

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 3

AMERICAN THEATRE: Dec. 8, 1775–Dec. 31, 1775

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Nov. 1, 1775–Jan. 31, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Jan. 1, 1776–Feb. 18, 1776

Part 5 of 8

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proved to be the *Polly and Betsey* Sloop from Connecticut, Seiz'd Do as a Prize and made Sail for Antigua.

Saturday 13 At 11 A M came on board the Pilot and took charge accordingly at half past came to Anchor in the Entrance of English Harbour in 4 fathm with the best Bower in Company with the Prize took her Men on board.

Moderate and Cloudy

P. M employed in Warping into Freemans Bay and mooring - Found here the *Portland Hind* and *Lynx* sent three Men to the Hospital.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

"A LETTER FROM ON BOARD THE *Anna Teresa* AT BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS" ¹

[Extract]

Jan: 13

... The Islands begin greatly to feel the Effects of the unhappy Disturbances between England and America, and the King's Ships keep a good Lookout after the American Vessels; several of which have been taken and condemned. Captain Garneir [William Garnier] of the *Argo*, sailed from hence this Morning. He has taken five or six Sail. One of his Prizes, a Sloop, was condemned, and sold here Yesterday.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, March 1, 1776.

14 Jan. (Sunday)

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Copy

Montreal Jan: 14th 1776

Sir Your Letter of the 31st Ultio I received per post, also a Number of Letters for General [Richard] Montgomery all which I opened, not knowing but they might contain something of a public Nature - The Private Letters I shall enclose with this; You will doubtless send them to his Friends.

I am glad to hear that we may soon expect a pay-Master, we have drained our Friends here of most of their Cash and it is next to impossible to do any Thing without it.

Some of the persons that you sent back, have really behaved very illy, one Sears, especially whom I have now in Confinement, immediately upon coming into the Country circulated a Report that the Colonies had given over the Thoughts of keeping this Province - That there were no Soldiers at Ticonderoga nor Fort George nor any expected, and so few at St. John's that it would be an easy Matter to take it and indeed all the rest - A Story very illy calculated for us, in our present delicate Situation - some others of the prisoners which were sent back, I hear have made themselves very busy in reporting Stories to our prejudice. I shall therefore be obliged to return to you some of them and perhaps some others Ringleaders of the Tories in this Country with the prisoners who were left here in a few Days.

The four Fuzees taken by Major [James] Lockwood are put up in a Box according to Capitulation and are now at St. John's ready to be sent over the Lakes. — It was a Mistake of Col. [Edward] Fleming's or the Fuzees would have been taken from all the Officers.

They capitulated upon the same Conditions as the Garrison of St. John's: and if You look into that you will see that the Officers were all allowed their Side Arms but their Fire Arms were to be put up in a Box and delivered to them when these unhappy Disputes were ended unless they chose to dispose of them before. I have great Hopes, however arduous and difficult it may be, that our little Army at Quebec will keep up the Blockade till they can be relieved, provided a Reinforcement is sent on in a short Time — I have sent them an hundred and twenty Men from this Garrison which was all that could with prudence be spared. Col. [James] Clinton has gone down with Mr [James] Price I dare say they will take every possible Measure for the Safety of the Army and preserving the Blockade — I inclose you Copies of two Letters from Col: [Benedict] Arnold with the Translation of one sent by Lonodier Out of Quebec recd since my last.

Just after Mr [Edward] Antill left this Place, I dispatched an Express to Onion River in Order to get a Reinforcement from the Green Mountain Boys. I wrote to Col: [Seth] Warner in the most pressing Manner to bring a Regiment into this Province and remain here under Continental pay, till they can be relieved, a Measure which the present Exigency I think will justify — Whether they will come or not you know is uncertain.

Quebec is strongly fortified and so well stored with provisions that many think they will be able to hold out till they can be relieved in the Spring. It is a great Chance if they do not make out to get in some provisions should the River there take [*sic break*] before our army can be augmented.

How then are we to take the place, We have at St. John's two 24 Pounders Brass; I understand they have a Number of 32 pounders at New York — Will it not be well to send for them (if the heavy Cannon are taken from Ticonderoga & Fort George and with such Mortars as you have with proper Ball Shells &c. &c Send them forward as quick as possible I am of the Opinion that heavy Cannon will be necessary in taking of that place — I wrote you in my last that we had but a Trifle of powder — We have at Quebec a Hoitzer which throws an 8 Inch Shell — I am informed that one Pelliseir at three Rivers can cast Shells Shot &c of any Size but whether he will be able to do it soon enough I cant yet find out.

All Kinds of Liquors and West India Goods are so extravagantly dear here, that I am confident they may be brought over the Lakes to great Advantage.

In Order therefore in some Measure to remedy the great difficulty in procuring hard Cash, suppose Rum & Sugar should be encouraged to come over with every Kind of Article wanted in the Army, for which we are obliged to pay hard Money here at the most extravagant Rates — The sutlers would be able to sell them to us full as low and many Things much lower and take in pay Continental Money. The people in the Country seeing the Money pass freely among us perhaps will be induced to give it a Currency.

By the inclosed Letters especially the one which was wrote in French to General Montgomery while he was at Quebec and before the unhappy Defeat, since when, our Enemies are more bold in thir Measures against us, You will see the great Necessity of sending many of their Leaders out of the province and of forwarding a Reinforcement immediately not only for continuing the Blockade of Quebec but, for preserving the Country I am Sir [&c.]

Dav^d. Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 464-67, NA.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Dear Sir

Camp Before Quebec 14th Jany 1776

I make no Doubt you will, soon hear, of Our Misfortune, on the 31. Ulto, and be very Anxious to know Our Present Situation. — Our loss, and repulse struck an Ama[z]eing Panick, into both Officers & Men, and had the Enemy improved their Advantage, Our affairs, here must have ben Intirely ruined. It was not in my power to Prevail on the Officers to Attempt saveing Our Mortars, which had ben placed in St Roque's, — of Course they fell into the hands of the Enemy. — Upwards of One hundred Officers, and Soldiers, Instantly set of[f] for Montreal and it was, with the greatest difuculty I could persaude the rest to make a stand. — The Panick soon subsided, — I arranged the Men in such Order, as effectually to Blockade the City, and enable them to Assist each other if Attacked. — It was urged by the Officers, to move Our Ammunition, and Artillery Stores Of which we had a large quantity and tho' the risque was great, I could not Approve the measure, as it would undoubtedly, have made Unfavourable impressions on the Minds of the Canadians, and Induced them to withdraw their Assistance, which must have ended in Utter Ruin, I therefore put the best face on Matters and betrayed no marks of Fear. — I have withdrawn the Cannon from Our Battery and placed them round the Magazine, Our Present force is only Seven hundred I am in Daily expectation of a reinforcement from Montreal of two or three hundred Men, I expected Genl [David] Wooster, but find he Cannot leave Montreal, Colo [James] Clinton is Just Arived, I have put on foot the raiseing A Regt of 2. or 3 hundred Canadians, which I make no Doubt of effecting, Our finances are very low, however I hope we shall be able to rub along, Mr [James] Price is our Only resource, and has exerted himself, I wait with great Anxiety the Arival of a reinforcement from below, I have Wrote the Honble Congress, my Opinion that five thousand Men will be Necessary to Insure us Québec, tho it may posably be reduced with a less Number, it Appears a Blockade may Answer the Purpose, I think Quebec an Object of too Much Consequence, to trust it to the event, if reduced Five thousand Men will be Necessary for a Garrison

Your favr of the 5. Ulto is Just Come to hand. It gives me a most sensible pleasure, to have your Approbation of my Conduct, I beg you'd accept my Thanks for the Notice you have ben pleased to take of me, and my Officers, in your New Establishment. Most of them are provided for in an unexpected manner, Not very pleasing to me. — Inclosed is a List of the killed and wounded, Both officers, & Men behaved with the greatest, Intrepidity, and had not the Genl² ben basely deserted by his Troops we should doubtless have Carried the Town, my Detacht

had Carried the First Battery, (my being wounded) & the loss of their Guides retarded them much, after the Death of the Genl., they Sustained the Force of the whole Garrison for a Considerable Time, who fired From under Cover and had every Advantage of Situation, their Retreat was Cut off [f] by the Enemy's gaining a Narrow Defile thro' which they were obliged to pass, they were overpowered by Numbers, and obliged to resign, tho' deserveing a Better Fate. — Govr [Guy] Carleton treats them with Humanity, & has given leave for their Baggage to be sent to them. — I heartily Congratulate you on the Success of your Privateers I think the ballance of the last years Accot is still in Our favour, tho' we have met a severe Check here, I hope soon to have the pleasure seeing Genl' [Charles] Lee or some experienced officer here, I heartily Wish you the Protection & blessing of the Almighty & am with very great Respect & Esteem, Dr Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold. —

[Enclosure]

List of Killed Wounded & Prisoners In the Attack On Québec

Decr 31 1776 [*sic* 1775]

The Brave and Amiable Genl Montgomery		killed
Capt	McPharson [John Macpherson] his AidedeCamp	do
	[Jacob] Cheesman, first Battlion Yorkers	do
	[William] Hendricks Pensilvania Rifle	do
Lieut	[John] Humphreys Virginia	do
	[Samuel] Cooper Connecticut	do
Colo	Arnold	Wounded in the leg
Major	[Matthias] Ogden	in the Shoulder
Capt	[John] Lamb, of the Train	in the head
	[Jonas] Hubbard	Slightly
	[John] Topham	do
Adjutant	[Archibald] Steel	do
Qr Master	Taylor	do

Non Commission Officers & Privates killed & Wounded About Sixty Names Unknown. The whole Detachment Prisoners except Capt [Matthew] Smith, [Aaron] Burr, & [David] Hopkins, 7 Subalterns & abt Two Hundred Privates Sick & on Command —

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Brigadier General Richard Montgomery.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge January 14. 1776

In my Letter of the 4 Inst I wrote you, that I had received certain Intelligence from a Mr Hutchinson & others, that 2 of the 5 Regiments from Cork were arrived at Hallifax, one at Boston, & the 2 others had sailed for Quebec, & had not been heard of — I am now assured as a matter to be relied on, by four Captains of Ships, who left England about the 2d of November, & who appear to be men of veracity, That the whole of these Regiments (except the three Companies that arrived at Boston some time agoe) when they sailed, were at Milford

Haven, where they had been obliged to put in by a violent Storm the 19 of October – that they would not be able to leave It for a considerable time, as they were under the necessity of repairing their Vessels & getting some New ones taken up. Such is the Incertainty & contradiction in what I now hear, that It is not possible to know, what to believe or disbelieve.

I do myself the honour to send you Sundry News papers I received from the above mentioned Captains, as they may be later than any you have seen, & contain some Interesting Intelligence. I have the Honour to be [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 415–17, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH REED ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge January 14, 1776.

I am exceeding sorry to hear, that your little fleet has been shut in by the frost. I hope it has sailed ere this, and given you some proof of the utility of it, and enabled the Congress to bestow a little more attention to the affairs of this army, which suffers exceedingly by their overmuch business, or too little attention to it.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 240–41.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON
HARRISON TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH ¹

Cambridge [14th] Jany 1776

acknowledgd receipt of his & Mr King's Letter of the 10th inst. the Later Covering Invoice for [blank] bars & halfe bars flour, given to S. Moylan, by order of General Washington

desired Mr Wentworth to dispose of 550 bushells of potatoes taken in the schooner *Rainbow* ² at any price rather than have them perish – to Libel Sd Schooner agreeable to Resolves of Congress Sent him herewith

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. A schooner of 45 tons, John McMonagle, master, taken November 25, 1775 by Captain Winborn Adams in Washington's schooner *Warren*. See Volume 2.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH ¹

Sir

Cambridge January 14. 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 10th Inst, with Sundry Newspapers, packages &c by your Young man; & to return you his thanks for the same, & your great attention to the directions he has given you – he is much Obligated for your Information respectg the Store ships, & wishes with you, that they or some of them may be brought safe into port by our Armed Cruizers, as they will be of immense value to us. I am Sir &c.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, January 14, 1776

our Naval Operations have been for a while suspended, the Privateers mostly hauled up. I can therefore give you no Account of any late Captures. I hear they are again fixing and hope they will soon have their usual Success A ship is arrived at Falmouth which left England the beginning of November. by her we have the Addreseses of both Houses in the usual state, some Additions to the Minority. Parliament and Administration going on the same way as usual, etc., which are things of no great Consequence. The passengers relate some Interesting Facts: that the People begin to feel and stirr themselves; that 1800 Troops sailed for Boston were drove back by hard gales of wind in a shattered Condition; that 13,000 Sheep and Hoggs were shipd and sailed for Boston drove back and lost, which are to be ranked in that Train of Events Providence has ordered for the Salvation of this Country. . . . what is become of your Fleet. what is the destination of the French Armament in the West Indies, and whether you cant Improve so favourable a Circumstance to our Advantage, etc., . . .

