am always yr assured Friend

Ge^o Woolsey

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The battle of Lexington and Concord.

3. The schooner *Industry*, William Woolsey, master, entered from Antigua on April 18, with a cargo of twenty hogsheads and one tierce of rum, two tierces and three barrels of sugar, 2000 pounds of brown sugar and 1850 gallons of rum. Port of Entry Books, 1745–75, MdHS.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO HIS BROTHER WILLIAM EDEN ¹

[Extract]

Annapolis, 28th April 1775.

You must not be angry with me for (at this Time) being apparently negligent in my Intelligence to Lord Dartmouth, for it is impossible to give any positive Intelligence or Information on Affairs here. We are at this Time, as You will judge by the inclosed, in a State of thorough Confusion. I had set apart Wednesday, Yesterday, and this Day (Friday) for writing fully on the Affairs of this Country, which I would not do sooner, from some *well grounded* Hopes I had of seeing a total Change here, on what I remarked, at our receiving the Intelligence of your preparing the Armament against America; which, if it did not immediately cause an Alteration among the Sentiments, did in the Avowals of our staunchest Patriots, and gave me great Room to hope *we* should return into a Channel of regular Submission to the Laws of Great Britain. When lo! on Wednesday at 1 P. M, the inclosed No 1 appeared.² – I openly disavowed every Probability of Truth in the Account; but the Alarm you may easily conceive not to be small here.

In the Afternoon I was waited on by six Gentlemen of respectable Characters, requesting me, that as, in Consequence of this News, they were under great Apprehensions of some Attempt being made by the Servants or Slaves for their Liberty, they hoped I would commit the Custody of the Arms and Ammunition to the Freemen of the Country, for that otherwise they would not answer for Consequences from an Insurrection. I expostulated with them, advised them – and tried to convince them they were only going to accelerate the Evil they dreaded from their Servants and Slaves – In vain, however, altho' I agreed, by the Advice of the Council, to commit the Care of the Arms to the Custody of such Gentlemen of the Militia (*regularly* appointed by myself) as they must place Confidence in. They expressed great Satisfaction with this; but the next Day (Yesterday) applied to me, under the Militia Act of this Province, for Arms, for the Purposes above-mentioned. – and, by Advice of the Council, then sitting at my House, I agreed to furnish four Counties (whose Colonels made a regular Application) with Arms &c., *such as they are*; and perhaps each County (of those four) will get 100 Stand, which their Colonels give Receipts for, and are to share with the Counties that have not had Time to apply. I thought this a better Mode of proceeding, than refusing, as the Event shews: For, altho' last Night, they took away the Powder (which has been here 20 years, and is useless) except five Barrels of mine in the Magazine, they were last Night, and this Morning, prohibited by *Capt. Hyde's* Company, belonging to this City, from taking the Arms; who, to shew the Strangeness of *our* Conduct, had, on Wednesday, paraded to assist them in taking them away should I have refused to grant them; a Dilemma this, that puzzled them! And Hyde's Company have so far succeeded (the others cool and unconcerned Spectators, in Scarlet, lined with Buff) as to claim, and take, this Afternoon, their proportion of the Arms &c except Powder. This must, I suppose, mortify the Convention, some of whom think that I have engaged to support that Company with the Friends I can rely on, and with whom I defeated some former Combinations.

You need be under no Uneasiness about me: I am well supported, and not obnoxious to any unless it be to some of our infernal Independents, who are in League with the Bostonians.

Writing in such a Hurry, and so straitened for Time, I forgot to say that, about ten this Morning, No 2, or rather the Original of it, came to Town; but I cannot, (tho' alarmed on hearing it with many added Circumstances) gave Credit to it. It comes thro' an *independent* Channel, and I rather think it intended to draw in the other Colonies, that they may share in the Punishment of the Bostonians, or, by being entitled to it, mitigate it. In this Province, there are very many, I really believe a Majority of Friends to Government; and *we* have talked *American* Treason openly in this Town for some Time. I will write more fully by a safe Conveyance, the *Sophia*, on Monday or Tuesday: You must see I have no Time now. I hourly expect an Uproar of some Sort or another, but am calm enough, considering I am not endowed with Patience.

I will just add, on behalf of the Gentlemen from the several Counties, who instructed the others in the Application made to me, that their Behaviour was exceedingly respectful, much more so than I expected considering the Intelligence from the Northward they had received and credited.

I must trust to You for making proper Excuses to Lord Dartmouth for my not writing. I could not do it, without detaining the Mail, which would give an Alarm, enough of which we have already. You will please to communicate all, or as much of this as is necessary, with proper Apologies. His Majesty has not a Governor on this Continent, who would more freely expose both his Fortune and his Life in His Service than I would. That is well known here, and contributes not a little to keep the dissolute in order: and I have a few faithful and resolute Adherents, whom I can trust to on an Emergency.

You will probably hear fully from me by Richardson's Ship, before You get this:—I will then write to Lord Dartmouth. Please to present my most respectful Compliments to His Lordship.

You will have heard of Lord Dunmore's having removed the Powder from Williamsburg. We have no King's Ship here, should I have thought such a step to be expedient, had our Powder been worth removing. I hear the Northern Neck Militia (Lord Fairfax's) are on their March, as Light Horse, to Williamsburg. Adieu, I hear Musquetry, exercising only I hope, for they fire regularly in Platoons.

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

2. The first account of the battles of Lexington and Concord.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1775

Williamsburg, April 28.

By some Gentlemen who came passengers with Captain Miller, we learn . . . That Lord William Campbell is appointed Governour of South Carolina, and was at Portsmouth ready to sail for his government.

The *Mary*, Miller, from London, and *Tom*, Clark, from Liverpool, are arrived in York river; the *Jenny*, Welch, *Molly*, Collins, and *Sparling*, Priestman, from Liverpool, at Norfolk.

His Majesty's ship *Fowey*, Capt. [George] Montagu[e], came round last Sunday [April 23] to York, from Hampton road.

29 Apr.

COLONEL SAMUEL THOMPSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

I this minut have an oportunity to Informe you of the State of our affairs at the Eastward that we are all Stantch for Countrey Except three men and one of them is Deserted the other two is in Iorns – as for the vessels which attemptd to Carrey Stuff to our enemies are stopt and I am about to move about Two hundred of white pine masts and other stuff got for our Enemies use Sir having heard of the Cruel murders they have dun in our Province makes me more Resolute than ever and finding that the Sword is drawn first on their side that we shall be annimated with that noble spirit that wise men ought to be untill our Just Rights and Libertys are secured to us Sr my heart is with every tru Son of America tho my Person can be in but one place at once, tho verey Soone I hope to be with you on the spot if any of my Friends enquier after Me Informe them that I make it my whole business to pursue those measures Recommended by the Congress. We being uppon the Sea Coast am in danger of being invaded by Pirates as on the 27th of inst there was a boat or barge Came in to our harbour and River and sounding as they went up the River – Sir as powder and gunes is much wanted in the Eastern Parts and allso Provisions Pray Sir have you thoughts Something on this matter against I arrive which will be as soone as busness will admit Sir I am with the greatest Regard to the Countrey at heart your Ready friend [&c.]

Samuel Thompson

Brunswick April the 29th 1775

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 98.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N., TO EDWARD PARRY ¹

Sir—

Canceaux Falmouth April 29 1775

I am just this moment informed that you are interrupted in your occupation by the misled people of the Place where you are; I therefore think it incumbent on me as a Servant under the Crown, to warn those Infatuated people of the Consequences that will issue from the detaining, or interfering with you, or any other of his Majesties Loyal subjects in their lawful avocations, & I do by the same Authority authorize you to make known to me, without loss of time your present Situation, & the Names of those that have presumed to molest you. Should a Reply to this Letter not appear by the time that I have a Right to expect it, I Shall Naturally Suppose that it has been interrupted, & you may depend, as soon as I know that to be the case, that Assistance Shall soon release you, or any other Subject whose treatment may furnish me with a just cause of Complaint. My best Compliments to Mr Barnard I hope he is not in the same predicament with yourself please to acquaint him that I Received his Letter, & that I have been

in hourly expectations of Seeing him for Some days past I also hope to have the
Pleasure of Seeing you very Soon. I am Sir
Your most Obedient Humble Servant

H: Mowat

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 27.

FALMOUTH CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS ¹

Honorable Sirs For some Months past we have persevered in our Duty notwithstanding many Threats, & Insults from the Lawless Sons of Violence but lately being well assured of a concerted Plan to confine us and then to lay at their Mercy, it behoved us with other Friends to the British Constitution to take refuge onboard His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux* on the 24th Instant, where we continued till the 26th refusing to enter or clear Vessels, unless it might be done, without Molestation at the Custom House, and Security promised us from the Select Men. This Step together with a Letter from Captain [Henry] Mowat firmly demanded Protection for all Friends to Government, has produced a Letter to him and another to us assuring Safety in our Business and to our Families, but this we depend on no longer than a King's Ship is in the Harbour. We therefore humbly beg leave to say that as Capt. Mowat from his present Orders will soon depart, We may not continue here, but at the risque of losing the Custom House Books, & Effects as well as our Lives. – To prevent these impending Evils permit us to to intreat your Honors Interest with the Commanders of His Majesty's Fleet & Army, to grant us in this our distressed and dangerous Situation such Protection as they in their Wisdom shall think proper. We are Honorable Sirs [&c.]

G: Lyde, Collr. & Secy
Jos. Demell D Comp^t

Custom House, Falmouth April 29, 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO SMITH & ATKINSON, BOSTON MERCHANTS ¹

Gentmn

[Portsmouth] April 29, 1775 –

Since writg the preceedg. a Vessel is arrived from Totola by whom recd the Inclos'd letter from Cap Roberts of the Ship *Lucretia*, who is gone to Jamaica –

The Master of the Vessel (arrived here) tels me Capt Roberts inform'd him Grino had got a freight at Antigua. I have again talk'd with Cap. Turner, he sais Bettenham sold for £4.10/ – at Grenviel Bay – wch is equal to £5.0/ – at St Georges in the same Island, as you do not pay any freight of Sugars, & lay free from any great use of Cables – If Roberts is [fortunate] eno. to procure afreight at Jamaica [in] that case your Ships have done well thus far. I am &c.

Josh. Wentworth

Roberts Ship proves exceedy well & Sails prodigiously fast, he arrived at Antigua in 17 days.

[Endorsed] Received May 10th. Answer'd May 13th

1. Atkinson Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 29, 1775, Afternoon.

The President having received a Letter from Messrs. Nicholas Brown and Joseph Brown, dated Providence, April 27, 1775, desiring that the Congress would observe secrecy in respect to the capture of their brother, John Brown, at Newport, on the 26th instant: And also another from the Honourable Stephen Hopkins, Esquire, dated Providence, April 27th, 1775, presented the same to this Congress; which being read,

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Colonel [Joseph] Gerrish, and Doctor [John] Taylor, be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to confer with the abovesaid Joseph Brown, who now waits the further advice of this Congress.

Ordered, That said Committee be, and they hereby are authorized to consider what is proper to be done, and make a report forthwith.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 774, 775, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir

Boston 29th April 1775

I transmit you herewith a circumstantial account of an unhappy affair that happened in this Province on the 19th Instant, between His Majesty's Troops, and the people of the country, whereby you will see the pitch their Leaders have worked them up to, even to commit hostilities upon the King's Troops when an opportunity offered ² – It has long been said that this was their plan, and so it has turned out.

I am with regard and esteem Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, 713, ConnSL.

2. See under date of April 19, 1775.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1775

Providence, April 29.

On Wednesday last [April 26], as two of our Packet-Boats were returning from Newport, without about 300 Barrels of Flour, the Property of Mr. John Brown, Merchant of this Place, (who was on board one of them) they were taken into Custody by the Men of war stationed there, – and one of the Packets, with Mr. Brown on board, and 200 Barrels of Flour, we hear has since been sent to Boston.

The Troops stationed at Marshfield and a Number of Friends of Government (so called) were taken on board some armed Vessels soon after the late Engagement, and carried to Boston.

INSURANCE POLICY ON THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Lively* ¹

IN the Name of GOD, Amen *John Tillinghast of Providence Marriner* ² as well as in *his* own Name, as for and in the Name and Names of all and every other Person or Persons to whom the same doth, may or shall appertain, in Part or in all, doth make Assurance, and causeth himself, and them, and every of them, to be insured, lost or not lost, the Sum of *Six Hundred dollars on the Body*,

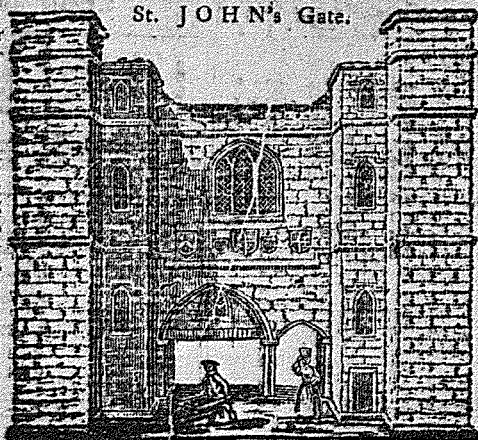
The Gentleman's Magazine:

London Gazette
Daily Advertiser
Public Advertiser
Public Ledger
Gazetteer

St. James's Chron.
London Chron.
General Evening
Whitehall Even.
London Evening
Lloyd's Evening,
Monday, Wed-
nesday, Friday.

Oxford
Cambridge
Reading
Northampton
Birmingham 2
Bath 2 papers
Coventry 2
Bristol 3

St. JOHN'S Gate.



York 2 paper
Dublin 3
Newcastle 3
Leeds 2
Edinburgh
Aberdeen
Glasgow
Ipswich
Norwich
Exeter
Gloucester
Salisbury
Liverpool
Sherborn
Worcester
Stamford
Nottingham
Chester
Manchester
Canterbury
Chelmsford

For M A Y, 1775.

CONTAINING

More Quantity and greater Variety than any Book of the Kind and Price.

union meet;
the sweet,

to slip;
joes,

IMPROMPTU. *On the sailing of the Cerberus
with the three General Officers on the Ame-
rican Expedition.*

BEhold the Cerberus th' Atlantic plow,
Her precious cargo Burgoyne, Clin-
Bow! Wow! Wow! [ton, Howe,]

APRIL 29, 1775.

THE

NUMBER 128.

VIRGINIA

GAZETTE.

With the Freshest ADVICES,

FOREIGN and DOMESTICK.

IN CIVITATE LIBERA LINGUAM ALENTEMQUE

LIBERAS SAS DESINE. — 1775. in Tr. 2. 11

PRINTED by JOHN DIXON and

WM. HUNTER, at the Post Office



sea net into that port.

March 2. A correspondent thinks it an odd circumstance, that the Cerberus (whom the Poets feign to be the three headed dog that guards the mouth of hell) should be the ship appointed to carry over to America the three Generals appointed to tame the Americans.

A short time since Mess. Horton and Norton, of Norton, in Staffordshire, married the daughter each other, and then the old men kneeled down, and asked each others blessing.

(Top) Extract from The Gentleman's Magazine, May, 1775. (Bottom) Extract from Dixon and Hunter's The Virginia Gazette, April 29, 1775.

tackel, apparel, also on the Cargo goods &c on board the Sloop Lively – from Providence to St Eustia with liberty to touch at the Granades whereof is Master, under GOD, for this present Voyage, *John Tillinghast* or whosoever else shall go for Master in the said Vessel, or by whatsoever other Name or Names the same Vessel, or the Master thereof, is or shall be named or called; beginning the Adventure upon *the said Vessel and her Cargo at her sailing from Providence to Continue running all risques of every kind and nature during her passage to and her arrival at St Eustia and moor'd twenty four hours with Liberty to touch at the Granades* And it shall be lawful for the Vessel, &c. in this Voyage, in Cases of Extremity and Distress, to proceed and sail to, and touch at any Ports or Places whatsoever, without Prejudice to this Insurance. Touching the Adventures and Perils which we the Assurers are contented to bear, and do take upon us in this Voyage; they are of the Seas, Men of War, Fires, Enemies, Pirates, Rovers, Thieves, Jettisons, Letters of Mart and Counter-Mart, Surprisals, Taking at Sea, Arrest, Restraints and Detainments of all Kings, Princes and People, of what Nation, Condition or Quality soever; and of all Perils, Losses and Misfortunes, that have or shall come to the Hurt, Detriment or Damage of the said *Vessel & Cargo* or any Part thereof. And in case of any Loss or Misfortune, it shall be lawful for the Assureds, their Factors, Servants and Assigns to sue, labour, and travel for, in and about the Defence, Safeguard and Recovery of said *Vessel & Cargo* or any Part thereof, without Prejudice to this Insurance; to the Charges whereof we the Assurers will contribute, each one according to the Quantity of [blank] Sum herein assured. And that in case of any Average Loss, not exceeding *Ten Pounds per Cent.* the Assurers, by Agreement with the Assured, are not to pay or allow any thing towards such Loss. And in case of any Loss, the Money to be paid in *thirty Days* after Proof of the same. And it is agreed by us the Insurers, that this Writing, or Policy of Assurance, shall be of as much Force and Effect as the surest Writing, or Policy of Assurance, heretofore made in Lombard-Street, or in the Royal Exchange, or elsewhere in LONDON. And so we the Assurers are contented, and do hereby promise and bind ourselves, each one for his own Part, our Heirs, Executors and Goods, to the Assureds, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, for the true performance of the Premises, confessing ourselves paid the Consideration due unto us for this Assurance by the Assureds, at and after the Rate of *two pounds ten shillings* per Cent. And in case of any Dispute arising thereupon, the Matter in Controversy shall be submitted to, and decided by, Referees, chosen by each Party, agreeable to the Rules and Customs in LONDON.

IN WITNESS whereof, We the Assurers have subscribed our names, and Sums assured, in *Providence* in New-England. *April 29th 1775.*

£60 I Joseph Crawford Juner am Content for Sixty Pounds
£60 I Tho Greene Am Content for Sixty pounds Lf Mony
£60 I Philip allen am Content for Sixty Pounds Law

1. RIHS, Mss. Collections, vol. 2.

2. The policy is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics. The policy is presented as an example of insurance methods up to and even a little beyond the date of Lexington and Concord.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF NEW YORK ¹

[New York] Saturday 29th April 1775

It is impossible fully to describe the agitated State of the Town since last Sunday, when the News first arrived of the Skirmish between Concord and Boston. – At all corners People inquisitive for News – Tales of all Kinds invented believed, denied, discredited . . . 2 Sloops laden by [John] Watts for Boston with Provisions unladen. In that Night the City Armory open the Powder taken out of the Powder House . . . [Isaac] Sears yesterday afternoon with 360 Armed Men waited on [Andrew] Elliot the Collector and got the Keys of the Custom House to shut up the Port – The Merchants are amazed & yet so humbled as only to sigh or complain in whispers. They now dread Sears's Train of armed Men –

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 222.

30 Apr. (Sunday)COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay County of Cumberland

To the Honourable the Representatives of the Several Towns in sd Colony in General Congress assembled

May it please your Honours, We the Committee of Correspondance of the Several Towns in sd County beg leave to Represent to your Honours the Circumstances of this County in this day of Strugel & Danger – in the first place we confess our Towns have in general heretofore been negligent in providing Arms and Amunition according to Law, until distress came upon us, from our Mother Country & then were debar'd from having them from thence where we were wont to Purchase them, since which we have not been able to furnish our selves – and in the next place we are in a distress'd Scituation with respect to provision for our people to subsist upon till their years Crops come in owing in part to their last year Crops of Corn being cut short by the Drought & so many of our People not being Farmers but Lumbering Sailors &ca together with the Difficulty and Danger there now is of getting any from the Southern Goverments, owing to their carefullness to keep a sufficient supply for their own people in this day of Expence and the hazzard of having it taken by the Men of Warr and Tenders, could we procure any of them & where to fly for Relief but to your Honors we know not: Notwithstanding these difficultys we can with pleasure say that the people of this County, almost Universally, are zealous in the Cause of Constitutional Liberty and have exerted themselves in Complying with the Recommendations of the Congress, and in particular in Raising a Regiment of hardy & Spirited men for the Service of the Colony, who have been Exercising every day as we Understand, for sometime past, and expected to be sent for to the Army, till lately we have the satisfaction to hear the Army is like to be Compleat without them – We would likewise Represent to your Honours that We are exposed to our Enemies by Sea and Land, by Sea our Sheep & Cattle on the Islands and Shores are expos'd to

be Ravag'd by every little Tender that may be sent to get fresh Meat for their Fleet and Army, and by Land we may be Alarm'd by the Inroads of our Old Enemies the Indians & French, tho' we hope better things from them.

Wherefore we pray your Honours to take our plain and Just representation into Consideration and if Possible find out some way whereby we may be Supply'd with some Arms, Ammunition and Provision, and that the Regiment Inlisted here, may be Stationed Amoung us, paid and subsisted at the Charge of the Publick, for our Defence, until they shall be more wanted Elsewhere, in which Case they will be Ready to March on the first Notice, and while here to be Employ'd in such a manner as may be most for our Safty and Advantage, And that they may pass muster here, by some person that may be Appointed for that Purpose, Your Honours favourable answer to our Request will much Oblige this County of Cumberland in whose Behalf we are [&c.]

Jedediah Preble Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 21, 22. Undated, but probably written at the end of April 1775.

CAPTAIN BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Cambridge, April 30, 1775

You have desired me to state the number of cannon, &c. at Ticonderoga. I have certain information that there are at Ticonderoga eighty pieces of heavy cannon, twenty brass guns, from four to eighteen pounders, and ten to twelve large mortars. At Skenesborough, on the South-Bay, there are three or four brass Cannon. The Fort is in a ruinous condition, and has not more than fifty men at the most. There are large numbers of small arms, and considerable stores, and a sloop of seventy or eighty tons on the Lake. The place could not hold out an hour against a vigorous onset.

Benedict Arnold

Honourable Joseph Warren, and the honourable Committee of Safety

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety [Cambridge] April 30, 1775

Capt [Benedict] Arnold Captain of a Company from Connecticut attended & Reports, that there are at Ticondarogo 80 peices heavy Cannon, 20 ps. Brass Cannon from 4 to 18 pounders, 10 or a doz. Mortars at Skenesborough on the South Bay 3 or 4 ps. Brass Cannon. the Fort in a ruinous condition suppose has about 40 or 45 Men a number of Small Arms and considerable Stores – A Sloop on the Lake of 70 or 80 Tons –

William Cooper Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE SELECTMEN OF MEDFORD ¹

Gentlemen

Cambridge April 30. 1775

You are desired to send to Charlestown Neck about 20 men to take the five Boats that lye there & carry them up Mistick river, to Monotomy, or such Other

WILLIAMSBURG, SATURDAY, April 29, 1775.

LATE last night an express arrived from Philadelphia, with the following melancholy advices from the province of Connecticut, forwarded to the committee of correspondence in this city.

The blow (so much dreaded by our noble friend LORD CHATHAM) is now struck; a great deal of blood spilt, and much more, it is likely, than the present advices communicate. That great man, in his speech upon the necessity of withdrawing the troops from Boston (delivered in the House of Lords the 20th of January last) says: "Perhaps, even whilst I am now speaking, the decisive blow is struck, which may involve millions in the consequences; and, believe me, the very first drop of blood that is spilled will not be a wound easily skinned over; it will be irritabile vulnus, a wound of that rancorous and festering kind, that, in all probability, will mortify the whole body."

PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1775.

An express arrived at five o'clock this evening, by which we have the following advices, viz.

WATERTOWN, Wednesday morning, near 10 o'clock.

To all FRIENDS of AMERICAN LIBERTY.

BE it known, that this morning, before break of day, a brigade, consisting of about 1000 or 1200 men, landed at Phipps farm, at Cambridge, and marched to Lexington, where they found a company of our colony militia in arms, upon whom they fired, without any provocation, and killed six men, and wounded four others. By an express from Boston, we find another brigade is now on its march from Boston, supposed to consist of 1000 men. The bearer, Trial Brisset, is charged to alarm the country, quite to Connecticut; and all persons are desired to furnish him with fresh horses, as they may be needed. I have spoken with several, who have seen the dead and wounded. Pray let the Delegates from this colony to Connecticut see this; they know Col. Foster, one of the Delegates.

J. PALMER, one of the committee.

A true copy from the original, by order of the committee of correspondent of Worcester, April 1775.

Attested and forwarded by the committees of Brookline, Norwich, New London, Lyme, Saybrook, Killingworth, E. Guilford, Guilford, Brandford, Newhaven.



British landing barge.

place as you Judge will be safe from the Men of War's Boats, assistance will be ready to help launch them tomorrow morning at nine o'Clock

N.B. You must send oars.

[Endorsed] In Committee of Safety [Ordered] that Richd Devers be directed to attend that service 60 men will be necessary to launch the Boats

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 30a.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir,

Boston April 30th 1775

The Communication between this and the other Colonies being entirely stopt by Land, I think it of the greatest Consequence to the King's Service that Some Small vessels Should be got ready to carry Dispatches between this and New York and at times to Piscataqua

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M.S. *Falcon* ¹

Whereas in the present Rebellious State of this Country it is extremely difficult to procure fresh Meat even for the sick of his Majs Squadron under my Command, and whereas I am informed there is a great quantity of Cattle upon Elizabeth Islands near Falmouth in this Province, which it is absolutely necessary to prevent being carried to the Main; You are hereby required and directed with all possible Dispatch to proceed to Tarpawlin Cove in his Majs Sloop under your Command and there endeavour to hinder any Cattle live Stock or Hay upon the Islands being taken off, but you are upon no Account to suffer any Injury to be done to the Property or the Persons of the Inhabitants by any persons whatsoever, so long as they shall demean themselves like dutiful and peaceable Subjects to his Majesty; and if by any means you can prevail upon the Owners of the Cattle to dispose of them for his Majestys Use, you are to acquaint me thereof as soon as possible with the Terms upon which they are inclined to sell.

And as you cannot remain in Tarpawlin Cove without great Danger when the Wind is Easterly, you are to move occasionally to Holmes Hole and Mannantha Bite as the Easterly or Southerly Winds shall render necessary. For all other Orders I refer you to my general Orders and Instructions which you have already received.

Given under my Hand on Board His Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 30th April 1775

By Command of the Admiral

G. Gefferina

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 413, 414, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE, H.M.S. *Falcon* ¹

Notwithstanding my Orders to you of this Morning you are hereby required and directed to proceed as fast as possible to Martha's Vineyard in his Majs Sloop under your Command, where you will find the Ship *Champion*, Paddock Master, laden with Flour and Wheat; You are to seize the said Ship and send her im-

mediately to Boston under the Command of an Officer from the *Falcon*, and then proceed to Eliza Islands according to my former Orders.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 30 April 1775

Sam¹ Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 414, MassHS Transcript.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 30 April 1775

I wrote you already by this Conveyance of the brig *Mary Carrol* for Cork & yrs port Loaded with wheat & flour ² Since then have Recvd yrs by Norwood Yesterday,³ Kenne[d]y also arrivd here Yasterday ⁴ & I believe shall get a Good freight for him, G[eorge] D[arley] has Rubed me a little about not being more particular about Vessells that are Loading here to you however you shall not Complain hereafter the Schooner will go in Eight days ⁵ I am glad Kennedy has so few Servants as the demand for them is gone Since the Boston news came I shall answer your letter by Norwood soon . . . there are two brigs. Whate & Flour Loaded ready to Sail for Bristol which with the Vessell that Carries this, will all go together, . . . true prices Wheat 6/3 flour 14/4 but do you Quote them higher at same time I think it must fall soon as there is some suspicion that Congress will Stop Exports next month . . .

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *Mary Carroll*, Peter Simonds, master, cleared for Dublin on May 1, 1775.

3. Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, master, from Dublin, with 119 servants, entered, April 27, 1775.

4. Ship *Baltimore Packet*, Alexander Kennedy, master. Its entry is not shown in the Maryland Port of Entry Books, 1745-75, MdHS.

5. Schooner *Industry*.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE DARLEY, DUBLIN ¹

[Baltimore] 30 April 1775

I wrote you the 26 Inst since then have Recvd yrs by [John] Norwood who arrived yasterday & shall answer them soon ² [Alexander] Kennedy also Arrived Yesterday ³ & I think shall get him a freight for England as I cannot Complete the orders for him from [John] Wright.⁴ I observe what you say about my not Giving G[eorge] S[almon] proper Information. & am obligd to you & shall Remedy it hereafter, the Schooner ⁵ will Sail in Eight days I hope for your place, she would be gone by this had we not lost her Mast Hieving down [James] Green goes Mastr of her, be sure [to] Insure her with you & if you can sell her with you it will be best if not she must Come out Immediately. this Goes by the Brig *Molly* [*sic Mary*] *Carrol* for Cork & your port by whom I have already wrote. I refer you to G.S. for further News.

Yrs

G. W.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Master of the ship *Hercules*.

3. Master of the ship *Baltimore Packet*.

4. Wright was a merchant of Dublin.

5. Schooner *Industry*.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO MESSRS. PASLEYS & Co.¹

Gentlemen

Virginia April 30th 1775

By the Schooner *Rochester* Capn Elliott you will receive four Thousand five hundred bushels Indian Corn as P Bill of loading inclosed, which doubt not you will dispose of on the best terms you can for my Interest, the Nett proceed thereof you will please to remitt by the first opportunity to Messrs John Norton & Son's in London. I shall write to those Gentlemen to make Insurances & therefore must desire you will advise them Immediately on her arrival. I have not recd any letter from you lately but by a letter wrote Mr Ronald dated in January I find your Markets are good which has encouraged me to make you this consignment I am [&c.]

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.

1 May

COLONEL JOHN THOMAS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen — one Captain Davis from the Southward came to Inform of a large Number of Whaling Boats now at Falmouth in the County of Barnstable and Nantucket that are Halled up which may be easily got here if wanted. The people that Way are afraid they will be taken from them by the Tenders the Messenger could not wait on you but desired I would inform you relative to this Matter any Orders your Honors shall think proper to give relative to this Matter will be forwarded by your Humble Servt

Roxbury Camp 1 May 1775

Jn^o Thomas

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 125.

LEMUEL WILLIAMS TO BENJAMIN AKIN¹

Sir

Dartmouth 1st May 1775

I am desired to acquaint you that Mr Samuel Allen (by the desire of the principal part of the Inhabitants of this Place) is sent to you to know the Minds of the Provincial Congress, whether it is most proper at this Time for the Merchants in this Place to send their Vessels and Provisions to sea or not, your early proposing the same to that Respectable Body will much oblige your most humble Servant

Lemuel Williams

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JOSEPH WANTON, GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND¹

Sir

Boston 1st May 1775

I have received your Letter of the 27th April, in regard to Mr [John] Brown of Providence; the Vessel he is in, is not yet come round, but I have already spoken to the Admiral; and expect on Mr Browns Arrival, he will be dismissed as I dont as [sic! at] present, see any reason for his detention.

I am with great Regard &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, H.M.S. *Asia* ¹

You are hereby required and directed to put to Sea in his Maj's Ship under your Command with all convenient dispatch and proceeding forthwith to New York, you are to anchor if possible before the City.

On your Arrival you are to consult with his Majesty's Lieutt Governor of that Province in what manner you can best assist, by the means of the Kings Ship you command, towards supporting the legal Authority of Government, protecting and securing the Kings Stores and the Safety of his Majesty's faithful Subjects in the Province of New York; and you are accordingly to co-operate with the Lieutt Governor and afford him every Assistance in your Power for the above purposes.

You are to take Captain [James] Montagu of his Majesty's Sloop *Kingsfisher* under your Command and employ him and the said Sloop in the best manner you can for the Kings Service.

And whereas I have received undoubted Accounts that great part of the City of New York adopt the measures of the Rebels of this Province, and have threatened to seize all the Kings Stores, If they have not already done it; You are therefore to endeavour by all means possible to preserve the Cannon, Arms and Ammunition, and either by taking them on board the Kings Ships or in any other Vessel prevent their being illegally carried away.

You are to remain upon that Station until further Order. For all other Orders I refer you to my general Orders and Instructions which you will receive herewith.

Given &c May 1st 1775

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 415, 416, MassHS Transcript.

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF NEWPORT TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

(Copy)

Newport Rhode Island 1st May 1775.

Sir We the Subscribers Inhabitants of the Town of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island deeply impressed with a grateful Sense of the Support You have on all occasions given to His Majesty's faithful Subjects residing in this Town, and fully convinced that our Peace and Security has for some time past been owing in a great measure to your Attention to His Majesty's Service and spirited Conduct in the Execution of it; return You our unfeign'd Thanks.

It is with the utmost concern We acquaint You that the General Assembly of this Colony, at a late Sessions held at Providence, resolved to raise and embody Fifteen hundred Men for the express purpose (as declared in the Act) of Joining and Co-operating with the Forces of the Neighbouring Colonies, and though the Representatives of this Town enterd a timely protest against it, Yet we cannot rest here, We must as faithful Subjects to the King, and in Justice to Ourselves approve the Conduct of our representatives, by shewing our disapprobation of an Act pregnant with so much Evil, by every means that becomes Obedient Subjects and good Citizens.

The difficulties and dangers which may attend us by shewing this disapprobation are obvious, but while We have the Support of the King's Authority and Power, which is in your Hands, and which we earnestly Pray may be continued to Us, We shall cheerfully go on in our Endeavours to deserve that Peace and Security; We have hitherto enjoyed under the Mild and equal Laws of Great Britain, and which the Civil Power of this Colony appears to us unable to give.

These are Sentiments Sir, not hastily adopted, they have been uniformly the Rule of all our Actions.

We are Sir Very Respectfully [&c.]

Cha^s Dudley

George Rome

W^m Hunter

John Bell

Jn^a Halliburton

Rob^t Ferguson

James Keith

Jak: Brenton

Ro^t Jo: Zunn

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1775

Newport, May 1.

Last Wednesday [April 26], as Mr. John Brown, of Providence, merchant, was going from this town to Providence, in one of the Packets, the Packet was stopped, by order of Captain [James] Wallace, of the ship *Rose*, and Mr. Brown taken on board the ship *Swan*; soon after which another packet was stopped as she was going up. These Packets had on board a quantity of flour, which Mr. Brown had purchased for a number of vessels he was fitting out. Part, or all of the flour was taken on board the ships; and the next day Mr. Brown was sent off in one of the Packets, to be carried to Admiral [Samuel] Graves at Boston, without having a single reason given for his being thus violently seized and carried out of this colony, contrary to all law, equity and justice.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May. 1. 1775.

Last Eveng I was told that the Officers of the two Men o' War here had by them a List of 27 Persons in Newport whom they intended to take up; and that I myself was in the List –

1. Stiles, II, 52, LC.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, MAY 1, 1775

Hartford, May 1.

By two gentlemen from Newport we have certain intelligence that Mr. John Brown, Merchant of Providence, was employ'd by the General Assembly to procure provisions for the use of the troops now raising in that colony – That on Tuesday last [April 25], he went to Newport, where he purchased a quantity of beef, pork and flour, some of which he shipp'd on board two of their packets for Providence, in one of which he embark'd, when unexpectedly, soon after they left the wharf at Newport, the men of war then lying in the harbour, brought them too, and took out of the packet not only all the provisions, consisting of 400 barrels but the said Mr. Brown, who is still confined on board one of the men of war, and not allow'd

to speak to any of his friends from the shore, nor to write to any of them. [QUERE,] Is it not full time to adhere to the resolution recommended by the Continental Congress, and make REPRISALS, by securing the Kings officers, a quotation from which is as follows, viz.

Resolved, That the seizing, or attempting to seize, any person in America, in order to transport such person beyond the sea for trial of offences committed within the body of a county in America, being against law, will justify and ought to meet with resistance and reprisal.¹

1. The bracketed "Quere" was inserted by the printer of the *Connecticut Courant*. The resolution cited by him is from the Declaration of Rights passed by the First Continental Congress, October 14, 1774.

MINUTES OF THE NORWICH COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection held at Norwich first of May 1775

Unanimously Voted by Said Committee that at this Alarming and Critical Scituation of affairs in America, the need and Necessity in all probability we shall have of what Molasses we now have in the Colony, we therefore think it expedient that none of that Comodity be Transported to any other Colony; and we do advise that no person send any from This Town for the above Reason –

We do also Advise for the above Reason that No Sugar be Ship'd to any other Colony from this Town –

Certify'd by me

Dudley Woodbridge Clerk ²

1. W. G. Lane Collection, YUL.

2. Woodbridge later moved to Marietta, Ohio, became one of the prominent citizens of the Northwest Territory, and was counsel for Blennerhassett at his treason trial in Richmond.

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Williamsburg 1st May 1775

Sir The People of this Colony are taking up Arms in all Parts of it, and every Species of Violence is threatned to be executed upon me, unless I restore some Gunpowder which I though it my duty to remove from a Magazine in this Town to Onboard the *Fowey*.

I have reason to believe that the Show which I have made of defending myself by Arming the Persons of my Family and the Assistance given me by Captain [George] Montagu and Mr Stretch of the *Fowey* and Lieutenant [Henry] Collins of his Majesty's Armed Schooner [*Magdalen*], whose Zeal and Spirit on this occasion I take this Opportunity of acknowledging, have alone prevented hitherto, the People from putting their threats into execution, but as the Comotion is becoming hourly more general, I have thought it necessary to apply to General [Thomas] Gage for such Assistance as he may be enabled to send me; And I do likewise to You Sir, for one of the large Ships of War now under your Command, if She can be spared from other Services. Such a Ship having so considerable a body of Men Onboard, as the Rivers here have, even very high up, great depth of Water, would strike Awe over the whole Country, and a small Post Onshore under the Protection of the Guns of such a Ship would maintain

itself against all the efforts which are in the power of an undisciplined Multitude to make, and would afford a Protection to the Well affected of this Country that might probably then be induced to declare themselves and unite for our common Safety. Men of such a Ship might likewise be spared to cruize in Boats or the small Craft of this Country, about the Mouths of all the Rivers to prevent, effectually, all the Contraband Trade, and particularly the Admission of Arms and Ammunition into the Colony; in short Sir, I rely upon your Zeal for his Majs Service for either this or such other Assistance as You may be in a Condition to afford me on the present emergency.