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 430-33. This letter was continued January 17, 1776.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sir,

Rose at Rhode Island 14th Janry 1776. -

The Rebels having for some time past kept from one to two Hundred Men upon the Islands, to prevent our Supplies - and by a Law, making it Death for any one to Supply us, have put us to a great inconvenience; being much in want of Hay, - One Friday Morning the 12th Instant I stood up the Bay, with His Majesty's Ships *Glasgow*, *Swan*, and Tenders, in order to procure some. - At about 12 at Noon, being a breast of Prudence, we saw a Body of Armed Men, with a Field Piece, who followed us as we Sailed along. - At the South end of the Island, I saw a Quantity of Hay, and determined to Land and Seize it, - this they perceived, and set fire to the Stacks, and retired to their Stone Fences to oppose us, (every Field has stone Inclosures) - We landed beat them from fence to fence, for four Miles into their Country, firing and wasting the Country as we advanced along; We burnt Twelve or Fifteen Farm Houses, took a great deal of Stock, when, Night coming on, we gave over the pursuit, and retired back to our Ships, bringing with us the Stock. When we got back to our Boats, the People were fatigued and Cold, and fearing they might be Frost Bit, Ordered them to Embark and leave the Cattle behind 'till next Morning. - Next Morning we landed again to bring the Cattle off, but, during the Night, reinforcements of five or six hundred Men had been sent on, and drove the Cattle to the other extremity of the Island, and large Bodies of armed Rebels stood behind stone Fences to oppose us. - In this situation we contented ourselves with taking off some Haystacks in their sight, and Embarked our Men again. In the attack the first day, we killed two of their Men, and took two Prisoners, both of them Wounded, - with only three of our Men Slightly Wounded. The next day, some of the *Swan's* and *Glasgow's* Men, straying too far from the Main Body, fell into an Ambush, and one Man of the

Swan's was killed, two Mortally wounded, and one Slightly – One Man of the Glasgow's was Shot through the Thigh, and fell into the hands of the Rebels, and one slightly wounded. Our loss would have been less, had our People have had less Spirit. The Country is kept in Alarm all round. I am, Sir &ca

Signed, Jas. Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldharn to Stephens, January 28, 1776. Wallace wrote the same letter to Vice Admiral Graves, *ibid.*, 458.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Albany January 14. 1776

Thro the great Hurry in which the Express was sent off from hence, the Enclosed was forgot. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

[Enclosure]

Sir I have Sent Colo [Seth] Warner to throw In to Canada what Ever Number of Men he can procure, upon what are Commonly Called the New Hampshire Grants; And In order to Incourage them to March without Delay I have Offered fourty Shillings lawful as a Bounty to the Men, and a Months pay to the Officers and an Allowence of one Sixth of a Dollar per Day from their leaving home untill they Can receive Continental provisions –

I hope the Congress will give their approbation of this Measure. I am as above Yours &c.

P Schuyler

The Hono: John Hancock Esqr

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 402, NA.

JOHN PRINGLE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

Sir

Philada 14 Jany 1776

Agreeable to promise. I appl'd to get The Swords at Kingsinton, but they Gentn wou'd Not part with one, howr I got ten as at foot Which I hope will be of Service & I dont think there Is many more for Sale unless new, there is no [illegible] Lead here, only wht is in the Comittees Stores. You may get it by Sending a note to [Robert] Towers the Comissary. My Boy I send down to proceed [wi]th you, please to keep Liquor from him [I am] told he is Smart, but likes tht perniss Article, I wish you Success, health & a s[a]fe return. Sir [&c.]

John Pringle

Three Swords Cost	1- 0- 0
Two do do	15
Five do do	2- 2- 6
Dr Capt Biddle	£3-17- 6
For the Use of the Brigantine	

To Capt. Biddle at the Fort

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Sunday 14th January 1776.

[Resolved, That one battalion of regular troops, to be composed of] one Colonel, one Lieute[nant-colonel, two] majors – one Adjutant, one Quarter-Master, and nine Companies, one of which, of Light Infantry, and also seven Independent Companies of regular Troops, two Companys of Artillery, and one Company of Marines, be immediately raised, and paid, and supported, at the Expençe of this Province, for the Defence of the liberties thereof . . .

That the Pay of the said . . . Marines, by the Kalender Month be, as follows.

[torn]	[Dollars]
Every Drummer and Fifer	6
Surgeon	40
Surgeon's Mates each	20
Chaplain	20
Every Private	5 $\frac{1}{3}$

That the Pay of the said Artillery Companies, by the Kalender-Month, be, as follows.

	Dollars
Each Captain	26 $\frac{2}{3}$
Every Lieutenant	18 $\frac{1}{3}$
Every Sergeant	6 $\frac{2}{3}$
Every Corporal	6

That the Pay of the Officers, Seamen and others (except the Marines) in the Pay of this Province, in the Marine-Service by the Kalender Month, be regulated by the Council of Safety –

That the Allowance to the Officers and Men employed in the Marine Service, be such as may be hereafter settled by [the Council of Safety.]

[That Charles Wallace, Esquire, be paymaster of all the land forces and marines when in land service, raised or to be raised in this province in the pay thereof, and shall be entitled to the pay of forty dollars per kalender month.

That all non-commissioned seamen and landsmen, retained in the pay of this province, for the naval service, shall be entered by their voluntarily subscribing the following engagement, to wit. "We whose names are subscribed, do voluntarily enter ourselves as seamen, or landsmen, as the case may be, in the naval service of the province of Maryland, for the full term of six months next following, unless sooner discharged by order of the convention or Council of Safety of Maryland, or by the captain or other chief officer of the ship or vessel in which we may be employed; hereby subjecting ourselves to such rules and regulations as are or shall be made by the Convention of this province, for regulating and governing the forces in the pay thereof. Witness our hands the dates affixed to our names respectively."

That one month's pay be advanced to each person who shall be so inlisted or entered as aforesaid, and that over and above the pay of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the battalion, independent companies, and companies of

artillery and marines, each of them be yearly found and allowed, at the expence of this province, a new hat, short coat, waistcoat, pair of breeches, and hunting-shirt; out of their pay there may be reasonable stoppages for necessary shirts, shoes, and stockings.

That the uniform of the land forces and marines be hunting-shirts; the hunting-shirts of the marines to be blue, and those of the land forces to be other colours.]

1. Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775 – Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch. Text in brackets is either torn or missing in manuscript, and has therefore been taken from *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the seventh of December 1775* (Annapolis [1776]).

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Sunday, Jan. 14th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the board, the following letters written by their direction:

Charles-Town, January 14th [*sic* 13th] 1776,
½ past 4 o'clock, P.M.

Sir – The day before yesterday a ten-oared barge came into Rebellion-Road from sea, a lieutenant and fourteen armed men in her. The officer went on board the Spanish snow and asked many questions relative to the strength of the town. Afterwards went a boat from Fort Johnson, and conversed with the people on board, who passed upon him for fishermen – to these he expressed some regret for the absence of the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*; said the force without was three men-of-war, the largest of 50 guns – and lastly, the barge and our pilot-boat exchanged a few shot.

Yesterday the three sail came to an anchor close to the bar, and employed their boats in sounding. There had been a sloop with them, which we apprehend is detached to Georgia, to call in those vessels which lately left Rebellion-Road. We are well informed, by glasses, that the vessels at anchor are, a frigate of 36 guns, and two smaller ships-of-war – if the present weather continues, they will not come within today.

You will have heard the alarm, which is to be fired at eight o'clock this morning, long before this reaches you, and will no doubt array your regiment and hold detachments in readiness to obey a call which we shall not give without further necessity – but if a few hardy volunteers were immediately to advance and offer their service, it will not be unacceptable.

We have received good intelligence, that the mortar and some of the cannon which were at Frederica have been taken away by certain forces in that neighbourhood – the intended voyage to that place may therefore be suspended.

By order of the Council of Safety,

Henry Laurens, President.

Colonel [Stephen] Bull.

Ordered. That two hundred weight more of cannon powder be delivered to the order of the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, for the use of the ship *Prosper*.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 177-83.

ARTHUR CLARKE, MASTER, BRIG *Diligence*, TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN¹

[Copy]

St. Augustine Janry 14th 1776

May it please your Excellency

Whereas it has been your Excellency's pleasure, by your orders of the 8th & 24th Ult., to detain the Brig *Diligence* (employ'd as a Packet in his Majesty's Service & under my Command) from the 8th of Decr 1775 'till the 14th January 1776. I must beg leave again to represent to your Excellency, that these Packets are hir'd by Government for the particular purpose of carrying the Mails between Jamaica, Pensacola, & Charles Town, and we the Contractors engage to furnish a Vessel & Men for a stipulated Sum to be paid on each arrival at Jamaica; and it was thought necessary, in such an agreement, that our stay at each Port shou'd be limited; by which it will clearly appear that we cannot be detained on any other Service, or above a certain time in our own, without a demurrage being allow'd; and this I think, will be so obvious to your Excellency that I need tresspass no further upon your time on the Subject: But as no provision has been made by the Post-Office for such demurrage; who, but your Excellency, can I apply to for the reimbursement of the real loss I have sustain'd by the detention? therefore flatter myself I cannot incur your displeasure by presenting the inclos'd Bill, and requesting your Excellency wou'd be pleas'd to order, or give me assurance of the payment of it. I am with respect Your Excellency's [&c.]

Arthur Clarke

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 205-06.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

No. 37.

St. Augustine 14. Janry 76

My Lord; A boat dispatched by Lord William Campbell with advice of two armed Pilotboats cruising off Charlestown Bar to intercept the Packets, his Lordship has also made a demand of Ordnance Stores and Provisions, and desired the dispatch Boat might be supplied with Provisions untill her return to Carolina with the *Saint Lawrence* Schooner, Captain [John] Graves at the same time received an Order to join the *Tamer* with the *Saint Lawrence*, Lord William writing to me to the same effect.

Our Situation my Lord, was at this time particular.

An alarm on the Coast of Rebel Vessels cruising upon it.

Captain Graves represented, he could not proceed to Charlestown, untill he had repaired and put on the false Keel of the *Saint Lawrence* which he had lost by running on Ground in his passage from Augustine to Saint John River.

Before we had heard of Cruisers on this Coast, it was determined for the *Saint Lawrence*, to sail directly to Augustine to repair; but it was apprehended, if the Schooner went out of Saint John River, a rebel Cruiser might come in, and

defeat our meeting with the Creek Indians. Therefore I wrote to Captain Graves, a copy of which, I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship,² as also a copy of the demand signed by Captain [Edward] Thornbrough for ammunition and Provisions.

The Army Contractor had wrote to me, that it would be a month before the bread could be ready, as it was all to bake, no Ships biscuit being in Augustine.

Things being thus circumstanced, it was thought best, to detain the *Saint Lawrence* on the Indian Service, afterwards to get her dispatched with all Speed, as no time was losing while the bread was preparing.

In the interim my Lord, the *Diligence* Packetboat from Pensacola arrived with a division of the three Companies of the 16th Regiment. She was bound with the mail for Charlestown.

Thus informed my Lord, was it possible I could permit the *Diligence* to proceed without the *Saint Lawrence*.

I wrote to Captain Clerk [Arthur Clarke] not to go to Sea untill the *Saint Lawrence* went, that Captain Graves would take the *diligence* in convoy.

Captain Clerk represented the Packet was navigated by contract, he could not comply unless paid demurrage, every days detention was exactly so much loss to him. I told him, if it was right that he should be paid demurrage, as it seemed unreasonable to put him to an extraordinary private expence, I should certainly let your Lordship know the case, and would engage, justice should be done. For it was far better that demurrage should be paid, than His Majesty's Packet be taken by rebel Cruisers. Captain Clerk wrote the letter I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship,³ and his charge of demurrage. With great submission to your Lordship, I apprehend you will not my Lord disapprove of these measures. I flatter myself the bad circumstances of the times, will Justify the measures and reconcile to your Lordship, to direct, that the Post Office may take this matter into consideration, and grant Captain Clerk such relief, as he has a just claim to.

The quantity of Provisions agreeable to Captain Thornbrough's demand could not be sent, but what we had not enough in one article was made up by another, so that, upon the whole supply, they have the full quantity to answer the intention.

There being no Agent for His Majesty's navy in this Province, I was obliged to take up this business that His Majesty's service might not suffer: I directed the Contractor for the Army to provide the provisions.

I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship the account of provisions for His Majestys Ships *Tamer* and *Cherokee* sent by Captain Graves and beg your Lordship will give such directions as may be thought proper, that the Commissioners for victualling His Majesty's Navy, may Honour the bills I have drawn on the Navy Board for the amount Viz £230 . . 4 . . 1.

I had the honour in a former letter to inform your Lordship that in Georgia they are meditating to invade this Province, I can now repeat the intelligence, that the intention of hostilities against this Province grows daily more certain, and that it is now in some degree past a doubt, the Regiment I mentioned they are to raise, is to consist of six hundred Men, Blank Commissions are sent from the rebel continental Congress, which are filled up by the rebel Georgia Congress.

I have also enclosed for your Lordships satisfaction an account of the Ordnance Stores issued for His Majesty's Ships *Tamer* and *Cherokee*.

The last letter I had the honour to receive from your Lordship, is dated 5. July 75 No 9.

People begin to flow into this Province for Protection, several have been here, and are returned, both to Carolina and Georgia in order to bring away their property, if they can possibly do it at any risk, the accounts they give of oppression confusion and distraction is my Lord past all credit.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, my Lord [&c.]

Pat. Tonyn

Right Honourable The Earl of Dartmouth

[Endorsed] St Augustine 14th Jan'y 1776 Govr Tonyn (No 37) R/3d June.
(7 Inclosures) Entd

[Enclosure]

Ordnance Stores and Provisions wanting to supply His Majestys Ships *Tamar* and *Cherokee* at Charlestown South Carolina

Ordnance Stores –

Powder, one Thousand two Hundred and Fifty Pounds –

Six pound Cartridges or paper three Hundred –

Match, two Hundred pounds –

Paper for Musquet Cartridges two Quires –

Provisions –

Bread Four Thousand Pounds

Beef Four hundred } Pieces

Pork Four hundred }

Butter Six hundred pounds

Pease, Rice or Oatmeal Twenty five Bushels

Rum Three hundred Gallons

(Sign'd) Edw^d Thornbrough

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 181–96, 201.

2. Patrick Tonyn to John Graves, December 8, 1775.

3. Arthur Clarke to Patrick Tonyn in preceding entry.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG'S INTELLIGENCE OF NAVAL PREPARATIONS IN
PHILADELPHIA¹

[Antigua, January 14, 1776]²

Intelligence given at different times in conversation by the Masters, and people belonging to Sundry American Vessels, which have been seized and detained by the Kings Ships under my Command. –

Ships and Vessels of Force at Philadelphia, ready for Sea. – Vizt

One Ship of 36 Guns, (24 Nine and 12 four pounders) called the *Alfred*, to wear a Flag at the Main. – Her Complement 250 Seamen, and a Company of Rifflers, consisting of 100 Men. – 85 of which are private[s,] the remaining Officers.