I have requested Captain Montagu to detain Lieutt Colins with the *Magdalen*, and I have been obliged to intreat the former Gentleman to receive Lady Dunmore and my Children Onboard his Majesty's Ship as the only place of Safety to which I could send them, which he has been so good, in the politest manner to comply with. I am, Sir, [&c.]

Dunmore

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

LORD DUNMORE TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Copy./

Williamsburg 1st May 1775

Sir./ The Inhabitants of most of the Counties of this Colony are in Commotion, and a Body of two Thousand Men are now Actually preparing to March to the Assault of my House, defended only by my self and the Persons belonging to my Family, the Occasion of which Insurrection is no greater than my having Conveyed from the Magazine in this Town the Powder which was therein (and which I thought too much exposed there to the Attempts of the People) to on Board a Man of War Stationed here, the only place of Safety where it could be lodged. —

The Corporation of this place, have presented an Address to me under the Muskets of their Independant Company which they left only at a little distance from my house when they came to me to demand a restitution of the Powder which however I have not Complied with, And their Armed Men thought proper unexpectedly to disperse, but I have daily received fresh insults from other bodies of Armed Men appearing in Town from the Country, and am now in expectation of the Arrival of the Above mentioned People whose Numbers encourage them to persist in the Undertaking.

I have been Obligated to Send Lady Dunmore and my Children on Board the *Fowey* Man of War, and with the little though cheerfull Assistance given me by Captain [George] Montague and his Officers, and Lieutenant [Henry] Collins of the *Magdalen* Armed Schooner, Joined to the People of my own family I have put myself in the best posture of defence of which our Numbers are Capable, but cannot expect to make any effectual resistance, if as is threatened the People make very resolute efforts against us, and we shall therefore, probably be obliged to retire towards the Ship, which I shall delay as long as is prudent: but these proceedings already make the rebellious spirit of those people Sufficiently Manifest, and therefore I think it Necessary to apply to you for such immediate Assistance, as the Circumstances of the Affairs in which you are yourself engaged, and your Orders and Instructions may permit you to Afford me. Two or Three Hundred

Men or even one Hundred would probably prevent my being driven out of the Government, and enable me to Maintain an Entrenched Post on the Bank of one of the Rivers under the Protection of the Guns of a Man of War, till I receive orders from Home, and by displaying the Kings Standard perhaps our Numbers might be increased, by the well affected of the Country, so as to be able to make head against the Insurgents, but without some Appearance of force to protect the first who venture to me, I despair of receiving any Assistance from the Country.

I write to the Admiral at the same time to request one of the large Ships to be sent here which would have a very good effect, if the Service in which the Men of War are engaged will permit him to give me that Support.

I am Sir, &ca

Dunmore

1. Gage Papers, CL.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

(No 26)

Williamsburg 1st May 1775.

My Lord The series of dangerous measures pursued by the People of this Colony against Government, which they have now entirely overturned, & particularly their having come to a Resolution of raising a Body of armed Men in all the Counties, made me think it prudent to remove some Gunpowder which was in a Magazine in this place, where it lay exposed to any attempt that might be made to seize it, & I had reason to believe the People intended to take that step. I accordingly requested of Lieut. [Henry] Collins commanding His Majesty's armed Schooner the *Magdalen*, to convey the Powder on board the *Foway* [sic!] Man of War now on this station, which that Officer, with a party of his Seamen Diligently executed; but tho' it was intended to have been done privately, Mr. Collins & his party were observed, & notice was given immediately to the Inhabitants of this place, Drums were then sent thro' the City – The Independent Company got under Arms – All the People assembled, & during their consultation, continual threats were brought to my House, that it was their Resolution to seize upon, or massacre me, & every person found giving me assistance if I refused to deliver the Powder immediately into their Custody.

In a short time the Mayor & Corporation came to my house leaving their armed force at a little distance, with an Address in reality milder in terms than I expected, but still from the manner in which it was presented can be deemed, if not a treasonable proceeding, at least nothing less than one of the highest insults that could be offered to the Authority of His Majesty's Government. The Address represents the alarm into which the People had been thrown at the taking away the Powder in a private manner by an armed force, particularly at a time when they are apprehensive of Insurrections among their Slaves (some reports having prevailed to this effect) & concludes with a request amounting to a peremptory demand that the Powder be delivered up immediately to them. I thought proper, in the defenceless state in which I find myself to endeavor to sooth them – and answered verbally to the effect, that I had removed the Powder lest the Negroes might have seized upon it to a place of security from whence, when I saw occasion, I would at any time, deliver it to the People, – But in the ferment in which they then appeared it would be highly improper to put it into their hands, as it

would be inconsistent with the Authority I represented to comply with any demand made in the manner of the present. This did not satisfy them & the fury of the People was still represented to me as uncontrollable & the dreadful consequences of it as not to be averted by any other means than complying with their humour, to which I replied only by declaring, I would never depart from the resolution which I had already signified to them I had taken, & by arming myself and the persons of my family to oppose the threatened Attempts. There happened to be then in Town, Capt [George] Montagu commanding the *Fowey*, with his Capt of Marines, a Mr Stretch—& Lieut Henry Collins the Officer already mentioned—These gentlemen immediately joined themselves to my little party, & offered me all the Assistance which could be spared from on board the Ship & Schooner, which only amounts to between 30 & 40 Men.

I was not long after unexpectedly informed the People, by the persuasion of Mr Peyton Randolph & Mr [Robert Carter] Nicholas [III] the Treasurer, had dispersed & appeared satisfied with the answer which I had returned – But parties of armed Men were continually coming into Town from the adjacent Counties the following days, offering fresh insults – and two days ago, three gentlemen of principal families in the Country, arrived deputed as they declared, from a body of 2000, armed Men, who were collected in the neighbourhood of Fredericksbourg, about 100 miles, from this place, & who only waited to be informed by these Messengers that I would deliver up the Powder, as they were determined otherwise to proceed to Williamsburg & assault my house, & spare neither me, nor any person adhering to me.

The Messengers, as they were informed the Powder would not be given up returned vowing the vengeance of their enraged Confederates against me, & I am consequently in hourly expectation of their appearance.

Some of the families have removed from here to avoid the scene that is expected. I have been obliged to send Lady Dunmore & my children on board the *Man of War*, & I shall remain here until I am forced out – But as I cannot expect to be able to make any effectual resistance in this place against the numbers that are said to be moving towards me, I intend to retire towards the Town of York, where the *Man of War*, a 20 gun ship & an armed Schooner lie, under the protection of the Guns of which, & under cover of a little entrenchment which I shall throw up, or at worst on board the *Men of War*, I shall wait for His Majesty's Orders, & I have already signified to the Magistrates of Williamsburg, that I expect them on their allegiance to fall upon means of putting a stop to the march of the People now on their way, before they enter this City, that otherwise I shall be forced, & it is my fixed purpose, to arm all my own Negroes, & receive all others that will come to me, whom I shall declare free – That I do enjoin the Magistrates & all others professing to be loyal Subjects, to repair to my assistance, or that I shall consider the whole Country in an actual state of Rebellion, & myself at liberty to annoy it by every possible means, & that I shall not hesitate at reducing their houses to ashes & spreading devastation wherever I can reach. I have likewise summoned the Council to attend me about the time which these Insurgents are expected here.

I have dispatched a small Vessel to Boston to Genl [Thomas] Gage & Admiral [Samuel] Graves, requesting of the one a small Body of Men, & of the other one of the large Ships under his command – The appearance of such a ship in the interior parts of this Country, where the great depth of water in the Rivers here will permit it to go, would strike the greatest awe, & if I obtain 2 or 300 Men, who might be entrenched under the protection of the guns of such a Man of War, they would there (tho' I should receive no assistance from among the People here) at least 'till I can receive His Majesty's orders to regulate my future conduct, protect me & those Officers of Government who would choose to attend me, & I have reason to believe this would be sufficient to determine many persons to join me, who hitherto from the terror spread by the Committees & other disturbers of Government have been deterred from ever declaring their sentiments.

Whatever may be the issue of this present Insurrection in this Colony, or whether the People will now proceed or not to the atrocious extremities which they have been hardy enough now to avow their intentions of committing – Their conduct has already afforded sufficient evidence of the rebellious spirit with which they are possessed, And therefore if His Majesty thinks it necessary to maintain an appearance of Authority in this Colony during the unhappy struggle between America & Great Britain,² it cannot be affected without a force to support it, which I am in hopes His Majesty will judge requisite to send me, that I may be enabled to protect myself & the other faithful Officers and Friends of Government, who knowing themselves in security will, I am persuaded, exert their utmost efforts, in the service of His Majesty. Every person who has manifested the least partiality to the King's Government, are now become suspected by their furious Countrymen, & are in the greatest danger of falling victims to the rage & violence which accompany all the transactions of these People pretending to contend for Liberty.

If the servants of the Crown should be of opinion that the Authority of Government ought to be enforced here, I am persuaded that if His Majesty should think proper to add to a small Body of Troops to be sent here, a quantity of Arms, Ammunition, & other requisites, for the Service, I could raise such a Force from among Indians, Negroes, & other persons, as would soon reduce the refractory People of this Colony to Obedience.

I am &c.

Dunmore

1. Mss. of Earl of Dartmouth, American Papers. Contemporary copy in PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, LC Transcript.
2. News of Lexington and Concord had reached Virginia on April 29.

2 May

SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF FALMOUTH TO LIEUTENANT
HENRY MOWAT, R.N.¹

(Copy)

To Henry Mowat Esqr Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux*. The Memorial
of Us the Subscribers, for themselves and many other faithful Subjects in the
County of Cumberland

Sheweth That since the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship under your Command, we
have been relieved by your Spirited Conduct from those Anxieties natural to

Persons who are abnoxious to the Enemies of our happy Constitution; and by your courteous and kind behavior to all the Friends of Government, flattered Ourselves with the pleasing Prospect of a continuance of your Protection; but those agreeable Sensations are entirely vanished, and we are reduced to the last degree of despair, by your information, that when Captain Coulsin's Ship will be ready for Sea, You are immediately to leave this Place – and consequently Us, a prey to the Sons of rapine and lawless Violence. We therefore intreat that in your goodness You will remain with us till we can make known our deplorable Situation to General [Thomas] Gage, which we shall do without delay.

We further intreat You will be so obliging to represent our dangerous Situation to Admiral [Samuel] Graves – and as we are now deprived of sending a Petition to his Excellency by Land and having no effectual Method of conveyance by Water, we beg You will suffer an Officer, and a few Men from your Ship to proceed for that purpose.

Nath^l Coffin Physician
 Tho^s Oxnard Merchant
 Joshua Eldridge Shipmaster
 W. Simmons Merchant
 W^m Campbell Ship Master
 Jos: Dornett Comptroller of Customs
 Tho^s Coulson Merchant
 Rob^t Pagan Merchant
 Edw^d Oxnard Merchant
 W^m Tyng Sheriff of the County of Cumberland

Tho^s Pagan Merchant
 J. Wiswall Minister of the Church of England
 George Lyde Collector of Customs
 Benjⁿ Waite Merchant
 Jer: Pote Merchant
 Tho^s Cumming Merchant
 Abr^m Osgood Merchant
 Jere^h Coffin Housewright

Falmouth 2d May 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 2, 1775

Doctor [Joseph] Warren, Colonel [Joseph] Palmer, and Colonel [Henry] Gardner were appointed a Sub-Committee to confer with General [Artemus] Ward, relative to the proposal made by Colonel [Benedict] Arnold, of Connecticut, for an attempt upon Ticonderoga.

Voted, That General [John] Thomas be desired to give such orders respecting the Whale-Boats at Falmouth, and other parts southward, as he may judge proper.

Voted, That the Massachusetts [Provincial] Congress be desired to give an order upon the Treasurer for the immediate payment of one hundred Pounds, in cash; and also order two hundred Pounds of Gunpowder, two hundred weight of Lead Balls, and one thousand Flints, and also ten Horses, to be delivered unto Captain Benedict Arnold, for the use of this Colony, upon a certain service approved of by the Council of War: said Arnold to be accountable for the same, to this or some future Congress, or House of Representatives of this Colony.²

Voted, That Colonel Arnold, appointed to a secret service, be desired to appoint two Field-Officers, Captains, &c. to be allowed the same pay during their

continuance in service as is established for officers and privates of the same rank, who are ordered by the Congress of Massachusetts-Bay to be raised for the defence of the rights and liberties of America; the officers and privates to be dismissed by Colonel Arnold, or the Committee of Safety, whenever they shall think proper.

Voted, That the Committee of Supplies be desired to procure ten Horses for Colonel Arnold, to be employed on a special service.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 750, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.
2. The original report, misdated May 13, 1775, is in Mass. Arch., vol. 146, 42a, and reads: "Resvd That the within Request of the Committee of Safety be granted: and that the Committee of Supplies be they hereby are directed to furnish Colo Arnold with Ten horses Two hundred pounds of Gunpowder & Two hundred pounds of Lead Ball & One Thousand flints at the expence of the Colony & that sd Committee draw upon Henry Gardner Esq Recr Genl for £ One Hundred pounds in favr of sd arnold and take his receipt for the whole sd Arnold to be accountable therefor to this or some other Congress or future house of Representatives."

COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH, JR.¹

Sir

Sandwich May 2d 1775 –

I received your Letter inclosing the Resolve of the Committee of Safety as to securing the Boats &c.² I have secured all the Boats in this part of the County that will be of service to the Colony and have given Colo Cobb orders to secure those below which I presume is by this Time done we hauld the Boats ashore & hid them in swampy Land & Woods which was all that could be done here any further orders from the Honble Committee in the Cause of God and my Country I am ready to Execute with the greatest pleasure & am sir your [&c.]

Nath¹ Freeman

Doctr Church³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 126, 127.
2. Resolve of April 25, 1775.
3. Church, at that time a member of the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, turned traitor, was caught, condemned, imprisoned in Connecticut, later released to go into Boston, and was lost at sea on a vessel sailing from Boston early in 1776.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] May 2nd, 1775

This afternoon was a Funeral here of a Lieutenant of Marines of one of the Ships here.² They obtained leave of the Governor to land, and about 25 Marines landed at Wh[arf] this afternoon, and buried their Officer under Arms in the Ch[urc]h yard discharging three Vollies, and then retired on board without Molestation

This Aft Capt. Hathaway arrived here. He left New York last Thursday – and tells me that the p[eo]ple there were in Arms, but had not taken possession of the Fort. They had only seized the Magazine of Powder and Arms.

1. Stiles, II, 52, 53, LC.
2. "May 1775, Monday 1 A M departed this life Mr. Joseph Conway 1st Lieut. of Marines." Captain's Journal, H.M.S. *Rose*, PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

"REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*"¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
 Tuesday 2 P M Seized a Sloop one of the Providence Paquets,
 1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York May 2d 1775

we have now got all unanimous, and the association Paper Inclosed will be Signd by most every man in this City & all Seems now to go well to put [us] in a state of Defence as Cannon &c will be Carryed to Kings bridge

our Custom house will be open tomorrow when [Peter] Rogers will [be] Enterd & shall Amediately unload & Dispatch him,² no money to be Collected nor can we sell any thing as little or no Business can be done, but hope all will be Settled in few days – Our Committe have agreed that no Provisions be shipt to Boston, Hallifax, Newfoundland, Cannada or Georgia – but may to all other Parts untill the Generall Congress orders otherways

our association will be Signd by all in this Place, even the Councill will be asked (some of them have already Signd) and they that Refuse their Names will be taken down this association when fully Signd will be Sent to General [Thomas] Gage, as also to England

the Jersey Councill I am told are hearty in their Countrys Cause & will Write Gen^l Gage & its thought ours will do the same

The Virginians are all up in Arms, on Acct of One of their Magizeens being Seized by a man of War (some Say by advice of Lord Dunmore) & they will loose their Blood but they will have it again – . . . shall Write you [] fully by Rogers. I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Captain Peter Rogers, master of Shaw's sloop *Macaroni*; see Shaw's letter of April 25 to Vandervoort.

CLEARANCE FROM ANNAPOLIS OF SHIP *Peggy*¹

Time of Clearing	May 2 1775
Ship or Vessel's Name	Ship <i>Peggy</i>
Master's Name	William Barrons
Kind of Built	Sq[uare] Stern
Tons	90
Guns	—
Men	11
Where and when built	Rh Island 1773
Where and when registred	Newport 1 Octor 1773
The Names of the Owners of this present Voyage	Christr Champlin

The General Cargoe

Bushels of Corn	600
Barrels of Flour	1600
Tuns of Pig Iron	15
Staves & Heading	2000
Whither bound	Cork

1. Port of Entry Books, 1745-75, MdHS. According to these books, the *Peggy* entered, April 18, 1775, in ballast from the island of St. Croix. This detailed clearance report of the *Peggy* is given because of the subsequent frequent appearance of this vessel and her master, William Barron, in dispatches and letters.

LORD DUNMORE TO HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN VIRGINIA ¹

At a Council held at the Palace [Williamsburg] May 2, 1775. Present His Excellency the Governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormeley, junior, Esquires, John Camm, Clerk, and John Page, Esquire.

The Governor was pleased to address himself to the Board in the following manner:

Gentlemen, Commotions and insurrections have suddenly been excited among the people, which threaten the very existence of his Majesty's government in this colony; and no other cause is assigned for such dangerous measures than that the gunpowder which had, some time past, been brought from on board one of the King's ships to which it belonged and was deposited in the magazine of this city, hath been removed, which, it is known, was done by my order, to whom, under the constitutional right of the crown which I represent, the custody and disposal of all public stores of arms and ammunition alone belong; and, whether I acted in this manner (as my indispensable duty required) to anticipate the malevolent designs of the enemies to order and government, or to prevent the attempts of any enterprising Negroes; the powder being still as ready and convenient for being distributed for the defence of the country upon any emergency as it was before, which I have publicly engaged to do, the expediency of the step I have taken is equally manifest, and therefore it must be evident that the same head-strong and designing people, who have already but too successfully employed their artifices in deluding his Majesty's faithful subjects, and in seducing them from their duty and allegiance, have seized this entirely groundless subject of complaint, only to enflame afresh, and to precipitate as many as possible of the unwary into acts, which involving them in the same guilt, their corruptors think may bind them to the same plans and schemes which are unquestionably meditated in this colony, for subverting the present and erecting a new form of government.

Induced by an unaffected regard for the general welfare of the people, whom I have had the honour of governing, as well as actuated by duty and zeal in the service of his Majesty, I call upon you, his council in this colony, for your advice upon this pressing occasion, and I submit to you, whether a proclamation should not issue conformable to what I have now suggested; and, before our fellow subjects

abandon themselves totally to extremities, which must inevitably draw down an accumulation of every human misery upon their unhappy country, to warn them of their danger, to remind them of the sacred oaths of allegiance which they have taken, and to call up in their hearts that loyalty and affection, which upon so many occasions have been professed by them to their King, their lawful Sovereign; and further, to urge and exhort, in particular, those whose criminal proceedings on this occasion have been, and are still, so alarming, to return to their duty, and a due obedience to the law; and, in general, all persons whatsoever to rely upon the conduct and tenderness of our most gracious Sovereign to all his subjects, equally, and upon the wisdom of his councils, for a redress of all their real grievances, which redress can only be obtained by constitutional applications; and, lastly, to enjoin all orders of people to submit, as becomes good subjects, to the legal authority of their government, in the protection of which their own happiness is most interested.

The council thereupon acquainted his Excellency, that as the matters he had been pleased to communicate to them were of the greatest consequence, they desire time to deliberate thereon till the next day.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF OBSERVATION OF GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA ¹

At a meeting of the committee of Gloucester, at the court house on Tuesday the 2d of May 1775.

Resolved, That we will not ship a single hogshead of tobacco to Great Britain until the determination of the Continental Congress, respecting exportation, be known.

Resolved, That we deem the resolution of our committee last November, not to ship any tobacco in future to Mr. Norton's house, as still obligatory; the ship *Virginia* having arrived without the concessions then required.²

Jasper Clayton, Clerk

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

2. "Williamsburg, April 28. The *Randolph*, M'Nabb, and *Virginia*, Arthurs, are just arrived from London, the former in James river, the latter in York." Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, Apr. 28, 1775.

3 May

COMMITTEE OF BRUNSWICK TO MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Brunswick May 3d 1775

We, whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, Beg Liberty to Inform You of our Situation, as we are Chosen By this Town to Examine into the Circumstance of it, which we had done, and find the Town very Deficient as to Arms & Amunition, and have sent By Water to Salem, But have Just had our money Return'd Back Without Arms or Ammunition: at present we Have Not more than one quarter of a pound of powder to a Man throughout the Town, Nor more than one firelock To two Men; and in this Defenceless State we are Obligated To Apply to You to Assist our Trusty friend Whom We have Sent Capt Nathaniel

Larrybee, and as we think it Would Be Unsafe to Transport Powder by Water we have Ordered Him to Take only one hundredweight and for him to Consult With You how and in What way it Would be Safest to Get Arms and more Powder Down To us. We Should Esteem it as a Favour, to be informed from You by way of Letter at Every Convenient Oppertunity of Our Publick Affairs. We are,

Gentlemen [&c.]

Aaron Hinkley
Benj^a Stone
Sam^l Standwood
James Curtis

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD ¹

To Benedict Arnold, Esquire, commander of a body of Troops on an expedition to subdue and take possession of the Fort of Ticonderoga:

Sir: Confiding in your judgment, fidelity and valour, we do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you Colonel and Commander-in-Chief over a body of men, not exceeding four hundred, to proceed with all expedition to the Western part of this and the neighbouring Colonies, where you are directed to enlist those men, and with them forthwith to march to the Fort at Ticonderoga, and use your best endeavours to reduce the same, taking possession of the cannon, mortars, stores, &c., upon the Lake; you are to bring back with you such of the cannon, mortars, stores, &c. as you shall judge may be serviceable to the Army here, leaving behind what may be necessary to secure that post, with a sufficient garrison; you are to procure suitable provisions and stores for the Army, and draw upon the Committee of Safety for the amount thereof, and to act in every exigence, according to your best skill and discretion, for the publick interest, for which this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Ben^l Church, Jun. for Com. of Safety
William Cooper, Secretary

My Order
Cambridge, May 3, 1775.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 751, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety May 3d. 1775 Cambridge

Voted, that two Companies be raised in the Towns of Malden & Chelsea for the defence of the Coast of Said Towns, the said Companies to be joined to such regiments in future as they may be ordered to, should there be occasion to discharge them from Service as soon as the public Good will admit of it and that Capt Benjamin Blaney & Capt [Samuel] Sprague be furnishd with a set of Beating Orders each, for said purpose

William Cooper Secy

1. Mass. Records, Military Affairs, Feb.—May, 1775, Force Transcript, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 3, 1775

On the application from the Committee of Safety relative to supplying Col [Benedict] Arnold with one hundred Pounds, and sundry Warlike Stores,

Ordered, That Mr. [Benjamin] Greenleaf, Mr. [Moses] Gill, and Mr. [George] Patridge, be a Committee to take said application into consideration and report.

The Committee on the application from the Committee of Safety reported. The Report was read and accepted.

Resolved, That the within request of the Committee of Safety be granted, and that the Committee of Supplies be, and they hereby are directed to furnish Colonel Benedict Arnold with ten Horses, two hundred pounds of Gunpowder, two hundred pounds of Lead Balls, and one thousand Flints, at the expence of the Colony; and that said Committee draw upon Henry Gardner, Esquire, Receiver General, for one hundred Pounds, in favour of said Arnold, and take his receipt for the whole, said Arnold to be accountable therefore to this or some other Congress or future House of Representatives.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Copy

Boston 3d May 1775 –

Sir I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th April last, in behalf of the General Assembly of your Colony, relative to the Alarming situation of Public Affairs in this Country, and the late transactions in this Province. That this situation is greatly alarming, and that these Transactions are truly unfortunate, are truths to be regretted by every Friend to America, and by every well Wisher for the Peace, Prosperity, and happiness of this Province; The Intimate Connection, and strong ties of Friendship, between the Inhabitants of your Colony, and the deluded People of this Province, cannot fail of Inducing the former, to interpose their good Offices, to convince the latter, of the Impropriety of their past Conduct, and to perswade them to return to their Allegiance, and to seek redress of any supposed Grievances, in those decent, and constitutional Methods, in which alone they can hope to be Successful—

That Troops should be employed for the purpose of protecting the Magistrates, in the execution of their Duty, when Opposed with Violence is not a new thing, in the English, or any other Government. That any Acts of the British Parliament are unconstitutional or Oppressive, I am not to suppose; if any such there are, in the Apprehension of the People of this Province, it had been happy for them, if they had sought relief, only in the way which the Constitution, their reason, and their Interest pointed out—

You cannot wonder at my Fortifying the Town of Boston, or making any other military preparations, when you are Assured, that previous to my taking these Steps, such were the open threats, and such the Warlike preparations, throughout this Province, as rendered it my indispensable duty to take every pre-

caution in my power, for the protection of his Majesty's Troops under my Command against all hostile Attempts—

The Intelligence you seem to have received, relative to the late Excursion of a Body of Troops into the Country, is altogether injurious, and Contrary to the true State of Facts. The Troops disclaim with Indignation, the barbarous Outrages of which they are accused, so contrary to their known Humanity. I have taken the greatest pains to Discover if any were committed, and have found Examples of their Tenderness, both to the Young, and the Old; but no Vestige of Cruelty or Barbarity. It is very possible that in Firing into Houses, from whence they were fired upon, that Old People, Women, or Children, may have suffered, but if any such thing has happened, it was in their defence, and undesigned. I have no Command to ravage and desolate the Country; and were it my Intention, I have had pretence to begin it, upon the Sea Ports, who are at the Mercy of the Fleet, for your better information, I inclose you a Narrative of that Affair, taken from Gentlemen of indisputable Honor, and Veracity, who were Eye Witnesses of all the Transactions of that Day. The Leaders here have taken pains to prevent any Account of this Affair getting abroad, but such as they have thought proper to publish themselves; and to that End, the Post has been stopped, the Mails broke open, and Letters taken out; and by these Means the most injurious and inflammatory Accounts have been spread throughout the Continent, which has served to deceive and inflame the Minds of the People—

When the Resolves of the Provincial Congress, breathed nothing but War, when those two great, and essential Prerogatives of the King, the levying of Troops, and disposing of the public Monies, were wrested from him; and when Magazines were forming, by an Assembly of Men, unknown to the Constitution, for the declared purpose of levying War against the King; You must acknowledge it was my Duty, as it was the dictate of Humanity, to prevent if Possible, the Calamities of a Civil War, by destroying such Magazines— This, and this alone, I Attempted—

You Ask, Why is the Town of Boston now shut up; I can only refer you for an Answer, to those Bodies of Armed Men, who now surround the Town, and prevent all Access to it. The hostile preparations you mention, are such as the Conduct of the People of this Province, has rendered it prudent to make, for the defence of those under my Command. You assure me the People of your Colony, abhor the Idea of taking Arms against the Troops of their Sovereign; I wish the People of this Province; (for their own Sakes) could make the same declaration—

You enquire, is there no way to prevent this unhappy dispute, from coming to Extremities, is there no Alternative, but Absolute Submission, or the desolations of War, I answer, I hope there is. The King and Parliament seem to hold out Terms of Reconciliation, consistent with the Honor and Interest of Great Britain, and the rights and Privileges of the Colonies. They have mutually declared their readiness to Attend to any real Grievances of the Colonies, and to Afford them every just and reasonable Indulgence, which shall in a dutifull, and constitutional Manner be laid before them; and his Majesty adds, it is his Ardent Wish, that this disposition, may have a happy Effect, on the Temper, and Conduct of his Subjects in America. I must add likewise, the Resolution of the 27th February on the grand dispute of Taxation and Revenue; leaving it to the Colonies, to Tax themselves,

^{to Brother}
Lawrence J. of 5 May 1775

Dear Brother

I have the Satisfaction to Inform our friend, that
Brother John is released, after much Intercession of many
very kind friends and much Solicitation to the General and
Colonial with Whom my personal Receipt was made. I may
say that, Divine as well as human favour, almost annihilated
a Circumstance very unexpected from the Character of both
when I came from home, I have seldom seen a patient humbler
Mind more ~~humble~~ Meek nor more useful and as in
Proportion as I found this to be my, that way was made for
Success of their Endeavour that I send them to have used
May that Diffusion be rightly improved by all
and perhaps to see Sister Brown. I have often that of what
she said to me when I came away, let her describe
the Relief to her Husband to the same cause and not to any
human Endeavours otherwise than as poor Instruments
among the foremost in Zealous Care & exertion the self sought
Largely. Alas, Brother Joseph is yet at London, I suppose
and Brother John, he is expected to go to Cambridge, I suppose
to his friends, without of which will move him, I hope to do his
Endeavour to bring about some relief for this distressed
Country May every friend to Virtue, be armed at the
alarming prospects and in Sincerity of Heart. Now of so
such a Disposition of Mind in that State as that the Progress
of a Reformation and peace maker may be manifested
and the Divine Judgments that are in the earth cause
Righteousness to clear instead of Blood Devastation & Ruin
It is in vain for me to add the distress of the Ministry of ~~any~~
Indeavour, but belief is only to be concerned as they cannot by
the help of friends. Fare thee
Moses Brown



Moses Brown. By Joseph Partridge, 1822.

under certain conditions. Here is surely a Foundation for an Accomodation, to People who wish a reconciliation, rather than a destructive War between Countrys so nearly connected, by the Ties of Blood and Interest, but I fear the Leaders of this Province, have been, and still are, intent only on Shedding Blood—

I am much Obliged by your favourable Sentiments of my personal Character; and Assure you, as it has been my constant Wish and Endeavour hitherto, so I shall continue to Exert my utmost Efforts, to protect all his Majesty's liege Subjects under my Care, in their Persons and Property. You ask, Whether it will not be consistent with my Duty, to suspend the Operations of War on my part; I have commenced no Operations of War, but Defensive, such you cannot wish me to Suspend, while I am surrounded by an Armed Country, who have already begun, and threaten farther to prosecute an offensive War; and are now Violently depriving me, the Kings Troops and many others of the Kings Subjects under my Immediate protection, of all the conveniences, and Necessary's of Life, with which the Country abounds. but it must quiet the minds of all reasonable People, when I assure you, that I have no disposition to injure or Molest, quiet and peaceable Subjects; but on the contrary, shall esteem it my greatest happiness to defend, and protect them, against every Species of Violence, and Oppression—

I am with great Regard and Esteem-Sir [&c.]

Tho^s Gage

1. U.S. Revolution Collection, LC.

MOSES BROWN TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Dear Brother

Boston 3th of 5th Mo 1775

I have the Sattisfaction to Inform Our friends that Brother John is releas'd, after much Intercession of Many very kind friends and much Sollisitation to the General and Admiral with Whom my personal Access was Made (I may Say 'thro, Divine as well as human favour) almost familiar a Circumstance very unexpected from the Charectors of Both when I came from home, I have Seldom Seen a patient humble Mind more Needed nor more Useful and as in proportion as I found this to be my State way was made for Success of those Endeavors that Seem'd from time to time Used May this Dispensation be rightly Improved by Us all. – and please to Tell Sister Brown I have Often tho't of what she Sead to Me when I came away, let her Asscribe the Release of her Husban to the same Cause and not to any Human Endeavours Otherwise than as poor Instruments among the foremost in Zealous Care & Exertions thy Self Ought Largely to share, Brother Joseph is yet at Roxbury I Suppose and Brother John I believe expects to go to Cambridge, for grattitude to his friends Without & Within will move him I hope to do his Endeavors to bring about Some relief for this Distresd Country May Every friend to Virtue, be Arous'd at this alarming period and in Sincerity of Heart Strive for Such a Disposion of mind in them Selves as that the Blessing of a *Mediator* and peace maker May be Manifested and the Divine Judgements that are in the Earth cause Rightousness to flow in Stead of Blood Devastation & Ruin it is in vain for Me to Ad the Distresses & the Necessity of Endeavors for Relief is only to be Conceived as they cannot by me be described – FareWell

Moses Brown

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, TO LORD
DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

New York, May 3d 1775

My Lord, The minds of the people in this city were kept in constant agitation, by Riots and attempts to prevent the Transports from loading here, with stores, Provisions &c. for the army. The want of any degree of Resolution in the Magistrates to support the authority of Government in opposition to popular measures, rendered the leaders of the People insolently bold and daring – The friends of order and Government saw no power either in the exertions of the Magistrates or the feeble aid that could be afforded by the very small body of Troops quartered in the city to protect their persons and property from violence and destruction. Several Incidents combined to depress all legal Authority; and to increase the Terror of the Inhabitants, which seemed to vanquish every thought of Resistance to popular Rage.

In this unfortunate situation of the City, the first accounts of an action between the Kings Troops and People, near Boston, was published with horrid and aggravating circumstances. The moment of consternation and anxiety was seized. The people were assembled, and that scene of disorder and violence begun, which has entirely prostrated the Power of Government and produced an association by which this Province had solemnly united with the others in resisting the Acts of Parliament . . . The pretence given out for the necessity of shutting up the Custom House, was to prevent the exportation of Provisions of which it was said all that was in the place would be wanted for the armies of the Colonies. But it is more probable, My Lord, that the real intention was to strike terror by the boldness of the action. Having effected this purpose and established the absolute Power of the Committee; the Keys of the Custom House have been returned to Mr [Andrew] Elliott,² but at the same time a declaration [was] published that no vessell shall be suffered to clear for Boston or Halifax

The whole military Force we have in this Province, my Lord, is the *Kings Fisher* sloop of War and 100 men of the Royal Irish Regiment commanded by Major [Isaac] Hamilton. This small Body of Troops are quartered in the City Barracks without any kind of Protection but in their arms

1. O'Callaghan, ed., *Colonial New York*, VII, 571, 572.

2. Andrew Elliot wrote a full description of his experiences during the period referred to in Colden's letter. It was contained in what he entitled, "A Short Detail of the Conduct of the Collector of New York from December 1774 to March 1776 when the Intercourse Act took place – Commencing with the Account of the Seizure of Arms & Published in the Newspapers at New York the 29th December 1774." This document is in the Andrew Elliot Papers; Box 1, Folder 6, NYSL. It reads in part:

Soon after the affair of Lexington (in April 1775) was known in New York, a Meeting of the People was called in the Fields, from which Meeting 300 Men under Arms Marched with a Committee to the Collectors House in the Country where he than was, – the Gentlemen of the Committee behaved with great Politeness to Mr Elliot and his Family but demanded the Keys of the Custom House, and a Promise from Him that he would Enter or Clear no more Vessels agreeable to the British Acts of Parliament. – The Collector told them that the Keys to the Custom House were always left with his Deputy Mr Moore who resided at the Office – that he was under Oath to Perform the Duties of Collector of the Customs at New York, which he was determined to do as long as it was in his Power Upon this the Gentlemen of the Committee told him, he would not be Suffered to Act in character of Collector

any longer – The Collector pointing to the Bayonets at the Doors and Windows of his House, told them they had given him a full view of their power, what use they meant to make of it rested entirely with themselves; After this Conversation the Committee and Armed Men march'd off, and went directly to the Custom House, and finding the Keys in the Doors (the Collector having sent one of his Servants who got to Town before the Committee with orders for that purpose) The Whole Body returned to the Fields with the Keys, The Collector immediately waited upon the Lieutenant Governor, and told him what had hapened, As the Governor had then no Power left, he desired the Collector to act as he should think best. The Collector returned to his House in the Country and never appeared in Town whilst the Custom House was lock'd up and under Guards: but he informed the Captain of the Man of War what had passed, that all outward bound Vessels might be stopped; He declined speaking on the Subject with all the Merchants who called upon him; The greatest part of the Merchants were much alarmed and sent off an Express to Philadelphia; It was soon found out that the heated frolick was a bad one; at Philadelphia it appeared so at once; The Merchants there sent a Committee to New York, when it was soon agreed to send back the Keys; The Committee of Philadelphia Merchants and one of the New York Merchants, sent to desire a Meeting with the Collector, who informed them he did no business in his present situation, and could not till the Custom House was opened, that he wanted no appologies, he only wanted to do his duty; Early next Morning he was informed the Custom House Doors were opened and the Guard withdrawn, upon which at the usual hour he attended Business without taking any Notice of what had passed, as in the Situation Affairs were then in, it appeared to him best to let a Matter drop; that all now disapproved of altho' too many had been concerned in it.

PROCLAMATION BY LORD DUNMORE, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA ¹

At a Council held at the Palace [Williamsburg] May 3, 1775, Present, his Excellency the Governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormeley, jun. Esquires, John Camm, Clerk, and John Page, Esquire.

The Board, resuming the consideration of the subject laid before them yesterday by the Governor, advised him to issue the following proclamation; and the same was ordered accordingly.

By his Excellency, the Right Hon. JOHN, Earl of DUNMORE, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same:

A PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA, to wit.

WHEREAS there is too much reason to suppose that some persons, in the different parts of this colony, are disaffected to his Majesty's government, and by their weight and credit with the people are endeavouring to bring the Country into such a situation as to afford them the fairest prospect of effecting a change in the form of it, covering their wicked designs under the specious appearance of defending their liberties, and have taken advantage of the unhappy ferment, which themselves have raised in the minds of their fellow subjects, in prosecution of their dangerous designs to oppose the most undoubted prerogative of the King, which in a late instance I thought it expedient to exert by removing on board his Majesty's ship the *Fowey*, a small quantity of gunpowder belonging to his Majesty, from the magazine in this city; I have thought fit, by advice of his Majesty's council, to issue this my proclamation, with a view of undeceiving the deluded, and of

exposing to the unwary the destruction into which they may be precipitated, if they suffer themselves to be longer guided by such infatuated counsels.