One Ship of 28 Guns (20 Nine and 8 Six Pounders) – these two Ships have Spar-Decks.

Two Brigs, one of 16, and the other of 14 Guns. (Six Pounders)

Two Sloops, one of 14, and the other of 12 Guns. (Six Pounders.) These two Sloops belong to Rhode Island.

Twelve Row Gallies, their Complements from 65 to 75 men each. – One of them carries a 42 Pounder, and the others one 18 Pounder, in each. –

Twelve Ships on the Stocks; each of them to mount 36 Guns, and the Shipwrights are under obligation to get them ready for Launching by the middle of March. – and fitted for Sea by the 10th of April next.

In case any of the King's Ships of War should be ordered to Philadelphia, they are hereby acquainted, the Americans are getting ready a Number of Lighters; which are to be filled with Combustibles, and are to be Chained together at 8 or 10 feet distance from each other, to reach from side to side of the River; and to drop down with the Tide, and sweep the Ships of War, if the first should miscarry, they have others directly ready, to fall down after them. they are to have five Men in each Lighter, (with a Boat to attend) to set fire to the Train. The Lighters are secured by Chains one to another, each Link to Weigh One hundred Weight, and are to be Moored by heavy Anchors on each side the River, with Cables sufficient to hold them, 'til they want to put their Plan in Execution, then to cut their Cables and fall down.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. An approximate date, based upon the arrival that day of H.M. Sloop *Viper* with a prize from Philadelphia.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Viper*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL GRAVES¹

Jany. 1776 at Moor'd in Freeman bay Antigua

Sunday 14 at ½ past 9 AM Saluted Vice Adml [James] Young with 13 guns at 10 Anchord in Freemans bay in 3½ fm When Moored the for W-N-W the point of the reef West Found Rideing here his Majs ships *Portland*; *Hind*, *Pomona* & *Lynx* Sloops Unbent Sails Fresh breezes & Cloudy Empd Overhauling the Rigging & getting out the bowsprit.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER¹

Jany. 1776 at Single Anchor at St Kitts

Saturday 13th At 8 AM Arrived here from Antigua with a Sloop with dispatches from Vice Adml [James] Young for Captain Garnier. Weighed and Came to Sail.

Moderate breezes and fair Weather.

at 12 fired a Gun, brought too & took a Prize the *Greyhound* Brigg Walter Stephens Master from Philadelphia Sent the Gunner, a Mate and Six Men on board to take Her to Antigua.

Sunday 14th. Ditto Weather.

at 3 P M Fired a Gun brought too & took as Prize the Ship *Daniel* from Demerada. Sent an Officer & 12 Men onboard to take Her to Antigua.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

15 Jan.

COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

(Copy)

Halifax Janry 15th - 1776.

Sir, In obedience to Orders, the *Somerset* and *Roebuck* sailed the 14th Instant, the former for England, the latter for a private Station, by which the Sea Force remaining at this Port for the defence of the Yard are the *Cerberus*, and *Savage* Sloop, the former dismantled alongside the Wharfe, in order to repair the Damage she has sustained by running twice on different Rocks which I shall use every possible means to Effect altho' the inclemency of the Season is such at present as makes it doubtful which if it continues will lay me under the disagreeable necessity of replacing her Ballast and Guns in order to make the best defence our feeble state will permit if the Rebels should pay us a Visit.

I am sorry to say that the Garrison is not only very Weak, not more than 500. Many just recruited from the Newfoundland Fishery, but is very Sickly, nor have we a single Work erected, nor can be untill Spring, which I hope will not be too late, I am therefore under the necessity to say unless such Force is sent, by sending Two Deck Ships, to command the heights about the Yard, as well as the labour of the Crews to assist in Barricading the Yard, for no other have I, or shall have, either to make it defencible, or to defend it in case of an Attack; because the whole of the Troops as I understand are to be employ'd on the Heights, without, in which case I am sure I cannot let them into the Yard, if they are defeated, because I most certainly will prevent by every means the Gate from being forced.

This is a true state of this place which I think my Duty to lay before you for your Consideration. I am Sir &ca

M^t Arbuthnot

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, January 28, 1776.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir

Chatham, Boston 15th. January 1776

I have the pleasure to acquaint you of my Arrival here in His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* the 30th past after a passage of Sixty One Days; for a Circumstantial Account of the Occurrences of Which; I beg to refer you to my Journal accompanying this Letter, in which I shall only say on that Subject; that the Voyage was almost a constant Succession of Storms and contrary Winds, attended with the most severe Weather I ever felt, which has so Shatter'd the *Chatham* that she must remain unfit for any Sea Service till she is Caulked and repaired; This I hope we shall be able to do here before she is wanted. You will see by my Journal, Sir, that the *Orpheus* parted Company from me in a most Violent Gale

of Wind on the 21st November notwithstanding the great care and attention of Captain [Charles] Hudson, who is not yet arrived; and that Captain Munroe, Commanding the Party of Marines on board the *Chatham*, Dy'd the 30th of the same Month.

Immediately on my Arrival I delivered all the Packets committed to my care, to Admiral [Samuel] Graves and General [William] Howe; and communicated to the Admiral the Copys of those Letters you had furnished me with and wrote to him lately, the Originals of many of which he has not yet received, and I presume are in the *Experiment* and *Centurion*, not yet arrived; I likewise communicated to him your Letters (with the Intelligence accompanying them) Signifying their Lordships Orders to me to send Vessels of proper Force and Size to the River Delaware, to oppose the Operations the Rebels are carrying on there, and to send a Vessel to Bermuda and another to the Bahama Islands, to protect the Ordnance Stores belonging to His Majesty at those Islands, but I am glad to inform you, that Admiral Graves has certain Intelligence that the Inhabitants of [New] Providence are faithfully affected to His Majesty, and are determined, and able to defend those Stores without any Additional Force; and as soon as any proper Vessel arrives after Admiral Graves's Departure, I shall send her to Bermuda.

I was much concerned to hear on my Arrival of the Number of small Arm'd Vessels fitted out by the Rebels, and which had taken many unarmed Ones of Ours bringing Stores and Supplies to this place notwithstanding it appears to me, that our Cruizers are stationed and distributed in all the most likely places to intercept them; and that there has been no failure on the part of Our Officers; but the Success of the Rebels may reasonably be accounted for, if Their Lordships will please to consider the Advantage they have over us by being too early Suffer'd to take possession of all the Harbours, Creeks and Rivers on this Coast, many of which they have Fortify'd, and where these small Vessels Lye ready, 'till by Signals from Eminences on the shore of a Vessel in the Offin, they push out and Seize her before it is possible for our Cruizers to Relieve, or perhaps from Sholeness of the Water venture to follow her; for this reason, Sir, I beg leave to recommend it to their Lordships, that no Stores or Supplys may be sent in future except in Arm'd Vessels, which will Answer a double purpose by leaving part of their Men on their return home for the use of the Fleet, which I find is in great want, as well as the number of Ships far from Sufficient for the Various Services I am Order'd, and shall find Necessary to execute, which Their Lordships I doubt not will be convinced of by observing, that this place will in a few days be left unprotected by any other Naval Force than the *Chatham* and *Lively* Frigate under repair. Convoys are not to be depended on, for by the Fogs which prevail upon this Coast in the Summer and the Violent Northwest Winds in the Winter Seasons, it is almost impossible to prevent Séparation.

Of the Thirty five Vessels Freight'd by Mure and Company with Provisions and Supplys for the use of the Fleet and Army only Eight are Arrived, and on board those not above a Twentieth part of the Sheep were brought in Alive.

I must beg leave to refer you for an Account of the Operations and State of the Squadron, to that which I presume you will receive from Admiral Graves by this Conveyance, He is preparing for, and intends proceeding to England in a few Days on board the *Preston*, I am, Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty. 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

You are hereby required and directed to take his Majesty's Ships and Vessels whose names are in the Margin under your Command, and to give their Commanders such Orders and Directions in addition to those they have already received (of which Copies and a Schedule thereof are inclosed), as you shall judge best for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 Janry 1776.

Sam^l Graves

To Molyneux Shuldham Esqr Rear Admiral of the White Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet.²

(The Ships and Commanders Names in the Margin were the following, Vizt)

<u>Names</u>	<u>Commanders</u>	<u>Where stationed</u>
<i>Rose</i>	Capt. Wallace	Rhode Island
<i>Glasgow</i>	Howe	—
<i>Swan</i>	Ayscough	—
<i>Bolton Brig</i>	Lieutt. Graves	—
<i>Phoenix</i>	Capt. Parker	New York
<i>Asia</i>	Vandeput	—
<i>Viper</i>	Graves	On her passage thither.
<i>Liverpool</i>	Bellew	Supposed to be at Virginia.
<i>Otter</i>	Squire	At Virginia.
<i>Kingsfisher</i>	Capt. Montagu	At Virginia.
<i>Cruizer</i>	Parry	North Carolina.
<i>Scorpion</i>	Tollemache	Supposed to be at No Carolina
<i>Tamer</i>	Thornborough	South Carolina
<i>Raven</i>	Stanhope	On her passage to Savannah in Georgia.
<i>St Lawrence Schooner</i>	Lieutt. Graves	St Augustine.
<i>St John, Schooner</i>	Grant	Bahama Islands.
<i>Roebuck</i>	Capt. Hamond	Ordered to Virginia
<i>Scarborough</i>	Barkley	Gone to Georgia.
<i>Hinchinbrook Schr</i>	Lieutt. Ellis	—
<i>Mercury</i>	Capt. Graeme	} New York } Cape Fear
<i>Falcon</i>	Linzee	

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 118, BM.

2. Shuldham's promotion to Vice Admiral of the Blue, December 7, 1775, was not known in Boston. Knowledge of his new rank reached Shuldham May 16, 1776 at Halifax.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES¹

[Boston] 1776 Jan'y 15

It was now agreed between the Generals and the Admiral that the *Kitty* Transport should go to New York with General [Henry] Clinton under Convoy of the *Mercury* and that the *Falcon* should proceed to Cape Fear alone. And the Admiral having acquainted Rear Admiral Shulldham that he should on the Morrow direct him to take all the Kings Ships to the Southward of Boston under his Command, sent Captains Graeme and [John] Linzee Orders to wait upon him for his Dispatches thither, and directed Captain Linzee to proceed without the *Kitty* Transport and to return her sealed Rendezvous, she being put under the Convoy of Captain Graeme.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 28-29, BM.

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

You are hereby required and directed to wait upon Rear Admiral Shulldham for his Dispatches to carry to the Southward, and having received them you are to sail in his Majesty's Sloop under your Command as soon after as possible agreeable to my Order of the 13 instant, but you are to proceed without the *Kitty* Transport, and to return me h[er] sealed Rendezvous.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's
Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 Jan'y 1776

Sam Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME, H.M.S. *Mercury*¹

You are hereby required and directed to take the *Kitty* Transport, James Thompson Master under your Convoy to New York, and to wait upon Rear Admiral Shulldham for his Dispatches for the Captains of his Majestys Ships to the Southward and having received them, and the Transports being ready to sail with you, to proceed according to my Orders of the 12th instant without a Moments Loss of time.

Given under my hand on board his Majs
Ship *Preston* at Boston 15 January 1776

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 117, BM.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Plymouth 15 January 1776 -

Your Excellencys favour, of the 3d instant came to hand, annexed to which are the resolves of the Grand Continental Congress, respecting captures made by continental armed vessels & others - In compliance with which, and in obedience

to your Excellencys Command, I have Libeled all the Vessels which have been bro't into this port, by the *Harrison* armed Scooner & which are now in my care, Viz. one Sloop, one Scooner, & one fishing boat, of about 15 tons,² & shall use my best endeavours; that these vessels be brought to tryal, as soon as may be. —

The Scooner *Harrison* lately Comman[d]ed by Capt [William] Coit, I find, by strict enquiry, (tho she be not very well accomodated for the officers) is an excellent Sailer; & is sufficiently strong — The Continent has been at considerable expence, in fitting this Vessel for the service, & sho'd she be put out, & another taken into the service, £100 will necessarily be sunk to the Continent, by the Transfer. — For these reasons I have thought it prudent to continue the *Harrison* in the service, and have, agreeable to your Excellencys permission, nominated Capt Charles Dyar to the com[ma]nd. — This Dyar was with Capt Coit his last cruize & can give the character of the Scooner more perfectly.

Capt Dyar the bearer of this, wont at first interview appear to your Excellency, to advantage, he is no orator & seems rather softly, but his character [stands] high as a good officer, & as an active smart sailor. — Capt. Coit has recommended him in high t[er]ms, &] will give your Excellency his true Character. —

We shall have no difficulty in geting as fine a crew as any on the continent, provided they can be enlisted for six months only, or for so long a time as Capt Dyar shall continue to command — Our people are very fond of knowing their officers, & the best of them are unwilling to engage for a longer time, than their officers engage for. — Captain Dyar will wait on your Excy & will receive every necessary direction — I am [&c.]

William Watson

N B your Excellency will please to direct me, whether I am to Libel the two vessels taken by Major [Benjamin] Tupper & carried into Dartmouth.³

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Polly* and the schooner *Industry*, taken November 5, 1775, and a nondescript fishing schooner with Tory pilots on board taken November 29, 1775.

3. Tupper had been dispatched on October 20, 1775, to seize two vessels lying at Martha's Vinyard loaded with provisions intended for Boston, and had brought the vessels into Dartmouth a few days later.

WILLIAM WATSON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL¹

Dear Sir

Plymouth 15th Jany 1776 —

I receivd your favour of 1st instant desereing me to take into cust[o]dy, & give rect for a quantity of wine purchased by your[self] of Mr John Salter of Philadelphia — ²

I have agreeable to your derections, taken delivery of 5 pipes wine, & have given him my rect for the same, have it safely stored & will deliver it to your order when you shall please to send for it — I have numberd the casks from 1 to 5 & have taken the wants which you have below — I am sir [&c.]

William Watson

5 pipes Wine	
No 1. wants	9 gals
2	10
3	6
4	9
5	2½
	<hr/>
	36½

1. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

2. The wine from the cargo of a vessel cast ashore at Eastham on Cape Cod about November 1, 1775. See Moylan to Watson, November 18, 1775, Volume 2, 1065.

MEMORIAL FROM THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

To the Honorable the Delegates of the United Colonies now convened in General Congress in Philadelphia.

We the General Assembly of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, beg Leave to represent to you the State & Condition of said Colony, & to request such Assistance as our Situation and the Welfare of the United Colonies shall appear to require.

Soon after the Conclusion of the late glorious War in the Success of which the Colonies had so considerable a Share, we were alarmed with divers Acts of the British Parliament, strongly indicating a Design to divest the Colonies of those Rights which are essential to the Freedom of a People, and which they had enjoyed with but few Innovations from their first Settlement. The Stamp Act passed in 1765 for levying Stamp Duties in America, and many subsequent Acts manifested that Design so clearly as to leave no Room for a Doubt. This Colony ever tenacious of its Liberties zealously took a Part in all the Common Measures entered into for the Common Safety; when at Length the Ministerial Troops by the Attack at Lexington & Concord had [re]duced us to the Necessity of immediately taking up Arms, or submitting to a Slavery, which at the Distance we are placed from the Seat of the Power to be exercised over us, must be the most absolute & terrible that we can form an Idea of – this Colony notwithstanding its exposed Situation did not hesitate, it did not wait for the Example of more powerful Colonies, but conforming itself to the Spirit of the Resolutions of the Honble the Continental Congress for 1774 ordered a Body of Men to be raised & marched to the Encampment near Boston.

Unfortunately for the Inhabitants, this Colony is scarc[e]ly any Thing but a Line of Sea Coast. From Providence to Point Judith, & from thence to Pawcatuck River is near 80 Miles. On the East Side of the Bay from Providence to Seconet Point, and including the East Side of Seconet until it meets the Massachusetts Line is about 50 Miles. Besides which are the navigable Rivers of Pawcatuck & Warren. On the West Side of the Bay the Colony doth not extend 20 Miles, & on the East Side not more than 8 Miles from the Sea Coast above described. In the Colony are also included the following Islands. Rhode Island about 16 Miles in Length, Conanicut 9 Block Island 9 Prudence 7

and the smaller Islands Patience, Hope, Gold Island and several others; all which are cultivated & fertile, and contributed largely to the public Expences. The greater Part of the above mentioned Shores are accessible to Ships of War. By an exact Estimate taken in the Year 1774 the whole Number of Inhabitants in the Colony amounted to 59,678. The Town of New Port contained 9209 was the principal Place of Trade and paid one sixth Part of the public Taxes. A very considerable Commerce was also carried on from Providence, and several small Towns in the Colony were also concerned in Trade and Navigation. Ship Building was a great Branch of Business. In short the Inhabitants of the Colony derived their Subsistence almost wholly from Commerce. The convenient Situation of this Colony for receiving Supplies from the other Colonies for the Continental Army near Boston, we suppose [was] a principal Reason why so great a Number of the Kings Ships have been stationed in our Bay, we having had for above 7 Months past 2 Ships of 20 Guns 1 of 16 a Bomb Ketch & about 8 Tenders who have made Prizes of more Vessels belonging to this Colony than have been lost by any other, have put almost a total End to Commerce, have committed repeated Depredations in different Parts of the Colony, have kept our Coasts constantly alarmed, and obliged the Inhabitants to keep almost continually under Arms. The once flourishing Town of New Port by the Loss of Trade & consequent Cessation of all Business, instead of being able to contribute to the Expences of the War, hath been reduced to so deplorable a State that we have been obliged to grant Money out of the general Treasury for the Support of their Poor; and many of the wealthy Inhabitants have not only left the Town, but the Colony - Conanicut and Prudence lately the Scenes of the most wanton and savage Desolation & Barbarity are deserted. New Shoreham from its Situation is rendered worse than useless to the Colony, and the other Islands will no longer be of Service to any but the Enemy.

The Troops sent by this Colony to the Army near Boston amounted to about 1700 inclusive of Officers, of which 250 are in Col. Arnold's Detachment in Quebec. Many have entered on Board the armed Vessels fitted out by Genl Washington, particularly almost every Officer & Seaman in the Brig commanded by Captn [Sion] Martindale unfortunately taken & carried into Boston belonged to this Colony; and the others the greatest Part by far have reinlisted into the Continental Service, so that very few of them have returned or can return. We fitted out two armed Vessels for the Protection of our Commerce and Coasts which carried upwards of 100 Men, one of which is now at Philada in the Continental Service with the greater Part of her Crew. Above an 100 Men have also been inlisted for the Continental Navy. We have also built & equipped two Row Gallies to carry 50 Men each. Besides these extraordinary Exertions we were alarmed in October last with the Arrival of a Number of Transports from Boston destined to procure fresh Provisions for the ministerial Army. To prevent their obtaining Supplies was an Object of such great Importance as obliged us to send a Number of Minute Men upon the several Islands to defend the Stock, which created a most enormous Expence. when the Assembly met in November a Regiment of 500 Men was ordered to be raised for the Defence of Rhode Island and the other Islands, notwithstanding which we have been

obliged repeatedly to call forth our Minute Men. To prevent the great Charge of which we have augmented the Regiment ordered to be raised in Novr to 750 Men exclusive of a Company of Artillery consisting of 105 Men with three Officers; and have also voted another Regiment of 750 Men to be immediately raised & equipped besides 238 Artillery Men for the Management of 34 Field Pieces ordered to be procured & placed in the several Towns upon the Sea Coast. We have ordered 60 Cannon 18 & 12 Pounders to be cast, & have already sent a Vessel with a very valuable Cargo to purchase Powder & other warlike Stores, & are fitting out another which will soon sail.

From the above Representation of our Situation, Exertions & Losses & the Depredations of the Enemy, which are not exaggerated, the exhausted State of the Colony, and its utter Inability to maintain the present Force established & voted, as well as to take any further Measures to defend itself, will clearly appear. We [need] not observe to you the great Importance of Rhode Island, or the Damages that would be sustained by the Enemy's possessing themselves thereof, its Harbour & the adjoining Narraganset Bay being greatly superior to any others in America, & its convenient Situation with Respect to the Sea & the other Colonies making it still more important. We therefore request that you will give the earliest Attention to this Address, and have no Doubt that you will take the proper Measures for defending the Colony, otherwise Rhode Island, & the other Islands in the Bay with the surrounding Sea Coast upon the Continent must be depopulated & the Colony entirely ruined.

We submit the foregoing to your judicious Determination, & are with great Respect & Confidence, your Honours' most Obedt & most hble Servants –

Signed at the Request & in Behalf of the Genl Assembly
Providence Jan'y 15th 1776.

Nich^s Cooke Govr

1. John Hancock Papers, V, 18–22, LC. For reasons which are not apparent, this memorial was sent first to Washington, who did not forward it until April 30, 1776 – more than three months later. It was received in Congress May 2, 1776, and referred to a committee which had been previously appointed "to take into consideration the state of the eastern colonies." Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 322.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Monday Evening Jan'y 15th 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That Nicholas Brown & Capt Nicholas Power write to Mr George Scott to procure and deliver 30 Tons of Locusts (for Trenails) at Bristol Ferry wharf on the Island side, and that the customary price for the same be 42/ pr Ton

Voted. That there be 2 dozen Trenail Augers of 1½ Inch, fifteen of 1¼ Inch, 12 of 1 Inch for scarfing the Keel Deck &c. six of 1⅛ Inch for floor timber bolts six ⅞ Inch, six of ¾ Inch. that Wm Russell send to Jno Auger of the bridge for them.

Voted. That there be 4 streaks of 4½ Inch plank at the ring heads one streak under and one over the whale 5 Inches and that the main Deck plank

be 4 Inches thick, the Quarter Deck and fore Castle plank be 3 Inches thick sealing 5 Inch plank for the ringhead and 4 plank wide two streaks for the clamps 6½ Inch thick all the rest two Inch plank double. —

Voted. That Mr Caleb Bowen procure two Main Masts of 86 feet long and 26 Inches Diameter and two Fore Masts 78 feet long and 23 Inches Diameter for the Ships on the best terms he can that he also purchase at [blank] 9000 feet of 3 Inch pine plank to be delivered here on the best terms he can and that they be as long as Possible.

Voted. That there be three whales 10 Inches wide the upper and lower whales 8 Inches thick the middle one 8½ Inches to waiste and sealing for the same from 4 to 2½ Inches thick the Floor timbers 17 Inches deep at the Throat to 12 Inches at the surmark sided 11 Inches that she diminish from the surmark to the whale 9 Inches at the top timber heads to 6 Inches, Length of floor timbers 17 feet from surmark to surmark & 18 Inches head, Dead ris[ing] 20 Inches.

Dimensions of the 32 Gun Ship
Gun Deck 132 feet 1 Inch
Keel 110 10%
Beam 34 5½
Hold 11

Dimensions 28 Gun Ship
Gun Deck 124 feet 4 Inches
Keel 102 8½
Beam 33 10%
Hold 10 8

Reckoning 20/LMy paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to morrow evening 6 o'clock²

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. The meeting on January 16, 1776, showed no business transacted, and a reckoning of ten shillings paid by Joseph Nightingale.

Newport Mercury, Monday, January 15, 1776

Newport, January 15.

We mentioned, in our last, a sloop which had put off from this town to carry a number of families up the river, with their household furniture, provisions, &c. and that she was stopped by the men of war, who took out a quantity of provision, notwithstanding she had Captain [James] Wallace's pass. The same vessel, after she had been to Warwick's and landed some of her freight, in going to Updike's Newtown with the remainder, the fore part of last week, was met with and taken by Capt. [James] Ayscough, who brought her down to this harbour, took out a considerable quantity of furniture, clothing, &c. to the amount of several thousand dollars, then stripped her, and let her drive ashore on Goat Island.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH¹

Jany 1776

[In Narragansett Bay]

Fridy 12th

[A.M.] at 8 the Comdr made the Signal to Weigh Do weigh'd and Came to sail in Company with His Majestys Ships *Rose Glasgow* and *Bolton* Brigg, Tenders &c working up between Connanicut and Rose Island.

Modt Breezes and fair

at 4 P M Brot to with the Best Bower in [?] fm Water Veerd to ½ Cable So Part of Prudence W S W Dyers Isld N E Distce of [f]

- Shore $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile Sent the Tenders and Boats on Shore with 60 Men Arm'd Burnt a Number of Houses Brot of[f] Hay &c at 9 the Boats and tender returned
- Saty 13th A M at 8 Sent a Tender with an Officer an two Petty Officers & 60 Men on Shore Attack'd the Rebbels in the Action Roger Davis Seaman was kill'd Richard Wilkins Jno Davis Wounded and Thomas Richards [prisoner] do [Weather] and fair at 4 P M the Tender and Boats Returnd with the People, Departed this Life the two Wounded Men
- Sundy 14th A M Fresh Breezes and Clear Wr at 11 the Comdr made Signal for Weighing Do weigh'd and Came to Sail in Company as before turn'd Round the So end of Prudence Gold Isld N B E . . . turning up between the Wt Side of Prudence Hope Island and the Main at 4 P M came to the end of Pacience it bearing N N W, N W part of Prudence S W Dist of[f] Shore 1 Mile Vore to $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable on the Bt Br the *Bolton* Brigg Burnt some houses on Patience.
- Mondy 15th at 9 A M weigh'd and Came to sail in Company as before run down to hope Island & Came too with the Small Br in 3 fms the Body of the Isld Dist $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile Vore to $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable and handed Sails.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 15th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety are informed by a member, that a fleet of eighteen sail of transports, two men of war and two bomb ships, are sailed from Boston; that they sailed from Boston on last Saturday week, and that a letter from General Washington, advising this Committee thereof, is on the way, and may be hourly expected.

Thereupon the Committee thought it necessary to have a proper person sent to the Narrows, with a glass, to look out for any fleet that may be approaching this port; and Capt. Austin Lawrence being sent for, attended the Committee; he agreed to proceed to the Narrows immediately for that purpose, and proper directions were given to him and signals agreed on, which shall be made at the ferry to give notice to the city.

Capt. William Dobbs was also sent for and attended; he was directed to take the whale boat lately purchased by this Committee, with a proper number of men to row her, and proceed to the light-house, and there observe carefully the approach of any fleet, and to give immediate notice thereof to this Committee. Mr. Dobbs was directed to tarry one week if no fleet appears sooner, and to be very frugal in his disbursements, which were particularly enumerated.

Ordered, That none of the pilots at this port shall go to Sandy Hook, or to any other place towards the Hook, without the permission of this Committee, until the further order of this Committee. And

Ordered, That no pilot do presume to pilot into the Hook, or towards this port, any transport with troops on board, or any ship of war, or ministerial armed vessel whatever. And

Ordered, That the pilots be directed to attend this Committee to-morrow forenoon, in order that they may be charged with the matter of this order, and to keep the same secret.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 249–50.