Although I consider myself, under the authority of the crown, the only constitutional judge, in what manner the munition, provided for the protection of the people of this government, is to be disposed of for that end; yet for effecting the salutary objects of this proclamation, and removing from the minds of his Majesty's subjects the groundless suspicions they have imbibed, I think proper to declare that the apprehensions which seemed to prevail throughout this whole country of an intended insurrection of the slaves, who had been seen in large numbers, in the night time, about the magazine, and my knowledge of its being a very insecure depository, were my inducements to that measure, and I chose the night as the properest season, because I knew the temper of the times, and the misinterpretations of my design which would be apt to prevail if the thing should be known. Acting under these motives, I certainly rather deserved the thanks of the country than their reproaches. But, whenever the present ferment shall subside, and it shall become necessary to put arms into the hands of the militia, for the defence of the people against a foreign enemy, or intestine insurgents, I shall be as ready as on a late occasion to exert my best abilities in the service of the country. In the mean time, as it is indispensibly necessary to maintain order and the authority of the laws, and thereby the dignity of his Majesty's government, I exhort and require, in his Majesty's name, all his faithful subjects, to leave no expedient unessayed which may tend to that happy end. Such as are not to be influenced by the love of order for its own sake, and the blessings it is always productive of, would do well to consider the internal weakness of this colony, as well as the dangers to which it is exposed from a savage enemy who; from the most recent advices I have received from the frontier inhabitants, are ready to renew their hostilities against the people of this country. But, as on the one hand, nothing can justify men, without proper authority, in a rapid recurrence to arms, nothing excuse resistance to the executive power in the due enforcement of law, so on the other, nothing but such resistance and outrageous proceedings shall ever compel me to avail myself of any means that may carry the appearance of severity.

Anxious to restore peace and harmony to this distracted country, and to induce a firmer reliance on the goodness and tenderness of our most gracious Sovereign to all his subjects equally, and on the wisdom of his councils for a redress of all their real grievances, which can only be obtained by loyal and constitutional applications, I again call upon and require all his Majesty's liege subjects, and especially all magistrates and other officers, both civil and military, to exert themselves in removing the discontents, and suppressing the spirit of faction, which prevail among the people, that a dutiful submission to the laws of the land may be strictly observed, which shall ever be the rule of my conduct, as the interest and happiness of this dominion ever have been, and shall continue to be, the objects of my administration.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the colony, at Williamsburg, this 3d day of May, 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign. DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775.

4 May

BOND EXECUTED BY DUMMER SEWALL AND JORDAN PARKER ¹

[Georgetown, May 4, 1775]

Know all Men by these presents that We Dummer Sewall of Georgetown in the County of Lincoln Gentleman and Jordan Parker of said Georgetown Yeoman are holden & stand firmly bound unto the Provincial Congress now setting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay or to their Successors or any person that shall be appointed by the People for the head of the Province aforesaid, in the sum of two thousand pounds to be paid to the said Congress or their successors as aforesaid to which payment well & truly to be made we bind our selves our heirs Executors & Administrators firmly by these presents Seal'd with our seals, dated the fourth day of May Anno Domini seventeen hundred & seventy five.

The Conditions of the above obligation is such that Whereas Edward Parry Esqr has been taken by, & now is in Custody of Coll Samuel Thompson as a suspected Enemy to the rights of America Now if the above bounden Dummer & Jordan shall keep the said Edward in safe Custody till he shall be released by order of the Provincial Congress & that the said Edward shall not either by himself or any for or under him, remove the masts spars booms boards &c now laying in the mast dock in said Georgetown & shall not write to any of the officers of the army or Navy for protection or against the Country then the above obligation to be void otherwise to be in force —

Dum^r Sewall Seal.
Jordan Parker Seal.

Test

Jn^o Wood
Jn^o Hobby

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 37.

BOND OF JOHN HOBBY AND OBE HUBBS, MERCHANTS OF GEORGETOWN ¹

Know all Men by these presents that We John Hobby and Obe Hubbs both of George Town in the County of Lincoln, Merchants, are holden and stand firmly bound unto the Provincial Congress now setting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay, or to their Successors, or any person that shall be appointed by the People for the Head of the Province aforesd in the Sum of Two thousand pounds to be paid to the said Congress or their Successors as aforesd to which payment well and truly to be made, We bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors and Administrators firmly by these presents, Sealed with our Seals dated the fourth day of May Anno Domini, Seventeen hundred and Seventy five.

The Conditions of the above obligation is such that Whereas John Bernard Esqr has been taken by, and now is in Custody of Coll Samuel Thompson as a suspected Enemy to the rights of America, Now if the above bounden John Hobby & Obe Hubbs shall keep the said John in safe Custody till he shall be released by order of the provincial Congress, and that the said John shall not either by himself or any [person] for or under him, remove his Vessel from Long reach in Kennebeck River & shall not write to any of the Officers of the Army or

Navy for Protection or against the Country, then the above obligation to be void, otherwise to be in force.

Jn^o Hobby Obe Hubbs

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 173, 40.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N. TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

(Copy)

Canceaux, Falmouth, Casco Bay, 4th May 1775.

Sir, Since my Letter to you of the 24h Ult: by Ensign Hill, the greater part of the people in this part of the Country have been constantly under Arms, threatening destruction to the Persons and Properties of those who refuse to join with them; in the Town of Brunswick near Kennebeck River, two Hundred of them Assembled, took Mr [Edward] Parry the Contractors Agent for the Navy Masts into Custody and all the Masts in the River belonging to him, which they hourly threaten to destroy: they also laid hold of Five of the principal Friends to Government, one of which they buried Alive, and put the rest in Jail; ² as soon as they had finished this, they resolved to embark on board of Two Sloops in order to repair to Falmouth, board, and burn the *Canceaux*, and the two Vessels she has in Charge, this Resolution was made known here, the Night before last, upon which their Associates of the Town assembled, disapproved of the Plan, and refused Assistance, excepting Major [Enoch] Freeman and the lower Class; – this Man I have mentioned in my former Letters as a leading Instrument of Sedition in these parts, and it is a great pity he should be left so long among them. Since I was made acquainted with this History I have dared them to put their Plan in execution though the Ship is not manned equal to my wishes, yet the few Hands that I have picked up since I have been here, gives me a fairer prospect of the safety of those Vessels I have in Charge. The new Ship is now almost in a Condition to go to Sea, which she would have been some time ago, had the Smiths and Carpenters been suffered to work, the labourers to a Man refuse to load, and as yet Mr. [Thomas] Coulson has not been able to procure any Seamen, although he has used every means, not only here, but at Marblehead and Salem, to which place he sent the Master of his Sloop for that purpose –

The Friends of Government of this Town, have represented their situation to General [Thomas] Gage, and they have also requested me to spare them an Officer and a few Hands to go in a Vessel to Boston, which they have hired for that purpose; a Copy of which Application I herewith enclose: ³ indeed I am happy in this opportunity myself, as I am still without a reply to the Letters that I wrote to Captain [Andrew] Barkley; though I can now have but poor hopes of your sparing any Marines, if there is any truth in the reports that circulate here.

Mr [William] Tyng the Sheriffe of this County carries the Petition to the General, and at the same time means to pay his respects to You: this Gentleman is well acquainted with the dispositions of the People in this part of the Country and not less so with the Seditious and Rebellious Principles that are daily practiced hereabouts, by which he has suffered not a little. With this I transmit the State and Condition of the Armed Ship under my Command. I am Sir [&c.]

H. Mowatt

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. An erroneous report.

3. See the Petition of Inhabitants of Falmouth, May 2, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN PITTSFIELD TO AN OFFICER AT
CAMBRIDGE, DATED MAY 4, 1775"¹

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that a Number of Gentlemen from Connecticut went from this Place last Tuesday Morning [May 2], having been joined by Colonel [James] Easton, Captain [Israel] Dickinson and Mr. [John] Brown, with 40 soldiers, on an Expedition against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, expecting to be reinforced by a thousand Men from the [New Hampshire] Grants above here, a Post having previously taken his Departure to inform Col. Ethan Allen of the Design, and desiring him to hold his Green Mountain Boys in actual Readiness. The expedition has been carried on with the utmost Secrecy, as they are in Hopes of taking those Forts by Surprise. We expect they will reach those Forts by Saturday next, or Lord's day at farthest. — The Plan was concerted at Hartford last Saturday [April 29] by the Governor and Council; Col. [John] Hancock, and Mr. Adams, and others from our Province being present.² Three Hundred Pounds were drawn immediately out of the Treasury for the aforesaid Purpose, and committed to these gentlemen that were here. We earnestly pray for success to this important Expedition, as the taking those Places would afford us a Key to all Canada. Should Success attend this Expedition, we expect a strong Reinforcement will be sent from the Western Part of Connecticut to keep those Forts, and to repair and fortify them well.

1. *New England Chronicle*, Cambridge, May 12 to May 18, 1775.

2. The Massachusetts delegates were enroute to the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and both John and Samuel Adams could have been present.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775

Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Thursday 4 at 11 the Rebels came down the Point & fired several times at the Ship & our boats as they passd on which we discharged some Musquets at them but they taking no notice of it we fired seven Swivels & dispersed them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

"THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXACT COPY OF A LETTER WHICH WAS INTERCEPTED
AT ROXBURY LAST WEEK"¹

Dear Sons

Boston, 4th May, 1775

After my affecnate Love to your Mother Sisters &c: Inform you that on the 27th of april I Left the Ship took passage on Board a packet sloop on the 1st Instant in Health arrived here, Where I Expect to Stay till the Rebels are Subdued, which I Believe will not be long first as the Ships and troops are Dayly Expected, my Greatest feers are you will be Sedused or Compeld to Take arms with those Deluded people. Dear sons if those Wicked Siners the rebels Intice you believe them not, but Die by the Sword Rither than be hanged, as Rebels, which will certainly be your fate Sooner or Later if you Joyn them or be Kild in battel and will be no more

than you Decarve; I wish you in Boston and all the frinds to Government. the Rebels have proclaimed that those frinds may have Liberty and Cum in, but as all there Declarations have hether too proved I fear false this may be so, Let Ruggles Know his father wants him here,² you may Cum by water from Newport; if here the King will Give you provisions & pay you Wages but by Expearance you Know your Persons nor Estates are not Safe in the Countrey for as Soon as you have Raised any thing theyl Rob you of it, as they are more Savage and cruell then Heathens or any other Cratur & it is Generaly Thought then Devils, you will put yourselves out of ther power as soon as posable – This is from your Effectonat Father

To Thomas, Peres, Bradford Gilbert

Thos Gilbert

P.S. Pagget, Green, and Jack are here, it will be well if these Lines Reach you as all my Letters are inter septed by those Rebels who want Every one to be kept in Dark like them selves (Misery Loves Compy)

Directed to Major Thomas Gilbert, in Burkley³

1. *Massachusetts Spy*, Worcester, May 17, 1775. The senior Gilbert had been the leader of the abortive gathering of Loyalists in Freetown.
2. Timothy Ruggles, a veteran of the French and Indian War and an ardent Loyalist.
3. The town of Berkley, Mass., lying south of Taunton.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] May 4. [1775]

A little before sunset Mr. Russel of Providence came to town and informs that Mr. Jno. Brown was dismissed and came home to Providence last night about XI h at night. That he was first put on board Adm. [Samuel] Graves, then bro't before Gen [Thomas] Gage. Capt. [James] Wallace's pretence for apprehending him was that he was concerned in burning the *Gaspee* Schooner. Application was made to Judge [Peter] Oliver of the Commissioners that sat on that Affair at Newport and he testified that no Accusation was exhibited against Mr. Brown, upon which Gen. Gage dismissed him, paid him for his flour, ordered the Packets to be returned to Providence and to be paid Demorage, and has sent off a Reprimand to Capt. Wallace of the *Rose Man o' War* here – A humbling stroke to the Tories! The General and Admiral treated Mr. Brown politely and dismissed him with Honor.

1. Stiles, II, 57, LC.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Baltimore 4 May, 1775]

I wrote you the 30th last month to which be Referd I can now tell you I have Sold the Servants by [Alexander] Kennedy & Chartered the Ship for Falmouth the Schooner will sail in a few days for Dublin this goes by a Ship Captn Brown for Bristol² flour Loaded the *Hercules* is Loading for Bristol also a Nother large Ship & four Brigs & Snows for London & other parts of England. We are under

some fear of our ports being shut which has made me Hurry the sale of the Servants & Chartering of the Ship for fear of Detention since the Boston Engagement Genl [Thomas] Gage has given orders for all Vessells in N[ew] England to be Seized for the use of his Majesty Matters Looks gloomy & there [is] no telling when they will mend. tell [David] Sherrard I have shipped him 20 bbls flour in the Schooner³ Make G.[eorge] D.[arley] Insure the Schooner home I refer you to him for more particulars true price of wheat 6/ a 6/4 flour 14/ Ex 55. I am affraid I shall not be able to complete any of the Newry orders.

Yrs

G. W

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Ship *Industry*, Arthur Barnes (not Brown) master, cleared May 3 for Bristol. Md. Port of Entry Books, 1774-75, MdHS.

3. Schooner *Industry*.

CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, R.N., TO THOMAS NELSON, PRESIDENT OF
HIS MAJESTY'S COUNCIL IN VIRGINIA¹

Sir

Fowey [York River] May 4, 1775

I have this morning received certain information that his Excellency the Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, is threatened with an attack at day break this morning, at his palace in Williamsburg, And have thought proper to send a detachment from his Majesty's ship under my command, to support his Excellency, therefore strongly pray you to make use of every endeavour to prevent the party from being molested and attacked, as in that case I must be under a necessity to fire upon this town.

From

GEORGE MONTAGUE

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 6, 1775. Nelson's place of residence was Yorktown.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775

York S S W Gloucester Point No off shore 1/2 a Mile

Thursday 4. at 3 A M a detachment of seamen under Lieutenant Sandys, And the Party of Marines under their officer were sent to assist the Governour as some insurgents threatened to attack him

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

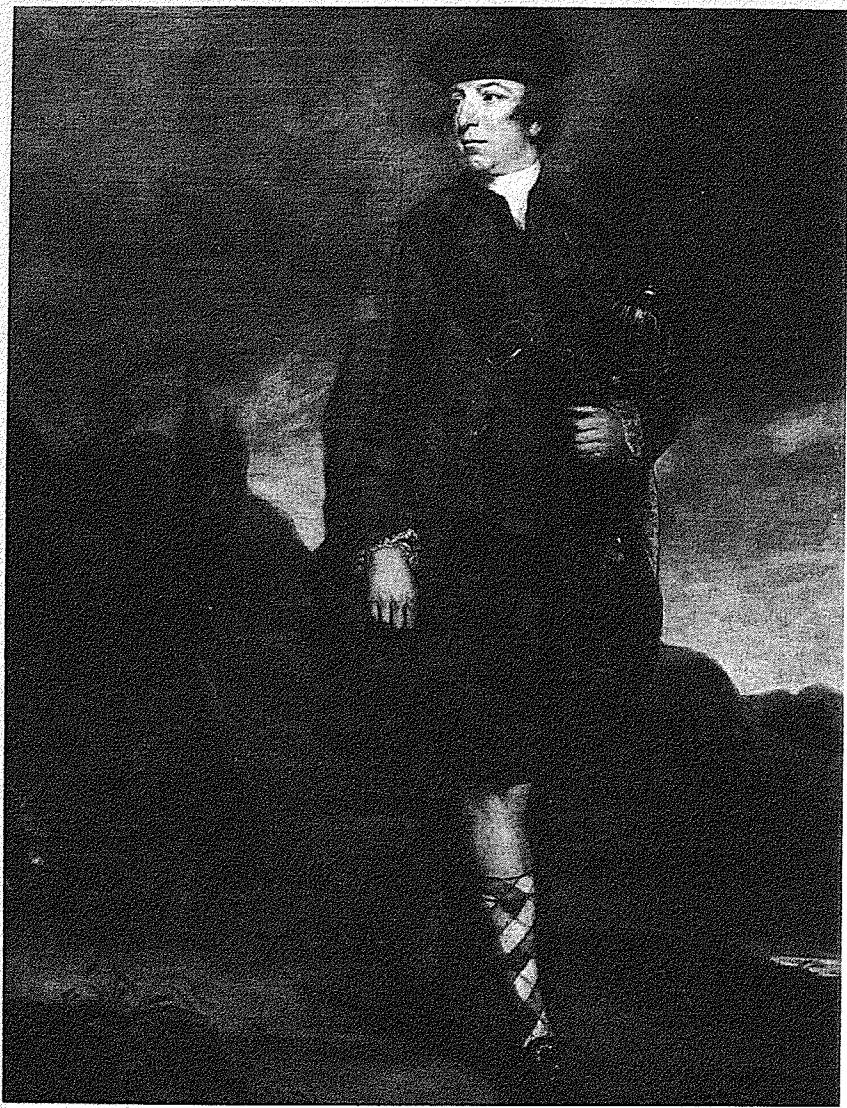
JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Magdalen*, HENRY COLINS,
COMMANDING¹

May 1775

Moord off York Town York River Virginia

Thursday 4th A M an express came from Lord Dunmore on which we sent mid-shipman with several Men as did the *Fowey* got the Vessel clear and people to quarters sent the Sloop *Liberty* with the Master and several Men to Queens Creek i norder to Take the Governor and people on board in Case his retreat shou'd be cut of[f] on the York Road

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/3894.



Moon off fresh Breezes and Variable clear and the Schooner, employed mending
 York Town the Fore Sail and again. Spare Sails. An express came from
 York River in Dunmore on which we sent messengers with several
 Virgin men as the Force of the vessel clear and people to quarter
 Little We went the Next Liberty with the Master and several
 Men to Queens Creek in order to take the Governor and people
 on guard in case his retreat should be cut off on the York River
 Read the Articles of war &c to the Crew

(Top) John Murray, Fourth Earl of Dunmore. By Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1765. (Bottom) HMS
 Magdalen log entries, May 4-5, 1775.

5 May

TIMOTHY LANGDON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Honorable Congress now sitting for the Province of Massachusetts Bay—
The petition of Timothy Langdon Humbly sheweth—

That upon the second day of May instant a Committee of Safety for ten towns in the County of Lincoln met at Pownalborough, and amongst other matters took under consideration the expediency of removing the Kings masts, being in the dock in Georgetown, when it was unanimously voted that it was inexpedient to remove them—

That on the fourth day of May instant a meeting of the Committies of Inspection for a Number of towns in the County of Lincoln was held in Georgetown & after duly considering of all matters respecting the Kings masts were of opinion that all persons be forbid to work upon said masts, or aid in any manner in fitting them for the Kings use—That Edward Parry Esqr who had procured those masts more than a year since had promised the Committee that no person should ship those masts for him but that they should remain in the Dock in Georgetown—The committies of Inspection where then of opinion that it was inexpedient to remove the masts from the dock

That while the Committies of Inspection were met Colln Samuel Thompson of Brunswick in the County of Cumberland appeared with twenty armed men & when he had heard of the result of the Committies he seized upon the Body of Edward Parry Esqr & kept him in Custody 'till he gave bonds in two thousand pounds to tarry in this town till the pleasure of the Congress shall be known respecting him, and also obliged the said Edward to pay for the Victuals & drink of him the said Thompson & his men, amounting to the sum of 42s L M—

That the said Edward Parry has ever behaved himself as a peaceable member of society, & he declared to the committies that had he have known there was an order of Congress respecting the masts he would not have concerned himself with them.

Wherefore your petitioner at the request of, & as Clerk to the Committies of Inspection humbly prays the Honorable Congress that they woud take the matters of fact above stated, under consideration, & that orders be sent to Messrs Dummer Sewell & Jordan Parker the Bondsmen for said Parry that he the said Parry may be released from his Confinement & they the said Dummer & Jordan released from their bond And your petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever Pray &c
Georgetown May 5th 1775

Tim^o Langdon

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 10, 11, 11a.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE HONBLE ENOCH FREEMAN ESQR DATED
FALMOUTH MAY 5 1775 –” ¹

We have lately heard that the Penobscott Indians are highly exasperated at Capt [Thomas] Goldthwaite, for suffering the Tender to dismantle the Fort there, and carrying off the Powder; and Truck Trade stopt, as we are informed; and that there was a Number of Men round about there, going to take Goldthwaite for delivering up the Fort, into their Custody, but what they intend to do with him I

dont hear. Perhaps it would be prudent for the [Provincial] Congress to send down there, and secure the Indians in our Interest, by keeping the Truck Trade open Supplying them Powder, or any other Method in their Wisdom, upon mature Consideration they may think best: A hint on this head is enough.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Friday 5 at Noon saw a number of People under Arms in the Town, hove the spring on the Cables broadside to the Town.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

In Provincial Congress – Watertown May 5th 1775

On a motion made by Capt McCobb, that some measures might be taken to preserve a Number of large Masts, Plank &c now lying in Kennebec River, and to prevent their being carried to Hallifax, where they might be appropriated to the injury of this Country –

Ordered – That the Consideration thereof be referred to the Committee of Safety & that Capt McCobb be desired to attend the said Committee & give them all the information he can relative thereto –

[Sam^l Freeman Secry P.T.]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Friday 5 From 1 to 2 o'Clock P M the Rebels came down on the Point & fired several shot; at which we discharged five Swivels & dispersed them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA
MERCHANTS ¹

Gentlemen, New London May 5th 1775

I wrote you by Colo [Eliphalet] Dyarr [Dyer] and Mr [Silas] Dean (our Colony Deligates to the Contential Congress) Desireing you would let them have what Money they should have Occasion for, to the Amount of Four or five Hundred Pounds Since that I received Your Favour by the Post and Am Sorry to hear You Could not Procure the Lead – and Observe Your Saying that Melasses was in Demand I now Send George Champlin in the Brigg *Nancy* with a Cargoe Consisting of Two Hundred and Sixteen hogsheads Twenty Six Terses and Four Barrels of which Thirteen hogsheads five Terses and One Barrel is Ventures, the Remainder is Cargoe which may be More, if You can Send me Some Money in half Joes by Capt Chappell it will be Agreeable. I have now a Cargoe of Extra Good St Domingo Sugars in Store if they would Answer I would Send Chappell

with a Load as Soon as he Returns, And, if Melasses Keeps up Shall Ship More, Unless Prevented by the Confusion of the present Times—I can tell You no News our Troops in the Neighbourhood of Boston are in good Spirits and Are forming Themselves into Order as fast as possible, when Anything Transpires from the Congress beg You'l be so kind as to Communicate it for I Really do not know what Plan to Follow, or what to Do with my Vessels You must Send the Brigg Back in Ballast have not to add but am [&c.]

Nath^{e1} Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 5 [1775]

An Association has been preparing for several days, and great Pains taken by the Friends of Govt to prepare the principal people in Town for signing it purpurting their Adherence to the King & Parl[iamen]t, that they put themselves under the Protection of the Men o' War & Gen [Thomas] Gage or the Kings Troops, that they will not take part with the Provincial Army &c. &c. &c.; This is enforced by an Intimidation of Confiscation of Estates or being declared Rebels. But an insuperable objection arises which the Tories have not yet solved, viz, that if we withdraw from the Colony Union, they will withdraw all Communication – nor bring us Wood, Flour, & Provisions. The Tories say the Men o' War will send their Cutters and oblige others to bring us these Things – but the p[eo]ple know it is out of the Navy's power. And so the matter rests at present. A Neutrality & Stillness is the most they can effect by all Acts of Intimidation –

1. Stiles, II, 57, LC.

HENRY REMSEN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED, TO COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE AT NEWPORT ¹

Gentlemen

New York May 5th 1775

At a time when the most vigorous exertions are absolutely necessary for the defence of American Liberty against the depredations of ministerial Power; and the blood of our brethren in the Masachusetts has been actually shed, for daring to maintain the rights of Englishmen: the Inhabitants of this City and County have in the most explicit manner (as you may perceive by the inclosed Association) resolved to stand and fall with the freedom of the Continent –

We are confident that our Constituents are sincere in the strong assurances they have given us, that while we continue in Office they will be guided by our advice and direction. We have thought it necessary to Advise the withholding supplies from the British Fisheries on the American coasts, and to cease all exports to those Colonies which at this alarming Juncture refuse to unite in the cause; – The expediency of this measure is too evident to need elucidation, and will doubtless procure us many hearty advocates in Britain; besides which we have resolved to withhold all provisions and necessaries for the Army and Navy at Boston –

Our late committee of Observation thought proper to recommend the appointment of a provincial Congress; in consequence of which, our constituents

have chosen 21 Deputies to meet at this City on the 22d instant, Those, who may be appointed for that purpose in the Other Counties of this Colony – For your farther satisfaction on these Matters, we beg leave to refer you to the inclosed papers, to request you to communicate the Substance of this Information to your next neighbours, and to Assure you that in our department we shall watch incessantly for the publick Safety –

By order of the Committee I am [&c.]

Henry Remsen, Dpy Chairman

1. PML.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPTN JAMES MONTAGU OF THE *King's fisher* [TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES]. DATED NEW YORK, MAY 5TH. 1775.”¹

Since my last of the 26th ultimo, Mr. Delancey of the 18th. Regiment of Dragoons, and Doctor [Myles] Cooper President of the Colledge, were Obligated to come onboard here for Protection, and as I expect more Friends to Government will be Obligated to do the same, must beg You will be pleased to give me an Order to bear all such as Supernumeraries.

The Committee has come to a Resolution not to suffer any Provisions to be sent to Boston, by much ado, have got a Supply this Day, it being taken out of the Contractors Vessel twice by the Mob. As I can not get any Stores here of any kind, request You will Order the different Stores as inclosed to be forwarded for which will take care to send proper Receipts.

As the People are all up in Arms here, since the Accounts from Boston, of the Skirmich between the Regulars & Provincials, think a reinforcement of Shipping Necessary.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

ROBERT EDEN, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord

Annapolis 5 May 1775.

I have the Honor of acknowledging the Receipt of your Lordships circular Letter of the 3rd March, and the Parliamentary Resolves and shall do all in my Power to promote in this Province the much to be desired End therein recommended to my Attention. Sorry I am, my Lord, to see a continuance of this unnatural Dissension betwixt Great Britain and Her Colonies – but the Time is not far distant, I hope, when Peace and Harmony will be restored and Confidence re-established on a permanent Basis – The Continental Congress is to meet on Wednesday next at Philadelphia, I need not inform your Lordship how impossible it would be for me to prevent Delegates from hence attending – The Attempt would have been vain, and only have sent them thither in ill Humour – On the Contrary, I think I can affirm that the Delegates of Maryland (or a very great Majority of them) go from hence fully determined to do all in their Power to bring about a Reconciliation. The proceedings of the Provincial Convention, which has been sitting these last ten Days and broke up Yesterday, have been conducted with great Temper and Moderation considering the general Spirit of the Times, and that, at the beginning of their Deliberations, they received the

alarming Account from the Northward of a total Overthrow of His Majesty's Forces, which was generally believed by them, and which I could no otherwise contradict, (not having received particulars) than by declaring that, to me, as a military Man of some Experience, the Accounts varied so, and were all of them so replete with Absurdities, that, without taking the Improbability into Consideration, and the torpid State they must presume the General and Admiral to be in, it could not but be in great part false, and I am happy that it has turned out so, and hope that what has passed, and a Cessation of further Hostilities, may induce the Congress immediately to recommend it to the several Colonies, by their Delegates, to make proper Applications respectively for the Redress of the Grievances they Complain of, after the mode pointed out in Your Lordships Letter, and the Parliamentary Resolve – I shall have the Honor of inclosing the published proceedings of the Convention here, and the Instruction given to the Delegates, as also our Yesterdays and a Philadelphia Paper, which contains the same and some of the absurd Accounts; that has been received from the Northward.

Being well assured that the Lower House would not proceed upon any Business before the Meeting at Philadelphia, the Assembly stands prorogued by Advice of the Council to the 5th of June, and when they Meet, I ardently wish and hope to be enabled to transmit to Your Lordship, such dutifull Applications as His Majesty has been graciously pleased to declare his Readiness to accept, and agreeable to the Resolve of the House of Commons, and shall impatiently hope for, and most sincerely rejoice at, their happy Effect.

I have made it my indispensable duty to give the utmost Attention to preserve peace and good Order within this Government, in which it gives me pleasure to think I have not been unsuccessful – Since my Return I have not slept twice out of this City where I found Disorder had been rather too active during my short Absence. I cannot in the least, Consistently with that Duty to His Majesty, which will ever govern my Conduct, think, at this Time of Trouble and Danger, of abandoning my Post on account of my private Affairs in England – But, I hope, when Tranquility is restored, His Majesty will not be displeased at my availing myself of the gracious Indulgence I had the Honor of soliciting on that Head when in England, and your Lordship may rely on my exerting myself to the utmost in promoting the Accomplishment of Our Gracious Sovereigns ardent Wishes to see a Reconciliation of the unhappy Differences that have given His Majesty so much Concern. That His Majesty may long continue to reign in Peace and Tranquillity restored, is the heartfelt Wish of My Lord [&c.]

Rob^t Eden.

1. MdHS Transcript from PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5.

BILL OF LADING FOR THE SHIP *Peggy*, WILLIAM BARRON, MASTER ¹

Bill of Lading for Flour, Corn, Wheat and Pig Iron on Board the *Peggy* Captain Wm Barron a[t] Maryland

Shipped in good Order and well conditioned by Archibald Buchanan in and upon the good Ship called the *Peggy* whereof is Master for the present Voyage Willm Barron and now riding at Anchor in the Harbour of Baltimore and bound for Cork for Orders, to Say, Thirteen hundred and Eighty Barrels of flour Three

Bill of Lading for Flour, Corn, Wheat and
Peas on Board the Peggy Captain
William Barron of Maryland

Shipped in good Order and
well Conditioned by Merchants

"Buckhaman in and upon the good Ship called the Peggy whereof is
"Master for the present voyage William Barron and now residing at
"Anchor in the Harbour of Baltimore and bound for Cork for
"Orders, to say, Three hundred and Eighty Bushels of Flour
"Three hundred and forty five Bushels of Indian Corn, forty
"Bushels of Wheat in Sacks, and fifteen Tons of Pig Iron
"being packed and numbered as in the margin and are to be
"delivered in the City of Cork in good Order and well Conditioned at the
"expressed Port of Cork (the Danger of the sea only excepted)
"on to the Order of Messrs Wallace, Barron & Johnson or to
"their Agents the latter paying freight for said Goods as
"per Back of Bill of Lading, with Lumps with Lumps and
"Average Accustomed, Freight of which the said Master or
"Partner of the said Ship hath affirmed to three Tons of Lard,
"all of the Tonnage of said Goods of which three Tons being
"accomplished the others to Stand void Dated at Baltimore
"May 5th 1775."

William Barron

Bill of lading, ship Peggy, May 5, 1775.

Hundred and forty five Bushels of Indian Corn, Forty Bushels of Wheat in Sacks, and fifteen Tons of Pig Iron being marked and Numbered as in the Margin and are to be delivered in the like good Order and well Conditioned at the aforesaid Port of Cork (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) Or to the Order of Messrs Wallace, Davidson & Johnson or to their Assigns he or they paying freight for said Goods as P back of Bill of Lading, with Primage and Average Accustomed, In Witness Whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath Affirmed to three Bills of Lading all of this Tenor & Date the one of which three Bills being Accomplished the others to Stand Void Dated in Baltimore May 5th 1775.

William Barron

[Endorsement on back of bill of lading]

It is agreed between the Master of the within mention'd Ship and the Freighter Archibald Buchanan that he shall proceed immediately to Cork to the Orders of Messrs Wallace Davidson and Johnson that if he discharges his Cargo there he shall receive for the Flour five Shillings Sterling p Bushell Freight for the wheat and Corn, One Shilling Sterling per Bushell and for the Pigg Iron Two Shillings and Six pence Sterling for Primage, (no freight to be paid for Iron); if he proceeds to Bristol or Liverpool an additional freight of 5d p Bushell and 1d Sterling p Bushell if to London 9d Sterling p Bushell and 2d p Bushell if he should be ordered to any Part of the Streights, the Customary Freights the said Ship shall lay 40 Hours for orders in Cork any time she may be detained longer than that Day 50s Sterling p day for every day after and wherever she may discharge Twenty running Days to be allowed for that purpose, the above Demurrage for every day she may be detained after Witness our hand May 5th 1775

William Barron

Archibald Buchanan

[Endorsed]

Received May 6th 1775 from Archibald Buchanan, sixty one pounds Sixteen Shillings and ten pence Sterling in Part of the within freight

William Barron

1. Champlin Papers, I, RIHS.

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER TO ALEXANDER PURDIE ¹

Mr. Purdie

Williamsburg, May, 5 [1775]

PLEASE to inform the publick, that the *Mary*, Capt. [James] Miller, now loading in York river, is partly owned by Mr. John Wilkinson of London, who is likewise owner of two ships, the *Lion* and *Brilliant*, that formerly loaded in Virginia; which two ships the said Mr. Wilkinson has let to the Ministry, to carry troops to Boston, to cut the throats of all the Americans.

Quere. Is it not incumbent on every friend of liberty, and his country, to refuse shipping a single hogshead of tobacco on board any ship belonging to such a bloody-minded man as Mr. Wilkinson? Would it not be as proper to send the

Mary back, in balast, as the *Virginia*? Her being chartered by another person cannot be any good objection to sending her away in ballast, since the charterer must have known of Mr. Wilkinson's crime before the *Mary* left London, and therefore has made himself *Particeps criminis*, an accessory to the guilt.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 5, 1775.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1775

Williamsburg, May 5.

Late on Wednesday night [May 3], Col. Carter Braxton arrived in town, from a number of armed people, all men of property, led by Patrick Henry, Esq; on their march for this city, from the counties of Hanover, New Kent and King William. The intent of their coming, we are well assured, is the general alarm spread over the country by the removal of the gunpowder from the publick magazine, and to secure the treasury from a like ca[ta]strophe; as also to seize upon the person of his Majesty's Receiver General (then in this city) till either the gunpowder was restored, or a sum of money paid down to its value. Next morning Col. Braxton returned, with the Honourable Richard Corbin's bill of exchange for 320 l. sterling; and at the same time, the inhabitants of this city engaging themselves to guard the publick treasury, the Gentlemen dispersed yesterday afternoon, and are returned to their respective homes, perfectly satisfied with the success of their expedition. They had proceeded as far as Doncastl's, about 15 miles from town, where they were encamped to the number of 150 men and upwards, all well accoutred, and had a very martial appearance.

As soon as his Excellency the Governour received intelligence of the above armed force coming down, he despatched a messenger to the *Fowey* man of war, now lying before York town, and by 10 o'clock yesterday morning a detachment of 40 sailors and marines belonging to that ship, under the command of Capt. Stretch, arrived at the place; they did not march through the main street, but were led through the governour's park.

The town of York, we are well informed, was threatened with a cannonade from his Majesty's ship *Fowey*, by her commander, if the inhabitants presumed to molest the troops in their landing, or on their march to this city. They are now at the palace; how long they will stay is uncertain.

Upwards of 100 of the citizens last night guarded the publick treasury, and patrolled the streets.

This morning a warrant was issued to search certain houses for arms, suspected to have been taken out of the magazine in this city, a considerable number being missing, but the officer, we hear, has not been able to find any.

The Right Honourable the Countess of Dunmore, with all the Governour's family, are now on board the *Fowey* man of war.

The *Rising Sun*, Peterson, from London, is arrived in York river. He left the Downs the 13th of March, in company with about 20 transports, who put into Spithead the 16th, to wait their final orders to proceed to Corke, to take in troops for America.

PROCLAMATION OF LORD DUNMORE, GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA ¹

By his Excellency the Right Hon. JOHN, Earl of Dunmore, his Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION

Virginia, to wit.

WHEREAS I have been informed from undoubted Authority, that a certain *Patrick Henry*, of the County of Hanover, and a Number of deluded Followers, have taken up Arms, chosed their Officers, and styling themselves an Independent Company, have marched out of the County, encamped and put themselves in a Posture of War; and have written and despatched Letters to divers Parts of the Country, exciting the People to join in their outrageous and rebellious Practices, to the great Terror of all his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and to open Defiance of Law and Government, and have committed other Acts of Violence, particularly in extorting from his Majesty's Receiver General the Sum of 330 £. under Pretence of replacing the Powder I thought proper to order from the Magazine, whence it undeniably appears, that there is no longer the least security for the Life and Property of any Man. WHEREFORE I have thought proper, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and in his Majesty's Name, to issue this my Proclamation strictly charging all Persons, upon their allegiance, not to aid, abet or give Countenance to the said *Patrick Henry*, or any other persons concerned in such unwarrantable Combinations, but on the contrary to oppose them and their Designs by every Means, which Designs must, otherwise, inevitably involve the whole Country in the direful Calamity, as they will call for the Vengeance of offended Majesty and the insulted Laws, to be exerted here, to vindicate the constitutional Authority of Government.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Colony, in Williamsburg, the fifth Day of May, 1775, and in the 15th year of his Majesty's reign.

DUNMORE.

GOD SAVE THE KING

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, May 13, 1775.

6 May

DUMMER SEWALL TO PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Georgetown May 6th 1775.