NEW YORK DELEGATES TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

New York 15th Jany 1776

Mr Livingston Arived here on Saturday and Imediately Communicatd to us Your Letters desiring us to purchase a Quantity of powder² &c, we Accordingly made a particular Inquiry how much of that Article is now in this Province, & find there is not, nor has there been any since last April but what has been in the hands of the Committe here, of which we send an Account Inclosed, whereby it appears that there is now in the Public Store 6350l which with what is due from the Continent to this Province, is all the Stock they have, 462 Quartr Casks was all the Powder that was brought from Curacoa, tho' it was said that it was to the Amo of 300 Bbls & that Several Other Vessels which Arived About the same time had Also brought Powder which was without foundation. – a report prevails Here that a Fleet of 18 Transports 3 Ships of War & a Bomb Ketch have Saild from Boston that Genl [Charles] Lee has desired Govr Trumbal to Gett 1500 Men in Readiness with all dispatch, that he intended to March with a small body of Men from Cambridge to Connecticut & with the Troops to be raised in Conecticut to March to this place, but as it is probable You have Information from the Genl it will be Needless for us to Enlarge.

The *Asia* & *Phenix* are both in this harbour, and the *Viper* at Sandy Hook³ We are Sr [&c.]

Philip Livingston John Alsop Frans Lewis

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XIV, 55, 56, NA.

2. Resolution of the Continental Congress, January 8, 1776.

3. This information is incorrect. The *Viper*, blown off the coast, was in Antigua.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

New-York, January 15.

Captain Daniel Van Vorhis, in a Sloop belonging to Philadelphia, sailed from Santa Croix, for this Port, the 11th of October last, and got in thirty Fathoms Water, in Lat. 39 and a Half, but having sprung his Mast and Boom, meeting with a violent Gale of Wind, and being short of Provisions, was obliged to bear away for the West-Indies, and arrived at St. Eustatia the 14th of December, with only 4 Biscuits on board, and not one Piece of Meat.

Wednesday last the Ship *Sampson*, Captain Coupar, sailed for London, having on Board the following Cabbin Passengers, besides a considerable Number in the Steerage: Mr. and Mrs. Plenderleith and Family, Mr. Rogers, late of Charlestown, in Massachusetts-Bay, General Dalrymple, Henry Kelly, Esq; Mr.

James Rivington, Lieut. Moncrieffe, George Robinson of the Navy, Mons. Orilliard, of Canada, Col. Glazier, and Messrs. Mawdsleys.

The October Packet, from Falmouth for this Port, we hear, is sailed for Halifax.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 15, 1776

Resolved, That a committee of 5 be appointed to make an estimate of the number of cannon, that may be wanted for the defence of the United Colonies, and to devise ways and means for procuring them, and that it be an instruction to the said committee to enquire how large cannon can be cast in this country.

The members chosen, Mr. [Henry] Wisner, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [John] Rogers, Mr. [Andrew] Allen, and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine.

Resolved, That no bought indented servants be employed on board the fleet, or in the army of the United Colonies, without the consent of their masters.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to enquire into the character of the recruits or privates taken on board the *Rebecca and Frances* transport, and to dismiss such as may, with safety to the United Colonies, be discharged.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 54-57.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Monday 15 [January, 1776] . . . it was recommended to the Comee of Safety of Pennsa to discharge such Privates as they please that were lately cast away on Board of the Transport at Egg Harbor - ²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The *Rebecca & Francis* was cast away on Brigantine Beach, New Jersey, in October 1775, Volume 2, 545.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES BIDDLE¹

[October 30, 1775-January 15, 1776]

We sailed from L'Orient the 30th of October. The schooner was a handsome vessel, and had the appearance of sailing fast, but she did not. Her mainmast worked so much in the step that I expected we should lose it. We stood to the southward until we got into the trade-winds. While we were running down the trades, the main topmast gave way at the cap while a young man was then at the top of it, reeving halyards for a royal we intended setting. He called out the topmast was going, and a moment afterwards it went away. He had a miraculous escape, having received no injury. He was a very active young man of the name of Dickson. He came from the back part of Pennsylvania, and this was his first voyage. We kept the trade wind until we were to the westward of Bermuda, when we stood to the northward. In the latitude of 35° we had a severe gale of wind from the northwest, during which the mainmast worked in such a manner that we expected every moment it would go over the side. Consulting with Captain Patton, whom [Thomas] Mason had brought out with him as master of the schooner, we concluded it would not be safe to go on the coast

with the mast in its present situation, and as we had no way of securing it at sea, that it was necessary we should bear away for the West Indies. It would not have been safe to bear away during the gale. When the wind and sea fell, we stood to the southward, intending to put into St. Eustatia. Two or three days after we stood to the southward, I fell down the fore-scuttle and hurt myself very much. It occasioned my having a spitting of blood for some time. The first land we made was St. Martin's. We went in here to avoid a ship we took for a British cruiser. The day after we arrived I went in a small schooner to St. Eustatia for some assistance. Here I found many of my acquaintances from Philadelphia, amongst others, Captain James Craig, brother to the captain who went with me to France. He was very much alarmed at first seeing me, fearing his brother was lost. From them I understood there was no prospect of peace. Having procured what was wanted for the schooner in a few hours, I returned to St. Martin's. A British ship of twenty guns went into the harbor with us and anchored near the schooner. I expected we should have had some trouble with this man-of-war, but she sailed the next day without taking any notice of us. We hoisted no colors and suffered none of the crew to go on shore, so that it is probable the captain of the man-of-war, who I believe was Hawkes, did not know where we belonged to. Upon our arrival the crew had directions to tell any person that inquired, that we were loaded with salt. Still feeling the hurt I received from my fall, and exposing myself in getting the schooner ready for sea, I was seized with a fever that had nearly proved fatal to me. The schooner being now ready to sail, and being myself too unwell to proceed in her, and fearing some accident should she be detained, I sent her home under the charge of Capt. Patton. In a few days, my fever having abated, I went to St. Eustatia, and finding a ship belonging to Boston, commanded by a Captain Adams, ready to sail for Philadelphia, although she was a miserable old vessel, I was so anxious to get home I took my passage in her. A few days after we sailed we were alarmed by a piece of sheathing coming off. As the weather was good, we soon got a piece of board nailed over where the sheathing was off, but from the badness of the sheathing I was convinced if we had bad weather on the coast we should be in great danger of foundering. The fourth of January, 1776, about four o'clock in the afternoon, we struck soundings. We had no observation that day, but by our reckoning we were in latitude $38^{\circ}20'$. At this time we had a light breeze from the northeast. At dark the breeze freshened with rain. At six o'clock the fore and main topsails were close reefed, the mizzen topsail handed, and we hauled upon a wind to the eastward. At seven o'clock as there was every appearance of a gale of wind the topsails were handed. Hearing them a long time at the pump about half-past eight I went upon deck, and finding it blowing hard, and the ship laboring very much, I told Capt. Adams (who was a good fellow) he had better ease the ship by taking in the mainsail. He said he was in hopes that it would soon moderate, that he was almost perished with being so long wet and cold. Understanding some time before this, from the mate, who was not on very good terms with Capt. Adams, that this was the first time he ever commanded a square-rigged vessel, and as they had no gale of wind before during the voyage, I began to think he did not know how to take the mainsail off her, I therefore told him he had better go below, and put on dry

clothes, and I would attend to the ship. He went immediately down, and I had the mainsail handed, mizzen and fore topsails hauled down, and the ship hove to under her foresail. Still finding the pumps had not sucked, I went to Capt Adams, and told him we had better go in the hold and see if we could discover the leak. When we went down she had a great quantity of water in her, and some of the empty water casks were floating in the forehold. I then never expected to go alive out of the hold. We found the water was rushing in forward, the ceiling was cut away, and we perceived the leak was occasioned by the sheathing being off. We stopped it as well as possible, but as she still made a great deal of water we concluded it best to stand to the westward and get in shore, that if the leak gained on us, and we could not get into the Delaware, we could run ashore and probably save our lives. It was disagreeable and dangerous running in shore at this season of the year in a gale of wind from the northeast, but of two evils this appeared the least. We accordingly bore away W.N.W. intending to fall in with Cape May. The next day, happily for us, it was more moderate. About eleven o'clock we made the land a little to the eastward of Cape May. At twelve o'clock, seeing a man upon the beach, we put the boat ashore for him. The men in the boat were all New England men, who knew how to manage a boat in a heavy sea as well, if not better than any other people. With some difficulty and danger they brought the man on board. The New England men are not generally good seamen, being seldom regularly bred to the sea, but they are sober, active men, most of them very stout, and will endure more hardships than any people I ever sailed with. This ship had an excellent crew. The man they brought on board was a Cape May pilot. He soon anchored the ship off the Cape. I understood from him with much pleasure that Patton had arrived safe. As there was a good deal of ice in the river and bay, the ship could not proceed up. I therefore took my clothes on shore, and with a fellow passenger hired a light wagon to carry us to Philadelphia. We arrived at Cooper's, opposite the city, about noon, the 9th of January. The river was crowded with people skating and we crossed on the ice. I found all my relations well except my brother Edward. Mr. Mifflin who engaged me to go to France, was perfectly satisfied with what I had done. A few days after my being at home, Mason arrived. He put into Morris River and left the brig. I went there, and brought her up. He and [John] Craig differed, and would not speak to each other. She had some powder on board, but her cargo consisted chiefly of saltpetre, which was as acceptable as powder. Messrs. Berard, after having their ship nearly ready to sail, were afraid to send her. . . .

1. James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle . . . 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 79-82.

CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Philada. 15th Janry 1776

I last Night Received my Orders to go to Carolina & expect to set out a Thursday mornng. for one of our Pilot Boats now at New Castle in which I shall take my Chance - Shou'd you come our Way if you think proper to let me know to morrow or next day what Signals you will shew when off our Bar, you

Sir

Philad^a. 15th Janry 1776

I last Night received my Order to go
to Carolina & expect to set out a Thursday morning
for one of our Pilot Boats now at New Castle
in which I shall take my chance — Should you
come our way if you think proper to let
me know to morrow or next day what signals
you will show when off our Bar, you may
depend on my keeping a good Look-out for
you, & to let no Body know the signal
but where it is necessary —

I am Sir
Your most humble Serv^t
Chris Gadsden

Some one of the Fleet if to gather
or the small Sloop if a long will
hoist a striped flagg half up the flying
stay

Christopher Gadsden to Commodore Esek Hopkins, January 15, 1776, with Hopkins' endorsement.

may depend on my keeping a good Look-Out for You, & to let no Body know the Signal but where it is necessary – I am [&c.]

Chris^t Gadsden

[Endorsed by Hopkins] Some one of the Fleet if to gather or the Small Sloop if a Lone will hight a Striped flagg half up the flying Stay

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] 15 Jan'y 1776.

Order'd that Mr. John Ross be directed to furnish immediately a Return of the Number of Men now in the Service of this Province, on board the armed Boats.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 457.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1776

Philadelphia, January 15.

By authentic advices from the camp at Cambridge, of the 3d and 4th instant, we learn, that the bay and harbour of Boston yet continue open; that a man of war is so stationed as to command the entrance of Salem, Beverly and Marblehead harbours – That 500 fresh troops had arrived from Ireland – two regiments had gone to Halifax – two had pushed into the river St. Lawrence in hopes of getting up to Quebec, which was very doubtful – That the two regiments arrived at Boston were the 55th and 17th—That Admiral Shuldham was also arrived.—An intelligent person got out of Boston on the 3d instant, who informed General Washington that a fleet consisting of 9 transports, containing 360 men, were ready to sail under convoy of the *Scarborough* and *Fowey* men of war, with two bomb vessels and some flat-bottomed boats; their avowed destination in Boston was to Newport, but it was generally supposed to be Long Island or Virginia – That a number of other transports are taking in water, and they are baking large quantities of biscuit in Boston, some say for the use of the shipping, who are to lay in Nantucket Road on account of the ice, while others believe a more important movement is in agitation: – This person also informs, that they have not the least idea in Boston of attacking our lines, but will be very thankful to be permitted to remain quiet – That before General Burgoyne's departure it was circulated thro' the army, in order to keep the soldiery quiet under their distresses, that the disputes would soon be settled, and that he was going to England for that purpose – That they had intelligence at Boston of 4 vessels having sailed from Hispaniola for this Continent some time ago, laden with arms and ammunition. – Our advices conclude with the following anecdote: – That upon the King's speech arriving at Boston, a great number of them were reprinted and sent out to our lines on the 2d of January, which being also the day of forming the new army, the great Union flag was hoisted on Prospect Hill, in compliment to the United Colonies – this happening soon after the Speeches were delivered at Roxbury, but before they were received at Cambridge, the Boston gentry supposed it to be a token of the deep impression the Speech had made, and a signal of submission – That they were

much disappointed at finding several days elapse without some formal measure leading to a surrender, with which they had begun to flatter themselves. – When these accounts came away the army were all in barracks, in good health and spirits. – That 5000 Militia had taken the places of those soldiers who would not stay beyond their time of service; that they were good troops, and the whole army impatient for an opportunity of action.

By Capt. [Leeson] Simmons from Cadiz we learn, that the English Consuls in different ports in Europe, are depriving the American masters of vessels of their Mediterranean passes.

On the 15th of December Capt. Simmons spoke the sloop *America*, Capt. Graham, with sugar from St. Croix, for New-York, but having some time before, in lat. 35, long. 70, unluckily fell in with the sloop of war *Viper*, the Captain of which put two officers and four men on board, with orders for to carry her to Boston, but meeting with contrary winds were obliged to quit the coast, and were then going for Antigua.¹

1. According to the journal of the *Viper*, the vessel was the sloop *America*, Robert Campbell (not Graham), master, which she captured on November 24, 1775, Volume 2, 1118.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

At a Meeting of Committee 15 Jany 1776 –

Information being laid before the Committee, that Capt Forsythe had sailed without first obtaining a Permit from the Committee, Mr John Cornthwait the Owner of the Vessell was then sent for, but, as he declared, that he had always thought, Capt Forsythe had such a Permit, the Offence was overlooked –

Information being made to this Committee, That Capt Martin of the Brig *Friendship* was loading without any Permit being obtained from the Council of Safety, or Provl Convention, It is Resolved, That such Vessell be stopt from further Loading, until such Points are properly cleared, and Capt [Isaac] Griest is charged with the Execution of this Resolve –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

“FROM THE *Virginia Gazette* OF JANUARY 18, PRINTED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Dunmore*, LYING OFF NORFOLK.”¹

Norfolk, Ship *Dunmore*, Jan. 15.

Soon after the arrival of the *Liverpool* frigate from England, Capt. [Henry] Bellew sent a flag of truce, and demanded to be informed whether his Majesty's ships of war would be supplied from the shore with provisions; the reply being in the negative, and the ships in the harbour being continually annoyed by firing from the rebels, out of that part of the town next the water, rendered it necessary to destroy it, and dislodge them from the houses they occupied directly under the muzzles of the ships guns. Accordingly, previous notice being given to the inhabitants, in order that the women, children, and innocent persons might have time to remove out of danger, on the first instant about four o'clock in the afternoon, the *Liverpool*, frigate, the *Otter* and *King's Fisher*, sloops of war, with the Governor's ship, *Dunmore*, began to cannonade the town, and in the mean time a few men were landed in boats, who set fire to the houses next the water.

As the wind was moderate and from the shore, it was judged with certainty, that the destruction would end with that part of the town next the water, which the king's ships meant only should be fired; but the rebels cruelly and unnecessarily completed the destruction of the whole town, by setting fire to the houses in the streets back, which were before safe from the flames.

The ill-judged and misapplied fury discharged upon the weak and the innocent, was not confined to the town; the country around, for several days, was illuminated with the fires of the houses they burnt, amongst which is the distillery (about three miles from the town) a work of great value and public utility with a large stock of rum and molasses.

The ships continued firing, with intervals, till about two o'clock next morning, during which the ardour of the men could not be repressed, and notwithstanding all possible care taken to prevent them, a few boats went on shore, where they exchanged some shot with the enemy's parties, and had three or four men slightly and one mortally wounded. Several accounts concur, that the enemy had 18 killed, and about 40 men wounded.

1. John Almon, ed., *The Remembrancer, or Impartial Repository of Public Events 1776* (London, 1776), II, Part I, 356-57. Hereafter cited as Almon, ed., *Remembrancer*. This extract is from the newspaper printed with the type seized in Norfolk on September 30, 1775, from John Hunter Holt, publisher of Holt's *Virginia Gazette*. See Volume 2, 267.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 15th, 1776.

Information being given to the Council, that three strangers appeared in town, who were suspected might belong to some of the men-of-war upon the coast.

Ordered, That the secretary do summon them to attend the board immediately, and if necessary to take a file of men with him from the guard.

Mr. Milligan and Mr. Sur, two of the said suspected persons were accordingly brought before the Council; and upon examination gave so satisfactory an account of themselves, and of Mr. Dee, the third person, that they were immediately discharged.

Ordered, That Col. [William] Moultrie be desired to attend this board immediately.

Col. Moultrie attending according to order, was desired to lay before this Council, his plan for the defence of Charles Town—and also returns of the regiments under his command, and of the stores and ammunition.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 183-85.

16 Jan.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Exeter] Tuesday, Jany 16th 1776.

Voted, to build a Galley at the charge of this Colony, to Cruise on our Sea Coast, and to be used for the Benefit of Defending our Harbours and of annoying our Enemies.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 20, 21.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Sir

Newburyport 16th Jany 1776

Yesterday Forenoon appeared in our Bay a Brig & a Ship which were suspected to be Enemy's Vessell – these Vessels were soon taken & brought safe into the river – the Ship was from London eleven weeks since & is named the *Freinds* Archibald Bowie Master Burthen about 200 tons laden with Coals, Porter pickled Cabbage, Vinegar live Hogs &c these were for Government Service – the Ship was to enter at Boston as a Transport – the Brig was from Cork about ten weeks since & is named the *Sukey* Madatt Engs Master Burthen about 90 Tons laden with Beef Pork Butter Hams Tongues Potatoes &c owned by Lewis Gray of Boston – both these Vessels were bound to Boston – There were two Passengers in the Brig vizt Lieutenant Hill of Earl Percy's Regiment, & Mr John Gray Son of Harrison Gray Esqr – We thought it best to forward the two Masters & these two Passengers to the honble Council to dispose of them as they may think fit, & to make what Enquiries they may chuse – Mr Marsh & Mr Mullikin of this Town (& the first Gentleman of this Committee) have undertaken to see them safe to Watertown – they bring with them all the Papers of public Concern were found in both Vessels – We wou'd observe to their Honours that there is besides a number of Letters to Officers & Soldiers in Boston, a Book of military Orders or Regulations, we did not know but might be a Matter of Curiosity if not of Service at Head Quarters which you'll present to the General if you please – Mr Hill begs a Return of it to him finally – Messrs Marsh & Mullikin will present their Bill of Charge in this Matter, wch their Honours will order payment of as they shall think proper –

In behalf of the Committee of Safety for this Town – I am sir [&c.]

Jon^a Jackson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 202–03. Jackson was chairman of the Newburyport Committee of Safety.

JONATHAN JACKSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Newburyport 16th Jany 1776.

The day before yesterday two Enemies Vessels happen'd to be taken in this Bay & brought in here – one a Ship from London laden for Government Service, the other a Brig from Cork laden with Provisions both bound for Boston – in the latter were two Passengers Lieutenant Hill of Lord Percy's Regt & a Mr Gray of Boston – our Committee here have sent both these Gentn & the Masters of both the Vessels by this Conveyance to the Order of the Council at Watertown, with the papers of a public nature that were found in either Vessel – This morning was discovered in a concealed part of the Ship several papers esteemed to be of some Moment in a political View – the Committee had before directed me (who happen'd to act as their Chairman) to write to the Council a Detail of this Matter & send the papers of public Concern to them – but while the Committee were together, it was not thought of, to furnish you with Copies of the most material – several of the members afterwards mention'd to me there wou'd be a propriety in so doing, & in the Committee's Behalf I have presum'd to furnish you with Copies of the concealed Papers found this morning, & which are inclosed –

For any Enquiries you may please to make I refer you to the Bearer (Mr March) who is a Member of the Committee here and begging pardon for the Freedom I have taken Am [&c.]

Jon^a Jackson

1. Washington Papers, LC. See preceding entry.

N. TAYLOR TO THOMAS FLUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Boston 16 Janry 1776.

. . . By reason of the weather and the Enemy many Vessels which have sailed from Europe have not got in. The loss by the Enemy is unpardonable. There has not been a single Ship of War stationed in any harbour, between this and Nova-scotia, since last Summer, that every encouragement has been afforded for the fitting out Privateers, the carrying in their Prizes. The greatest Acquisition made by the Enemy is the Brig laden with Ordnance Stores, and what is astonishing she was spoke with by the *Cerberus* & the *Mercury* at different times in the Bay, and neither attempted to take her in Tow, or even to put a hand on board her as I can learn. I hope the Change in the naval Department will produce an Alteration of Conduct. Admiral Shulldham takes the command tomorrow.

Copy

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

N. TAYLOR TO JOSEPH TAYLOR ¹

[Extract]

Boston 16. January 1776.

Two Men of War & two or three Transports with about 200 Marines sailed about 10 Days ago on an Expedition not certainly known.² Some say to the W. Indies to stop Supplies from thence, others supposing that Provision is their Object. I hope their Design is good, & wish them Success. Genl Clinton sails in the *Mercury* tomorrow for Virginia. [Richard] Reeve goes his Secretary. The *Falcon* & two or three Transports with two Light Companies on board accompany the General. – Admiral Shulldham takes the Command of the Fleet tomorrow. It must be a Change for the better, for so much Ignorance, Stupidity, Pride, Avarice & whatever You have a mind to add in the same Strain, never centered in one Commander of a Fleet in the British Navy since the Flag was hoisted, as in one that is not unknown among us. We are told that the present Commanders in Chief of the Navy (I mean Mr. Shulldham) and Army have a very good Understanding with each other, from which we hope to see good Effects. –

To Mr Joseph Taylor New England Coffee House [London]

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40.

2. H.M.S. *Scarborough* and *Hinchinbrook* for Savannah.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND ¹

Dear Sir

Boston January 16th 1776

My last letters to you went by Watson and Mrs Fairchild, who sailed from hence the 16th of December and are I hope now safe in London. Little material has happened here since that time, the Severity of the Winter still keeps out the

greatest Number of the Ships sent from England with Coal, Porter, and other Stores. only Nine of them are yet got in, out of Thirty Six Sail. We grow Anxious for the arrival of the provision Ships, as they are of the most Consequence at present, the others we might Shift without, as the Number of Old Wooden buildings puling down, will afford us a Sufficiency of Fuel. tho' it is attended with a greater Risque of Fires, by the carlesness of Soldiers than might happen by burning Coal in the barrack Rooms.

Admiral Shuldhorne arrived here about ten days ago, and Admiral [Samuel] Graves Sails for England this day Week, People are Sanguine in their Expectations from Shuldhornes Commanding and part with the other, very willingly. the Rebell Privateers Continue to be troublesome and have lately taken one or two Vessells.

The Rebels at Mount Pizgeh gave us an Alart the other Night, between Seven and Eight oClock being very dark and low Water, a party Supposed to be about 100 Stole a Crose the Caus Way to Charlestown, and set fire to four Small Houses which remained near the Mill, and carried off a Serjt & four Men who were in one of them, and then retired with presipitation the same way the[y] came, and did not think proper to attack the Detachments in the Redoubts on the hight's. One Circumstance made that attack a little laughable as it happen'd on the Play Night. Just as the farce called the Blockade of Boston (a thing of some Humore said to be wrote by Genll Bourgoyne) was ready for Representation, the performers had Just got dressed in their Yankee Array – when an orderly Serjt came hastily into the House, and said that the Rebels were landed and that the troops were at it; this you may beleive made us all Quit the house not without hurry, and much fainting among the Women. but the best joke was the Actors who had now another part to perform, than of Women & Negroes, for which they were prepeared. one Officer was runing to his Corps in his petticoats, and another with his face blacked and in a Negroes dress. In short had the Rebels intended this to disconcert the Redicule that was intend them they wou'd have some Credit, but we don't find that was the case.

I mentioned to you Brigr [Richard] Prescotts being a Prisoner at Albany. and yesterday we here by a flag of truce that, Governor [Guy] Carleton has got into Quebec, and that Col. [Allen] McClean had a brush with [Benedict] Arnold who Commands the Rebels who invested that place, and that McClean has beat them – They likewise say, that Soon after Lord Dunmores landing from his Ships near Norfolk in Virginia with a part of the 14th Regt he was attacked by the people, and obliged to retire on board, with the loss of Seventy Men among whome, are Captain Fordice [Charles Fordyce] and [Samuel] Leslie, both of the 14th Regiment. this is the Rebell Accot of this affair, the only one we yet have. A deserter that came in last Night says their Army are very Sickly, and are tired of the War, but the Spiret is kept with great pains by their Leaders – We had the other day a Vessell from New York, from whence we had not heard for a Considerable

time; we have now Seldomer oppertunitys from thence than from England. I do not find things in any better State there than formerly, but no doubt you here from thence.

General Clinton is now Embarked and will Sail in the *Mercury* Man of War tomorrow on a Secret Expedition. he takes two transports with him, on board of whome are two Companys of Light Infantry of the 4th and 44th Regts Lord [Francis] Rawdon goes a Supernumery Aid de Camp. he wanted to take a full Staff with him from hence, but has been refused, he wanted Captn [Richard] Symes of the 52d as Adjut General, Captn [J.H.] Crosbie of the 38th Regt as Qr Master General, and Captain Southerland of Gorham Corps as an Assestant, but General Howe wou'd not allow of such a Staff, which I beleive has occasioned some discontent. Its said this Expedition is intended for Virginia, where its thought he will be Joined by the five Regts ordered from Ireland last December. and that the General (Clinton) will tuch at New York on his Way, to see whats doing there.

The other day General Howe ordered Major Sherreff to wait on General Clinton to know which of his Assistants he woud Chuse shou'd go with him, General Clinton did not like the message, and said he thought he had a Right to appoint his own Staff, & that he wou'd not take any body from hence, If any One of us was to go I think I am the person, as being one of the Established Assest D.Q. Mr Genl[s] – and that there could be no Choice. but I make myself Easey about going, as I beleive had one of us been ordered with him, contrary to his inclination, he wou'd on coming to his Command appoint a Depy Qr Master over us, and thereby Occassion some disagreement. I mention this matter to you, to shew you the little Chance I have of getting any thing equal to your wishes by my Appointment; the People now in Power have all their dependants, and many about them whome the[y] wish to serve. I do not mean to trouble you with grievances, but its my Duty to acquaint you with these matters – I look upon myself in that Office by your Recommendation and good Wishes to Serve me –

The Preferment goes on here pritty fast in the Several Corps, I have no Chance of any as Our Regt is not Serving with this Army. And I find myself Serving in a very Labourious Department, which requires all my time and attention, for five Shillings a day and the Chance of three Shills a day Batt & Forrage Money when any Issued –

Major Gaul of the 35th Regt has sold out and Major Basset of the 10th both Majoritys go in the Regiments, and many other Changes happen Dayly – I wish I had it in my power to follow yr advice in geting my self Settled, but without you can assist me that cannot happen. Mr Haldimand is well & presents his Duty & Compliments. I am with the greatest Respect [&c.]

Fran^s Hutcheson

I have had but once the pleasure of hearing from you since your departure

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND,
R.N.¹

Pursuant to the orders of the Right Hon'ble the Lords Commissioners of the admiralty.