To the Honnorable Congress of the Province of the Macehusetts Bay,
Gent – The Committees of Inspection of Georgetown Woolwich have Mett & Resolved that it was not Expediant to moove the Masts lying in the Dock in Georgetown that Edward Perrey Esqr had Contracted for, inasmuch as he Decllard he would not Ship said Masts nor hew them – The Committees of Safaty from ten Towns in the County of Lincoln Met & Resolved that it was not

Expediant to Moove said Masts or Injury Edward Parry Esqr – Notwithstanding, Colo [Samuel] Thomson of Brunswick thought otherwise, and hath taken said Perrey Prisoner, & Declard he would Moove the Masts or Destroy them, so that the said Perrey was Obliged to get Bondsmen of two Thousand Pounds that he would not Depart Georgetown or Ship sd Masts by him self or any other or write to any Officer in the Navy or Army till the Will & Pleasure of the Congress should be made known to Messrs Dumr Sewall & Jordan Parker who a[re] Bound for sd Perrey: he the sd Colo Obliged the said Parry to pay 42/ Cost – I therefore Humbly Pray that your Will may be made known to the said Dummer & Jorden, as soon as may be that the said Perrey may be releived & the Bondmen Liberated their large Bonds –

I am your Honnours Harty Freind & Humble Servent

Dum^r Sewall

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 28.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Saturday 6 Country People under Arms – kept the Crew under Arms day and night.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1775

Providence, May 6

Mr. John Brown, of this place, merchant, whom we mentioned in our last to have been taken in a packet boat, and sent to Boston, has been released by the Admiral and General and returned here on Wednesday night [May 3].

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 6 [1775]

This day another Man o' War Capt. Lindley ² came here, so we have now three ships here – tho it is said that the *Rose* Man o' War Capt. [James] Wallace is called away.

1. Stiles, II, 58, LC.

2. The sloop *Falcon*, Captain John Linzec, whose journal for May 6, 1775, reads, "At Noon working into Rhode Island Harbour . . . at 2 P M Came too in Rhode Island Harbr. Brentons Point WNW Rhode Island Church East." PRO, Admiralty, 51/336.

JAMES BEEKMAN TO PIERCE & BROWN, MERCHANTS OF BRISTOL, ENGLAND ¹

[Extract]

[New York] May 6, 1775

Per Captain Jones

I wrote you 21st March last since which have Received yours of 25th February . . . Captain John Walker, who is now going on the same Voyage, the freight of which shall be paid you, my Brother and Self intended to have loaded our Brigg on our own Account had it not been for the unhappy Situation of our

Public Affairs, for which reason we have not thought proper to export any Provisions; I make no doubt that before this reaches your hands, you must have heard of the Action that happened near Boston between the regulars and the Provincials . . . the General Committees of this City and Philadelphia have agreed not to supply the Army or Navy with any Provisions, whilst there is the least appearance of Hostilities in our Borders. There seems to be almost total Stagnation of every kind of Business, at this alarming period, all Ranks of people are preparing against a similar attack, and for this purpose are providing themselves with arms &c. and are consulting the means of our common safety . . .

I expected to have made you full Remittance in due time, but fear I shall be prevented, the Commerce of the Northern Colonies being now at a Stand, and as the Grand Continental Congress are to Meet at Philadelphia the 10th Instant it is imagined that they will put a total stop to all foreign Trade, which will disenable our Merchants to make any Remittances Home, untill we receive Restitution of our former just and unalienable Rights and Privileges which is the ardent desire of all. and of none more than [myself].

1. White, ed., *Beekman Papers*, II, 898. Letters of the same date expressing similar sentiments were written to Fludyer, Marsh, Hudson and Streatfield and Cooke & Ralph, British merchants, and on May 30 to B. Pomeroy & Sons, London. *Ibid.*, 698, 699, 756-758, 948. Beekman in his letter to Fludyer, *et al.*, wrote

" . . . the General Committees of this City and Philadelphia have come under an Agreement not to supply the Army or Navy with any Provisions or Stores, whilst there is even an Appearance of Hostilities in our Borders. Which we sincerely wish may be speedily removed, and Peace, Harmony, and a good Understanding may take place on equitable, permanent Foundations, and may ever distinguish Britain and America, and thus continue 'til Time has run his Round.

"Upon calm Deliberation, and serious dispassionate Reflection, it is really distressing that from the hasty Resolves of the Majority of the British Parliament, without hearing the Petitions from North America (as the Lords Protest sets forth) should be the Occasion of all such fatal Consequences as have happened and are likely to happen between us; and unless seasonably redressed may prove the Ruin of the whole Empire. Who would have imagined that this Contest would have so soon terminated into an unnatural Civil War, and caused the Effusion of so much Blood? The Prospect is truly melancholy, when the Brother takes away the Brothers Life. And yet such times America now sees and feels! Tho' sure I am, that his Majesty has not more firm and loyal Subjects than in his Dominions in North America, who will support his Crown and Dignity in a constitutional manner at the Risque of their Lives and Fortunes. But it is impossible that freeborn Englishmen, as we are, (instead of being taxed by our legal Representatives as formerly) should now submit to Parliamentary Taxations, without giving up our Title to Freedom, and becoming Vassals and Slaves. Nothing more is necessary for a happy Accommodation, but a Revival of the good old English Constitution, which has always produced such mutual Blessings."

Pennsylvania Evening Post, MAY 6, 1775

Philadelphia, May 6.

Yesterday evening arrived here Capt. [Peter] Osborne, from London, in whom came passenger, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Agent for Massachusetts government and this province.

JOURNAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY¹

[Philadelphia] May 6, 1775

The House met, pursuant to Adjournment, being acquainted that with Captain [Peter] *Osborne*, who arrived Yesterday, came Passenger *Benjamin Franklin* Esq; late Agent for this Province in *London*.

Resolved N.C.D. That the said *Benjamin Franklin* Esq; be, and he is hereby added to the Deputies appointed by this House on the Part of *Pennsylvania*, to attend the Continental Congress expected to meet on the 10th Instant, in this City.

1. Samuel Hazard *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1852-19-), 8th series, vol. VIII, 7231. Hereafter cited as Hazard *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, Saturday, May 6, 1775

Williamsburg, May 6.

A few nights ago some people privately entered the public magazine in this city and took a great number of guns, cartouch boxes, swords, canteens, &c. for which his Excellency the Governor has ordered a diligent search to be made.

The town of York being somewhat alarmed by a letter from Capt. [George] Montague, commander of his Majesty's ship the *Fowey*, addressed to the Hon. Thomas Nelson, Esq; President of his Majesty's Council in Virginia;¹ and a copy of said letter being procured, a motion was made, that the copy should be laid before the committee, and considered.

The committee, together with Capt. Montague's letter, taking into consideration the time of its being sent, which was too late to permit the President to use his influence, had the inhabitants been disposed to *molest and attack* the detachment; and further considering that Col. Nelson, who, had this threat been carried into execution, must have been a principal sufferer, was, at that very moment, exerting his utmost endeavours in behalf of Government, and the safety of his Excellency's person, unanimously came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, that Capt. Montague, in threatening to fire upon a defenceless town, in case of an attack upon a detachment, in which said town might not be concerned, has testified a spirit of cruelty unprecedented in the annals of civilized times; that, in his late notice to the President, he has added insult to cruelty; and that, considering the circumstances, already mentioned, of one of the most considerable inhabitants of said town, he has discovered the most hellish principles that can actuate a human mind.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the inhabitants of this town, and to the county in general, that they do not entertain or shew any other mark of civility to Capt. Montague, besides what common decency and absolute necessity require.

Resolved, that the Clerk do transmit the above proceedings to the public printers to be inserted in the Virginia gazettes.

(true copy.)

WILLIAM RUSSELL, Clk. Com.

We hear from York town that in consequence of Captain Montague's letter to the President, many of the inhabitants were so much alarmed that they immediately removed their families and effects into the country.

1. See George Montagu to Thomas Nelson, May 4, 1775.

JAMES PARKER TO CHARLES STEWART¹

[Extract]

[Norfolk] 6th May 1775

You would observe by the paper sent Mr. Elusly that Ld. Dunmore had ordered the power out [of] the Magazine at Williamsburg on board the *Magdalen* schooner. This has occasioned a great deal of blustering. We hear of 2000 men coming from Fredericksburg headed by James [sic! Hugh] Mercer, and as many from Hanover. There was a few men got together about Fredericksburg not however a tenth part of the report, and Young Man[n] Page came down to know the truth of matters. The speaker went that way to the Grand Congress to quiet the minds of the people, and [the] thick headed treasurer who finds it more difficult to extinguish a flame than kindle it, is in a terrible panic, writing letters all over the country to prevent these meetings. Williamsburg did well enough for the seat of government during the golden age; it will not do now, it should be here or some place where a ship can go. What can a governor do without a little force? No man can I believe make better shift than ours on such an occasion, like Charles XII he has fortified his House, with several guns at the windows, cut loop-holes in the Palace, and has plenty of small arms. His Lady and familie are on board the *Fowey* at York . . . It is suspected the patriots intended that powder for their friends in Boston.

1. "Letters from Virginia, 1774-1781," *The Magazine of History* (New York, March 1906), III, 158, 159. Stewart (1725-1797), former Surveyor General of Customs in North America, had retired to Edinburgh. Parker, a merchant, was his Virginia correspondent.

7 May (Sunday)

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO MAJOR ISAAC HAMILTON¹

Sir,

Boston 7th May 1775

I have received no account from you, tho' from many accounts brought here, of the Commotions in New York - you must be in a very critical situation. I would have you consult with the Lieut. Governor what is best for you to do; It appears to me at this distance, that it would be a proper measure, that the five companies, should go on board the *Asia*; on which subject you will speak to Captain [George] Vandeput. I am Sir &c.

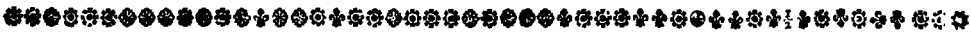
Thos Gage

To Major Hamilton of the 18th or R.R. of Ireland.

1. *Golden Papers*, VII, 293.

LORD NORTH'S SOLILOQUY.

A PLAGUE take that Boston port act, and all the Bostonians---those obstinate people will be my downfall---those puritannical rascals will be my ruin---the public at home now perceive the drift and consequences of that act, and think it endangers their own freedom and safety---the merchants already feel the bad effects of it, and murmur greatly-- the cry is strong against me---I shall be hunted down--I was afraid of that d---n'd act at first--it was none of mine--I was not the father of it--I did not beget it;--I only supported it according to the directions of the closet--It is confounded hard, that I must be responsible for obeying the Commands of the Throne--I should have been turned out if I had not.--But hold,--let me consider I shall be dismissed now if I complain--I must not recant--I must proceed let the consequences be what they will.--If those stubborn people cannot be cajoled, they must be forced--we must compel them to submit--more soldiers must be sent,--but how shall we prevent the desertion of them?--We must send the third regiment of guards--they are a tried corps--we may surely depend upon them.--It will cost a great sum to send forces over sufficient to subdue the obstinacy of these rebellious Americans;--the people of England will grumble to pay new taxes for such a purpose--but I need not regard their grumbling--they have no spirit--I wish the people of New-England had no more.--I am sure of carrying what I please in the House, aye, and out of the House too--I have totally conquered all opposition at home;--I must do the same abroad.--That which gives me the most uneasiness, is the haughty menacing behaviour of the Spanish Court.--Should Spain prevail upon the French to join with her in breaking the peace, it would put a stop to all the fine projects of our Cabinet.--We must persuade France to keep the peace, let it cost what it will--a French war must, at all events, be prevented--for should that happen, we should never be able to compel the colonies to a proper obedience--and it shall be prevented, if God hath the same influence in France as it hath in England.--We must force the Americans to submit by fire and sword, and for which we must select such officers for the conducting this affair, as will obey the private orders of the Cabinet.--We must also raise some regiments of Papists in Canada---they may also recruit our army there---they will be glad to cut the throats of those heretics, the Bostonians. --A Popish army is by much the fittest for our purpose---they will obey the commands of the crown without any hesitation---they have been trained up in principles of passive obedience, and we may be assured they will not desert---This must be my way---it will answer my end---it will be relished by the Cabinet---and I shall keep my place.



JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTT. JOHN GRAVES,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Boston Harbour.

Sunday 7 Appointed to Command His Majs Schooner *St Lawrence* by order from Vice Admiral [Samuel] Graves. went on board and took the Command of the Said Schooner accordingly alongside Hancock's Wharf in Boston Harbour, being a New Vessel just purchased.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. The *St. Lawrence* was immediately ordered to Halifax for outfitting, and did not return to Boston until July 17, 1775.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES, HIS
MAJESTY'S SCHOONER *Diana* ¹

By Samuel Graves, Esq., Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed, and to be employed, in the River St Lawrence, &c.

Whereas I have received information that a Vessel is arrived at Marblehead with a very considerable quantity of money on board from a Spanish wreck, which must by all means be prevented from falling into the hands of the Rebels: You are therefore hereby required and directed to sail in his Majesty's Schooner, under your command, to Marblehead, without a moment's delay of time, and bring the vessel into Boston Harbour with the money, or remove the money into the *Diana* without delay, and let the vessel follow you hither.²

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston*, at Boston, the 7th of May, 1775.

1. Force, comp., *America Archives*, 4th, II, 525; apparently found on board the *Diana* when taken on May 27, 1775.

2. By the time Lieutenant Graves reached Marblehead, Captain Thomas Bishop, of the *Lively*, had taken the money on board his ship. For further details see Graves to Stephens, June 14, 1775.

8 May

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 8th. [May, 1775]

General after Orders. — "As there are many Complaints of most scandalous drunkenness at this critical time among the Troops, that the Women of different Corps in defiance of all order, sell rum and other spiritous liquors to the Soldiers; it is the Comman'r in Chief's positive orders the Officers commanding Regts. examine into those Complaints; and those Women who do not pay obedience to Order to be *immediately* seized and put on board Ship." There was an order of this kind some time before, but was taken little notice of notwithstanding the word *immediately*, which a scarce a general Order has been without since we came to the Continent.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 44. The Lieutenant had penned in his Diary on New Year's Day 1775: "nothing remarkable but the drunkenness among the Soldiers, which is now got to a very great pitch, owing to the cheapness of the liquor, a man may get drunk for a Copper or two." *Ibid.*, 18.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, MAY 8, 1775

Philadelphia, May 8.

We hear from Williamsburg, the locks were taken from off the magazine, that the *Magdalen* Schooner is in York river, under the protection of the *Fowey* man of war, and that Lord Dunmore had fortified himself in the palace.

9 May

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Tuesday 9 Fresh breezes and Clear Wt AM Capt Mowat and Doctor Baillie went ashore to walk and were intercepted and taken Prisoners by some Armed Men. at 2 P M hove taught the Spring, the Ships Broadside to the Town, fired 2 Guns as Signals at 9 came on board the Captain and Doctor –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 9, 1775

Voted, That Daniel Taylor, of Concord, be desired to send down to Cambridge, about sixty Oars for boats, from twelve to sixteen feet in length.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 753, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Tuesday 9 Saw several Rebels heard their Drum beat over Dorchester Neck at 8 P M called all hands to quarters Sent the Guard Boat round the Bay. at ½ past 11 heard several Musquets fired, sent the Lieutenant to give them notice at the Fort.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 9th [May, 1775]

The *Glasgow* being by this time complete, in every thing but Men was ordered to relieve the *Nautilus* between Charles Town and Boston; the *Nautilus* to fall down the Harbour and with the *Otter* get ready for sailing: and the Admiral acquainted the General that he intended to send the *Nautilus* to Savannah in Georgia and the *Otter* to Virginia.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 83, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Boston May 9th 1775

Upon the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 30th Uto I directed a swift sailing Sloop to be fitted for carrying Dispatches, as your Excellency represents the communication between this and the other Colonies to be entirely stopped by Land—This Sloop is now compleat, and I shall keep her ready to depart at the shortest notice; and whenever your Excellency acquaints me that you have dispatches to convey which require expedition, I shall very readily send the Vessel with them. I have the honor to be with great respect and regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N. TO SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS OF NEWPORT ¹

(Copy)

Rose, Rhode Island May the 9th. 1775

Gentlemen I have received your Letter containing your Sentiments upon the present Alarming Crisis, and will transmit them to the Admiralty by the first Opportunity ² – it is my Duty and Inclination to give every Assistance and Protection in my Power to His Majesty's Loyal Subjects. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

James Wallace

To Messrs Dudley, Rome, Hunter, &ca &ca &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. See letter of May 1, 1775.

JAMES MADISON TO WILLIAM BRADFORD ¹

[Extract]

Virginia May 9th, 1775

We have lately had a great alarm here about the Governor's removing a large quantity of powder from our magazine and conveying it on board a ship of war: Not less [than] 600 men well armed and mounted assembled at Fredg. on this occasion, with a view to proceed to Wmsburg. [to] recover the powder & revenge the insult: The propriety of such a step was warmly agitated and weighty arguments adduced both for & against it: At length the advice of Peyton Randolph, Edm. Pendleton, Richd. H. Lee, and George Washington Esqrs. delegates for the Congress, to return home was complied with. The reasons however that induced these Gentlemen to give this advice did not appear satisfactory to Patrick Henry Esqr. another of our delegates whose sentiments were not known at Fredg. This Gentleman after the dispersion of the troops at the above named place under the authority of the committee of this County and at the head of an Independant Company undertook to procure redress, which he resolutely accomplished by taking of the King's Quit-rents as much money as would replace the powder which had been removed so far that it could not be come at. This affair has prevented his appearing at the Congress as early as his Colleagues, and has afforded me this opportunity of sending you a few lines. I expect his con-

duct as contrary to the opinion of the other delegats will be disapproved of by them, but it [has] gained him great honor in the most spirited parts of the Country and addresses of thanks are already presenting to him from different Quarters: The Gentlemen below whose property will be exposed in case of a civil war in this Colony were extremely alarmed lest Government should be provoked to make reprisals. Indeed some of them discovered a pusillanimity little comporting with their professions or the name of Virginia.

1. William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal, eds., *The Papers of James Madison* (Chicago, 1962), I, 144, 145. Hereafter cited as Hutchinson and Rachal, eds., *Madison Papers*.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town 9th May 1775

p *Juno* Capt Farrington

You may or may not have heard ere this shall reach you that the Sword of Civil War was drawn in the environs of Boston on the 19th April, there is no doubt of the fact but the Accounts which we have received are not clear . . . the New England Account will appear in the inclosed paper perhaps you have a more perfect one – if the Ministry will allow any thing like truth to be published –

the Committee here in which they have forced your Father to be Chairman are exerting their utmost abilities I hope for wise & good ends.–

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–1775, SCHS.

10 May

EDWARD PARRY TO LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDER OF HIS
MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux* ¹

[Extract]

George Town. May 10th 1775.

Sir I am very much obliged to you for your kind Letter of the 29th ult. p Lambert, which was intercepted and demanded with my other Letters &c at Brunswick by Samuel Thompson of that place and broke open, Copies of which have been industriously circulated thro' the Country by the different Committee men &c, several parts thereof being misconstrued or misunderstood by the illiterate – I should have answered your Letter sooner but did not know how to procure any safe conveyance – On the 4th inst Thompson attended by a number of Armed Men to the Amount of Forty or upwards insisted on my being his Prisoner, and to go with him; or give Bail Bond with two Securities in the Penal Sum of £ 2000 payable to the Provincial Congress, the condition of the Bond compelled to be given, is that I should be kept in safe Custody by my Sureties, until released by the Congress, – that I should not nor no one for or under me remove my Masts, Plank &c now here, nor write to any Officer of the Army or Navy for Protection, or against the Country – I prefer'd giving the Bond rather than to risk myself with him – A State of my Case has been sent to the Congress; who I hope will think it reasonable to release me; but such is the unfortunate Temper of the Times, that I am Apprehensive I shall be unable to proceed with my Business and fulfill

my Engagements for Halifax Yard for the present and I think it will be extremely hazardous for some time to attempt it, unless affairs take a Sudden Turn

I am with Great Respect Sir [&c.]

Edw^d Parry

Mr [John] Bernard is also under Bond, and in the same Situation.

There are some Reports spread here of an attempt to Surprize the *Canceaux*

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 29, 30.

EDWARD PARRY TO WILLIAM TYNG ¹

Dear Sir

George Town Kennebec May 10th 1775

I reced your favor of the 29th April by Lambert, which was intercepted by Thompson and broke open with my other Letters – I should have answered Capt Mowats kind Letter, but did not know how to convey it sooner – I beg you will deliver him the inclosed – I suppose you have heard of my being in Thompson's Clutches The Letter to Capt Mowat mentions the particulars – my best Compliments to Mrs Tyng & Mrs Ross &c – May God Send us peace and Good order again –

I am with great Respect, Dear Sir your obligd & assured friend & humble servt

Edw^d Parry

favd by Mr Ayers of Portsmo

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 31.

EDWARD PARRY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Sir

George Town Kennebec River May 10th 1775

I beg leave to lay before you that Mr Samuel Thompson of Brunswick one of the Delegates of your Congress has attended by about Forty or upwards of His Minute Men &c Armed, restrained me from following my lawful Occupation, and has detained me here, and compelled a Bond to be given the 4th instant with two Securities for me in the penal Sum of £2,000. lawful money payable to you or the Heads of the Province for the time being that may be appointed by the People – The Condition of the Bond prevents me or any Person for or under me from removing certain Masts, Spars, Oak Plank &c that are now under my care in this River and procured for the Service of His Majesty's Navy – and that I should be kept in safe Custody here until I may be released by your Orders – he has also required that I shall not write to any Officer of the Army or Navy for Protection – He Grounds his pretences for these *Violences* to me by a Resolve of your Body (as he says) passed the beginning of April – The Subject matter of which as near as I can recollect is – "That Colo Samuel Thompson be appointed to notify certain Towns in the Eastward, that one Perry was gone down thither to Ship Masts Plank &c for the Dock Yard at Nova Scotia, and that he and they should use all possible and effectual means to prevent the same being done" –

And likewise the People &c I employ'd have been intimidated and influenced from carrying on their work to my great detriment by Persons who appear by their Conduct to place Reliance on your Approbation – I imagine you will not justify

but disavow these *injurious* proceedings – and I expect you will order without delay the Bond to be cancelled and myself released from my present confinement.

I am Sir Your very humble servant

Edw^d Parry²

To The President of the Delegates of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay assembled in Congress at Concord

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 32, 33.

2. Parry's petition reciting the same grievances is in Mass. Arch., 34.

ENOCH FREEMAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Falmouth May 10th 1775. –

To the Honble the Committee of Safety for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in Cambridge

May it please your Honours –

We, the Committee of Correspondence in Falmouth wou'd beg leave to Represent to your Honours, the Situation and Circumstances of this Town and County; and if there is any Impropriety in our doing it, Your Candour will Excuse it –

The Alarming Attempt of Colln [Samuel] Thompson, to take the Ship *Canceaux*, Captn Henry Mowat Commander, now in this Harbour, has occasioned very great uneasiness in this Town, as it has a Tendency to bring on us certain Ruin, by the Admiral's resenting it in such a manner as to block up our Harbour before the Time. We have no Force to oppose or prevent it, no Fortifications, no Ammunition, no Cannon, and if Provisions are stopt from coming in here, The Town is ruined as well as the Country, which depends upon the Town for Supplies, of which, at present, there is a great Scarcity. – We think Coll Thompson's attempt was rash and Injudicious, if not unjustifiable, as we cant learn he had any Authority from You or the Congress; we are Sure it was contrary to yr will, and without any orders from his Superiour officers in the Militia, though Solicited for by him, and the People here Seemed to be laid under Contribution to Subsist his men –

We hope Care will be taken that every Attack upon our Enemies, through the Province, shall be conducted by proper officers, Orderly, Regularly, and with proper Authority, lest it should Occasion a civil War Among our selves – It is true, in defending our selves, which may be Sudden, Immediate and resolute opposition, in the best manner that can be Suddenly thought of, Should be adopted: but we are afraid, that if any number of men, at any Time, and in any Manner, may collect, together and Attack any thing or any Person, they Please, every Body may be in Danger. – *Sat verbum Sapienti* –

We are also concernd lest there Should a good Deal of Confusion arise, from a Number of our Men in the Country, possessing themselves of the Inlisting Papers lately printed, some calling themselves Colls, some Majors, Appointing their own officers, Adjutants, Chaplains, Chirurgeons, &c, &c, without having, as we can learn, any written orders for so doing : – for they Seem to contend already, who shall be Chief Officers; and they are uncertain whether the Men they Inlist, are

to be Stationed here for our Defence, or march to the Camp at Cambridge, to make up the Standing Army –

Enlisting Papers, we understand, were sent to Genl [Jedediah] Preble, but he, not having any written orders did not Act in the Affair. – If the Army can be completed without drawing men from home, as we have all along been made to understand was the Case, we cant help thinking it wou'd be most prudent; however, we shall not be backward, if there is a real Occasion for Men; and in that Case, we humbly Submit, whether it would not be best as Some Person or Persons Should be Appointed to Conduct the Affair according to orders; in the hope we Shall be Excused for thus Troubling Your Honours, as we were Solicited to do it by a Number of Gentlemen

We are with great Veneration &c

Enoch Freeman p order

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 16, 17.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbour, Casco Bay
Wednesday 10 A M Exercised at Small Arms – a shot was fired from the shore
and entered the Ships side kept under Arms all night.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moor'd in Marblehd Harbr
Wendy 10 at 8 A M came in His Majs Arm'd Schooner *Diana*, with Lieutt
[Alexander] Graham [Graeme], who took Command of the *Lively*,
Capt. Bishop being sent for to Boston P Order V Adml [Samuel]
Graves ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. For the purpose of this order, see Graves's letter June 14, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Cambridge] May 10, 1775

Whereas, the Council of War are of opinion, that many Batteaus, Whale-Boats and other vessels, will immediately, or very soon be wanted in Charles River, and other places; and as there are not a sufficient number of such vessels to be now obtained; it is therefore,

Resolved, That it would be of publick utility to have one or more Master Carpenters immediately engaged in that service; and that this Resolve be immediately sent to [the Provincial] Congress for their consideration.

Mr. Daniel Taylor, of Concord, is empowered to impress a Carriage or Carriages for the bringing down the Oars from that Town to Cambridge.

On a motion made and seconded, Ordered, That William Goodwin have orders to fetch a number of Boats from Charlestown, and likewise orders to press Teams for the same purpose.

Voted, That Mr. Watson be directed and empowered to remove to Cambridge the Boats now in Menotomy River, and to impress what Carriages may be necessary.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 753, 754, from Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Wednesday 10 at 1/2 past 4 A M saw about a hundred Rebels arm'd march round Dorchester Neck . . . [P.M.] Several Rebels frequently in sight on Dorchester Neck. Sent a boat on board the *Elizabeth* [transport] to protect her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

STATEMENT OF DANIEL EGRY ¹

Daniel Egrý of Dartmouth Says that last Sabbath [May 7] a whale Man went thro' Robinsons hold, into the Sound Just at the Eastward lay 3 Tenders, who fired upon the Schooner the Master then ordered the Schooner about again & run into the hold, all the People then left the Vessel by the Masters orders the officer of a Barge then came on board and snapt his Pistol at the Master, which did not go off tho' well primed & all the rest of the Barge Crew cock't their pistols but were ordered by the Officer not to fire – the People of the 3 tenders swore they would have all the Stock on the Island, having forced the Tenants to give an Inventory thereof & intended to sieze five vessels to carry them off & pursued one Vessel which hove in sight – the Name of the Island is Nashon & owned by Mr. [James] Bowdoin suppose there is 3000 Sheep on the Island & a large Stock of Cattle it is supposed they intended to rob the several Islands near In which Islands it is supposed there was 10000 Sheep beside Cattle – May 10. 1775—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 46.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, DATED
MAY 10 [1775]” ¹

Last Friday the *Falcon*, Captain [John] Lindsey [Linzee], took two sloops at Bedford, with intention of sending them to the Islands near the Vineyard, to carry from thence a parcel of sheep to Boston. The Bedford people resented this conduct in such a manner as to immediately fit out two sloops, with thirty men on board, and last Saturday retook them both, with fifteen men on board. In the action there were three of the men of war sailors badly wounded, one of whom is since dead. The other thirteen they immediately sent to Taunton Jail.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 608.

COMMITTEE OF WAR AT TICONDEROGA TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
MASSACHUSETTS, WATERTOWN ¹

Ticonderoga May 11th [*sic*, 10] 1775

This is to certify that previous to Col. Benedict Arnolds arivel to the Forts Ticonderoga & Crown Point a Committee sent from the Colony of Connecticut furnished with Mony for the purpose of reducing and garisoning sd Forts had with the Assistance of 70 Men from the Massach[u]setts & from the N Hampshir Grants marched within a few Miles of Ticonderoga and this Morning at Day Brake took Possesin of sd Fort and have given the Command thereof into the hands of Col Ethen Allen & sd Arnold refuses to give up his Command which Causes much Defficalty sd Arnold not having inlisted one Man neither do we know that he has or can do it and as sd Committee have raised the Men and are still raising Supplies for the purpose of repairing sd Fort takeing the armed sloop and Defending this Country & sd Forts We think that sd Arnolds farther procedure in this Matter highly inexpedient both in regard to expence & Defence

James Easton
Epap. Bull
Edward Mott
Noah Phelps

Comtt of War for the Late Exspedition against Ticonderoga and Cowrn Point

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193.

ETHAN ALLEN'S ACCOUNT OF THE TAKING OF TICONDEROGA ¹

[May 10, 1775]

While I was wishing for an opportunity to signalize myself in its [my country's] behalf, directions were privately sent me from the then colony (now state) of Connecticut to raise the Green Mountain Boys, and, if possible, with them to surprise and take the fortress of Ticonderoga. This enterprise I cheerfully undertook; and, after first guarding all the several passes that led thither, to cut off all intelligence between the garrison and the country, made a forced march from Bennington, and arrived at the lake opposite to Ticonderoga on the evening of the ninth day of May, 1775, with two hundred and thirty valiant Green Mountain Boys and it was with the utmost difficulty that I procured boats to cross the lake. However, I landed eighty-three men near the garrison, and sent the boats back for the rear guard, commanded by Colonel Seth Warner, but the day began to dawn, and I found myself under a necessity to attack the fort, before the rear could cross the lake; and, as it was viewed hazardous, I harangued the officers and soldiers in the manner following

Friends and fellow soldiers: you have for a number of years past, been a scourge and terror to arbitrary power Your valor has been famed abroad, and acknowledged, as appears by the advice and orders to me, from the General Assembly of Connecticut, to surprise and take the garrison now before us. I now propose to advance before you, and, in person, conduct you through the wicket gate; for we must this morning either quit our pretensions

to valor or possess ourselves of this fortress in a few minutes; and, inasmuch as it is a desperate attempt, which none but the bravest of men dare undertake, I do not urge it on any contrary to his will. You that will undertake voluntarily, poise your firelocks.

The men being, at this time, drawn up in three ranks, each poised his firelock. I ordered them to face to the right: and at the head of the centre file marched them immediately to the wicket gate aforesaid, where I found a sentry posted, who instantly snapped his fusée at me: I ran immediately towards him, and he retreated through the covered way into the parade within the garrison, gave a halloo, and ran under a bomb-proof. My party who followed me into the fort, I formed on the parade in such a manner as to face the two barracks which faced each other.

The garrison being asleep, except the sentries, we gave three huzzas which greatly surprised them. One of the sentries made a pass at one of my officers with a charged bayonet, and slightly wounded him. my first thought was to kill him with my sword; but, in an instant, I altered the design and fury of the blow to a slight cut on the side of the head; upon which he dropped his gun, and asked quarter, which I readily granted him, and demanded of him the place where the commanding officer kept; he showed me a pair of stairs in the front of a barrack, on the west part of the garrison, which led up to a second story in said barrack, to which I immediately repaired, and ordered the commander, Captain Delaplace, to come forth instantly or I would sacrifice the whole garrison; at which the Captain came immediately to the door, with his breeches in his hand, when I ordered him to deliver me the fort instantly:

He asked me by what authority I demanded it.

I answered him, "In the name of the great Jehovah, and the Continental Congress."

The authority of the Congress being very little known at that time, he began to speak again; but I interrupted him, and, with my drawn sword over his head, again demanded an immediate surrender of the garrison; with which he then complied, and ordered his men to be forthwith paraded without arms, as he had given up the garrison: In the mean time some of my officers had given orders, and in consequence thereof, sundry of the barrack doors were beat down, and about one third of the garrison imprisoned, which consisted of the said commander, a Lieutenant Feltham, a conductor of artillery, a gunner, two serjeants, and forty-four rank and file; about one hundred pieces of cannon, one thirteen inch mortar and a number of swivels. This surprise was carried out in the gray of the morning of the tenth day of May 1775 . . .

Colonel Warner, with the rear guard, crossed the lake and joined me early in the morning, whom I sent off without loss of time, with about one hundred men, to take possession of Crown Point, which was garrisoned with a serjeant and twelve men; which he took possession of the same day, as also of upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen* (Albany, 1814), 5-10.

WILLIAM McADAMS TO CHRISTOPHER CHAMPLIN¹

Sir

N York May 10th 1775

I Received your favour of the third by Captain Webster, who will deliver this to you, I find That the meaning of the Restraint on provisions is that the Navy or Army shall not be Supplied at present either from this place or Philadelphia – From this Circumstance altho I have a large quantity of Bread now by me which was bought for the Contract, I Cannot Supply you with That, or any Species of provisions at present, I remain Yours &c.

W M^cAdams

1. Champlin Papers, NYSL.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1775

Philadelphia, May 10.

We hear from Charlestown, South-Carolina, that on the 21st of March, at night, about eight hundred stand of small arms, two hundred cutlasses, and all the cartouch boxes, fit for service, with several bundles of match and some flints, were taken out of the public armoury in the state-house; and on the same night the public powder magazine, built about four miles from the town, was broke open, and all the powder carried off, being about five hundred weight. The Governor has offered a reward of one hundred pounds sterling for apprehending the offenders.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1775

Philadelphia.

By a Proclamation in the Carolina papers, we find, that the arms and powder in the public magazines in Charlestown, were removed in the night of the 21st of March, without the consent of the Governor, who is very angry.

G.C. TO VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM PARRY¹

Honour'd Sir

St Croix May 10th 1775.

By this opportunity I take leave to communicate that a combination is between this place & the Britith Collonies of America. I am inform'd this day that they have Ship'd from this place to Norfolk in Virginia 42 Barrells of Gun Powder, & several pieces of Cannon Its a long time since I had the pleasure of seeing your Honr at my friend Admiral [Patrick] O'Hara's in London. he is now dead. I came here from Carolina and, intends soon to return. they have 36 Barrells more ready to Ship & 8 pieces of Cannon. I have wrote to Lord [Frederick] North relative to this matter, least my letter wou'd be opened & being under an arbitrary Government I am apprehensive to sign my Name. I live in Charles Town South Carolina where I wou'd be glad to execute any of your commands from whence I will sign my name in full, a line directed to G: C: at the Coffee house Charles Town South Carolina will come to hand I am Your Honours [&c.]

G:C,²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. The identity of the writer as George Cummerford is contained in the letter of August 3, from Captain Henry Bryne to Vice Admiral James Young

11 May

"LETTER FROM FALMOUTH, MASS., [MAINE PROVINCE] TO A GENTLEMAN IN
WATERTOWN, DATED MAY 11, 1775." ¹

Sir: It may not be disagreeable to you to have a more particular account of the solemn scene that has been acted here for two of three days past, than it can be expected common fame will give you.

Last Tuesday morning [May 9], Lieutenant Colonel [Samuel] Thompson, of Brunswick, with about fifty armed men, with each a small bough of spruce in his hat, and having a spruce pole, with a green top on it for a standard, landed on the back part of our Neck, at a place called Sandy Point, where is a thick grove of trees. In that place they lay, unknown to the people of the Town, seizing and detaining several persons that happened to pass that way, till about one o'clock, when Captain [Henry] Mowat, the Surgeon of his Ship, and the Reverend Mr. [John] Wiswel, taking a walk that way for their pleasure, were seized and made prisoners. As soon as the master of the ship (one Hogg) heard of it, he wrote to Colonel [Enoch] Freeman, that if Captain Mowat and the other prisoners were not delivered up in an hour or two, (I do not certainly know the time) he would lay the Town in ashes. You can hardly conceive the consternation, confusion, and uproar that immediately ensued. Our women were, I believe, every one of them in tears, or praying, or screaming; precipitately leaving their houses, especially those whose husbands were not at home, and widows hurrying their goods into countrymen's carts, never asking their names, though strangers, and carrying their children either out of Town, or up to the south end, according to the greater or less irritability of their nerves. Some persons bed-ridden, or in childbed, were hastily removed, with no small danger of their lives. Several gentlemen of the Town, who could attend it, and I among the rest, immediately repaired to Colonel Thompson's camp; and after obtaining leave of the advance guard, were permitted to speak with him. We endeavoured to persuade him to deliver up the prisoners, by all the rational arguments we could think of, but he appeared inflexible, and even furious. Here and there one in the Town (none but Tories however) were at first for rescuing the prisoners by our Militia; but the general voice of the Town was to observe a strict neutrality, excepting persuasive and arguments.