You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under my command, and follow all such Orders and directions as you shall from time to time receive from me, for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my hand on board his Ms
Ship *Chatham* at Boston the 16th January 1776

To Captain Hamond
Commander of his Majs Ship *Roebuck*
By command of the Admiral Edw^d Bragge

1. Hamond, Orders received 1775-1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND,
R.N.¹

By Molyneux Shuldhams Esqr &ca &ca

You are hereby required and directed to carry into execution all such orders and instructions which you have received from Vice Admiral Graves, and may not have been already fully executed; for which this shall be your order.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's Ship *Chatham* at Boston
the 16th January 1776

M. Shuldhams

To Captain Hamond commander of his Majs Ship *Roebuck*
By command of the Admiral Edw^d Bragge

1. Hamond, Orders received, UVL.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

[Extract]

No 7

Boston, January 16, 1776

My Lord. By Admiral Shuldhams arrival on the 30th December I had the Honor of your Lordships Dispatches of the 22d October; . . . Also a Copy of a Letter from your Lordship of the 22d September to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in which you are pleased to intimate that the Stores of Provisions, contracted for by Messrs Mure Son & Atkinson by the Lords of the Treasury, are intended as well for the Fleet as the Army; whereas from their not being any Mention made of the Fleet sharing these Stores, either in your Lordships Letters to me, from the Lords of the Treasury, or the Merchants, the Cargoes arriving before Admiral Shuldhams were distributed solely to the Army; but since the Sight of your Lordships Letter, that I might not appear to neglect the Fleet, I have, tho' without a direct Order from your Lordship, given a Proportion of Porter to the Ships: At the same Time, I beg leave to observe, the Deliveries of Provision to the Soldiers for some Weeks past being without Pease or Rice, the Want of Bedding, & the unavoidable Exposure to the Weather from the Nature of the Duty, which has

been very severe, without enumerating further Reasons, make them require these Refreshments more than the Seamen, who are better provided.

I enclose for your Lordships Information an Account of the Deficiencies in the Provision Contract, with the Commissary's Letter thereupon, & I shall send another to the Lords of the Treasury. — Having heard from Governor Tryon that there is a Prospect of getting some Provisions on the Side of New York I have dispatched a Vessel to endeavour to procure it; and the Victuallers for the Navy, lately arrived could conveniently afford us a Supply for six Weeks if necessary, which relieves me from the Necessity of putting the Troops to short Allowance, more especially as I am hopeful that the Vessels mentioned in my Dispatch of the 19th December, may return from the West Indies & Georgia before the Provisions in Store, as [p] State, are consumed; so that our Dependence is not wholly on the Contractors Ships, one of which got in the 13th Instt with Oats Flour and Pease, the last Article affording a most seasonable Relief.

The necessary Arrangements being made for the Departure of Major General Clinton to Cape Fear, in consequence of your Lordships Dispatches of the 22d October, he is ready to sail in the *Mercury* Ship of War, with the *Falcon* Sloop & two Transports, having on board two Companies of Light Infantry, & some Highlanders: The latter, I hope, may be useful in getting Men in North Carolina if Governor Martin is not deceived in his Expectations, of which I do not presume to judge, having received no direct Intelligence from thence since General Gage's Departure, nor have I received Governor Martins Letter referred to in your Lordships Letter of 22d October. It is much to be wished that the Troops had sailed from Europe in Time to have arrived at their Destination by the Middle or latter End of November; But I am free to own my Opinion to your Lordship, which has been to leave the Southern Provinces in the fullest Persuasion of their Security, until the Rebels should have been defeated on the Side of New York, which Event appears to me, more clearly than ever, of so much consequence, that our utmost Strength should be exerted to accomplish it before Designs of less Importance are taken up, inconsistent with the general Plan of Operations for the ensuing Campaign; and it is to be presumed the southern Rebels would have been less able to defend themselves, had they not been roused by the Conduct of their Governors, who have not, I fear, the Power of suppressing them, or of reestablishing the Interest of Government in any Degree — It is remarkable that the Destination of the Regiments to the Southward was promulgated here by private Letters from England, that came in the same ship with your Lordships Dispatch relative to them, & I make not a Doubt of the Rebels being in Possession of the Intelligence very soon after it arrived — General Lee I hear is gone from the Army in consequence of it.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, Part I, 65–74.

SAMUEL MOTT TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

To the Honourable Jonathan Trumbull Esqr Capt Genl & Governor of the American Colony of Connecticut &ca

Sir Being on the 5th of This Instant January Desired & Directed by Your Honour & Council of Safety, To View the Works Erected & Propos'd for Defence

at New London Groton & Stonington & Report my Opinion in The Premises &ca

In Pursuance thereof I have Attended at The Places above mentioned & have found that there is at New London a Work Newly Erected at the Edge of the Town by the Water, where the old Fort or Battery Stood, which on some Accounts Appear Neat, well made, & in Good Order, But By reason of the Bad Situation of the Place, on Acct That In Case of an Attack from the Enemy, it will have a Tendency to Draw the Enemys Shot in the most Dangerous Direction on the Body of The Town, & by reason of the Ill Construction of the Embrazures &ca That it Cannot Defend from those Parts of the Harbour where an Enemys Ships of War might, & Doubtless would, Lye for Action, & by reason that In Case the Enemy should set fire to any of the Nearest Buildings it would Be very Difficult to Support & Occupy the Work, & the Danger that The men in the work must undergo from those in the Tops of the Enemys Vessels, Render it in my Opinion [blurred] Not a Suitable Place to Defend the Town & Harbour, & Altogether Insufficient for that Purpose, & Likewise That In Case of an Attack from the Enemy the Guns & stores in said Work would be in Great Danger of falling an Easy Prey to the Enemy –

I find also Ajacent to the Town on a Place Call'd Winthrops Neck a New Work Erected for Defence, which in my Opinion so far As it is Done may be of Good Service in Assisting to Defend the Place, But the Situation of the Place will not admit of its being A Sufficient Defence – I also Viewed Shaw's Point Com[mon]ly Called Mamacock, which in my Opinion is Capable of being fortified to very Good Purpose, The Guns would Lye 50, or, 60 feet above the Surface of The Water & only about 190 rods from the Opposite side of the Channel. It has a very Good & Safe Communication with the Country but no works Are yet Erected here. I have also Viewed the East shore Of New London Harbour on Groton Side & find a new Work Erected Within Reach of the whole Channel of the Harbour, which work so far as it is Carried I very much Approve of, & think that with finishing what is begun & making some small Addition it will be Capable of making a very Good Defence. – The Guns on this work I imagine To be about 100 feet above the Surface of the Water, a Little Back of this Work. Next the Country is a very Commanding Eminence (Likewise in Pretty Good Shot of the Harbour), which if well fortified might Contain Barracks & a Bomb-proof Sufficient to Contain its own stores & those of the Other work & would Secure a Safe & Easy Communication with the Country, & Would if Skilfully Erected, in a Great Measure Defend the Harbour & be Almost Inaccessible to An Enemy. On the whole it is my Opinion that somewhere Between 10 & 15 hundred pounds well Laid out in fortifying the Above Mentioned parts of Groton & on Mamacock & Winthrops Point or Neck is all That is Necessary for Defending that Important Harbour & The Town, & Properly Mann'd would Prevent any the Most Potent Enemy from Either Holding Possession of the Harbour or Annoying the Town, an Addition of heavy Cannon to make what they now have to the Number of About 40 would be Sufficient to Man all these works.

I have Likewise Viewed the works Lately Executed at stonington and find Them so far as Executed in my Opinion well Situated, strong built, & Being Compleated with a very Little Alteration (which I have pointed out to Majr

Smith) Sufficient with 100 Battallion men & 30 Artillery men to Defend against any ships of War &ca that will Likely Penetrate that Harbour, unless the Enemy shou[ld] Land A body of Troops, in which Case the Above Number of men might hold Out until the Country Came to Their Assistance, all which is Submitted to Your Honr by your Honours [&c.]

Preston 16th January 1776

Sam^l Mott

N.B. if the Works at the Above Places should be Prosecuted it will Be Necessary To provide About 12 new Spades 5 falling Axes & 2 Broad Axes & some Iron Crows for the Works & a Number of Tools for New London & Groton

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 4c, 4d, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO CLARK & NIGHTINGALE, PROVIDENCE ¹

New London Jan 16th 1776

Gentlemen Please to deliver the Inclos'd letter to Governour Cook – have also Inclosd you an order on Wm Tallman att Bedford for one hundred and Thirty Cask & Keggs of Gun Powder wich would have you Send for and deliver to him and Send me an Accott of the Expencc & You'l Oblige [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Junr

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO SAMUEL SOLLY WINTWORTH ¹

To Samueel Solly Wintworth Esqr
Merchant in Domineco –

New London Jan 16th 1776.

Sir, I Received yours of the 9th and 30th Novr the Letter Inclosing Accot Sales of Sixty Mules Imported in the Ship *America* John Lamb Master Amo to thirteen hundred & seventy Seven pounds 16/ 1½ Sterling. And observe that you think the Risque is too Great to send me the Bills untill you here from me. If the Money is in good hands I am content to let it remain on Interest, untill I shall have occasion for it, & when that will be is uncertain as all our Trade is now at an end, & God knows wether we shall ever be in a Situation to Carry it on Again, no Bussiness now but preperation for Warr, Ravaging Villages, Burning of Towns, &c Inclos'd you have some of our last Papers. I am &c

N S

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO WILLIAM CONSTANT, GUADELOUPE MERCHANT ¹

New London Jan 16th 1776.

Inclosed is a Bill Lading for Nine thousand three hundred Staves, which please to dispose off for the most they will fetch, Capt [William] Leeds is arrived after a passage of Sixty Six Days, I find your Brother has not paid him any of the money you left behind last Voyage, and he tells me that he imagines their will be plenty of Powder out to Guadalupe from France and I hope you will be able to get to the amount of all the Interest you have of mine in In that case I shall expect you home very soon pray make all the Despatch in your power, for the sooner you Come the Danger will be the least, their is no Crewsers now, nor I

believe will be untill May Next and we shall want it very soon – I ordered Capt [Edward] Chappell to Martineco from Phila with flour, if you here of him and can let him know you have powder to Ship he well take it on Board and I assure you he is a very Safe Good man to Ship by – Melasses is now very Scarse hear, if you are a mind to Load the Schooner I suppose the old Ballance will pay one half of the Amount and do you advance the Remainder & let it be on our Joint Accot bu[t] if powder is to be had plenty lay out the whole in Powder & send the Schooner for a Load Salt I have nothing further to say only make all the Despatch in your power I am &c

N S

1. Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 16, 1776

An application being made in behalf of one Mr. Jugé and the owners of a vessel lately arrived in Delaware, for leave to export provisions to the amounts of the cargoes by them imported:

Resolved, That this be referred to the Secret Committee.

Some members of the Secret Committee being absent,

Resolved, That two members be added to that committee:

The members chosen, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes and Mr. [Robert] Alexander.

Resolved, That to Morrow be assigned for taking into consideration, in a committee of the whole, the propriety of opening the ports after the first of March next.

Information being given to Congress by the delegates of South Carolina, that their colony, being in want of seamen, had given orders to offer high wages to such as would engage in their service, but least this should cause uneasiness among the seamen employed in the service of the colonies, they thought it proper to inform Congress thereof, and take their opinion and direction thereon.²

Resolved, That this be referred to a committee of 5.

The members chosen, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Samuel] Huntington, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, Mr. [Lewis] Morris, and Mr. [William] Floyd.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be empowered to purchase and fit out a small vessel as a tender for the fleet fitted out.

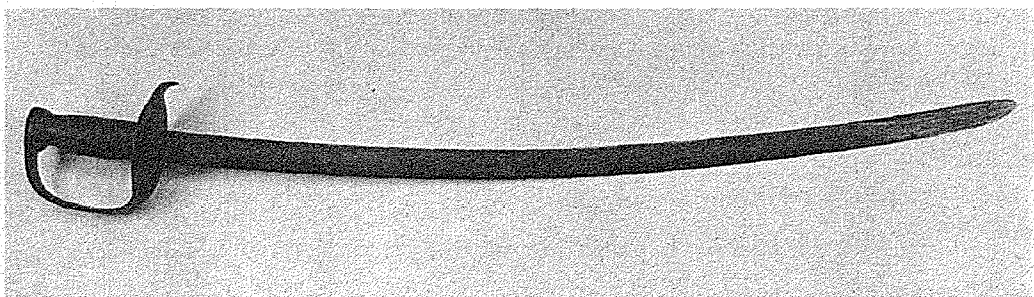
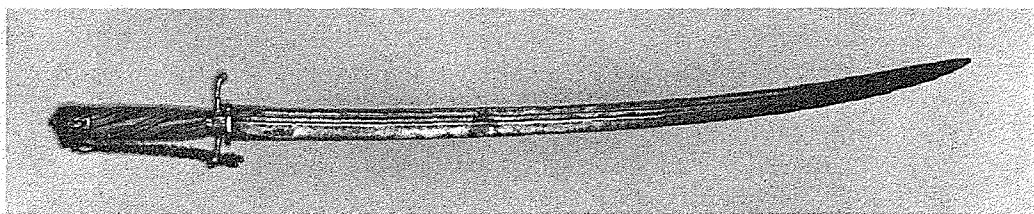
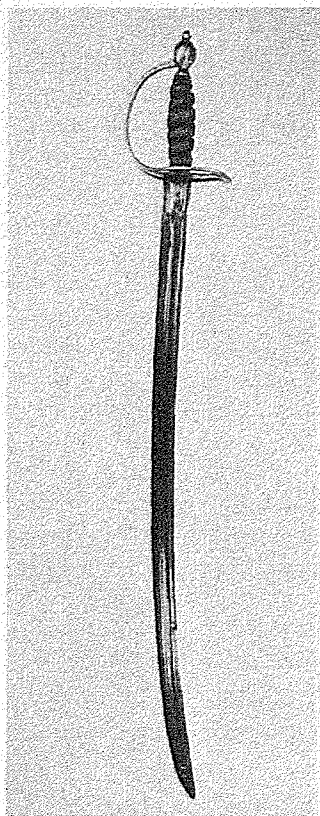
The committee appointed, to devise ways and means for procuring powder from [New] Providence, brought in a report, with an account of a cargo provided for that purpose by Messrs. Willing and Morris, amounting to £1,212.9.0 Pennsylvania currency = 3,233 2/10 Dollars; Whereupon,

Resolved, That the said committee be authorized to give such orders to the captain of the vessel, fitted out for the service as they may think proper.