Colonel [Edmund] Phinney, of Gorham, Colonel of the Minute-Men, being in Town, and fearing a rescue, or for some other reason, sent out for his men, I suppose without asking the advice of any body; and soon afterwards sent word that they need not come in to Town. Night was coming on, and the weather cool and windy, which endangered the health of some of the gentlemen, at least in the open field. It was therefore agreed by Colonel Freeman and his advisers, at the desire of Mowat, and by the free consent of Thompson, that the company of Cadets should escort the party and the prisoners to Mr. [Brackett] Marston's, in order that a consultation might be further held there. The two companies remained embodied before the door. Colonel Thompson remained unwilling to deliver up the prisoners, insisting much that Divine Providence had thrown them into his hands, and that it was open and settled war between the Colonies

and Britain. But he was more and more convinced that the whole force of the Town was against him, and found himself disappointed of a reinforcement that he expected to meet him here; so that by about nine o'clock in the evening he was much cooled; and the prisoners giving their parole that they would deliver themselves into his hands at nine the next morning, General [Jedediah] Preble and Colonel Freeman pledging themselves for them, he consented to set them at liberty. Upon which Mowat having expressed his gratitude to the Town in strong terms, went aboard and dismissed a number of our people, who the master had, during the afternoon, caught in boats and made prisoners. But when Colonel Thompson's men found that he had given Mowat his liberty, they were hard to pacify. Not only Colonel Phinney's Minute-Men, but most of the Militia from Gorham, Scarborough, Cape Elizabeth, and Stroudwater, in the whole amounting, it is said to six hundred, came into Town before morning, highly enraged at Captain Mowat's being dismissed, and seemingly determined to destroy his ship. Wednesday morning, when it was found that Mowat would not deliver himself up, the Army took and made prisoners of General Preble and Colonel Freeman, threatening to treat them in the same manner as they would treat Mowat, if they had him. Even their children were not permitted to speak with them, and they had no dinner that day. All the officers of the companies then present agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of War; and after some hesitation they admitted the officers of our companies on the Neck, into the Committee; in which Committee a vote was passed by a considerable majority, that Captain Mowat's ship ought to be destroyed. In the next place they appointed a Committee out of their number, to consider in what manner it should be done. This Committee have not yet reported as I can find; but they have proceeded to call men before them who were suspected of being Tories, to question them, to draw promises from them, and especially to draw money and provisions from them. The Reverend Mr. Wiswel delivered himself up very willingly, and seemed rather impatient till they had him with them; saying to some that passed by his door, he was ready to die at any time, as he knew he was in a good cause – the cause of the Church of England.

The Committee interrogated him concerning his political principles. He declared an abhorrence of the doctrine of passive obedience and non-resistance, and that he thought Great Britain had no right to tax American internally; but as to the late Acts of Parliament, he had not examined them, and did not choose to give his opinions concerning them.

Old Mr. [David] Wyer had a file of men sent after him, who, holding a pistol to his breast, forced him to go before the Committee; and when there he was interrogated whether he had said, "the Militia ought to rescue Captain Mowat?" to which he answered in the affirmative; also, whether he did not think it an imprudent speech? to which he answered, yes; also, whether he were of the same mind now? He answered, no, as matters are circumstanced; then whether he would say any thing again against the body of men in Town? He said, no. The Committee soon agreed to dismiss him, and one of them said he was not worth their notice. He thanked the gentlemen for their civility, made a low bow, and de-

parted. Captain Steward called to the crowd before the door, to make way for Mr. Wyer, and told them out of the window the Committee had dismissed him as unworthy of their notice.

Captain [Jeremiah] Pote was fetched before the Committee, without making any resistance, though he had made formidable preparations to defend himself. It is reported that the Committee made him give them, for the benefit of the body, about fifty Pounds, (old tenour,) in cash and provisions, and that they have bound him in a bond of two thousand Pounds, to appear at the Congress of the Province, and give an account of himself to them. They taxed General Preble some barrels of bread and a number of cheeses, and two barrels of rum for each company then in Town, which he readily gave them, Wednesday afternoon, in value about ten Pounds, lawful money. Wednesday evening they made out a bill of one hundred and fifty-eight Pounds, lawful money, against Preble and Freeman, to satisfy the body for their time and trouble in the expedition; but I hear they have dropped that demand.

Yesterday morning they entered the house of Captain [Thomas] Coulson, and they use it as a barrack. The men made so free with a barrel of New-England rum, which they found in the cellar, that some of them were quite, and others almost drunken.

Between meetings yesterday, Calvin Lombard, being raised with liquor, went down to the water side and fired a brace of balls at Mowat's ship, which penetrated deep in its sides. The fire was answered from a fuse on board, but with no aim to do execution. Captain Mowat immediately wrote to Colonel Freeman to deliver up Calvin, and to raise the militia to dispel the mob from the country, as he called them, assuring him that otherwise he must fire upon the Town. This threw the Town again into a panick, but we had, notwithstanding, a pretty full meeting in the afternoon.

Yesterday they hauled Captain Coulson's boat up to the house, where it remained till just now, three quarters after twelve, when near a hundred men hauled it up through the streets and into Captain [Moses] Pearson's back lot, down almost to the Cove. It is reported that Mowat sent word, or wrote on shore last evening, that he had bought that boat of Coulson, and paid for it, and that if it were not returned immediately, or speedily, he would fire upon the Town. He doubtless saw it hauled away just now, but as he has not fired as yet; and here I sit writing at my desk in the old place, being fully convinced that Mowat never will fire upon the Town, in any case whatever. My house is turned into a kind of barrack. Several have removed bedding and other goods into it. We are full at nights. I dont know why people think themselves as safe here, unless it be because my wife is not yet much affrighted.

This morning the Committee sent to Deacon [Benjamin] Titcomb for one hundred pounds of bread, who returned for answer that he had no bread but what he wanted for himself; but if the company would go out of Town immediately, he would give it to them. Colonel Phinney promised that he would do his utmost endeavour to get them out of Town to-day; therefore the bread was delivered.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Thursday 11 the Town full of Armed Men threat'ning Destruction to the Ship,
and Plundering the Town – came onbd the Collector and
Minister ² for protection

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

2. The Rev. John Wiswell and George Lyde Collector of Customs.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Lively*, ALEXANDER GRAEME,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Moor'd in Marblehd Harbr

Thursday 11 at ½ past noon Capt. Bishop went onboard the *Diana* with 4
Boxes 1 Chest of Money & sailed for Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, May 11, 1775. Noon

Information being made to this Congress that two Men-of-War, with Troops,
had sailed from Boston to New-York,² with a design, as it is supposed, of
frustrating a design of the inhabitants of that Colony and Connecticut, to secure
the Arms and Ammunition now in the Fort at New-York.

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Colonel [James] Warren, and Col.
[Benjamin] Lincoln, be a Committee to prepare a Letter to the Committee of
Correspondence of New York, informing them of the sailing of the said Men-of-
War, and inserting such articles therein, as will put the people upon their guard
against any attempt that may be made against them by said Ships.

Ordered, That this Committee prepare said Letter, and forward it forthwith,
without waiting to report to this Congress, said Committee laying before this
Congress, as soon as may be, a copy of said Letter.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 799, 800, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.2. Only one ship was ordered for New York at this time, the *Asia*, of 64 guns, which sailed for
New York on May 8, 1775. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS TO
COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen

Water Town May 11th 1775

We are directed by the Congress of this Colony, who are just informed that
two Men of War, the *Asia* & another with three or four Companies of Troops on
board sailed yesterday from Boston for your place, to give you the earliest Notice
thereof –

It is supposed that they have orders to secure the Ammunition & military
Stores in the Fort of your City &c & your noble Exertions in the common Cause
have given the Congress Reason to think that a timely Information relative to

this Matter would be important to you – the post is now waiting, which prevents Us from indulging our Inclination of enlarging – We are respectfully Gentlemen

Elb^e Gerry
James Warren
Benj^a Lincoln
Commee of Congress

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 182.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 11 May 1775

The necessity for relieving some of the King's Ships to the Southward being very urgent I purpose to send the *Otter* on that Duty, if your Excellency thinks she can be spared without prejudice to the Service of this Port.

The *Nautilus* will sail in a few days for Savannah in Georgia Captain [John] Collins shall stop in the Delaware, at Virginia and at the Two Carolinas with any dispatches Your Excellency may have for these places. I have the honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy.

Boston 11th May 1775.

Sir I have received your letter of the 9th Inst and thank you for ordering a Sloop ready to depart with any dispatches that may be Necessary to be sent from this place. As soon as his Majesty's Service requires it, I shall do myself the pleasure to Acquaint you.

I shall be glad to see you on Saturday next [May 13] at 10 oClock in the Morning, to meet the Commissioners of the Customs, to consult About Mr George Ewings, petition to you, in regard to the preservation of his Vessells. –

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir &ca.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]

Thursday 11 at 8 P M called all hands to Quarters. Sent a Boat to protect the *Elizabeth* [transport] & the Pinnace manned & armed to row Guard round the Bay.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775

At Single Anchor in Holmes's Hole

Thursdy 11 at 7 [A M] Came too Et Chop Holmes's Hole W B S old Town
S B E Spoke a Ship from Maryland to Cork laden with flower

and Corn which we detain'd Sent the Master and 6 Men on Bd the above Ship² Came too in Holmes's Hole with the Bt Br East Chop Et Wt Chop SW at 11 Brought too a Schooner from Boston. at 3 P M Bro't too a Sloop at 6 Seiz'd a Sloop from Nantuckett for Having no Clearance

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The ship *Champion*; see Graves's Narrative, May 29, 1775. Linzee sent her to Boston on 15 May.

JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sr

Hartford May 11th 1775

The Governor, and Council have ordered me to purchase, Three Hundred Barrells, Or Six Hundred Half Barrells of Gun Powder, – Am advised to Apply to you. Admit you will Undertake it according to the former Agreement, please to let me hear from you; the first Opportunity. – It is proposed to keep our own Council I am &c.

John Lawrence

P.S. If you do undertake let there be no Delay. –

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

May 11 [1775].

We set sail from Skenesborough in a schooner belonging to Major [Philip] Skene, which we christened *Liberty*.

1. This journal in the form of a letter from Ticonderoga, dated May 23, 1775, was published in the *New England Chronicle*, Cambridge, June 1, 1775. While the name of the writer was not revealed in the letter as published, his identity may be readily ascertained through contemporary letters. Hereafter cited as "Oswald's Journal."

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775

I wrote you yesterday that arriving in the vicinity of this place, I found one hundred and fifty men collected at the instance of some gentlemen from Connecticut (designed on the same errand on which I came) headed by Colonel Ethan Allen, and that I had joined them, not thinking proper to wait the arrival of the Troops I had engaged on the road, but to attempt the Fort by surprise; that we had taken the Fort at four o'clock yesterday morning without opposition, and had made prisoners, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and forty odd privates and subalterns, and that we found the Fort in a most ruinous condition and not worth repairing; that a party of fifty men were gone to Crown Point, and that I intended to follow with as many men to seize the sloop, &c. and that I intended to keep possession here until I had farther advice from you. On and before our taking possession here, I had agreed with Colonel Allen to issue further orders jointly, until I could raise a sufficient number of men to relieve his people; on which plan we proceeded when I wrote you yesterday, since which, Colonel Allen, finding he had the ascendancy over his people, positively insisted I should have no command, as I

had forbid the soldiers plundering and destroying private property. The power is now taken out of my hands, and I am not consulted, nor have I a voice in any matters. There is here at present near one hundred men, who are in the greatest confusion and anarchy, destroying and plundering private property, committing every enormity, and paying no attention to public service. The party I advised were gone to Crown Point, are returned, having met with head winds, and that expedition, and taking the sloop, (mounted with six guns,) is entirely laid aside. There is not the least regularity among the Troops, but every thing is governed by whim and caprice; the soldiers threatening to leave the garrison on the least affront. Most of them must return home soon, as their families are suffering. Under our present situation, I believe one hundred men would retake the Fortress, and there seems no prospect of things being in a better situation. I have therefore thought proper to send an express, advising you of the state of affairs, not doubting you will take the matter into your serious consideration, and order a number of Troops to join those I have coming on here, or that you will appoint some other person to take the command of them and this place, as you shall think most proper. Colonel Allen is a proper man to head his own wild people, but entirely unacquainted with military service; and as I am the only person who has been legally authorized to take possession of this place, I am determined to insist on my right, and I think it my duty to remain here against all opposition, until I have further orders. I cannot comply with your orders in regard to the cannon, &c., for want of men. I have wrote to the Governour and General Assembly of Connecticut, advising them of my appointment, and giving them an exact detail of matters as they stand at present. I should be extremely glad to be honourably acquitted of my commission and that a proper person might be appointed in my room. But as I have, in consequence of my orders from you, gentlemen, been the first person who entered and took possession of the Fort, I shall keep it, at every hazard, until I have further advice and orders from you and the General Assembly of Connecticut.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen [&c.]

Benedict Arnold.

P.S. It is impossible to advise you how many cannon are here and at Crown Point, as many of them are buried in the ruins. There is a large number of iron, and some brass, and mortars, &c., lying on the edge of the Lake, which, as the Lake is high, are covered with water. The confusion we have been in has prevented my getting proper information, further than that there are many cannon, shells, mortars, &c. which may be very serviceable to our Army at Cambridge. B.A.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 557.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775.

I have to inform you with pleasure unfelt before, that on break of day of the tenth of May, 1775, by the order of the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, took the Fortress of Ticonderoga by storm. The soldiery was composed

of about one hundred Green Mountain Boys, and near fifty veteran soldiers from the Province of Massachusetts-Bay. The latter was under the command of Colonel James Easton, who behaved with great zeal and fortitude, not only in council, but in the assault. The soldiery behaved with such resistless fury, that they so terrified the King's Troops that they durst not fire on their assailants, and our soldiery was agreeably disappointed. The soldiery behaved with uncommon rancour when they leaped into the Fort; and it must be confessed that the Colonel has greatly contributed to the taking of that Fortress, as well as John Brown, Esq., Attorney at Law, who was also an able counsellor, and was personally in the attack. I expect the Colonies will maintain this Fort. As to the cannon and warlike stores, I hope they may serve the cause of liberty instead of tyranny, and I humbly implore your assistance in immediately assisting the Government of Connecticut in establishing a garrison in the reduced premises. Colonel Easton will inform you at large.

From, gentlemen, [&c.]

Ethan Allen.

To the Honourable Congress of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, or Council of War.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 556.

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY¹

Gentlemen:

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775.

I have the inexpressible satisfaction to acquaint you that at day-break of the tenth instant, pursuant to my directions from sundry leading Gentlemen of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, I took the fortress of Ticonderoga, with about one hundred and thirty Green Mountain Boys. Colonel [James] Easton with about forty-seven valiant soldiers, distinguished themselves in the action. Colonel [Benedict] Arnold entered the fortress with me side by side. The guard was so surprised, that contrary to expectation they did not fire on us, but fled with precipitancy. We immediately entered the fortress and took the garrison prisoners, without bloodshed, or any opposition. They consisted of one Captain, and a Lieutenant and forty two men.

Little more need be said. You know Governour [Guy] Carleton of Canada will exert himself to retake it; and as your County is nearer than any other part of the Colonies, and as your inhabitants have thoroughly manifested their zeal in the cause of their Country, I expect immediate assistance from you both in men and provisions. You cannot exert yourself too much in so glorious a cause. The number of men need be more at first, till the other Colonies can have time to muster. I am apprehensive of a sudden and quick attack. Pray be quick to our relief, and send us five hundred men immediately – fail not. From your friend [&c.]

Ethan Allen

Abraham Yates, Chairman of the Committee, Albany

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 606.

EDWARD MOTT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

Shoreham, May 11, 1775

I would congratulate you on the surrender of the Garrison of Ticonderoga to the American Forces. The affair was planned and conducted after the following manner. A number of the principal gentlemen of the Assembly at Hartford, on Friday, the twenty-eighth of April, conversing on the distressed condition of the people of Boston, and the means necessary to relieve them, fell on the scheme to take that Fortress, that we might have the advantage of the Cannon that were there, to relieve the people of Boston. I told the gentlemen that in my opinion it might be taken by surprise with a few men if properly conducted. On which they desired me, if I was willing to serve my Country in that way, to joint Captain Noah Phelps of Simsbury, and Mr. Bernard Romans, on that design, and furnished us with three hundred Pounds in cash, from the Treasury, and desired us to go forward to the upper Towns, and search into the situation of said Garrison, and, if I thought proper, to proceed to take possession of the same. On which we collected to the number of sixteen men in Connecticut, and proceeded forward till we came to Colonel [James] Easton's, at Pittsfield, and there consulted with Colonel Easton and John Brown, Esq., who, after they heard our plan of operation agreed to join us; and, after informing them that we intended raising our men on the [New Hampshire] Grants for the aforesaid purpose, as it would be difficult to raise and march a number of men through the country any distance, without our plans being discovered, Colonel Easton and Mr. Brown told us that the people on the Grants were poor, and at this time of year it would be difficult to raise a sufficient number of men there to take and hold said Garrison, whereupon Colonel Easton offered to raise men in his own Regiment for the aforesaid purpose, to join with the Green Mountain Boys.² On which I set out with him for the Town of Jericho, where Colonel Easton raised between forty and fifty men, and proceeded to Bennington, at which place the men arrived the next day. At which place a Council of War was called, Colonel Easton being Chairman, it was voted that Colonel [Ethan] Allen should send forward parties to secure the roads to the northward to prevent all intelligence from arriving before us. On Sunday evening, the seventh of this instant, we arrived at Castleton, where, the next day, was held a Council of War by a Committee chosen for that purpose, of which Committee I have the honour to be Chairman. After debating and consulting on different methods of procedure in order to accomplish our designs, it was concluded and voted that we would proceed in the following manner, viz: That a party of thirty men, under the command of Captain Herrick, should, on the next day, in the afternoon, proceed to Skenesborough, and take into custody Major [Philip] Skene and his party, and take possession of all the boats that they should find there, and in the night proceed up the Lake to Shoreham, with the remainder of our men, which was about one hundred and forty, who were under the command of Colonel Ethan Allen, and Colonel James Easton was his second, and Captain [Seth] Warner the third in command; as these three men were the persons who raised the men, they were chosen to command, and to rank according

to the number of men that each one raised. We also sent off Captain [Asa] Douglass, of Jericho, to proceed directly to Pantan, and there consult his brother-in-law who lived there, and send down some boats to Shoreham, if possible, to help our people over to the Fort. All this was concluded should be done, or attempted and voted universally. After this affair was all settled, and the men pitched on to go in each party, all were preparing for their march, being then within about nine miles of Skenesborough, and about twenty-five miles, the way we went, from Ticonderoga.

Colonel [Benedict] Arnold arrived to us from you with his orders. We were extremely rejoiced to see that you fully agreed with us as to the expediency and importance of taking possession of those garrisons, but were shockingly surprised when Colonel Arnold presumed to contend for the command of those forces that we had raised, who we had assured should go under the command of their own officers, and be paid and maintained by the Colony of Connecticut. But Mr. Arnold, after we had generously told him our whole plan, strenuously contended and insisted that he had a right to command them and all their officers, which bred such a mutiny among the soldiers which had nearly frustrated our whole design, as our men were for clubbing their fire-locks and marching home, but were prevented by Colonel Allen and Colonel Easton, who told them that he should not take the command of them, and if he had, their pay would be the same as though they were under their command; but they would damn the pay, and say they would not be commanded by any others but those they engaged with; and after the Garrison was surrendered, Mr. Arnold again assumed the command of the Garrison, although he had not one man there, and demanded it of Colonel Allen, on which we gave Colonel Allen his orders in writing, as follows, viz.

To Colonel Ethan Allen,

Sir, Whereas agreeable to the power and authority to us given by the Colony of Connecticut, we have appointed you to take the command of a party of men, and reduce and take possession of the Garrison at Ticonderoga, and the dependencies thereto belonging, and as you are now in actual possession of the same, you are hereby required to keep the command and possession of the same, for the use of the American Colonies, until you have further orders from the Colony of Connecticut, or the Continental Congress.

Signed by order of the Committee of War,

Edward Mott, Chairman.

Colonel James Easton was of great service both in council and action, and in raising men for the above expedition, and appeared to be well qualified to be not only a Colonel of the Militia at home, but to command in the field. And also John Brown, Esq., of Pittsfield, we recommend as an able counsellor, and full of spirit and resolution, as well as good conduct; wish they may both be employed in the service of their Country equal to their merit.

I have the pleasure to add, that on Wednesday morning last, the tenth of this instant about the break of day, our men entered the gate, till when they were undiscovered, and in the most courageous and intrepid manner darted like lightning upon the guards, so that but two had time to snap their fire-locks at

us, and in a few minutes the Fortress, with its dependencies were delivered into our hands. There are about forty soldiers taken prisoners of war, including Officers, and excluding those taken at Skenesborough. Not one life lost in these noble acquisitions.

I am, Gentlemen, in haste [&c.]

Edward Mott,
Chairman of the Committee of War.

Per favour of Colonel James Easton

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 557-560, from Mass. Arch., vol. 193.
2. See the letter from Pittsfield, May 4, 1775.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO JAMES FORDE, DROGHEDA ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 11 May, 1775]

Could a Vessell be got at present for your port we would ship your Seacond Cargo of Wheat, for two reasons. the first is from the letters we formerly wrote you Quoting the prices will prevent your Chartering a Vessell – the Seacond is the Certainty of our ports being shut here (by our own Consent) soon. will prevent the supplys going to you that otherwise would & of Course a Seacond Cargo would answer with you but we are fearful it will not be in our power to get a Vessell for your port as the[y] are scarce at present . . . Our Congress are now Sitting & the probabillity of our ports soon being shut makes prices keep up as every person that has a Ship here are pushing to get her away

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

WILLIAM SALMON TO WILLIAM BRYAN, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 11 May, 1775]

. . . Our Differences with England at present Caries a bad face As the troops & people at Boston have had an Engagement in which the troops have been worsted Since then people in General are all taking the Muskett except some few that Really wish the acts of Parliament would take place We suppose from Interested Views. from the Situation of Matters here at present we think that all business will soon be stopped In which case we suppose every person on this side will have nothing to do, but to prepare for fighting we wish to hear from you soon

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

12 May

“[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A
GENTLEMAN IN WATERTOWN” ¹

Friday [May 12, 1775], 3 o'clock. – They have just hauled another boat over to Back Cove, and left it with the former. The boat belongs to the ship. They have this day carried off Mr. [William] Tyng's Bishop, a piece of plate said to be worth five hundred Pounds, (old tenour,) and his laced hat; but they

say they only take these things as pawns, to make the owners behave better, or to that purpose.

Friday, 6 o'clock. – The Gorham Company being the only one that remained here since Wednesday evening, excepting [Samuel] Thompson, are now gone out of Town, being urged and coaxed to it by Colonel [Edmund] Phinney. The Town thinks itself greatly relieved by it.

These companies paid no regard to the fast yesterday. I cannot find that any of them attended publick worship, except one; nor any of their officers, except Colonel Phinney. He was sent for to Back Cove by Colonel [Jonathan] Mitchell and Colonel [Moses] Merrill, who were vexed at the proceedings of the armament, and came to give advice. But Thompson would not wait on his senior.

The soldiery thought nothing too bad to say of the Falmouth gentry. Some of them were heard to say as they walked the streets yesterday, "this Town ought to be laid in ashes." I find the plan was concerted beforehand on purpose to humble Falmouth, for its arrogance in sending a message to Thompson last week, to dissuade him from coming to take the ships. He then wrote to Colonel [Enoch] Freeman that he had wholly laid aside his design; and being reminded of it, his answer was, "there is policy in war."

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 554, 555.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor, Casco Bay

Friday 12 Empd as before, watching the motion of the Rebels – Fired several Shot at different Craft to bring them to. heard that the Rebels began to Disperse

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

New England Chronicle, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1775

Cambridge, May 12.

A Spanish ship of about 150 Tons, bound from the Havanna to Cadiz, having lost her Rudder and all her Masts, was met with in great Distress on the Grand Bank, by two Marblehead fishing schooners, who took up her Men, together with a Quantity of Snuff, Tobacco, &c. and 23,000 Dollars in Cash; all which were brought safe into Marblehead on Saturday last [May 6], but soon after taken Possession of by the *Lively Man of War*.¹

1. See Graves to Stephens, June 14, 1775.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CUSTOMS TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir The Collector & Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at Falmouth having by their Letter of the 29th ultimo expressed Apprehensions for their Safety in case His Majesty's Ship *Canceaux* should be ordered from that Place and prayed

that Protection may be afforded them in their present critical Situation – We herewith annex a Copy of the said Letter for your Information –

We are Sir [&c.]

W^m Burch Henry Hulton Benj. Hallowell

Custom House Boston 12th May 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William [Island Boston Harbor]

Friday 12 At 4 A M saw a hundred Rebels on Dorchester Neck. Dischargd the hands from quarters [P M] Saw 38 Rebels hawling their Seine on Dorchester Point

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

ETHAN ALLEN TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Honobl Sr

Ticonderoga 12th May 1775

I make You a Present of a Major a Captain and Two Lieuts in the regular Establishment of George the Third I hope they may serve as ransoms for Some of our Friends at Boston and particularly for Capt [John] Brown of Rhodiseland a Party of men under the Command of Capt [Samuel] Herick has Took Possession Scanesborough Imprisoned Major [Philip] Sceene and Seized a Schooner of his, I Expect in Ten Days Time to have it rigged maned and armed with 6 or 8 Pieces of Canon which with the Boats in our Possession I Purpose to make an Attack on the armed Sloop of George the Third which is Now Crusing on Lake Champlain and is about Twice as bigg as the Schooner, I Hope in a Short Time to be authorised to acquaint Your Honour that Lake Champlain & the fortifications thereon are subjected to the Colonies

The Enterprise has been approbated by the Officers and Soldiary of the Green Mountain Boys Nor do I hisitate as to the Success I Expect Lives must be Lost in the Attack as the Comander of George's Sloop is a man of Courage &c.

I Conclude Capt [Seth] Worner is by this Time in Possession of Crown Point the Ordnance Stores &c I Conclude Governor [Guy] Carleton will Exert himself to oppose us & Command the Lake &c. – Messrs [Benjamin] Hickok, [Jeremiah] Halsey – & [Moses] Nichols have the Charge of Conducting the Officers to Hartford These Gentlemen have been Very Assiduous and active in the Late Expedition I Depend upon Your Honours aid and Assisstance in a Situation so Contiguous to Canada,

I Subscribe my Self Your Honours [&c.]

Ethan Allen

At Present Commander of Ticonderoga

1. *Bulletin*, Fort Ticonderoga Museum, IV, 3, 65.

ABRAHAM YATES, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, TO
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF NEW YORK ¹

Gentlemen:

Albany, May 12, 1775

We applied to you on the third instant, for your advice on an application to us for supplying with provisions, &c., some Troops from Connecticut, on their intended attack against Ticonderoga, &c. and it is to our great regret that we have hitherto received no answer, although we pressed it, and have since wrote to you on the subject, by Colonel [Philip] Schuyler, since which time frequent applications have been made to us on the same subject; and as we are unacquainted with the sentiments of our Colony on this very important enterprise, we have declined interfering.

We have just now received the original of the enclosed copy; ² by its contents you will see that they have succeeded in surprising Ticonderoga, and that a requisition is made for men and provisions in order to enable them to repair and hold that fortress. Mr. [John] Brown, who was personally in the action, brought the letter, and made the demand, says, that the prisoners were on their way to this City; but that unless they are immediately assisted, they are afraid they will be obliged to abandon the fort, and leave the artillery behind, of which there are about two hundred pieces, great and small. He is dissatisfied with our answers, and went away abruptly, though we told him the circumstances we were in, and that we would immediately despatch an express to you. We hope you will no longer keep us in suspense.

As the Troops in Canada will probably endeavour to retake it, the consequence of this enterprise will probably involve the northern parts of this Colony in the horrors of war and devastation, and therefore we earnestly call on you furnish us with your advice in this alarming crisis, immediately by Captain Barent Ten Eyck, who is sent express. We are, Gentlemen [&c.]

Abraham Yates, Jun; Chairman

By order of the Committee of the City of Albany

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 605, 606.

2. Enclosing Ethan Allen's letter of May 11, 1775.

INTELLIGENCE FROM NEW YORK RECEIVED BY VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

New York 12 May 1775

The City of New York is at present in a perfect State of Anarchy and Confusion, the Civil Power being wrested out of the hands of the Magistrates by a set of Rioters who have broke open the City Hall and distributed the City Arms, and embodied themselves and are taking every opportunity of persecuting the friends of Government, some of whom are obliged to go on board the *Kings fisher* for Security (Doctor [Myles] Cooper & James Rivington.) The Committee has come to a resolution not to suffer any Provisions to be sent to Boston, Nova Scotia, or Newfoundland, nor to carry on any Trade with the Canadians, they have also come to a resolution not to suffer the King's Troops to go from hence (should they be ordered) And have sent to the General Congress to know if they shall attack them, in which Case a re-inforcement of Ships would be

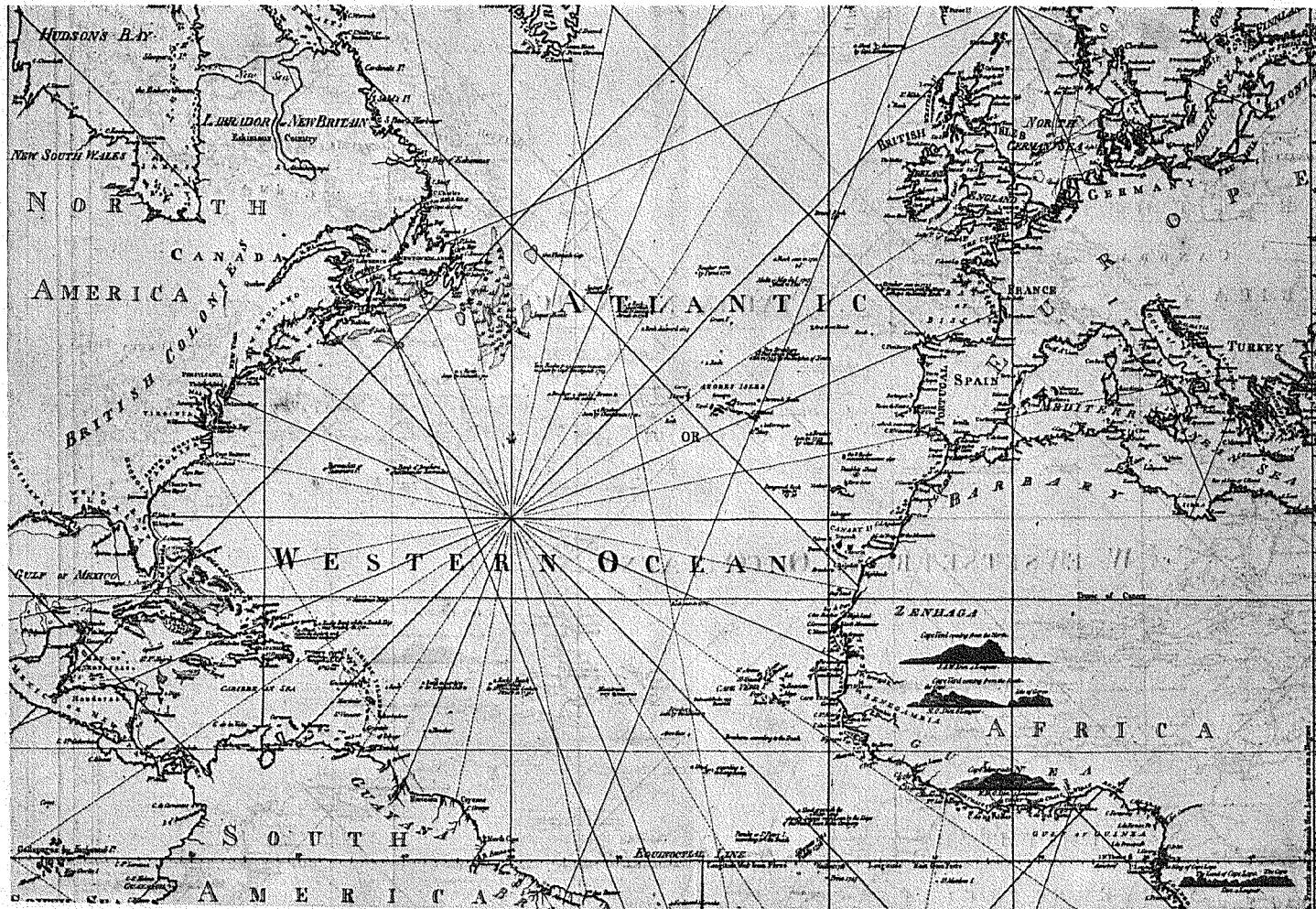


Chart of the Atlantic Ocean, 1775.

Necessary; Let their determination be what they will a few Ships of War would be a great Means of Keeping the licentious in Awe.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Att Single Anchor in Holmes's Hole.

Frydy 12 at 10 A M Sent the Gunners Mate Surgeons mate and 11 Men On Board the above Sloop [seized the previous day] ² at ½ past 11 Weighd and Came to Sail at 2 P M fird a Six poundr and a Swivel Shotted to bring too a Schooner at 4 Came too in Tarpolen Cove with the Bt Br Wt point S W at 9 fird a Six poundr and Swivel at a Schooner.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Linzee's journal makes no mention of what happened to this sloop; see *New York Gazette*, May 22, and *Massachusetts Spy*, Worcester, May 24, 1775.

3. The two schooners seized, and which were later condemned and sold at Boston, were the *Hawke* and *Doctors Box*, both laden with fish.

WILLIAM SALMON TO CAPTAIN JAMES GREEN ¹

[Baltimore 12 May, 1775]

You are now Ready for sea with the Schooner *Industry* ² under your Command & we Request your proceeding Immediately for Dublin, & on Your Arrival there Apply to Mr Geo Darley on the North Strand & Deliver him all the letters you may have or if he is not at home to some of his Family & take yr further orders from him, if you should put into any other port in Ireland before you get to Dublin (which we hope will not be the Case) be sure you write Mr Darley Immediately, You will plase take notice that from the day you took Charge of yr Vessel you are to have Seven pounds p Month a Privilage of twelve barrells of flour & one Shilling brittish p day while you Remain in Dublin We are Sir

Wishing you a Good passage Yrs

W. S.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. This is an entirely erroneous report. Lord Percy was not wounded, and Haldimand was not headings, 20 half barrels flour and 620 oak planks, cleared May 8, 1775," Port of Entry Books, 1745-1775, MdHS. This is the only entry in the book where the Christian name of the Captain is missing. The letter above supplies this deficiency.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore 12 May, 1775]

The most particular acct. we can hear of the Late Unhappy affair at Boston is that their are Upwards of 300 of the troops Killed Missing & Wounded. Amongst the last is Lord Piercy & Gl. [Frederick] Haldiman & Since the Engagement Piercy is dead,² amongst the Country 40 odd Killed in which is one Colonell Gardner,³ it seems the troops lost their Old English Courage & turnd privet Murderers of Old Men & Children thus far you may be assured that the troops fired first & that their never ware more than 600 Country people Engaged their 1700 Men untill the[y] got Close to Charles town whare the Country people got more assistance & if I Judge well I really think that if 5000 troops Comes out the[y]

will not put the accts in force as those people to the Northward Seem Resolved to die or be free & the spirit of freedom seems to spread fast, as all the Southern provinces are getting under Armes. You need not wonder at the Assembly of N. York as the[y] are all place Men, but be assured Liberty has learge Majority in all that province, Numbers of Vessells are Loading for England say London & Bristol but not one for Ireland, but I find there is a Snow this Morning Come up from Belfast I have not Yet heard who is too, but I suppose to Ewing I have not yet got any letters

You may be assured that all Exporting will stop agreeable to the Rules of the Congress & I think before as our [Provincial] Congress are now sitting at present & from the proceedings of General [Thomas] Gage we have Reason to Expect that all exports whatever will soon stop but of that you shall hear the Earliest Intelligence

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. This is an entirely erroneous report. Lord Percy was not wounded, and Haldimand was not in the engagement.
3. Captain Isaac Garner, of the Brookline company of Massachusetts militia.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1775

Williamsburg, May 12.

This day, about two o'clock, the Right Hon. the Countess of Dunmore, with the rest of the Governor's family, who have for some time past been on board the *Fowey* man of war, arrived at the palace in this city, to the great joy of the inhabitants, and, we make no doubt, of the whole country, who have the most unfeigned regard for her Ladyship, and wish her long to live amongst us.

JAMES MILLER TO ALEXANDER PURDIE ¹

Mr. Purdie,

Williamsburg, May 12, 1775

It is an unpardonable crime in any man wantonly to rob his neighbour of his fortune and reputation, by a partial representation of facts.² Your correspondent should have informed the publick that Mr. [Samuel] Gist is principal owner of the ship *Mary*, and has the sole management of her himself; that he built her to accommodate his friends in Virginia with freight, in a good stout vessel; and that the small part Mr. [John] Wilkinson has in her was intended to promote that end, by his superintending the building of her in Yorkshire, where he resides. I hope the impartial publick will consider that Mr. Wilkinson's political principles did not appear at the time Mr. Gist became connected with him, that, in short, they do not now appear, as it is notorious that when ships are wanted for government service the King does not ask merchants whether they are willing or not to let them. If Mr. Wilkinson has voluntarily transgressed, I can pledge myself for Mr. Gist that he will resent it in such manner as is most agreeable to the Americans, and will conduce the most to promote the glorious cause in which they are embarked: His connexions with, and the obligations he is under to Virginia are well known, and he is very ready to acknowledge them. Several Gentlemen, who are just arrived from England, can testify that he proved himself a zealous friend to American liberty on a late important occasion. The querist

is respectfully acquainted, that it is possible to serve a friend without injuring the innocent. I am, Mr. Purdie, your's, the publick's, and especially Mr. Gist's friends, obedient humble servant, and, whenever it is requisite they shall be waited upon in person, by

James Miller³

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 12, 1775.

2. See "An Anonymous Letter to Alexander Purdie, May 5, 1775."

3. Captain of the ship *Mary*.

13 May

"[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A GENTLEMAN IN
WATERTOWN"¹

Saturday [May 13, 1775], A.M. — [Samuel] Thompson is not gone, as we supposed last night. The ship has sent out a little vessel with a swivel to interrupt him. If he had gone last night he would have been destroyed. Your friend and servant.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 555.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston the 13th of May 1775.

Mr Coffin Cashier of the Customs having Acquainted Me with his Apprehensions for the Safety of the *Charming Nancy* Transport, hourly expected to arrive in the Bay, with Cloathing, Stores and other Necessaries for the Army, I have ordered Captain [John] Collins in the *Nautilus* to cruize for the said Transport until her Arrival and to see her safe into Boston. I have the Honor to be with great regard. Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY¹

Sir

Preston Boston 13 May 1775

My last Letter to you dated April 22d went by Lieut. [Joseph] Nunn in a Brig from Salem.

Lieut. [Thomas] Graves in the *Diana* is returned: I inclose a List of the Cannon and Ordnance he brought from the Fort at Penobscot. I have since employed the *Diana* cruising between Cape Ann and Cape Cod.

I transmit Copies of a Memorial to Lieut. [Henry] Mowat Commander of the *Canceaux*, and of his Letter to me: from these Accounts and from the representations of the Commissioners of the Customs also inclosed, I find myself obliged to let the *Canceaux* remain at Falmouth until I can send some other Vessel to relieve her.

The *Falcon* sailed the 30th of April with Orders to go to [Martha's] Vineyard and seize a Cargo of Flour, then to proceed to Elizabeth Islands to prevent a considerable Number of black Cattle and Sheep from being carried off. Cap-

tain [John] Linzee has just informed me that there is about 1500 Sheep on these Islands, with a few Cows, and that from their Vicinity to the Main, it is not possible to hinder the Stock being taken off. The Ship with the flour was not at the Vineyard.

The *Tartar* still remains at Halifax for the security of that Yard and the Kings Stores.

The *Lively* continued at Marblehead raising Seamen and protecting the trade of those who are not in rebellion.

I will send a Sloop to Georgia whenever one can be spared from the immediate and pressing services of this province.

The Action of the 19th of April, falsely represented thro' the Continent as begun by the Kings Troops, has furnished a pretence for the seditious and disaffected (before too much disposed to Rebellion to appear in arms; they are absolutely so throughout the four provinces, and the Intelligence sent me by Captains [James] Wallace and James Montagu of the proceedings at New York (Copies of which are inclosed) fully satisfying me of the necessity of sending thither a Ship of force I ordered the *Asia*, but the prevailing Easterly winds kept her from getting out of this Harbour until the 8th instant.

Since my Letter of the 23d was written we have had repeated Information of the Rebels Design to surprise Castle William; I suppose to destroy the Magazines there. The *Asia*, *Otter* Sloop, and *Hope* Schooner have been employed entirely to prevent such an Attack, and upon the departure of the *Asia* I ordered the *Boyne* to take her place.

Reports are also spread that flat bottomed Boats are constructing up the Rivers, and at several places in the Neighbourhood, to be brought by Land to those Rivers, from whence the Rebels are to attack Boston and the Shipping; though these Schemes are scarcely practicable yet we are guarded against every possible Surprize. Our Boats rowing Guard have often been fired at from the Shore, but I have given the Captains of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels Orders not to fire again upon any Account unless they are absolutely attacked, and some one wounded or Killed; and then only to drive away the Rebels without pursuing; being extremely loath (however difficult from repeated provocations to forbear) to commence hostilities by sea without the justest Reason, until I can be honoured with their Lordships Commands on this important Subject. I shall continue to give every support in my power to his Majesty's Governors of Provinces, upon their requisition, for the protection of the Kings faithful Subjects and their property, and for the security of lawful Commerce.

I transmit for their Lordships Information various Intelligence I have received from Captain Wallace of his Majesty's ship *Rose*. In a Letter of the 26th April Captain Wallace informs me that some friends of Government have been very industrious to bring the town of Newport over to the King, and were they sure of constant support they flatter themselves with succeeding; but what reliance! at present they are in terror of the Kings Ships. However I submit to their Lordships consideration the Importance of such a Post. Possession of this place would cut off any Supplies that could be sent from the Southern to the Northern Colonies, and it appears to me from its Situation of such great consequence that I most

heartily wish it was established as a Kings Post and fortified accordingly: In the mean time I shall add a Sloop of War or a Schooner to the Service Captain Wallace is employed in.

All communication by Land is entirely stopped: General [Thomas] Gage has represented to me the necessity for having small Vessels to carry dispatches to and from New York, and occasionally to Piscataqua and Halifax. I have acquainted the Governor that a Vessel shall be ready to depart with Dispatches on the Kings Service whenever his Excellency pleases. I have hired one Sloop for this purpose and shall provide as many as the necessity of the times require and I can procure. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 83-86, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract]

Preston Boston 13th May 1775

[Second Letter]

In obedience to their Lordships Order I have purchased two Schooners, and established them as armed Schooners, One by the Name of *St Laurence*, the other of *Halifax*, meaning by the latter name to continue that of the late *Halifax* lost near Machias. I have given an Order to Lieut John Graves to command the *St Laurence* and Mr John De la Touche I have ordered to command the *Halifax*.

The Fears of a few well disposed people to risk their Vessels, and the determination of the rest to prevent the Army and Navy having Supplies of provisions and Fuel, have caused most of the Vessels in this province to be dismantled and laid up. It was with great difficulty I could purchase the two Schooners I have got, for under the severe prohibition of the Rebel Generals few people dare to supply us. I have directed the *Halifax* and *St Laurence* to be fitted at Halifax Yard and to return with all possible expedition to Boston.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 87, 88, MassHS Transcript. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, this letter is dated May 14, 1775.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 13th [1775]

The Admiral acquainted the Commissioners of the Customs that he had ordered the *Canceaux* to remain at Falmouth for the protection of their Officers, and other friends to Government, who were threatened by the Bulk of the People.

About this time the Garrison were under great Apprehensions for the Safety of a Transport daily expected from England with Cloathings, Necessaries and Stores for the Troops; and it having been reported the Rebels designed to intercept her, the *Nautilus* was sent to cruize between Cape Ann and Cape Cod with Orders to seize all Ships and Vessels laden with Arms and Ammunition or Provisions, and to see them safe into Boston or put a sufficient force on board for that purpose. And the like Orders were issued to all the other Ships and Vessels of the Squadron.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 88, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 13th. [May, 1775]

This afternoon, between 2 and 3000 of the Rebels came from Cambridge, march'd over the Neck at Charles Town and up the Height above the Town, where they kept parading a long time, then march'd into the Town, and after giving the War-hoop opposite the *Somerset* returned as they came. At same time a body of 300 paraded in Cambridge Marsh, opposite our encampment; they placed a chain of Centries all along the Marsh and retired into the Woods. This body I suppose is the Guard of a square redoubt they have thrown up near there, and have now pitched tents in. It was expected the Body of Charles Town wou'd have fired on the *Somerset*, at least it was wished for, as she had everything ready for Action, and must have destroyed great numbers of them, besides putting the Town in Ashes.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 46, 47.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Sunday [May] 13 ² Arrived at Ticonderoga, from whence, after some preparations, we set sail for Crown-Point.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated by Oswald. Sunday fell on May 14. Oswald also erroneously dated his entries for May 15, 16, 17. See pp. 330, 340, 344.

14 May (Sunday)

JEDIDIAH PREBLE TO MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Hond Sir

Falmo 14th May 1775

the Committee of Corespdcce in this Town beg leave to inform you that Some Time past we received Advice from George Town, that Col: [Samuel] Thompson was fitting two Vessels there, with Design to attempt the taking the Kings Ship *Canceaux* stationed in this Harbour commanded by Capt [Henry] Mowat, a Gentleman, whose Conduct since he has been here, has given no Grounds of Suspicion, he had any Design to distress or injure us; but on the other hand he has afforded his Assistance to sundry Vessels in Distress. We thought such an Attempt had the Appearance of laying a Foundation for the Destruction of this Town, the Comittee of Correspondence met & wrote to the Comittee of Correspondence at George Town desiring they would prevent their Coming; we also wrote to Col: Thompson, desiring him to desist from such an attempt, as it would through the Town into the greatest Confusion imaginable: we sent an Express, & received his Answer, that he had dropt the Design of Coming –

But, on Monday night [May 8] he landed upwards of Sixty Men, on the Back side of a Neck of Land joyning to the Town, who came there in a Number of Boats, & lay undiscovered till about the middle of the Next Day; at which Time, Capt Mowat, the Doctor of the Ship, & Parson [John] Wiswall, were taking a Walk on said Neck, when a Detachment from Col: Thompson's Party rushed from their Concealment, surrounded the Gentlemen, & made them Prisoners, & conducted them to the Colonel, who was with the main Body, on the back Side of the Neck. Capt. Hog, who now commanded the Ship, immediately clapped Springs on his Cables. She laying within Musket Shott of the

Town, & swore if the Gentlemen were not Releas'd by Six o'Clock, he would fire on the Town. He fired two Cannon, & although there were no Shott in them, it frightened the Women & Children to such a Degree, that some crawled under wharves; some ran down Cellar, & some out of Town. Such a Shocking Scene was never before presented to View here – The Gentlemen who were in custody were conducted to a publick House Where Capt Mowat declared, if he was not released it would be the Destruction of the Town. Every Gentleman present used their Utmost Endeavours to accomodate the Matter. Col: Thompson consented that a Comittee should be chosen, consisting of Officers from his Party and Gentlemen from the Town, to consult in what manner the affair could be accomodated; but, as it was late, the Committee chose to refer the Consideration of it till next Morning. Capt. Mowat then requested, he might go on Board his Ship that night & he would pawn his Word & Honour that he would return next Morning, at what Time, and at what place should be appointed. Coll. Thompson consented, provided Coll [Enoch] Freeman & Brigadier Preble would pass their Words, that the several Gentlemen should return according to their Promise, & also pawn their Word & Honour, if the Gentlemen fail'd of coming, that they would deliver themselves up, & stand by the Consequences, which was consented to. Capt Mowatt not coming according to his Promise, which was to have been at Nine o Clock the next Morning, the Sponsors appeared according to Promise, & were confined. Capt Mowatt wrote to them, & let them know he had fully determined to have comply'd with his promise, but he had sent his man on Shoar to carry some dirty Linen to his washing Woman & to bring of[f] some clean: that said man made Oath, that two of the Body under Arms, one of which, swore by all that was sacred, the moment he came on Shore he should have what was in his Piece, and the other, that he should never return on Board again with his Life: & that two more of his men made Oath, they heard several of the Men under Arms say, the moment he came on Shore they would have his Life; this was what he wrote to plead an Excuse for not complying with his promise. Coll. Thompson told the two Gentlemen under Confinement, that he must have some Provision & Refreshment for his men, which they procured to the Amount of thirteen or fourteen Pounds Money; on which they were dismissed. – about ten o'Clock, he sent an Account to them for Time & Expense, amounting to £158.18 M. and gave them till next morning, nine o Clock to return an Answer; which they did, in the Negative, He said he would have Satisfaction before he left Town. He then seized all the Goods he could find belonging to Capt. [Thomas] Coulson & Wm Tyng Esq. They also carried off one Boat belonging to Coulson, & one other to Capt Mowatt; they also obliged Capt [Jeremiah] Pote to furnish them with some Provision & a small Matter of Cash; they also brought one Man on his Knees, for speaking disrespectfully of the Coll. & his Men. Coll. Thompson, we doubt not, is a true Friend to his Country & a Man of Courage & Resolution, but, [as] our Town lays so much exposed to the Navy, that, had he succeeded in his Attempt (which there was not the least Probability of) it must have proved

the Destruction of this Town & the Country back, who are in the greatest Distress for want of Provisions. We have only related plain Facts, that the Honourable Members of the Provincial Congress may not be imposed on with false Accounts, to whom Please to communicate this Letter.

We are with Great Esteem Gentn [&c.]

Jedidiah Preble Chairman

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 187–189.

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 Fired a 9 Pounder shotted at a Schooner from St Vincents, Im-Sunday 14th press'd 4 Men from her

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS, R.N.¹

His Excellency the Governor having represented to me that it is of the utmost Consequence to seize all Vessels laden with Provisions, as well to distress the Rebels as to be of use to his Majesty's liege Subjects here; You are hereby required and directed to be vigilant in looking out for and searching all Vessels and to secure such as may have Provisions, Arms or Ammunition on board, and not suffer them to [enter] any of the Ports in this Province but Boston to which Place you are either to see them in safety yourself, or put a sufficient Force on board for that purpose.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston the 14th May 1775

To Captain Collins of his Majs. Sloop *Nautilus* and to all the other Ships & Vessels.

By Command &c.

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 416, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Copy.

Sir.

Boston 14th May 1775.

I have received your letter of Yesterday and thank you for the Steps you have taken for the Safety of the *Charming Nancy* Transport,

As it is of the Utmost Consequence to Seize all Vessels loaded with Provisions, as well to distress the Rebels, as to be of use to his Majesty's liege Subjects here, I should be glad you would give Orders to all the Ships, and Vessels, under your Command, to be Vigilant, in looking out for, and Searching all Vessels and to Secure such as may have provision Arms or Ammunition on board, and not suffer them to enter into any of the Ports of this Province but Boston where it would be proper to send them Immediately. –

1. Gage Papers, CL.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Ticonderoga 14 May 1775 –

My last was the 11th Inst pr Express; since which, a Party of Men have seized on Crown Point in which they took 11 Prisoners, & found 61 Pieces of Cannon serviceable, and 53 unfit for service – I ordered a Party to Skeensborough who have made Majr Skeene Prisoner, & seized a small Schooner which is just arrived here – I intend setting out in her directly, with a Batteau & 50 Men to take Possession of the Sloop, which we are advised this Morning, by the Post, is at St Johns, loaded with Provisions and waiting a Wind for this Place, – Inclosed is a List of Cannon &c here, though imperfect as we have found many pieces not included, and some are on the Edge of the Lake covered with Water – I am, with the Assistance of Mr Bernard Romans, making Preparation at Fort George, for transporting to Albany these Cannon that will be serviceable to our Army at Cambridge. I have about 100 Men here, & expect more every Minute. Mr [Ethan] Allen's party is decreasing, & the Dispute between us subsiding. I am extremely sorry Matters have not been transacted with more Prudence & Judgment. I have done every Thing in my Power, & put up with many Insults to preserve Peace, & serve the Public.

I hope soon to be properly released from this Troublesome Business & that some proper Person may be appointed in my room, till which I am [&c]

Bened^t Arnold

P.S. since writing the above, Mr Romans concludes going to Albany to forward Carriages for the Cannon &c and Provisions which will be soon wanted – I beg leave to observe, he has been of great Service here, & I think him a very spirited Judicious Gentleman, who has the Service of the Country much at Heart, and hope he will meet proper Encouragement

B A

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 186.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Monday, [May] 14 [15].² Contrary winds retarded our voyage, and the day drew to a close when we anchored at Crown-Point.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

MEMORIAL OF ROBERT AND JOHN MURRAY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

To the Honble the Continental Congress now Sitting at Philadelphia

The Memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray of the City of New York Merchants Humbly Sheweth

That the Memorialists being owners of the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon* and expecting She would be in London by the time their orders could arrive there did, on the 7th of September last by a letter to Philip Sansom direct him to put certain Articles on Board the said Ship on account of the Memorialists together with what Freight he could procure for her, and to dispatch her immediately for New York, as may appear by an Extract of the Letter hereunto annexed marked No 1.

That the Memorialists so far from Entertaining any Design to Counteract the measures recommended by the late Continental Congress did as soon as they were informed thereof, Countermand the abovementioned order except as to such goods, as might in Consequence thereof have actually become the property of the Memorialists and their Partner the said Philip Sansom for the truth of which they beg leave to Refer to the annexed Extract of a letter to the said Philip Sansom Dated the 5th of October 1774 mark'd No 2.

That in pursuance of the above Directions there were Shipped on Board the *Buelah* (a Vessel belonging to Memorialists) at London Sundry Goods on account of the Memorialists and their Partner with which Goods the said vessel Sail'd for New York on the 5th or 6th Day of December last and arrived there the 16th or 17th Day of February following.

That on the arrival of the said Vessel and Cargo which happened after the time limited by the Congress for the continuance of our Importation, the Memorialists having no Intention to Land their goods contrary to the Terms of the [Continental] Association would have cheerfully submitted to what they conceived to be the Spirit and Design thereof and were therefore willing and did offer to unload their Cargo and Ship it in another Bottom under the Inspection of some of the Committee here and to send it to some place not within the Restriction imposed by the Congress and the Memorialists beg Leave to Refer to the annexed Copy of their Letter sent to the Committee upon this Subject marked No 3 containing more at large their proposal and the Reasons on which it was founded.

The Memorialists beg leave further to observe that they did really believe their Construction of this part of the Association was consistent with the Spirit and Design thereof and had the Committee here been of that opinion such a Mode of Compliance would have greatly alleviated the Loss of the Memorialists as they might in that Case have Shipped their Cargo away in a small vessel instead of sending it in a vessel not above $\frac{1}{3}$ full.

That reduced as they thought to an unnecessary hardship & chagrined with the Disappointment The Memorialists rashly formed the Design of Secretly Landing some small part of the Cargo and were so imprudent as to carry the same into Execution. That before a discovery was made thereof and at a time when the Memorialists had great reasons to suppose the place where the Goods were deposited would not be discovered to wit the 13th March last they made a Declaration of the Fact and offered to give the Committee a full account of the particulars on Oath which they accordingly did on the 15th of the same Month, when all the Goods Landed had been delivered up to the Committee of Elizabeth Town and the Disposition thereof submitted entirely to the Directions of the committee at New York all which particulars will more fully appear from [John] Holt's New York Journal of the 23d March hereunto also annexed to which the Memorialists refer.

The Memorialists having proceeded thus far and manifested their Intention to satisfie the public in any reasonable way that could be expected as well as to Express their Contrition for the hasty and imprudent measure they had taken, and to prevent their future Commercial Intercourse with others from becoming the

means of other Infractions of the Association. The Memorialists did Shut up their Store, discontinue all Trade, Shut up their own Goods under the Seals of certain Persons here Transferred their Commission Business to others and gave up their Wharfs as free for the use of the Navigation of the City untill, they should be relieved in the premises by the Interposition of the Congress, as Vouchers of these Facts the Memorialists refer to the annexed printed publications marked No 5 & No 6.

The foregoing is a true State of the Facts relative to this unhappy affair in which the Memorialists are involved and as their Commercial Concerns were large and extensive at least amounting to £50,000 per annum this total dereliction of Business has become an immense Loss to them and if unrelieved cannot but terminate in their Ruin. That Mr Philip Sansom their Partner who has been distinguished for his warm attachment to American Liberty tho not concern'd in the indiscreet Step taken by the Memorialists is yet involved in all its fatal Consequences That besids the weight of Distress and Sufferings to which the Memorialists themselves have been exposed not only from their great Loss but the Resentment of an incensed People their present Scituation must be attended with a train of Evils to the Innocent who are connected with them in Business. Their Creditors must suffer Those who depend on their large Commercial Business for Bread are turned out of Employ and the Public deprived of the advantages which necessarily flow from a continuance of their Trade and Commerce. That the Memorialists presume the American Congress from the great and important ends of their Convention will move only on Public principles and therefore think it improper to address their tender and benevolent feelings not doubting but every generous and humane sentiment towards the Memorialists which is consistent with the public good will have their due influence in a determination of this Subject in which the Memorialists are so deeply interested. Permit them then to hope that this August and respectable Body, from a consideration of the Conduct of the Memorialists in this affair from their most earnest endeavours to atone in some measure for their indiscretion from the great and Complicated Distress they have already sustained, from the Circumstance that the Innocent are deeply involved in their sufferings, and that a continuation of their sufferings can only perpetuate their Calamities without advancing the important Ends of public Safety, will in their Wisdom reinstate the Memorialists in their Scituation with respect to their Commercial Priviledges.

[New York, May 14, 1775] ²

Robert Murray
John Murray

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, N.Y.*, I, 93, 94.

2. The memorial was presented on May 15, 1775.

15 May

“[CONTINUATION OF] LETTER FROM FALMOUTH TO A GENTLEMAN IN
WATERTOWN” ¹

[Monday, May 15, 1775] P.S. Being disappointed last Saturday of sending the above, I am now able to add something more. Captain [Henry] Mowat

sent a letter to the Town on Saturday, informing them that he had heard that fort guns were going to be brought in and replaced, in order to destroy his ship; and demanding of the Town to return his boats, and drive out of Town the cowardly mob that was here. The Selectmen warned a Town-Meeting, to meet at eight o'clock, Monday morning. They met accordingly and gave Mowat such an answer as pleased him: "That the Town disapproved of the proceedings of the armed body, but that we were unable to resist them."

The Reverend Mr. [John] Wiswal went on board ship on Saturday; and Sabbath morning sent to his Wardens that he should not preach in the church, but that they might come on board if they pleased, and hear him. None went. Some say he has taken a final leave of his people; how it is I cannot yet find out. His family remains here, and he is gone to Portsmouth; some say and think to get himself a settlement there. His people seem to be universally set against him, except a few high Tories, and wish never to see his face any more.

Yesterday Mowat and [Thomas] Coulson and their ships departed for Portsmouth.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 555.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Canceaux*, HENRY MOWAT, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Moored in Falmouth Harbor Casco Bay

Monday 15 A M Modt and Variable, unmoored, and got under Sail as did the Ship ² and Sloop under convoy, and *Spinckes* [*Sphynx*] Tender
Fired two three Prs as Signals to Do – 1/2 past 1 P M Anchd under
Hogs Isld.

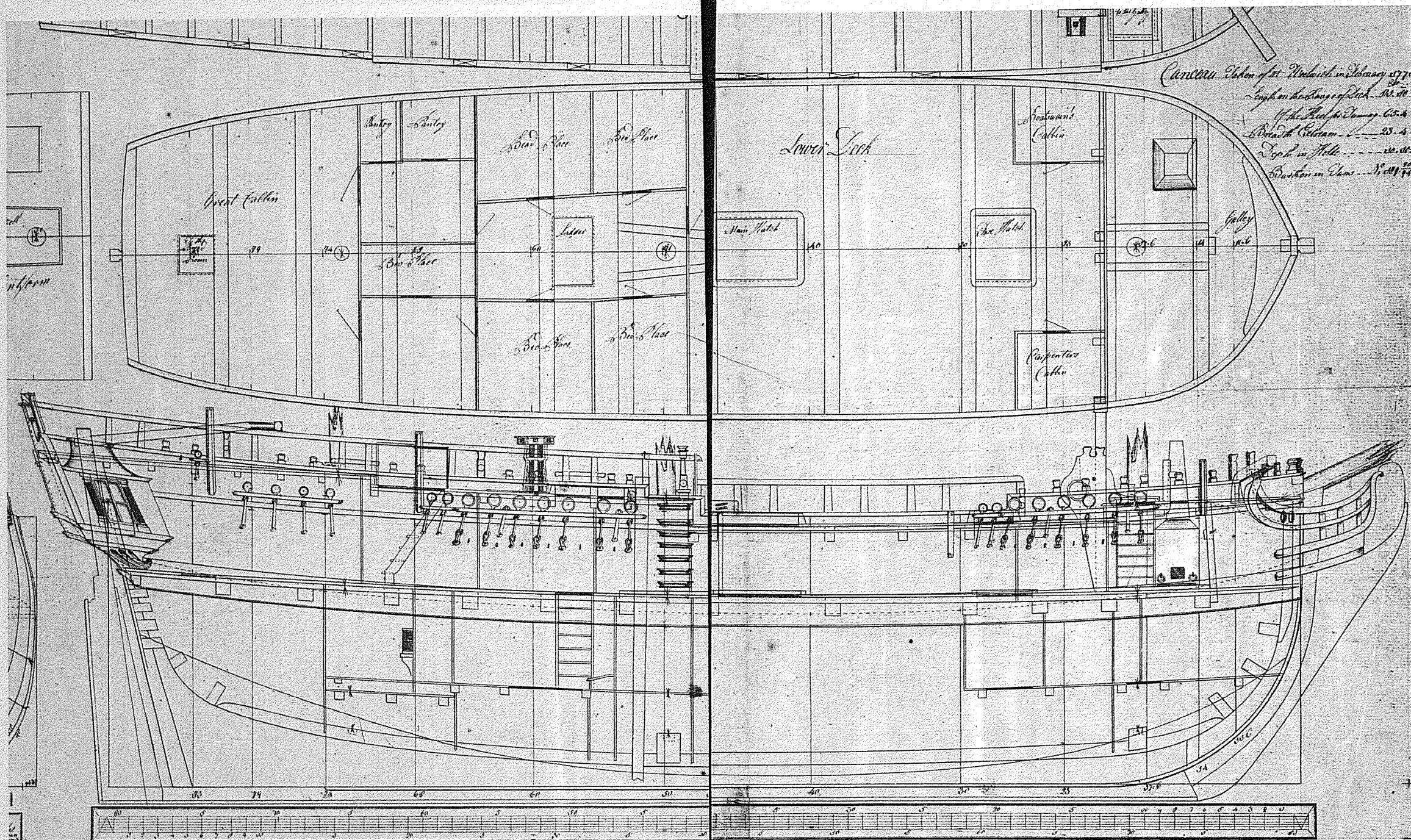
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4136.

2. The merchant ship *Minerva*.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir Mr White of Marblehead from Boston who has been an Addresser, was dismissed yesterday after having been taken in a Vessel of his own with Salt & carried up to that place – He informs the Inhabitants of Marblehead that a transport arrived there yesterday with 150 Troops & sailed from Ireland in Company with 33 more, which had on board 8 Regiments 350 Recruits & 1 Regiment of Dragoons.² he parted with 17 of them on Fryday last & It was supposed when they all arrived that they would be 12000 strong, but I cannot conceive that there will be this Number notwithstanding which it may be highly necessary to be ready for such an Army – this I have by a Brother from Marblehead just arrived who recd it from White & thought it proper to apprise You of it to be communicated to Congress if necessary –

He likewise adds an Anecdote of a Vessel in Marblehead loaded with Molasses under Custody of the Sloop of War posted there³ which the Inhabitants boarded the last Night they slipped her Cables & after running her into the



Plan of the lower deck and starboard profile of HMS Canceaux.

Wharf Where a Number of our Men armed were posted to receive her they unloaded her Cargo & saved the whole – I am in much Haste Sir [&c.]

Elbridge Gerry

Monday Morning [May 15, 1775]⁴

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 276.

2. The troops which sailed from Ireland were the 35th, 49th and 63d regiments of foot, and the 17th regiment of Dragoons, with 500 drafts and recruits, comprising the first contingent, ordered to Boston, and the 22d, 40th, 44th and 45th regiments of foot, the second contingent, ordered to New York. Gage Papers, CL.

3. H.M.S. *Lively*, the vessel stationed in Marblehead Harbor at that time under orders from Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, had begun on April 22, 1775, to stop every vessel coming into that port. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

4. The date is established by Graves's report of the arrival of the first transport with troops; Graves's Conduct, I, 89, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO THE CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS AT BOSTON¹

It having been found necessary to alter the present Mode of permitting Persons and Effects to depart, and to prevent as much as possible People and Goods being carried away by Stealth at unusual times and Places, You are hereby required and directed to observe the following Regulations which are to take Place tomorrow Morning. Vizt

The Men of War lying nearest are forthwith to send their Boats and bring every small Vessel Fishing, and other Boats and Canoes, to the long Wharf, from whence they are always to sail in future and from no other place in Boston: Of course every fishing Boat, Market Boat and all other small Craft coming in are to be compelled to go to the Long wharf.

All Persons with their Effects leaving the Town are to embark at the Long wharf and at no other Place.

The General has appointed Mr John Fleming to examine all Chests, Trunks and Packages whatever, and to write his Name upon them when examined.

When Mr Fleming has marked the Packages as aforesaid he will certify the Number on the Permit which is also to contain the names of the Persons allow'd to depart. Captain [John] Robinson² will then and not before sign the Permit.

No Persons or Effects to be suffered to go out but in the manner above prescribed and only between Sunrise and Sunset.

This Order is not meant to prevent the Men of War's Boats from landing at any part of the Town, nor the General's Vessels or Transports Boats from passing as they shall have Occasion; Nor the passing of the Ferry Boats as usual: but these and all other Vessels and Boats going out of the Harbour with my Pass are to be equally liable to be visited by the Men of War's Boats, who are respectively to be answerable for the punctual Observance of these Regulations so far as they concern the Navy.

Given under my Hand on board his Majs Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 May 1775

By Command of the Admiral G[eorge] Gefferina

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 417, 418, MassHS Transcript.

2. Captain of Graves's flagship, the *Preston*.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy./

Boston May 15th 1775.

Sir As Mr Icabod Jones has exerted himself in Supplying this Garrison, with Wood Lumber &c for his Majesty's use; And for which reason cannot get any Supply of Provisions from any other place but this, as his Settlement is detached, he has my permission to carry Twenty Barrels Pork, and Twenty Barrels Flour, from this for the use of the New Settlers at Mechias – as he promises to continue as usual every Supply in his power.

I am with Regard and Esteem, Sir, &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE ¹

Sir,

Boston 15th May 1775

In consequence of Your Excellency's Letter of Yesterday, I have ordered the Captains of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command to seize all Vessels they may meet with having Provisions, Arms or Ammunition Onboard, and not suffer them to enter any of the Ports of this Province but to send them immediately to Boston. I have the Honor to be with great Regard, Sir, [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS, SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH ADMIRALTY ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 15th May 1775

I have this moment by the *Fowey's* Tender received a Letter from Lord Dunmore, a Copy of which I inclose; I would readily send a two decked ship to Virginia, but the preservation of this post and perhaps the whole Army here depends upon the Naval Force in this Harbour. I therefore cannot in the present State of Affairs send any more of the Capital Ships from hence; indeed the *Somerset* is unfit to go, for notwithstanding her sheathing has been stripped off six Streaks and so much of her Bottom caulked, yet she makes the same quantity of water as before, and must therefor go to Halifax this Summer if possible.

Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* informs me that the Contractor for supplying the King's Ships at Virginia with Provisions is forbid by the people to send any more, so what he now procured must be by Stealth.

I expect Captain [John] Linzee of the *Falcon* to arrive every hour with the Ship *Champion*; she has on board Eight hundred Barrels of Flour and some Corn intended for the Rebel Army.

I have given Orders to secure and bring to Boston all Vessels with Provisions agreeable to the Governor's request of Yesterday, a Copy of which I inclose, And we have written to the Governors of Quebec and Nova Scotia to facilitate the sending Supplies of fresh provisions and necessaries to Boston. We hope in a short time to have sufficient for the sick; but it is forbidden under pain of death by the Rebels at Cambridge to supply the Town of Boston.

Two Transports with Marines came in Yesterday, a Signal is now out for more, I hope they will be by Tomorrow.

I am [&c.]

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 88, 89, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 15th [1775].

By a Letter from Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, the people in that Colony were taking up Arms in all parts of it, and his Lordship was threatened with every Species of Violence unless he restored some Gunpowder, which he had thought proper to remove from a Magazine in Williamsburgh on Board the *Fowey* and *Magdalen* Schooner; and the Commotion becoming more general his Excellency applied to General [Thomas] Gage and the Admiral for such Assistance as could be spared. And Captain George Montagu of the *Fowey* at Virginia, in a Letter dated May 3d acknowledging the Receipt of the Admiral's Order of the 9th of April to raise one hundred Seamen for the Fleet, acquainted him that the Inhabitants of Norfolk, where the Contractors Agent resided, had refused to suffer Supplies of Provisions and Necessaries to be sent on board for the use of the *Fowey* and *Magdalen* Schooner and that he (Capt. Montagu) had at the request of Ld Dunmore stopped the *Magdalen* from proceeding to the Delaware.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 90, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO WILLIAM LEGGE, LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

(No 30)

Boston May 15th 1775

My Lord, I received yesterday a Letter from Lord Dunmore of which I transmit your Lordship a Copy; His Situation appears so very alarming that I fear the Assistance in my Power to give him will avail but little I have however Sent him an Order for the Company of the 14th Regiment at [New] Providence, and most part of the Remainder of said Regiment at St Augustine, as he thinks any Assistance tho' small, might be of some use to him; and we hear by a private Letter that a Declaration his Lordship had made, of Proclaiming all the Negroes free who should join him, has startled the Insurgents. From what can be learned it is not found that one Province is in a better Situation than another, the People called Friends of Government are few in all, and those Moderate Men, who abhor violent Proceedings and wish for Peace and quiet; the opposite Party numerous, active and violent.

Two hundred and twenty Six Marines with their Officers under the Command of Major Tupper landed this Morning from two Transports; so that we may expect the remainder of that Corps daily, the Sooner the other Reinforcements intended for this Place arrive, the better it will be.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/92.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

[Boston] 15th. [May, 1775]

The Marines which arrived yesterday (part of 600 expected) encamp'd today on the Common.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 47.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William [Island Boston Harbor]

Monday 15 at 7A M sent the long Boat after 3 Rebels in a Canoe, but they landed before she came up & being joined by a great Number of their own body fired several shot at the Boat. made a signal for her to return. Rowd Guard as before.
[P M] at 9 saw a Number of armed Men on Dorchester Hill.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Nautilus*, JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 The Land about Marshfield SWbW 4 or 5 Leagues

Monday. 15. at ½ past 10 [A M] fired a Shot to bring a Sloop too – Little Wind and Hazy Wr P M, at 2 spoke a Sloop from Cape Codd for Casco Bay; sent a Petty Officer and 2 Men to carry her into Boston; at 6 spoke a Sloop from Cape Ann to the Wt Indies with Lumber; at 9 spoke the *Diana* Schooner, and ½ past fired several Musquets and brought a Sloop too from Sheeps-cut with Lumber; sent a Petty Officer and 2 Men on board to carry her to Boston.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. Vessels sent into Boston and arriving there prior to June 1 had their cargoes confiscated, but were not tried in Admiralty Court. Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] May 15. [1775]

It is said that two Tenders were plundering or intended stealing Sheep at No-man's Land &c – & that the Dartmo[uth] p[eo]ple man'd out and took both & bro't them in to Dartmo – Some of the Man o' Wars' Men were wounded, but none killed on either side.²

1. Stiles, II, 71, LC.

2. See letter from Newport, May 10, 1775.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT ¹

Sir

New London May 15th 1775

I Received yours 11th Instant and you may Depend on my Supplying you with the Quantity of Powder you Mention Vizt Six Hundred half Barrels – I am now Getting a Vessel in Readiness and Intend she shall Sail in a few Days I shall Call on You Next Week. I Am Sir [&c.]

Nathe¹ Shaw Jun^r

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN ¹

Tuesday, [May] 15 [16].² Contrary winds. Col. [Benedict] Arnold, with thirty men took the boat, and proceeded on for St. John's, leaving to Capt. Sloan the command of the vessel with the sailors; and me to the command of the soldiers on board: About 12 o'clock, while beating down, we espied a boat, sent out our Cockswain to bring her in, it proved to be the French post from Montreal, with Ensign Moland on board, we examined the mail, and among other things found an exact list of all the regular troops in the northern department, amounting to upwards of seven hundred.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

ISAAC LOW, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF NEW YORK,
TO PEYTON RANDOLPH, PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen:

New York, May 15, 1775

We have this moment received by express from Albany, the within authentick intelligence of the fortress of Ticonderoga having been surprised and taken by a detachment of Provincials from Connecticut and the Massachusetts-Bay. And as we do not conceive ourselves authorized to give any opinion upon a matter of such importance, we have thought proper to refer it to the Congress; and that the people of Albany may be acquainted with the sentiments of that Assembly as early as possible, their express, who is the bearer hereof, will carry any dispatches the Congress may think proper to send on the occasion to the City of Albany, by a short route from Philadelphia.

We have already wrote to the Committee of Albany in answer to their letters to us, referred to in the enclosed; but it seems our letters were not come to hand.

We are, Gentlemen, [&c.]

By order of the Committee:

Isaac Low, Chairman

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 605.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, May 15, 1775

The president informed the Congress that he had put into his hands this morning a letter from [Robert and John] Murray containing a number of papers which he was desired to lay before the congress, the purport of them he did not know as he had not had an opportunity of reading them.

Ordered to lye on the table That the president look them over [and then lay them] before they are laid before the congress.

The City and County of New York having through the delegates of that Colony, applied to the congress for their advice how they ought to conduct themselves with regard to the troops expected there, . . .

The matter under consideration being resumed, the Congress came to the following resolution,

Resolved, That it be recommended for the present to the inhabitants of New York, that if the troops, wch are expected should arrive, the sd Colony act on the

defensive so long as may be consistent with their safety and security: that the troops be permitted to remain in the barracks, so long as they behave themselves peaceably and quietly, but that they be not suffered to erect fortifications or take any steps for cutting off the communication between the town and country; and that if they commit hostilities or invade private property, the inhabitants should defend themselves and their property and repel force by force; that the warlike stores be removed from the town; that places of retreat in case of necessity be provided for the women and children of New York; and that a sufficient number of men be embodied and kept in constant readiness for protecting the inhabitants from insult and injury....

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the Colony of New York, and by what number of troops it will be necessary they should be guarded.

Resolved, That Mr. [George] Washington, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, and the delegates from New York, be the committee for the above service, and that they be desired to report as speedily as possible.

1. Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Washington, 1904-1937), II, 49-53. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *JCC*.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 York S S W Gloucester Point No off shore 1/2 a Mile
Monday 15. A M the parties of seamen and Marines returned from the Governour's at Williamsburgh.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

(No. 27) Duplicate

Williamsburg 15th May 1775

My Lord The Commotion in this Colony, of the Cause of which I gave your Lordship an Account in my letter No 26 dated the 1st of May, has obliged me to Shut myself in, and make a Garrison of my house, expecting every moment to be attacked. There is scarce a County of the whole Colony wherein part of the People have not taken up Arms and declared their intention of forcing me to make restitution of the Powder; bodies of different Numbers have been in Motion in all parts of the Colony, who have been only dissuaded from pursuing their attempts by the interposition of Some less violent People, and Compelled to lay down their Arms and atone for their offences by the Justice of the Country or the Support due from Subjects to their lawfull Government.

A Party headed by a Certain Patrick Henry, one of the Delegates of this Colony, a Man of desperate Circumstances, and one who has been very active in encouraging disobedience and exciting a Spirit of revolt among the People for many years past, Advanced to within a few Miles of this Place, and there encamped with all the appearances of actual War, Stopping and detaining every passenger on the road coming this way for fear of my obtaining intelligence of their motions; Henry,

their leader dispatching letters all over the Country to excite the People to Join him; and he Sent one particularly to direct that the People of the County of York should prevent, at all events, any Succour being Sent to me from the Man of War lying at York or my retreat to the Man of War.

While they were in this position they found means, by threatning the person family and Property of His Majesty's Receiver General, Mr [Richard] Corbin, to extort the Sum of £300, from him which they thought proper to demand out of the Kings Revenue to replace the Powder which I had removed out of the Magazine, having obtained this they have declared themselves Satisfied and Justice done to the Country for the Insult I had Committed, and have returned triumphantly to their respective habitations . . .

I transmit to your Lordship two Proclamations which I have issued on this occasion; the first of which I thought proper to publish together with the Minute of Council, in hopes the names of the Gentlemen who advised it, from their Credit with the People, might induce those who have Joined in Such dangerous Measures from ignorance, to pay the greater attention to the warning it contained . . . ever in the Place where I live Drums are beating and Men in uniform dresses with Arms are continually in the Streets, which my Authority is no longer able to prevent, your Lordship will I hope See the Necessity of Sending me Instructions upon the occasion, and of putting me in a Situation of Safety.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, Class 5/1353, LC Transcript.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS, LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Charles Town. 15th May 1775.

p. *Le Despenser*

You will have heard before this reaches you of the "actual commencement of Hostilities" in New England against the Inhabitants by the Kings Troops & more particulars of the Action of the 19th April than we yet know of in this Country – the Associated Colonies have taken the alarm & but three days ago I put the Question "is it your pleasure Gentlemen to agree with your Committee"? when the following association was Unanimously approved of –

"The actual Commencement of Hostilities against this Continent – the threats of arbitrary impositions from abroad – & the dread of instigated Insurrections at home – are causes Sufficient to drive an oppressed people to the use of Arms: We therefore the Subscribers, Inhabitants of this unhappy Colony holding ourselves bound by that most Sacred of all obligations, the duty of good Citizens towards an injured Country, & thoroughly convinced that under our present distressed circumstances we Shall be justified before God & Man in resisting force by force; do unite our Selves under every tie of Religion & of honour & associate as a band in her defence against every Foe & we do Solemnly promise that whenever her Continental or provincial Councils Shall decree it necessary we will go forth & be ready to Sacrifice our Lives & fortunes in attempting to Secure her Freedom & Safety." – This Association I Say was unanimously approved of in the General Committee 48 Members present – it will be recommended to the Provincial Congress at their first meeting on the first of June – I have no doubt of a

favourable reception there & believe it will be Subscribed to by the Inhabitants throughout this Colony – in the mean time the daily & nightly Sound of Drums & Fifes discover a Spirit in the people to make all possible resistance against that arbitrary power complained of – upwards of one hundred Men besides the common Town Watch mount guard every Night & Committees of observation, of Intelligence & of Safety find employment every Day – in a word the people are resolved to do all in their power to resist against the force & Stratagems of the British Ministry – & I find that even among those few who are Suspected of disaffection to the Americans, there are many & perhaps a Majority who will in the day of trial appear on the Side of the American Cause. –

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, 1774–75, SCHS.

16 May

“REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER”¹

May 1775 at ½ past 11 P M heard 2 Guns in the Offing, answered with 1
Tuesday 16th Nine pounder & sent the Boats out

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Cambridge] May 16, 1775

Whereas, it is recommended by the Council of War, that fifty-four Whale-Boats be, provided for the use of this Colony immediately –

Resolved, That a copy of said Vote of the Council of War be transmitted to the Committee of Supplies, and they be desired to procure & place said Boats, agreeably to the recommendation by the Council of War.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 140.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, May 16, 1775, A.M.

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Sullivan, Capt [Josiah] Stone, Colo [Michael] Farley, Major [Eleazer] Brooks, and Doctr Rawson, be a Committee to take into consideration a verbal information of the Capture of three Vessels, by a Kings Cutter, at Dartmouth, and the retaking two of them, & 15 Marines prisoners

The Committee who were appointed to consider the information from Dartmouth reported. The Report was recommitted for further examination.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

2. See Journal of H.M.S. *Falcon* for May 11 and 12, 1775.

WILLIAM THOMPSON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Hartford, May 16, 1775

I tarried Yesterday in hope of seeing you here, but suppose you was necessarily prevented from coming – it's necessary for me to set out this Morning that I may know in Time whether my Employers will engage in the Adventure p your

Schooner *Macaroni* – and beg you will detain her untill you receive Intelligence from me, which I will forward immediately after I have consulted them – I have left with Mr Jonathan Trumbull & requested him to deliver you Thirty one pounds Ten shillings Sterling which I desire the favour of you to send on my Accot p Capt [William]. Packwood for this Purpose expressed in the Receipt –

I am in haste

Your hble Servt

W^m Thompson

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

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR'S RECEIPT TO WILLIAM THOMPSON¹

Hartford May 16, 1775

Received of William Thompson Thirty One pounds ten shillings Sterling Money which I promise to deliver to Capt James Packwood² Master of my Schooner *Macaroni*, bound from New London for the West Indies, and to give Directions to said Packwood to lay out the same in purchase of good Gun Powder at the lowest price he can buy it, to be brought back in said Schooner for Accot of said Thompson, for which he is to allow said Packwood five P Cent Commission and to pay at the Rate of [blank] for the Freight of every hundred Weight

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

2. Although the receipt states "James", the master of the *Macaroni* was "William" Packwood.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

Wednesday, [May] 16 [17].²

A fair gale, we overtook Col. [Benedict] Arnold in the boat, took him on board, and at night arrived within thirty miles of St. John's, when the wind fell, and the vessel was becalmed. We immediately armed our two boats, manned them with thirty-five men, and determined by dint of rowing to fetch St. John's and take the place and the King's sloop by surprize at break of day.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

2. This entry was misdated. See p. 327.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, May 16, 1775

The President after explaining the nature of the letter delivered to him yesterday.

A memorial from Robert and John Murray, of New-York, was laid before the Congress, and read.

Ordered, That it lye up[on] the table.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 53.

"EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM PHILADELPHIA TO GENTLEMEN IN BALTIMORE, MAY 16, 1775"¹

On Sunday a ship, Capt. Byrne, arrived here from Liverpool, which she left the 3d of April, and advised us of a ship, Jones, master, being loaded with salt and some dry goods, which would sail in a few days after him, for this port,

and that the ship *Johnston*, belonging to Mr. Gildart of Liverpool, was loaded with salt and dry goods, by the house of Messrs. Ashton, and bound to your port. You may daily look for your ship, as we do for ours; we have already given directions to our pilots, &c. to watch her motions . . . It is said, from good authority, that Mr. Leister, of Pool, has 4 ships coming out to America, to load with bread &c. for Newfoundland; be careful that some of them dont load with you. If any of them comes here, I think they will hardly return.

A vessel arrived yesterday from Liverpool, whose captain has brought a quantity of cheese, which he must carry back. He informs us that a ship was ballasting with salt for this place, and one or two for yours. they will be taken care of and I hope your Committee will take care of those going your way. A good lookout ought to be kept, that people acting knowingly, in direct opposition to our engagements, may not escape; and it is well if these ships, on hearing how things are at your Capes, do not land their dry goods in some part of the bay. All goods on board should be taken possession of by the Committee, and indeed ship and all should be sent back; the salt at least thrown into the sea, and the goods returned by the ship.

1. *Maryland Journal*, Baltimore, May 24, 1775.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS TO JOHN NORTON & SONS ¹

Gentlemen

Virginia May 16th 1775

My last was 6t April, since which I have recd your two favours of 6t Jany and 28 Feby by which I am agreeably informed of the Insurance being made on my Tobo in the *Martin*, I observe what you say relative to the *Virginia*. I can assure you that Affair has not given me a little concern, but am in hopes that your letter of Justification will satisfy every unprejudiced person. Your J H.N's delaying the publication of it a week was productive of some other disagreeable resolves from Gloster as you will see in one of our Papers ² tho' I am informed that Committee is now called to revoke them, there has a Query appeared in one of our papers whether Mr Gist's Ship ought to have any Tobo as one of the Owners Mr Wilkinson had Charter'd two of his Ships to bring Transports to America. ³

You will no doubt ere this have heard of the unhappy Engagement that has hapned at Concord near Boston with 900 Provincials & 1800 Regulars in which Skirmish the Regulars retreated with the loss of 150 Men, 100 wounded & 20 more taken Prisoners, the Provincials only lost 43 Men. We have been a good deal alarmed in our little Town ⁴ & Williamsburg lately, by some impolitick & unwarrantable proceedings of our Governor & Capt [George] Montague, of the *Fowey* who lays off[f] this Town. the latter wrote a letter to the President about ten days since informing him that he had information the Governor was to be attacked that morning in his Palace & therefore thought it necessary to send him assistance from his Ship & at the same time to inform the Inhabitants of York that if they were interrupted in their March to Williamsburg or insulted on their Arrival there, he shou'd be under the necessity of firing on the Town ⁵ this Alarm occasioned poor old Mrs Light, & some other helpless Women & Children to leave the Town Our situation at present is exceedingly unhappy, & God knows when it will mend You dont mention any thing of Colo [Dudley] Digges Bill remitted

you by the *Virginia*. I recd & debited you with the sales of the 4 hhds Tobo shipt you P the *Hanbury* Nett proceeds £31.16.6 which is a better Accot. than I have recd for sometime before. I have lately shipt Messrs Pasley's & Co a Cargoe of Corn which I expect will sell for near £400 sterling⁶ I have directed them to remitt the Nett proceeds to you & shou'd be glad you wou'd pay £100 thereof to Mr Lawrence, & Credit my Accot for the ballance. Inclosed you will receive a small draft of Owen Williams on Mr Molleson for £23.7.7 which you will please to receive Credit my Accot for the same. I shall send you some Tobacco by the *Virginia* but as I do not at present know how many hhds must defer writing for Insurance till next opportunity Tobo is scarce & has rise very rapidly. the Scotch are buying all they can at the high price of 27/6. I wou'd send you some of our late papers but as this goes by the way of Glasgow, they wou'd be attended with too heavy a postage, my respectfull Compliments to Mrs Norton &ca.

1. William Reynolds Letter Book, LC.
2. For the Gloucester resolve, see May 2, 1775.
3. The Query is in Purdie's *Virginia Gazette, Supplement*, May 5, 1775.
4. Yorktown.
5. See George Montagu's letter, May 2, 1775.
6. See Reynold's letter to Paisley of April 30, 1775.

ALEXANDER INNES TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord,

Charles Town, May 16, 1775

I did myself the honor of writing You the 1st of this month, when I took the liberty of giving Your Lordship the best account in my power of the present state of this Province: every day's experience convinces me more and more of the justice of the observations I then made, nor have I one word to retract of what I wrote.

The Lieutenant Governor after adjourning the Assembly to the 1st of June, and calling a Council to settle the ceremonial of the new Governor's reception, retired into the Country. Every thing remained quiet here, the Committee continuing to sit with great Assiduity and secrecy, till the 5th instant, when they published a Letter to their Provincial Congress which Your Lordship will find in the News papers I enclose, and confirms my Account of the manner they received that conciliatory motion, which the Humanity and Tenderness of the King's ministers alone dictated.²

A few days ago we had Accounts of an Action near Boston, but very confused, and carrying evident Marks of falsehood, and misrepresentation; but as it cannot at present be contradicted it has raised the spirit of the party most astonishingly, and nothing less is talked of than storming Boston, and totally destroying the British Troops. Violent resolutions have since been proposed in the Committee here, but the moderate party have so far prevailed, that they seem *now* resolved to take no desperate steps till after the meeting of the Provincial Congress, which they have appointed on the 1st of next month instead of the 20th; but they declare on every occasion, that if any attempt is made to seize their Delegates, all the servants of Government here will be immediately secured as Hostages, and sent into the back country.

It is said that as soon as the Provincial Congress meets it will be proposed to raise 2000 men, which they mean to pay by voluntary Tax of a moidore³ on each negroe. A Test and Association is already framed, to be presented to every inhabitant in the Province, and those who refuse to sign it will be under a necessity of leaving the country. Some of the most moderate object to its being offered to the servants of Government, and will oppose that step in the Congress, but I should apprehend it will be carried against them, and if General [Thomas] Gage does not strike some successful blow within a few weeks, I have not a doubt but that there will be a total change of Government here, and the very slight mask they now condescend to wear entirely thrown off.

A Letter has been read in their Committee from a Mr. [Arthur] Lee in London informing them that it had been proposed to Ministry to grant freedom to such Slaves as should desert their Masters and join the King's troops; this has raised a great ferment, and furnished the Committee with a *pretext* to mount a Guard of 100 men every evening, with a Patrol of Horsemen. They had decency enough to send two of their body to the Chief Justice Mr. Gordon, the eldest Councillor then in Town, *not to ask his leave*, but to acquaint him with their intentions; for the Guard was ordered, and mounted that evening; he immediately dispatched an Express to the Lieutenant Governor who came to Town next day, called a Council, and gave his Sanction to a measure which was taken without his privity. He immediately returned to his Retreat.

At this Council Mr. Barnard Elliot resigned his Seat at the Board, and Mr. John Drayton it is said means to follow his Example. His son William Henry Drayton is under suspension, and is one of the most virulent Incendarys in the Province, so that the Council is reduced to Mr. Skottowe the Secretary/Mr. Gordon the Chief Justice/Mr. Irving the Receiver General/Mr. Gregory the Judge and/Mr. William Bull Junior, a very young man indeed, who knows not as yet of his Appointment, but who I dare say will not accept the Honour intended him as he is strongly linked to the other party.

In this situation My Lord little remains for the New Governor⁴ to do but to guard against giving the Sanction of the little Authority he possesses to the dangerous measures the people here are pursuing. Of the Assembly he must be particularly careful: they have a Tax Bill now ready to present to the Council, which they know neither that House nor the Governor can give their assent to; for I have great reason to think the Original Bone of contention 1500 £ to the Bill of Rights Society is in some way or other provided for in it, and I *know* there is another Article no less exceptionable viz a Grant of 3000 £ sterling to the 8 Delegates now at the General Congress. The moment this Bill is rejected they will be prepared to open their *Bank*, and issue Certificates to what amount they please; I shall therefore think it my duty strongly to recommend to His Excellency to be prepared to dissolve them before they have time to give their proceedings the least Colour of Legality.

After this I see nothing His Lordship can do but to wait with patience to take the advantage of any change that may be produced by the success of his Majesty's measures to the Northward, in the mean time giving all the Encouragement, and

Countenance in his power to the friends of Government here, but Protection He cannot afford them.

I hope Your Lordship will not think me guilty of too much presumption if I beg leave with great submission to observe that two Regiments in this place under a *proper Officer* would prevent many rash and disagreeable Steps that will in all probability be taken. The situation of this Province between Georgia that has refused to join the Congress and North Carolina where there are many friends of Government, added to its great Opulence, renders some force much to be wished for; and as things are come to such an extremity would tend greatly to promote His Majesty's service. If even a couple of Frigates under the Command of a *Spirited, Steady, Cool Officer* were stationed in this harbour, the good effects of such a measure would soon be seen; but the King's Friends in this Province, (who are not a few if they durst appear) are in the lowest state of despondency, expecting every moment to be drove from their Occupations, and Homes, and plundered of all they have earned by the unremitted industry of many years.

This is a Freedom my Lord which nothing but the warmest Zeal for the Service of my Sovereign and my Country could excuse: a freedom which this moment, in this place would cost me my Life were it known; but when I had Your Lordship's permission to write you on the state of Carolina, I was determined that while I conveyed assured facts, I would have no reserve in declaring my sentiments, flattering myself it would be the strongest proof I could give of the perfect Respect with which I have the Honor to be My Lord [&c.]

Alex: Innes

N.B. Although the Action near Boston happened the 19th of last month, except such an Account as Your Lordship will see in the Papers published under their own influence, not a tittle is known either in this or the neighbouring Provinces. Many gross and infamous falsehoods will therefore be daily circulated to the great discouragement of the Friends of Government, the deception of the Timid, and Unwary, and of course to the Detriment of the King's Service; nor can it be prevented but by regular intelligence from General Gage by Sea.

1. Dartmouth Mss., 1270. Printed *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, July, 1962, pp. 127-130.
2. Lord North's conciliatory resolution of February 1775.
3. Moidore, a Portuguese coin worth 27 shillings.
4. Lord William Campbell, who was shortly expected in the province, and to whom Innes had been appointed private secretary.

17 May

HUNKING WENTWORTH, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH, TO
PRESIDENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, EXETER ¹

Sir A Brig from Biddeford in England arrived this day the Master of whom has just been with the Committee & acquaint them that his orders are to take on board six Masts of about sixteen inches diameter.

We are inform'd that the ship lately built at Casco Bay (which arrived in the Harbour this morning) is come with an intention to load Masts which are now ready for her. The opinion of the Congress touching the Propriety of shipping the Masts is desired as soon as may be.

We have heard that part of the Troops from England arrived yesterday at Boston.

I am by order of the Comtee Sr [&c.]

Portsmouth 17th May 1775

H. Wentworth, Chairman

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 471, 472.

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

May 1775 at 4 A M the Boats returned; at 8 sent of[f] Boats to the assistance
Wednesy 17th of a Ship which was on Shore.²

[P M] Came in His Majys Armed Ship *Canceaux*, & the Ship
which was on shore with our Boats;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The merchant ship *Minerva*.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, May 17, 1775.

A Letter from Edward Mott to this Congress, dated 11th May, 1775, giving an account of the taking of the Fortress at Ticonderoga, was read, together with a Letter from Ethan Allen. Also an application from Col. [James] Easton and others; whereupon,

Ordered, That Colonel Foster, Mr. [James] Sullivan, and Doctor [Samuel] Holten, be a Committee to introduce Colonel Easton to this House, to give a narrative of that transaction, and that each Member have liberty to ask him any questions.

Ordered, That Mr. President, Doctor [John] Taylor, Colonel Foster, Doctor [Samuel] Holten, and Mr. Cross, be a Committee to take the same into consideration and report.

The Committee appointed to consider the account of taking the Fortress of Ticonderoga, reported the following Resolve and Letter to the Assembly of Connecticut, which were accepted, and the Letter ordered to be authenticated and sent forward: Gentlemen: We have the happiness of presenting our congratulations to you on the reduction of that important fortress, Ticonderoga. We applaud the conduct of both the officers and soldiers, and are of opinion, that the advantageous situation of that fortress makes it highly expedient that it should be repaired, and properly garrisoned. In the mean time, as we suppose that there is no necessity for keeping all the cannon there, we should be extremely glad if all the battery cannon, especially brass cannon, which can be spared from that place, or procured from Crown Point (which we hope by this time is in the hands of our friends), may be forwarded this way, with all possible expedition, as we have here to contend with an Army furnished with as fine a train of artillery as ever was seen in America. And we are in extreme want of a sufficient number of cannon to fortify those important passes, without which we can neither annoy General [Thomas] Gage, if it should become necessary, nor defend ourselves against him.

We therefore must earnestly recommend this very important matter to your immediate consideration; and we would suggest it, as our opinion, that the

appointing Colonel [Benedict] Arnold to take charge of them, and bring them down, with all possible haste, may be a means of settling any disputes which may have arisen between him and some other officers, which we are always desirous to avoid, and more especially at a time when our common danger ought to unite us in the strongest bonds of unity and affection.

We are, gentlemen, &c.

This Congress having received authentick intelligence that the Fort at Ticonderoga is surrendered into the hands of Colonel Ethan Allen and others, together with the Artillery and Artillery Stores, Ammunition, &c., thereunto belonging, for the benefit of these Colonies, occasioned by the intrepid valour of a number of men under the command of the said Colonel Allen, Colonel Easton of the Massachusetts, and others; and by the advice and direction of the Committee for that expedition, the said Colonel Allen is to remain in possession of the same and its dependencies until further orders.

Resolved, That this Congress do highly approve of the same; and the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut are hereby desired to give directions relative to garrisoning and maintaining the same, for the future, until the advice of the Continental Congress can be had in that behalf.

And as this Colony is in want of some Battering Cannon for their defence immediately, it is further *Resolved*, That the President of this Congress be desired to write to the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut, desiring that they would give order for the immediate removal of some of those Cannon to this Colony, for the purpose aforesaid.

Afternoon

Ordered, That the Letters relative to taking the Fortress of Ticonderoga be delivered to the Committee of Safety.

1. Force, comp., *Americap Archives*, 4th, II, 807-809, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S SLOOP *Otter*, MATTHEW SQUIRE,
COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Off Castle William Island [Boston Harbor]
Wednesday 17 at 12 A.M. saw four armed Rebels on Dorchester Neck
 at 5 P M heard the Report & saw the smoke of two Cannon fired
 on the Main over the Westernmost point of Thompsons Island.
 at 8 called all hands to quarters. Saw a great fire in the Town
 of Boston, at 12 the Fire still burning fierce.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. The fire, in Dock Square, destroyed a number of buildings and was subdued with difficulty. The cause was never determined.

JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Falcon*, JOHN LINZEE, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 In Tarpolean Cove
Wednesday 17 [A M] people empd working up Junk at 3 P M Weighd and
 Came to Sail at 4 fird 3 Six Pounders Shotted and Brought

too a Ship from Cape Nichola² at 5 Came too with the Bt
Br in Tarpolean Cove

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The sloop *Three Friends*, Peter Guillard, master, with wine and fruit from Hispaniola, whose cargo eventually was sold to the Boston garrison, but the "vessel was too bad to proceed." Graves's Conduct, Prize List, MassHS Transcript.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York May 17th 1775

Neither the Powder or lead you was Pleased to Order is to be had here at any Rate, as our Committe on Enquiry find us very short ourselves – the flints I can service you with if you think they will do without the Powder & lead² . . . times look gloomy here, and dont seem to Alter for the better I am [&c.]

Peter Vandervoort

1. Nathaniel and Thomas Shaw Letters and Papers, NLCHS.

2. Shaw's order is contained in his letter of April 25, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, May 17, 1775

Upon motion,

Resolved unanimously, That all exportations to Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Island of St. John's, Newfoundland, Georgia,² except the Parish of St. John's, and to East and West Florida immediately cease, and that no provisions of any kind, or other necessities be furnished to the British Fisheries on the American coasts until it be otherwise determined by the Congress.

Ordered, That it be published immediately.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC.*, II, 54. The resolution was printed in the *Pennsylvania Packet*, 29 May 1775.

2. *Ibid.*, 192, 193. The prohibition against Georgia ended with the arrival of Georgia Delegates in Congress in July with word that that colony had "acceded to the general Association."

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1775

Philadelphia, May 17.

A few days since suddenly departed hence, Zachariah Hood, Comptroller of the Customs for this port. – It is said he is gone in the ship *Pennsylvania Packet*, Capt. [Peter] Osborne, for London. – This same Hood was the Person who was Stamp-Master for Maryland, from which he was driven by his countrymen, since which he was appointed Comptroller for this port, and from hence it is said he has kept up a correspondence with the Minister's Secretary in London.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 17 [May, 1775]

We never had Such a fine appearance for a Crop of Wheat at this Season as at Present & I make no doubt if the Weather is Seasonable but that there will be One third more this Year than Ever was any One Year before however there

is no Probability of Getting it Shipped therefore we must Sit down & Eat & be merry & thank God for Plenty. You have Inclosed a list of Ships &c ² . . . If you Could by any Conveyance send out Some paper & Quils I want them much also two Pieces of Linnen for Shirts as I want it also it must be don Private if the Schooner ³ should Come out by Tenrief Powder & Lead would Answer if our trouble Subsists.

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. See list which follows.

3. Schooner *Industry*.

LIST OF SHIPS TO SAIL FOR EUROPE FROM PORT OF BALTIMORE ¹

[Enclosure in George Woolsey's Letter of 17 May]

- May
14th A brig ² Sailed from [sic! for] Bristol (from J. Stevenson) Wheat & flour
 A do do for Lisbon ³ (Purviance) do
 A do do Campbell Master, ⁴ for Bristol from Stevenson Wheat & flour
 The Ship *Hercules* ⁵ almost loaded for Bristol by J. Ewing Wheat & flour
 The Ship ——— Dachiele ⁶ mastr loaded with wheat & flour for Bristol
 Ready for Sea, belongs to A. Buchanan Loaded by him & Wm
 Buchanan Senr
 a brig ⁷ Ross Mastr Indn Corn & flour loaded by J. Hudson & others
 Ready to Sail
 Remains a Ship ⁸ belongs to S. Hudson & Lawson ——— Mastr to load
 Tobacco also three London ships lately arrived to Load Tobacco ⁹
13. The Ship *Nancy* Arrived Burress Mastr from Bristol Loading Wheat &
 flour by Stevenson for Same place or Milford ¹⁰
14. Cathow ¹¹ arrived & no Servants Sold
 Brig *Rogers* Philips from Belfast not fixed where she is bound ¹²
 A Snow from Belfast & Cork to J. Ewing Loading for Ireland ¹³
 The Ship *Jenny & Polly* now loading for England ¹⁴
 The Brig that Carrys this loaded by Wm Neill for London ¹⁵
 Kennedys ¹⁶ has 6000 bs in & will Sail in 10 days I shall endeavour to
 give you all arrivals &c &c.
 Arrived a brig to Wm. Lux from poole, not known where she goes ¹⁷
 A brig sailed for Lisbon Smith Mastr flour by D. Stewart. ¹⁸

1. Woolsey and Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Brig *Dolphin*, James Scott, master, 120 tons, cleared May 11, 1775.

3. Brig *Amy*, Thomas Salmon, master, 120 tons, cleared May 11.

4. Brig *Autumn*, James Campbell, master, 118 tons, cleared May 15.

5. Ship *Hercules*, John Norwood, master, 140 tons, cleared May 8.

6. Not listed in clearances in Port of Entry Books, 1745–1775, MdHS.

7. Brig *Union*, David Ross, master, 85 tons, cleared May 20.

8. Ship *Grace*, James Lawson, master 200 tons, cleared June 13.

9. The three tobacco ships from London were:

Baltimore, Charles Stewart, master, 95 tons, cleared June 14.

Sim, John Thomas Boucher, master, 130 tons, cleared June 1.

Nancy, James Buchanan, master, 160 tons, cleared June 16.

10. Ship *Nancy*, James Burrow, master, 130 tons, entered May 10, from Milford.
11. Brig *Dutchess of Leinster*, Alexander Cathrew, master, 100 tons, entered May 13 from Dublin.
12. Not listed in Port of Entry Book, 1745-1775, MdHS.
13. Snow *Jenny*, William McNeilly, master, 60 tons, entered May 10 from Cork.
14. Ship *Jenny and Polly*, Daniel Lawrence, master, 100 tons, entered May 13 from Bristol.
15. Brig *Maryland Planter*, Thomas Nicholson, master, 120 tons, cleared May 18 for London.
16. Ship *Baltimore Packet*, Alexander Kennedy, master, 100 tons, cleared May 8.
17. Brig *Joseph*, Joseph Thompson, master, 100 tons, entered April 28, from Poole.
18. Brig *James*, John Smith, master, 50 tons, cleared May 8.

DIARY OF THE SALEM MORAVIAN CONGREGATION OF NORTH CAROLINA ¹

May 17 [1775]. This afternoon Dr. Richter brought from Bethabara a package of letters, Gemein Nachrichten and newspapers, from Bethlehem and Lititz, which Christian Conrad brought on his return from Pennsylvania. The letters were of April 25th and May 1st, and among other things mentioned the unpleasant fact that about April 19th there had been a skirmish near Boston between the royal troops and the Provincial Militia. The most recent newspapers report that the Congress held in Philadelphia has been declared a Rebellion by Parliament, although Congress vehemently declared its loyalty to the King.

1. Fries, ed., *Moravians in North Carolina*, II, 873.

18 May

COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN TO THE MERCHANTS OF MONTREAL ¹

Gentlemen,

St. Johns, May 18, 1775

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Lakes George and Champlain, with the fortresses, artillery, &c., particularly the armed sloop of George the Third, with all water carriages of these Lakes, are now in possession of the Colonies. I expect the English Merchants, as well as all virtuous disposed gentlemen, will be in the interest of the Colonies. The advanced guard of the Army is now at St. John's, and desire immediately to have a personal intercourse with you. Your immediate assistance as to provisions, ammunition, and spirituous liquors, is wanted and forthwith expected, not as a donation, for I am empowered by the Colonies to purchase the same; and I desire you would forthwith and without further notice, prepare for the use of the Army those articles to the amount of five hundred Pounds, and deliver the same to me at St. John's, or at least a part of it almost instantaneously, as the soldiers press on faster than provisions. I need not inform you that my directions from the Colonies are not to contend with or in any way injure or molest the Canadians or Indians; but, on the other hand, treat them with the greatest friendship and kindness. You will be pleased to communicate the same to them, and some of you immediately visit me at his place, while others are active in delivering the provisions.

I write in haste, and am, gentlemen, [&c.]

Ethan Allen

To Mr. James Morrison and the Merchants that are friendly to the cause of liberty in Montreal

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 639.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

[Exeter] Thursday May 18th A.M. [1775]

A letter being recd from Hunking Wentworth Esqr Chairman of a Committee at Portsmouth the same was read & ordered to Lay.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 471.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

Cambridge, May 18.

Yesterday Colonel [James] Easton arrived at the Provincial Congress in Watertown from Ticonderoga, & brings the glorious News of the taking that Place by the American forces, without the loss of a man; Of which interesting Event we have collected the following Particulars, viz.

Last Tuesday se'nnight [May 9], about 240 Men, from Connecticut and this Province, under Col. [Ethan] Allen and Colonel Easton, arrived at the Lake near Ticonderoga, 80 of them crossed it, and came to the Fort about the Dawn of day. The Sentry was much surprised at seeing such a Body of Men, & snapped his Piece at them; our Men, however rushed forward, seized and confined the Sentry, pushed through the covered Way, and all got safe upon the Parade, while the Garrison were sleeping in their Beds. They immediately formed a hollow Square, and gave three Huzzas, which bro't out the Garrison; and an inconsiderable Skirmish, with Cutlasses or Bayonets, ensued, in which a small Number of the Enemy received some Wounds. The commanding Officer soon came forth; Col. Easton clapped him upon the Shoulder, told him he was his Prisoner, and demanded, IN THE NAME OF AMERICA, an instant Surrender of the Fort, with all its Contents, to the American Forces. The Officer was in great Confusion, and expressed himself to this Effect: Damn you, what . . . what . . . does all this mean? . . . Col. Easton again told him, that he and his Garrison were Prisoners: The Officer said, that he hoped he should be treated with honour. Colonel Easton replied, he should be treated with much more Honour than our people had met with from the British Troops. The officer then said, he was all Submission, and immediately ordered his Soldiers to deliver up all the Arms, in Number about 100 Stands. As they gave up their Arms, the Prisoners were secured in the hollow square. . . .

The American Forces having thus providentially got Possession of this important Fortress, found in it upwards of One Hundred Pieces of Cannon, several Mortars, and a considerable Quantity of shot, Stores, and some Powder.

After this Acquisition, a Detachment of our Troops was despatched to take Possession of Crown-Point, where there is a considerable Number of Cannon. Another Detachment was sent to Skenesborough, where they took Major [Philip] Skene and his Family, with a Number of Soldiers, & several small Pieces of Cannon.

WILLIAM THOMPSON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Watertown Thursday May 18 1775

I have now to inform you, that having communicated the proposed Adventure P your Vessell to the proper Persons, they have authorized me to advise

you that they will be concerned therein, for which Purpose I shall return to your Place, where I expect to be by Thursday next or sooner if possible, therefore desire you will keep her till that Time.²

I am [&c.]

W^m Thompson

please to change the Guineas I left into Jos³

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

2. Schooner *Macaroni*, William Packwood, master. See Thompson to Shaw, May 12, 1775.

3. Johannes, a Portuguese gold coin, worth then about nine dollars.

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COLONEL SAMUEL THOMPSON¹

In Provincial Congress Watertown May 18 1775

Ordered, That Colonel [Samuel] Thompson have the following Letter sent him

Sir: This Congress have Received Information that the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Falmouth, on hearing that you were about making an attack on the *Canceaux*, Man of War, Lying in the harbour of that Town, desired you to forbear any proceedings of that kind; which you promised to do; but that you afterwards took the Captain of said Ship of War, and detained the Hon. Jedediah Preble and Enoch Freman Esqurs, as Hostages for the return of the said Captain: And that you Levied contributions of money and other things from the subjects there, And took a Boat belonging to the said *Canceaux*.

Though this Congress approves of your general zeal for this Country, yet it appears, that your Conduct in taking the Captain of the Ship, against your promise, and your Levying money or other things of the People, is, by no means, justifiable: and it is therefore Expected that you attend the next Congress that shall be held in this Colony, and do your character justice in this matter, and that you return said Boat, and stay all further proceedings of this kind in the mean time.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 209.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS¹

Thursday, May 18, 1775 Afternoon.

Ordered, That Mr. Sullivan, Colonel Foster, Doctor Holten, Mr. Bragdon, and Captain Batchelder, be a Committee to take into consideration a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Falmouth, and such parts of a Letter from the Honourable Enoc Freeman, Esq. to the Secretary, as he may communicate.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, II, 809, 810, from Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Preston Boston May 18th 1775

By Accounts from the best Authorities to the Southward I find that the Rebellion begun in the province of Massachusetts Bay hath spread itself to the Colonies of New York, Pensilvania and Virginia: there is too much reason to apprehend the Infection is general, since even Nova Scotia has shewn Symptoms in

burning a Quantity of Hay collected for the use of the Kings Troops. I therefore beg leave to submit to their Lordships Consideration how extremely useful a few of the old Fifty Gun Ships would be to serve in the Rivers on this Continent; they are handy Ships, and from their easy Draught of Water can go in and out of Harbours without that great Risque and Delay which constantly attends the piloting those now with me. And as the principal part of the Duty here is done by Boats I shall be extremely obliged to their Lordships if they will be pleased to give directions that each Ship and Sloop coming out in future may have an additional Boat for her own Use, and that Supply be also sent to the Ships now in America. I believe I need not add that none can be built or repaired now but at Halifax; Every Days Experience shews that we can hope for no Supplies the Rebels can prevent: their Vigilance extends even to Firewood, which is expressly forbidden to be sold; And I am this moment informed Guards are placed along the Coast for that purpose.

The Squadron is upwards of sixty Marines short of Complement; they are so useful a Body at all times, and at this Juncture it is so requisite to keep each Ships Complement compleat, that I cannot avoid entreating their Lordships to allow any Ships coming from England to bring out supernumerary Marines for that purpose. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 90-92, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO WILLIAM TYNG¹

Sir

Preston Boston 18th May 1775

I shall be obliged to you to make it as publickly known as possible that all Vessels with Provisions of any Kind, Lumber, Spars, Firewood &c for Fleet or Army, may come directly to Boston without touching at Salem, and that as soon as they have disposed of their Cargoes they shall all be allowed to return without any Molestation or their Seamen being prest.

I am &c

Sam^l Graves

Wm. Tyng Esqr., High Sheriff of the County of Cumberland, Province of Massachusetts Bay

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 418, 419, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GENERAL THOMAS GAGE¹

Sir

Boston 18 May 1775

His Excellency Lord Dunmore has pressed me to send a large Ship to Virginia for the preservation of the Lives and properties of the King's faithful Subjects of that Colony Now in the greatest danger from the violent proceedings of the People which evidently tend to a Rebellion. I beg your Excellency will be pleased to acquaint me whether you think, in the present situation of things here, that the *Boyne* can be spared, as I am desirous in that Case of sending her immediately to Virginia. I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves.

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

18th. [May, 1775]

Coll. Abercrombie Adj. Genl., lately arrived from England, going up Cambridge river this morning in a Man of War's Boat was fired upon by several of the Rebels from the Banks; several balls went thro' the boat but nobody was hurt; they made the best of their way back, and I don't hear that he has been as fond of reconnoitring since.

1. Barker, *Diary*, 48.JOURNAL OF HIS MAJESTYS SLOOP *Nautilus*, JOHN COLLINS, COMMANDING ¹

May 1775 Cape Codd S E B E, 4 or 5 Leagues

Thursday 18 at ½ past 10 [A M] fired 2 shot to bring too a Schooner; at ½ past 11 spoke her, from Martinic to Beverly with Molasses, Sugar, Coffee, Cotton and Cocoa . . . P M sent the Lieutenant and 5 Men to carry the Schooner to Boston.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

ZEBINA MONTAGUE TO JOHN MONTAGUE, SUNDERLAND, MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Extract]

Hatfield [Mass.] 18th May 1775

The battle at Lexington unhappily desolv'd our Correspondence by Letter but Considering that our men Come of[f] Victorious in that Skirmish – it may not be amiss to begin our Periodical Speculations upon the Scenes which are passing at this day . . . my mind much Confused with Reflections upon the unhappy state we are in who as an Individual must Suffer Equal to what small crum I have as those who have Great Possessions. my life is dear but however so I will Risque it in Opposition to the Measures of administration against this Insulted People – Last Night in the Evening I had Intelligence that Orders was come over for the Troops to Destroy Plunder & burn as much as was possible they Could This is the Language of a British Parliament! May God in his Infinite Mercy Prevent their Rage from succeeding & may the Net they have spread for the Innocent Take their feet & the Councils of those men who are seeking the destruction of this People be Carried headlong. – I am Informd that L—d Norths Fishery Bill as equally mercifull as his others has passd the two Houses of Parliament which will be very distressing to many of our New England men – & Especially the Island of Nantucket who must Innevitably Perish without moving off for when at Newport often was Informd that their whole dependance for the Necessarys of Life was the Effects of their fishery – there is not any favour to be Expected from that Parliament who have avowed the Desolution of a People who are as Loyal Subjects as any in Great Britain – I am Informd that Mr Parsons of Amherst came in to Hadley to buy some shad but Could not Get any at all because he was a Tory Neither Could he get any at Northampton I believe if Lord N——h should hear of it he would be for a Bill to Restrain the fishery in Connecticut River or to put a stop to the Shads Coming up the River which would Effect us who are short on for meat. . . .

1. MHA.

JOHN LAWRENCE, TREASURER OF CONNECTICUT, TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Hartford 18 May 1775.

I received yours of the 17th Inst wherein you inform that you are preparing for the Intended Voyage – wish you good Success – it is probable I can Send you the money by Mr [Richard] Law, when he goes home which will be better than for you to come here, as it may give Occasion for People to Conjecture Something, that they Know nothing about, I am [&c.]

John Lawrence

1. Shaw Transcripts, LC.

JOURNAL KEPT BY ELEAZER OSWALD ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN¹

Thursday [May 18, 1775]. After rowing hard all night we arrived within half a mile of the place at sun rise, sent a man to bring us information, and in a small creek, infested with numberless swarms of gnats and muskitoes, waited with impatience for his return.

The man returning, informed us they were unapprized of our coming, though they had heard of the taking of Ticonderoga and Crown point. We directly pushed for shore, and landed at about sixty rods distance from the barracks; the men had their arms, but upon our briskly marching up in their faces, they retired within the barracks, left their arms, and resigned themselves into our hands.

We took fourteen prisoners, fourteen stands of arms, and some small stores. We also took the King's sloop, two fine brass field pieces, and four boats. We destroyed five boats more lest they should be made use of against us. Just at the completion of our business, a fine gale arose from the north! we directly hoisted sail and returned in triumph. About six miles from St. John's, we met Colonel [Ethan] Allen with four boats and ninety men, who determined to proceed and maintain the ground. This scheme Col. [Benedict] Arnold thought impracticable, as Montreal was near, with plenty of men and every necessary for war: Nevertheless Col. Allen proceeded and encamped on the opposite side of the lake (or river as it is there called) the next morning he was attacked by two hundred regulars, and obliged to decamp and retreat.

1. "Oswald's Journal."

RIVINGTON'S *New York Gazetteer*, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

New York, May 18.

Capt. Edward Mott and Capt. Noah Phelps, set out from Hartford, on Saturday, the 29 of April, in order to take possession of the fortress of Ticonderoga, and the dependencies thereunto belonging; they took with them from Connecticut 16 men unarmed, and marched privately through the country till they came to Pittsfield, without discovering their design to any person, till they fell in company with Col. [Ethan] Allen, Col. [James] Easton, and John Brown, Esq; who engaged to join themselves to said Mott and Phelps, and to raise men sufficient to take the place by surprize, if possible. Accordingly the men were raised, and proceeded as directed by said Mott and Phelps, Col. Ethan Allen commanding the soldiery, on Tuesday they surprized and took the fortress, making prisoners

the Commandant and his party. On Wednesday morning they possessed themselves of Crown-Point, taking possession of the ordnance stores, consisting of upwards of 200 pieces of cannon, 3 mortars, sundry howitzers, and 50 swivels, &c.

Ethan Allen, fearful of an attempt from Governor [Guy] Carleton to retake the place, has written to the Committee of Albany for a supply of 500 men and provisions; the Committee, however not perceiving themselves competent to determine on a matter of so much importance, requested the advice of our general Committee, who referred them, and immediately dispatched an express, to the [Continental] Congress now sitting at Philadelphia.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1775

New York, May 18.

The late Seizure of the Powder at the Magazine at Williamsburgh, has incensed the Inhabitants of that Province to such a degree against his Excellency Lord Dunmore, their Governor, that the *Virginia Gazette*, or *Norfolk Intelligencer*, of the 4th Instant, says, "His Excellency, the Governor, we hear, with his Family have retired on board his Majesty's Ship the *Fowey*, now lying at York, in Consequence of the Disturbances occasioned by the Removal of the Powder from the public Magazine at Williamsburg."

We hear from Williamsburg, the locks were taken off from the magazine, — that the *Magdalen* Schooner is in York river, under the protection of the *Fowey* man of war, — that Lord Dunmore had fortified himself in the palace, and his Lady and family gone on board the *Fowey* for safety.

We hear that Capt. [Charles] Murray in a Sloop from the Coast of Africa, was brought to, yesterday, in our Harbour, by Capt. [James] Montague of the *King-Fisher* Sloop of War, who ROBBED him of 6 Swivels, a number of Cohorns, and 120 lb. of Gun Powder, &c. [Quere, *Is not this invading private property?*]¹

1. The printer's query in italics.

COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK TO JONATHAN TRUMBULL, GOVERNOR OF
CONNECTICUT¹

Sir

New York 18th May 1775

As we have great reason to expect the arrival of troops from Britain to be quartered in this Province, we thought it a necessary piece of precaution to ask of the Continental Congress a line of conduct for our inhabitants on that event. We have received their directions on that head as appears by the inclosed² — We have also been informed that our brethern of Connecticut, attentive to the common cause and kindly tendering the safety of this City in its present defenceless state are upon the point of marching a considerable body of troops into it with intent to assist us in securing it against any attempt to reduce it to the condition of a garrison town or place of arms We have on this head to request your honour should these troops be about to march, to direct their encampment on the western frontiers of your Colony if your honour should think it expedient they should proceed so far, until some plan can be properly settled with our Provincial Congress who are to meet the 22nd Instant so as to place their introduction if

necessary on such a basis as will produce perfect concord & unanimity & most effectually answer the valuable ends of so friendly a succor –

We are with great respect [&c.] (By order of the Committee of New York)

1. Trumbull Papers, IV, Force Transcript, LC.

2. See Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 48–53.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 18, 1775

The president laid before the Congress, some important intelligence he received last night, by express from New York, relative to the surprising and taking of Ticonderoga, by a detachment from Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut which was read . . .

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. [John] Brown, who brought the express, be called in to give an account of the disposition of the Canadians,² the taking of Ticonderoga and the importance of that post. Whereupon he was called in – and having given the necessary information he withdrew. The Congress taking the matter into consideration came to the following Resolution,

Resolved, Whereas there is indubitable evidence that a design is formed by the British Ministry of making a cruel invasion from the province of Quebec, upon these colonies, for the purpose of destroying our lives and liberties, and some steps have actually been taken to carry the said design into execution. And whereas several inhabitants of the northern colonies, residing in the vicinity of Ticonderoga, and immediately exposed to incursions, impelled by a just regard for the defence and preservation of themselves and their countrymen from such imminent dangers and calamities have taken possession of that post, in which was lodged a quantity of cannon and military stores, that would certainly have been used in the intended invasion of these colonies, this Congress earnestly recommend it to the committees of the cities and counties of New York and Albany, immediately to cause the said cannon and military stores to be removed from Ticonderoga to the south end of Lake George; and if necessary to apply to the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts bay, and Connecticut, for such an additional body of forces as will be sufficient to establish a strong post at that place and effectually to secure the said cannon and stores or so many of them as it may be judged proper to keep there. – And that an exact inventory be taken of all such cannon and stores in order that they may be safely returned when the restoration of the former harmony between Great Britain and these colonies so ardently wished for by the latter shall render it prudent and consistent with the overruling law of self preservation.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 55, 56.

2. See John Brown to Massachusetts Committee of Correspondence, March 29, 1775.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR., A MARYLAND DELEGATE IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE¹

Dear Sir

Phila 18 May 1775

Mr [Patrick] Henry did me the favor Yesterday to deliver me your Letter we have as yet had nothing agitated in Congress about Trade I hope and expect that the Time for Exportation will continue as it did though I have some Expectation that it will be moved to shorten it As the Event of any Motion of that Sort

ought & I suppose will be allowed to be made public you shall have early Notice – Ticonderago has been surprized by a small party of New England men & is now in their possession without drawing one drop of Blood – from what I can collect in in the Concord Affair upwards of 400 Regulars killed wounded & taken prisoners, it is strange but I believe only 43 Militia killed & a very small number wounded – N York & Pensylva I know in Confidence are firm though some Gentlemens prejudices prompt them to suspect N York Our friends in that Government have had a hard Winters Campaign and remarkable Success I think every Thing promises very fair if we do not ever divide – As there can be no Occasion for a Convention of our Province before, you will not see me till the Congress breaks up. I shall attend to your Hints let me entreat you to spirit our people to Diligence in Exercise and as you have an Oppty if in your Power of planning & mounting a Scheme for a speedy Supply of Powder pray think of it from what I learn it may be had out of the powder Stores at the Cape² I am sorry to tell you this place N York Jersey & Lower Counties are very illy supplied and none of our Friends very amply – do get together and try if you cannot do something.

I am dr. sr. [&c.]

Th^s Johnson Jun^r

1. Misc. Collection, HUL.

2. Cape François.

JOHN FOSTER TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Southampton [Virginia] May 18th 1775

I now send you by the Bearer Mr Samuel Hunting a some of Money which he has signd a Receipt here for; to your Adress to purchase Powder please to give him a Receipt that he may Send it back Sir there is Eight half Johaniss which are light if you Purchase in St Eustatia they will pass for 8 Dollars & save me the Loss here & if not your Capt must Change them to Oblige me & save me the Loss here Mr Hunting will let you know which they are Mr Hunting is a Gentleman of a Liberal Education, he has been 2 Voyages Master of a Vessel in my Employ I look upon him to be a Man of Principal & to be Depended upon. he is well Acquainted with our Shoar & in Case you Can once Command the Shoar there is no manner of Danger there is 10 Boats will be on our Beach till you arive & Can Unlaid You in an Hour But you will know the danger if any by Boats going of[f] to him by his Signal which I send you & must be Strictly adheard to if you get Soundings off the Capes of Virginia you can strike the Island where you please If it cant be Safe to come Round with the Vessel Mr Hunting must carry her on to Nicolls Gut & there She will be Safe in Case this Island is not Filled with Troops before he Arives & if that Should be the Case they must be dislodged by the United Forces of the whole Country But I hope that will not be the Case the Some of Money that Mr Hunting has Given Receipt for is one Hundred Sixty Five Pounds fourteen Shillings & Nine pence²

These from your Sincere Friend [&c.]

John Foster

P S Mr Hunting is not a Pilot into Nicolls Gut but he can inform you into the Nature of it and can get one

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

2. A list of the money is attached to the letter.

19 May

"REMARKS ON BOARD YE *Scarborough* IN PISCATAQUA RIVER"¹

Friday 19th Fired a 9 Pounder shotted at a Brigg from Barbadoes. Impressed
May 1775 two Men from her. —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Scarborough Piscataqua May 19th 1775

Sir I wrote to You by a Schooner belonging to General [Thomas] Gage the 3d
Inst nothing material has happened here since.

Yesterday Governor [John] Wentworth send me a Message by his Secretary acquainting me there was about three hundred Men had assembled, to carry away a Quantity of Masts, that were in a Pond near the Town, I ask'd the Secretary if the Governor desired that I might send my Boats to prevent their so doing, he said no, by no means, for if such a thing was attempted they would immediately cut them to pieces, I ask'd what they intended to do with them, he replied they were going to carry them higher up the River for their better Security, I ask'd him where could they be so well secured or safe as under the Protection of a King's Ship and told him if Governor Wentworth, or whoever was the Proprietor of these Masts would apply to me, it was in my power to have protected them as they were made up in Floats to be carried up the River, he said he had no such request to make, about an hour after he was gone I received a Letter from Governor Wentworth, a Copy of which I herewith inclose You by which You may see, they intend they never shall be made use of for the King or his Service.

Yesterday Morning the *Canceaux* arrived here from Falmouth, has brought with him Captain [Thomas] Colstan's Ship and Sloop which I have taken under my protection and shall gave him every Assistance in my power to fit his Ship. I find the Arrival of Captain Colsten's Ship was the cause of their Manoeuvre with Mast, thinking she was come to take them in; I have just now been inform'd that the People of Halifax in Nova Scotia had assembled and destroyed a Magazine of Hay which was collected there for the use of his Majesty's Troops and that they had attempted to destroy the King's Yard but were prevented by some part of the Inhabitants, In consequence of which I gave Lieutenant [Henry] Mowat Orders to proceed to Halifax without one moment's loss of time and at his Arrival if he found no King's Ship there to do his utmost Endeavours to protect the King's Yard and Stores and to put your Orders in Execution as soon as he could —

I send this by a Vessel belonging to the Commrs of the Customs

Sign'd And^w Barkley

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

New Hampshire Gazette, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1775

Portsmouth, May 19.

Last Tuesday Evening [May 16] a Barge belonging to the Man of War in this Harbour, rowing up and down the River, to make Discoveries, with two small

officers and six Seamen; the Tars not liking the Employ, tied their commanders, then run the Boat ashore, and were so unpolite as to wish the Prisoners good Night, and come off. The Officers soon got loose and rowed themselves back to the ship.

JOURNAL OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF MASSACHUSETTS ¹

[Watertown] Friday, May 19, 1775

A Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Connecticut, was read, respecting the taking of Ticonderoga; Whereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry prepare an answer thereto, informing them what steps this Congress have taken relative to that affair.

Mr. Gerry reported an Answer to a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of Connecticut, which was accepted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 31.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N.¹

Sir,

Preston Boston May 19th 1775

I have received your Letter May 15th with its Inclosures; Your Hint respecting the different operations on our parts and that of the Rebels is perfectly understood, I heartily wish we were empowered to act.

It is highly expedient to prevent all Supplies going to Providence. In my last Dispatches you were authorized to seize Provisions and send them to Boston; Arms and Ammunition were before prohibited: I cannot at present give you a further Scope, though equally desirous of chastizing the Rebels. I thank you for the Intelligence from [New] York; notwithstanding all Discouragements, you must not remit your usual Diligence in procuring and sending to me what Information you can of the Rebels. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

Rose at Rhode Island

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 419, 420, MassHS Transcript.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] May 19th [1775], Lieutenant Parry, Agent of Transports, in the *James and William*, together with the *Francis, Grand Dutchess of Russia, Betsey, Two Brothers* and *Union Transports* arrived about this time from Portsmouth [England] with Marines; And this was the only division of Transports whose Agent had Directions to follow the Admirals Orders.

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 94, MassHS Transcript.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 19th May 1775.

As I find the Rebels have seized and carried off into their Ports several Vessels laden with Fuel, Lumber and Provisions coming to Boston, and being in-

formed that they have retaken two Vessels seized by the *Falcon* and made the men prisoners; I beg leave to submit to their Lordships that a Sergeant, Corporal and the Private Marines, in addition to the present Establishment of the armed Schooners on this Station, would make these Vessels very formidable, and enable them to do very considerable Service during the Rebellion: The Marines would also be an excellent Guard to prevent the Seamen from deserting.

I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 92, MassHS Transcript.

GENERAL THOMAS GAGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Sir,

Boston May 19th 1775.

I have received your Letter of Yesterday. which I have considered, It is impossible for me in the present State of Things here, to say whether you may be able to spare the *Boyne* to be sent to Virginia; You are the best Judge of the use that can be made of the great Ships here or in that Country.

Some Disagreeable Accounts have been received that Lord Dunmore is taken Prisoner, and carried into the back Country; if that is a Fact, it is difficult to know if there is any Person to take direction of any Assistance that can be sent to that Province.

I would observe to you that I have Accounts again this Morning, of a Number of large flat Boats building at Cambridge. –

I am with great Regard and Esteem Sir &ca

1. Gage Papers, CL.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER¹

[Boston] 19th. [May, 1775]

Several shots fired at the *Glasgow*; it's what the fools frequently do, but without any harm, from the great distance.

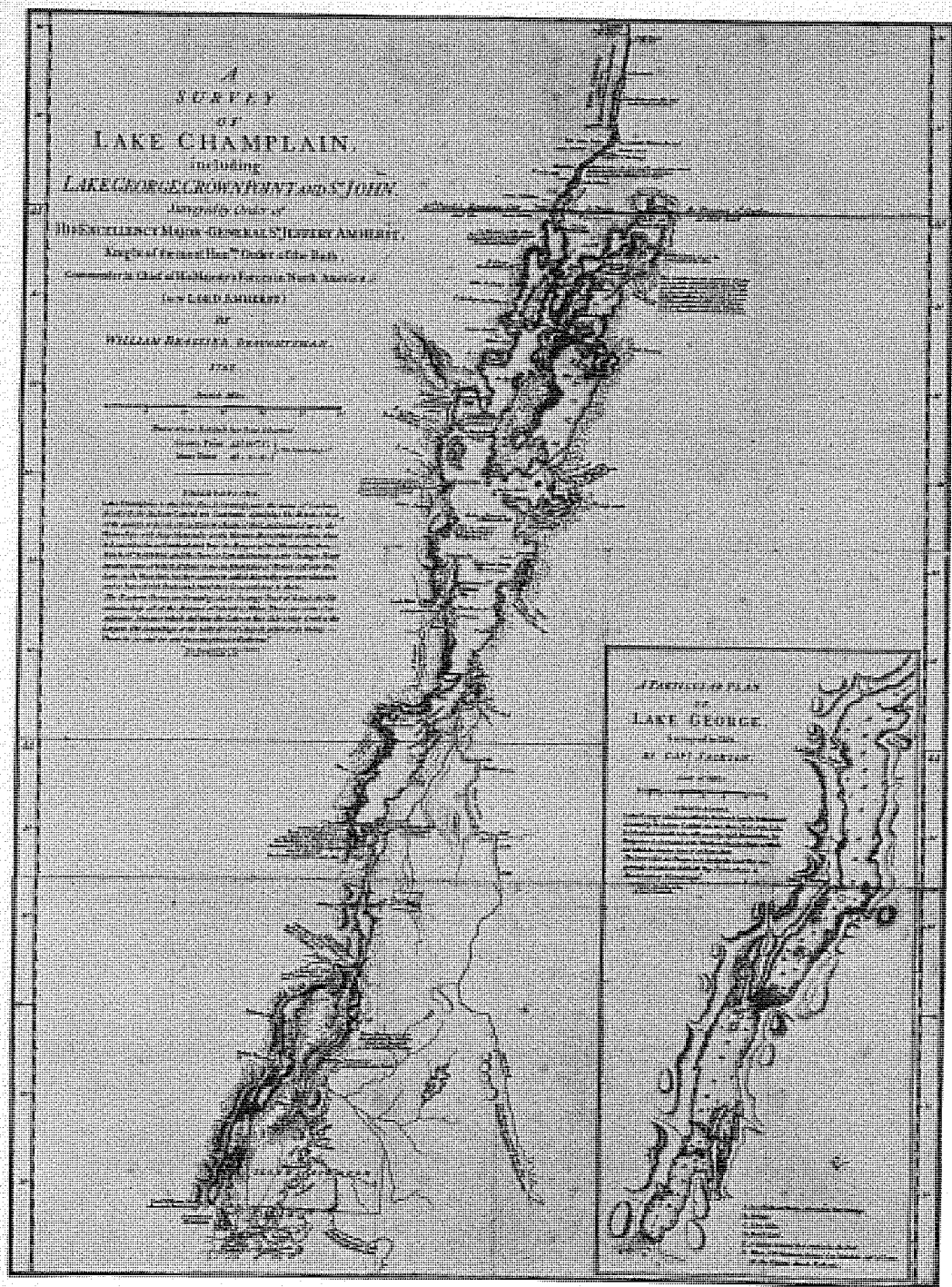
1. Barker, *Diary*, 48.

COLONEL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE OF SAFETY,
CAMBRIDGE¹

Gentlemen

Crown Point, 19th May 1775 –

My last was of the 14th Instant by Mr [Bernard] Romans, via New Haven. I then acquainted you of the Occasion of Delay in not carrying your Orders into execution. – The Afternoon of the same Day, being joined by Captains Brown & Oswald, with 50 Men inlisted on the Road, they having taken Possession of a small Schooner, at Skenesborough, we immediately proceeded on our Way for St Johns, and at 8 o'Clock, P.M; the 17th Instant arrived within 30 Miles of St Johns. The Weather proving calm, we mannd out two small Batteaux, with 35 Men, & the next Morning at 6 o'Clock, arrived at St Johns, surprized & took a Sargeant & his Party of 12 Men, the King's Sloop of about 70 Tons, with 2 brass



Map of Lake Champlain, 1776.

6-pounders & 7 Men, without any Loss on either Side. – The Captain was gone to Montreal, & hourly expected with a large Detachment for Ticonderoga, a Number of Guns & Carriages for the Sloop, which was just fixed for sailing; add to this there was a Captain & 40 Men at Chamblee, 12 Miles distant from St Johns, who was expected there every Minute with his Party; so that it seemed to be a mere Interposition of Providence that we arrived in so fortunate an Hour. – We took such Stores on board as were valuable, & the Wind proving favourable, in two Hours after our arrival, weighed Anchor for this place, with the Sloop & 4 of the kings Batteaux, having destroy'd 5 others; so that there is not left a single Batteau for the kings Troops, Canadians or Indians, to cross the Lake in if they have any such Intention. – I must, in Justice to Col. [Ethan] Allen, observe, that he left Crown Point soon after me for St Johns with 150 Men & on my Return I met him 5 Leagues this Side, & supplied him with Provisions, his Men being in a starving Condition. – He informed me of his Intention of proceeding on to St John's with 80 or 100 Men, & keeping Possession there. – It appeared to me a wild, impracticable Scheme, & provided it could be carried into execution, of no Consequence, so long as we are Masters of the Lake, & of that I make no Doubt, as I am determined to arm the Sloop & Schooner immediately. – I wrote you, Gentlemen, in my former Letter, that I should be extremely glad to be superceded in my Command here, as I find it next to impossible to repair the old Fort at Ticonderoga, & am not qualified to direct in building a new one. –

I am really of Opinion, it will be necessary to employ 1000 or 1500 Men here this Summer, in which I have the Pleasure of being joined in Sentiment by Mr Romans, who is esteem'd an able Engineer. – I am making all possible Provisions for wheel Carriages &c to carry such Cannon &c to Albany, as can be spared here & will be servicable to our Army at Cambridge –

I must refer you for Particulars to the Bearer, Capt Jonathan Brown, who has been very active & servicable, & is a prudent & good Officer, and beg leave to observe, I have had Intimations given me, that some Persons had determined to apply to you & the Provincial Congress, to injure me in your esteem by misrepresenting Matters of Fact. – I know of no other Motive they can have, only my refusing them Commissions, from the very simple Reason, that I did not think them qualified: – however, Gentlemen, I have the Satisfaction of imagining I am employ'd by Gentlemen of so much Candour that my Conduct will not be condemned untill I have the Opportunity of being heard –

I am [&c.]

Benedict Arnold

P.S. Inclosed is a Memorandum of such Cannon &c as I intend sending to Cambridge Also of such as are here. –

By a Return from Montreal to Genl [Thomas] Gage, I find there are 717 Men in Canada, of the 7th & 26th Regiments, including 70, which we have taken Prisoners.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 210, 211.

A List of Cannon &c., taken at Crown Point ¹

2 iron 24-pounders,	33 6 and 9-pounders, useless,
1 do. do. useless	7 9 and 12 do. do.
1 brass do. serviceable	2 long 6 do. good,
4 iron 18-pounders, not examined but appear good	2 short 6 do. bad,
14 iron 12 pounders, do	3 do. do. not examined
4 French do. useless	3 do. do. useless
8 12 and 18 do. not examined but appear good	1 English 13-inch mortar,
7 long 9-pounders, double fortified, good	1 French do. } all
12 long 9-pounders, serviceable	2 do 8-inch do. } serviceable
2 do. do. mounted	2 8-inch howitzers
	111

A List of Cannon &c., taken at Ticonderoga

3 18-pounders, good,	19 swivels, good,
2 French do. bad,	2 wall pieces, good,
2 12-pounders, good,	2 French 12-pounders, bad,
6 12 do. double fortified,	1 13-inch mortar and bed, good,
good,	1 7 do. do. good,
2 12 do. useless,	1 7-inch howitzers, good
12 9 do. good,	—
5 9 do. bad,	86
18 6 do. bad,	28 iron truck wheels,
9 4 do. good,	10 carriages fit for use
1 6 do. good,	

N.B. I shall send to Cambridge the 24-pounders, 12 and 6-pounders, howitzers, &c., as directed by Colonel [Richard] Gridley. Four brass howitzers in the edge of the Lake, and covered with water, cannot be come at at present.

Benedict Arnold

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 210. Enclosed in Arnold's letter of May 19, 1775.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CROWN POINT, MAY 19" ¹

On the 14th inst. Col. [Benedict] Arnold left Ticonderoga with 50 men, in a small schooner (seized at Skenesbury) ² and proceeded for St. John's. The 17th, at six o'clock P.M. being within 30 miles of St. John's, the weather calm, they manned 2 small batteaus with 35 men, and at six o'clock next morning arrived there and surprized a serjeant and his party of 12 men, and took the King's sloop of about 70 tons,³ two brass six pounders and 7 men, without any loss on either side. The Captain was hourly expected from Montreal, with a large detachment of men, some guns and carriages for the sloop; as was a Captain with 40 men from Chamblee, which is twelve miles distant from St. John's; so that providence seems to have smiled on us in arriving at so fortunate an hour; for, had we been six hours later, in all probability we should have miscarried in our design. — The wind proving favourable in two hours after our arrival, we got on board all the stores, provisions, &c. and weighed anchor for this place, with the sloop and five large batteaus, which we seized, having destroyed five others, and arrived here at ten this morning, not leaving one craft of any kind behind that that enemy can cross the lake in, if they have any such intention.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 5, 1775.

2. Named the *Liberty*.

3. Subsequently named the *Enterprise*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, May 19, 1775

The committee appointed to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the colony of New York, and by what number of troops it will be proper they should be guarded, brot in their report, which being read was referred to the committee of the whole.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, II, 57.

MANIFEST OF CARGO OF FLOUR SHIPPED IN SCHOONER *Lively*¹

SHIPPED in good Order and well conditioned, by *Stephen Collins* in and upon the good schooner called the *Lively* whereof is Master for this present Voyage *Holton Johnson* and now riding at Anchor in the River *Delaware*, and bound for *London* To say

One Hundred Barrells of Flour. —

Thirty Barrells of which is Light. —

being marked and numbered as in the Margin,² and are to be delivered in like good Order and well conditioned at the aforesaid Port of *London* (the Danger of the Seas only excepted) unto *William Neate Merchant* there or to his Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods; *Five Shillings and Sixpence sterling pr Barrell for the Heavy & Five Shillings pr Barrell for the Light.* with Primage and Average accustomed. *In Witness whereof* the Master or Purser of the said Schooner hath affirmed to *two* Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which being accomplished, the other to stand void. Dated *Philadelphia, May 19th 1775*³

Holton Johnson

1. *Stephen Collins Accounts*, vol. 12, LC.

2. Marginal identification, "A No. 1 to 100."

3. The insurance policy for the *Lively*, dated May 12, 1775, is to be found in the *Stephen Collins Accounts*, vol. 12, LC. It is a printed form. Handwritten insertions appear in italics. The subscribers to the insurance, each assuming an obligation for two hundred pounds, were Caleb Emlen, John Bringham, John Mifflin, Matthew Aspden, and Isaac Cox, all Philadelphians. According to the *Pennsylvania Packet*, the *Lively*, under the command of Holton Johnson, entered the port of Philadelphia from Salem prior to May 8. She was entered outwards immediately and cleared for London prior to May 15, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

May the 19th 1775. — Committee met.

Messrs Lux & Bowley at the Request of the Committee produced a Letter of Advice and Instructions from Messrs Pinney & Sibley of [Liver]Pool relative to the Loading of the Brig *Sukey* Capt SI Clark —

The Chairman laid before the Committee Extracts from two Letters received from Philadelphia, informing that sundry Vessels were loading in the Port of Liverpool with Salt and dry Goods, some of which were destined for this Province. — Ordered that Copies of the said Extracts be printed in handbills and inclosed to the different Committees of this Province and Virginia—

1. Balt. Com., LC.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF MARYLAND¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore May 19th 1775

By several Letters of good authority Receivd from Phila by yesterday's Post, we are Advised that there is a Vessell daily expected theire with a Parcel of Salt [and] some Dry Goods from Liverpool for which the Pilots of Dellaware are ordered to keep a sharp lookout. — by the same Letters we are Informed one or more Ships were taking in Salt & Dry Goods at Liverpool intended for this Ba[y] in particular the Ship *Johnson* Bound with such a Cargoe to this Port, Its not Probable that the Parties Concern'd will attempt to Bring such Goods directly in Heare, but Rather Disload them in Small Craft Down the Bay. We Hope you will order a Diligent attention [to] be kept up in Examining all Boats and Small Craft & use your Best Endeavours to Counteract the Selfish Schemes of Every Enemy to American Liberty we are with great Respect Gentlemen [&c.] In Behalf of the Committee

Samuel Purviance Chairman

I am not certain whether you have been informd. that our Committee have agreed to your Requisition for 500 wt of Gun Powder — It is & you may have it as Soon as you please to send for it.

S. P.

1. US Naval Papers, MdHS.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1775

Williamsburg, May 19.

On Monday last [May 15] Capt. [George] Montague's detachment of marines (nicknamed *boiled crabs*) took their departure from this city, and are returned on board the *Fowey* — *to get fat*.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir/

Antelope, Jamaica May 19th 1775

I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have received your Letters of the 31st Janry & 1st Febry last, in Answer to those of mine of the 22nd Novr & 9th Decr, 1774, and am glad I have the Honor to meet with their Lordships approbation, in regard to my Duty.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that by the last Pensacola Pacquet, I received a Letter from Captain Rodney, of His Majesty's sloop *Ferret*, informing me, that if he had a Deputation from the Customs, it would enable him, to carry on the service, in puting a stop to the Illicit Trade, carried on in the Mississippi, better than he is able to do without it, and that he had agreeable to my directions, applied to the Collector, at Pensacola, for one, but could not get One. Since that I have applied to the Collector, at Kingston, who informs me, 'tis not in his Power, to grant One, therefore it rests with their Lordships, whether the Captains, who are sent on that service, are to be furnish'd with Deputations, or not.

I further beg leave to inform their Lordships, that the 1st inst Jno McKenzee, deliver'd himself up to me, as a Deserter, from the Plymouth Division of Marines,

Sir

Antelope, Jamaica
May 19: 1775

I have the honor to receive

2.12th

I beg leave to acquaint
their Lordships, that by the last Per-
sacca Packet, I received a Letter
from Captain Rodney, of His Majesty's
Sloop Teret, informing me, that if
he had a Representation from the
Customs, it would enable him, to,
carry on the Service, in putting a stop
to the illicit Trade, carried on in the
Mississippi, better than he is able
to do without it, and that he had

meet with their Lordships Approbation
I am, with great respect

Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble servant

Clark Gayton

Philip Stephens Esq.

he is at present in Confinement on board the *Antelope*, & that I propose sending him to England, in the *Pallas*.

I likewise beg leave to acquaint their Lordships, that the 10th instant, I appointed Wm Dobbs Cook of the *Maidstone* in the Room of the former Deceased.

Mr Holman, the New storekeeper is arrived, & has made Application to me, for Assistance in taking the General survey, of his Majestys stores here, in order to be deliver'd into his Charge, which Assistance I shall grant, as soon as ever in my Power.

With regard to the Disposition of His Majestys Ships and Vessells, under my Command, beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that since my last, the *Squirrel* arrived, & that she, & the *Maidstone*, are both fit for the sea, – I received information by the Pacquet, that Admiral [William] Parrys Squadron, were Cruizing between the Islands of St Martins, & St Eustatia, in order to intercept the American Vessells who were carrying on a Contraband Trade, and that they had taken two, or three of them. I therefore, as I thought it probable the next Pacquet, would bring me Orders to the same effect, with regard to the American Vessels, trading to Cape Nichola Mole, & Francois, therefore have detained the *Squirrel*, & *Maidstone* until her arrival, when if I have no Orders concerning them, I shall send the former, to the Mosquitto Shore, & Bay of Honduras, & the latter on a Cruise, which I hope will meet with their Lordships Approbation.

I am with great respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

20 May

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[EXETER] SATURDAY MAY 20TH 1775 A M

Voted that the thanks of this Convention be given to the persons who took away and secured for the use of this Government a Quantity of Gunpowder from the Castle called William & Mary in this Province.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 478.

JOSEPH GERRISH AND EBENEZER SAWYER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir

Exeter May 20th 1775.

In Obedience to the Orders of the Congress we have Executed the Commission betrustrd us & find the Gente disposed to concur in Every measure that shall Conduce to the publicke good. Inclosed Sr is their Resolve of Congress we Can add no more than giving you Acct of their Seizing a Number of Masts in Portsmouth, destin'd for the Navy their firmness Resolution & unanimity gives us great Pleasure & are Sir [&c.] ²

Joseph Gerrish
Ebenezer Sawyer

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 193, 218.

2. Gerrish and Sawyer were sent to New Hampshire to sound out the New Hampshire Congress upon its sentiments regarding resistance to the Crown.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO LORD DUNMORE, WILLIAMSBURG ¹

My Lord,

Preston Boston 20th May 1775

I have had the Honour to receive your Lordship's Letter of the 1st of May and see with Concern the unwarrantable and lawless proceedings of the people of Virginia, and the Danger your Lordship is exposed to by endeavouring to support his Majesty's just Authority amongst an ungrateful and rebellious people.

The action of the 19th of April, of which I inclose your Lordship a printed Account, has hitherto had the worst consequences to the King's Authority in this and the neighbouring Provinces. In fact the Rebellion is general: The Proceedings of the Governments of Rhode Island and Connecticut and the Committees of New York, Pensilvania, Jerseys and Philadelphia leave no Room to doubt their being of the same Mind with the Rebels of this Province: They are actually making the most vigorous preparations for War.

The Town of Boston is shut up by the Rebel Troops, whose advanced Centinels are within a few paces of ours. There is no communication by Land. The Rebels prohibiting every thing from being brought into Boston under pain of Death. The Inhabitants with their Effects are leaving the Town by permission, and it is generally believed that when they are all out, the Rebels will attack the Town; The General tells me that flat bottomed boats are building for this purpose at Cambridge. A numerous and well appointed Army is assembled, which without the protection of the Kings Ships can utterly destroy this Town and the Troops pent up in it. Castle William is at this time actually guarded by the Men of War.

Under these Circumstances it gives me great pain that I am unable to comply fully with your Lordship's requisition to send a large Ship to Virginia, being perfectly satisfied how serviceable she could be at this Juncture; But my Lord I flatter myself when your Lordship is acquainted with the true situation of his Majesty's Affairs in this Town and Province, and of the great preparations actually making to dislodge the King's Troops; Your Lordship will perceive I could not without the utmost Risque send another large Ship from hence; The *Asia* being gone to New York the beginning of this month. I have however sent Captain [Matthew] Squire in his Majesty's Sloop *Otter* to put himself under the Command of Captain [George] Montagu, who will I am satisfied continue to assist your Lordship and protect his Majesty's faithful Subjects to the utmost of his Power, and when a Reinforcement comes from England, your Lordship may depend upon my paying the utmost Attention in my power to your application, consistent with the Orders I may receive, and the Exigencies of his Majesty's Service in this Country. I am &c.

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, I, 94-96, MassHS Transcript.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1775

Providence, May 20.

We hear that two small Vessels having been lately seized by the Men of War at Newport, and fitted out as Cruizers, for the Purpose of robbing and plundering

the Sea Coast, in order to supply their Fellow-Ruffians at Boston with fresh Provisions, the Inhabitants of Dartmouth dispatched an armed Sloop to take them, which was accomplished; one of them struck without making any Resistance, the other was taken after a short Contest, wherein one of our People and three of the Enemy were wounded. — The Prisoners (except the Wounded) about 17 in Number, were sent to Taunton.

Captain William Chace, from Baltimore-Town, in Maryland, advises, that an Account of the late Engagement with the King's Troops was received there by Land in six Days, when the Inhabitants immediately took Possession of the Provincial Magazine, with 1500 Small Arms, and secured all the Military Stores that could be found in private Hands . . .

Capt. Chace likewise informs, that the Governor of Virginia had fled on board a Man of War, to avoid the Resentment of the People on Account of the Part he took in a late Seizure of Powder at Williamsburg, and that it was thought he would go to Boston.

“REMARKS &C ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Rose*”¹

May 1775 AM Moor'd in Rhode Island Harbour
 Saturday 20 Stop'd the Sloop *Collector*, Nichs Webster Master with Provisions.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

CAPTAIN J. COLLET TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N.¹

(Copy) Fort Johnston [North Carolina] May 20th 1775.
 Sir, I am credibly informed that a Body of Militia in this Province have actually taken Arms against the Government and are determined to attack His Majesty's Fort and Garrison under my Command, in order to enable themselves to oppose and keep off His Majesty's Ships and Troops, that may be ordered here: In this Fort the King has a very valuable Sett of Artillery, but a very inconsiderable Number of men to defend it; & above all my Store of Powder is just exhausted, & most likely the Supply His Excellcy. Genl. [Thomas] Gage is sending will come too late: It is my Duty to lay my situation before you & crave your Assistance and Protection, with which I am conscious I can repulse any Force, and answer the trust reposed in me; any quantity of Powder you can spare me will be received most thankfully (for I have not to load again after the first firing) & the proximity of your Ship will ansr all my wishes;

I am respectfully, Sir [&c.]

J: Collet²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485, LC Transcript.

2. “Mr Collett . . . still is Governor of Fort Johnson in North Carolina, appointed by order from England, and left to the Province for his Pay who have refused to Pay him any Salary, because he was not of their own Appointment,” Gage to Barrington, January 6, 1773, Gage Mss., CL.