That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of Messrs. Willing and Morris, for the sum of 3,233 2/10 dollars in full for the cargo shipped on board the sloop *Lady Catherine* for the use of the Continent.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 57–67.

2. See Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety, December 31, 1775.



(Top to bottom) British naval officer sword and hilt detail, c. 1770-1785. American naval officer silver hilt sword, c. 1765-1780. American cutlass with wooden grip, c. 1770.

SAMUEL WARD TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Philadela 16th Jany 1776

Our Seamen arrived here the Day before yesterday, those concerned in the naval Department are highly pleased with them ther Arrival gives fresh Spirits to the whole Fleet,²

Your Favor of the 4th we recd I would wish to have the Instructions of the Genl Assembly relative to the Regiment or any other colonial affairs as soon as may be

The Letters of Govr [William] Franklin & the Speaker of the Assembly of New Jerseys were intercepted, an Order of Congress was issued for seizing the latter but he escaped on Board the *Asia*,³ the Govr is under a continental Guard in his own House until Order from Congress may be issued.

I enclose the Resolves of Congress ordered to the several Colonies time only permits me to add that I am [&c.]

Sam Ward

P.S. I recd a Letter from Messrs Clarke & Nightingale relative to the contract entered into by Admiral Hopkins as I have not time to write them beg your Honor to let them know that I think the public Service requires that the Voyage should proceed with all dispatch

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

2. *Andrew Doria* Journal, January 17, 1776: "the sloop *Providence* & *Fly* Join'd the Fle[et] since we left Philadelphia & gott 40 Men for the Fleet from Rhode Island in the *Fly*," PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly was Cortland Skinner, whose arrest Congress ordered on January 9, 1776, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 42.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday 16. January – A Tender was asked for & allowed to our Naval Armament under Admiral Hopkins ² . . . a French Vessel just arrived here with Powder. it is reported that they are fitting out 4 or 5 Privateers or other Vessels of War in So: Carolina & their Agent ³ is now in this City on his Way to New England to engage 500 Seamen he is empowered to offer such high Terms that the S. Carolina Delegates acquainted Congress with it least it should prejudice our Service and a Comee was chosen to consider the Matter – A Vessel is about to sail from Philada with Produce for Bermudas to procure Powder and if it belongs to the King to seize it by Force, if there is none there She is to go to New Orleans, Carthagera, or to a noted Port near Carthagera or elsewhere and if She cannot get Ammunition the Captain is to obtain hard Money

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. Sloop *Fly*, which had arrived at Fort Island in Delaware River with 40 Rhode Island recruits for the Continental fleet.

3. Captain Robert Cochran.

COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO MAJOR SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Jany 16, 1776

Tell your worthy old General ² that we give him credit for a Part of Manly's Success, as he brought him to us. Is it not very strange that he should monopolize

all the Honour of the Sea. What is become of [William] Coit? I expected he would have disputed the Lauril with Manly. — We are fitting out a Fleet from this city of no inconsiderable Force & expect soon to send you an Account of some brilliant Stroke. Manly excepted, we have not shone in that Way as yet. — . . . We are getting Powder in small Quantities; but we imported 57 Tons of Salt Petre in our Vessels the other Day.

1. Worthington C. Ford, comp. and ed., *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb* (New York, 1893), I, 126–28.
2. Webb was aide-de-camp to Major General Israel Putnam.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] 16th Jan'y [1776.]

Robert Towers, Commissary, Reports . . . That he has deliver'd to Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, on acc't of Congress, 80 qr. Barrels, w't 2000 lbs [of gunpowder].

Resolved, That the powder Committee be empower'd to Continue their endeavours to import Power, & that they have power to assure the Value of the Vessells employed in this service, if they find it necessary, at the Risque of the Province.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 458–59.

DANIEL JOY TO SAMUEL HOWELL¹

Sir: Agreeable to your request I have look'd at the Fireraffts, & turn'd my thoughts a little towards considering what combustable matter it will be necessary to charge them with. First, as to their shape it will do, But they should be raised upon three Loggs at least, and three or four pieces of Scantiling truniled across them, & the tight part of the rafft Trunil'd upon the Scantiling, & a few holes in it with canvass hose nail'd about them to vent the rain or other water that may get into them. The hose will prevent the water from flying up, which otherwise would — water, with the assistance of heat, will soon sepperat, (or in other words rott) — the only substance of the inflametery Matter they may be charged with, therefore, will become less inflametery, and the reason I shall offer for their being raised higher, is to have the gutters (which will be charged with a kinde of quick-match) high enough to prevent the splash of water from getting into them & the raffts, altho it will not prevent it from burning, will retard it, & perhaps make the raffts swim too Deep or cant on one side. The materials I shall propose charging them with must first be dipt in boil'd turpentine — first lay a tier of faggots supported here & there, with billots of wood to keep them from the bottom & give a free passage for the air, Then put Shingle shavings, Billots of wood & faggots alternatively, untill the Body of the Rafft is full; Then lay three false Gutters, (at equal intervals) large enough to receive with freedom them that are to be charged with quick-match. The Small gutters to be prepared in the following manner: Take several clear thrids of woostard or yarn, slack twisted together, & dip it in a compound of pounded gun-powder & salt-peter, well mixed up with Spirits of Turpentine, & then well Dried, lay it the whole length of the gutter, over which put a wisp of

Tow, oakum or straw dipped in Spirits of Turpentine & Dried, & tack it down with a few Nails to keep them both fast – put them by in a dry place for to be ready in a minutes warning. Now return to the rafft; after the false gutters are lay'd raise it with the same Materials, as before, to the height of the false gutters, over which extend along a wisp of Straw dipped in Turpentine, supported here and there with small sticks to keep it from Obstructing the passage of the small gutters, & yet to leave an easy passage for the fire to communicate itself to the Straw; Then lay several wisp of straw as before cross-ways, & some to be carried off through the Middle from the intersection of the others, in order that the whole may be on Fire by the time they get's alongside the Enemy; Then raise the remainder with cedar rails or dry spars nearly of the length of the rafft – first a tier one way, kept apart by here & there a faggot, Then a tier crossways in the same manner, & so alternatively untill high enough; Then the whole should be secured together by two Small chains from one corner to the opposite, laying them in the angle of the cedar rails aforesaid, crossing each other in the Middle on the top, under them at the place of crossing put the end of a small lever, & force it round untill they are very tight, then fasten it, by which means you will secure it from being pulled to pieces by the Enemy; Then place a few Pistol barrels or Blunderbuss pointed towards that part you may Judge the Enemy will come with their boats to tow them off, and in the middle put Rocket casses charged with fire balls, old Blunderbuss, Musket & Pistol barrels charged with Serpent composition. They are to be placed at a small angle (from the perpendicular) inclining towards the Enemy, that when they take fire shall continue blowing off [f] the matter they are charged with, & the straw that will be over them amongst the Ships rigging & sails – over them raise a ridge of straw like a roof, on which scatter a quantity of powdered rosin – Next secure it from the weather by Thatching it with rye straw, & pay it well with Turpentine as above, after that is hardened give it a coat of hot tar, which will endure the weather better than Turpentine – when they are going to be used sprinkle them with Spirits of Turpentine, chain a number together, (two at least) the chain of sufficient length to admitt of the rafft of Each Side as far as the fore chains of the Enemys Ship; They should be conducted apart the Ships Buoys by the Gallies, otherwise the Buoy will stop them. I think it will be highly necessary to have a few of the raffts, to be kept in some creek below the Chevee de Frizes, in order to sett them on the Enemy on the flood – Darby, Chester, or Racoon creek, will do.

N.B. The faggots being putt but thick & laing between the rails will prevent it's forcing to close, but give sufficient room for the fire to worke on the Materials – A few wood flats or old Shalops, charged as above, to be made use of at a critical time by running them alongside the Enemy, would not be amiss. The channel of to be stopt in such a manner as to keep our Enemys out & let our Friends in, which cannot be done but by a Chain, Boom, or a Draw Bridge, at the Piers, and that to be well supported by a good Fort, the Chevee de Freezes, with which the other part of the channel is to be stopt, should be fastened together with chains or cables. Ships of War will pay very little regard to Forts unless there be something besides to stop them.

Every Fort that is built of Stone, the Stones oft to be laid in & out, not on an Edge, which only serves to make a long broad facing, unless they are broad enough

to extend the whole thickness of the wall, for a few Shott will make such fine worke tumble down. And Battery, in the situation that our New Battery is, with a wall behind it, is bad, for some of the Shott that may be fired at it will act in a double capacity, by Projectile & rebounding forces, which last (rebounding from the wall) will do ten times the damage the former will. The best Battery for imediat service are those that are made of Tusicks, Sods, Clay or Earth, built brest high, & the guns mounted high enough to point any way over the Battlement – The carriages made broad at the bottom to keep them from over-setting, & long Trails & only two Trucks.

Above all things, I would recommend Beacons to be erected at the Distance of every 12 or 15 miles, all the way to the Capes, to be set on fire when the watch at the Cape is certain there is a Fleet bound up our Bay, then the next to light his, & so on untill it is observed here, that we may not be surprized, &c. The Beacons to be Tar bbls on Poles, & the watch at each to have a glass & be constantly looking (in the day time) to the Beacons next below him.

Solders, with long fire armes, will always be able to bear down them that are armed with short ones. I would propose that the defficiency in the length of our Musket barrels should be added to the Bayonetts, so as to be equal in length with those in the British army, if not a little longer. Look back into History & you'll finde the New improvers in the art of War has allways had the advantage of their Enemys. I look upon it as no great difficulty to take the largest Ship in the British Navy, by having one of our Merchant Ships fill'd with Boards, Scantling, or any kinde of Lumber that will float, & to be raised with it on her Deck as high as the Ship of War's quarter Deck, with a battlement on one side of an easy assent, and another vessel whose fore parts should be raised with Lumber in the hold & on Deck for a battlement, & lashed alongside the other. This last vessel to be for Men armed with Hand-granados, (Smokeballs made small) hangers, Pistols, Lances & Battle-axes & Muskets, and a guard of Rifle-men to play into the ships tops while the other boards & get's Possession of the Quarter Deck. A considerable improvement may be added, which will be of Infinit advantage in the first onset (but will take up rather much room) which is a large Copper with Forcing Pumps fixt to it, (with or without an air vessel) the valves to be made of Brass, (with rule joints.) This Copper, placed in one of the vessels filled with water & continued boiling, Men appointed to play it (as they do a Fire Engin) upon the Man of War's Decks, which will soon oblige them to quit their Quarters – all parts of the Engin to be made of such meterials that boiling water will not desolve. Carriages may be made, on which 2, 3 or 4 small Guns may be mounted, to run down to the river or elsewhere.

I think an Engin may be made with Copper & Glass Windows, (Bulls Eys) in it properly Ballast'd, so as a man may convey him self (by the help of a compass & a Candle lighted, the first to direct him to his object, the other to let him know when he wants a supply of air,) under a Man of War's Bottom, & to take with him two or three other vessels, charged with 2 or 3 hundred wt of Gunpowder – These vessels to have machinery Locks that may be sett to any time, & on the upper part a pair of Jaws (to go by a spring) large enough to receive a Man of War's kill, & by forcing up the vessel untill the springe flys & the Jaws lay's hold of the

Kill, then to proceed with the other two unto two other Men of War, leveing one at each. Then to proceed on shore – when the first blowes up it will be looked upon as an accident, the second will cause doubts, and the third confusion.

If any of the above hints proves of any advantage to the Publick I shall not think my time spent in vain, & if at any time in future I can be of any service to you, I shall be happy in executing it. In the Intrem,

I remain with much esteem, Your [&c.]

Daniel Joy.

Philada, Janry the 16th, 1776.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 698–701.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1776

Philadelphia, January 16.

A gentleman, who arrived yesterday from South-Carolina, informs that the ministerial fleet, with Lord William Campbell on board, unable to obtain water or any supplies whatever, had sailed, and it was supposed for Georgia. The women and children, who had left Charlestown, were returned to it. And some of the principal Tories having been secured, their deluded neighbours were convinced they had been grosly imposed upon, some of whom had given up their arms, and others joined the association. In short, that all trifling misunderstandings were cleared up, and the whole province was united in opposition to the arbitrary measures of Administration.

HERCULES COURTENAY TO CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER ¹

Sir. Your favour of 14th is now before me the contents of which I note. you may be assured that I want no other indulgence in loading the Brig *Friendship* then others are intitled to by Similar contracts and without vanity can say that I can execute such business on equal terms with any other in Baltimore, but I wish not to sacrifice a commission in giving advanced prices above my limits, as am pretty certain has been the case with some since my writing to you last, I wonder my application has been the first to raise the price as I have been told by several that the Convention was wrote to on same head, but when I wrote you first, the matter was only beginning & that with people who were buying on some private acct & note, or that of the Convention, which disabled those employed by them from executing their commissions as the County people & millers will always sell to those who give them most; Nay some flour that I had bought two days ago, was taken from my door & given to another private buyer, who gave 1 3/ pr Ct for it, under such circumstances, the market is at present; & unless some order is taken therein to put a stop to private buyers it appears that the public must be empeaded. I did inform the Committee that I had engaged between 4 & 500 Barrs which was the case, but bad weather has I must suppose stoped the wagons; I have about 170 Barrs flour on board & the bread is ready but that must go in last, I shall go on with loading as fast as flour comes in, & follow your directions. I thought I could not do less then advise you in my former letter how matters were

going on here, which is still the case this week I think must bring much flour in. I am sir [&c.]

Balto 16 Jany 1776.

Her^s Courtenay

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, January 16, 1776.

Mr. [James] Mercer, from the committee to whom the petition of John Goodrich, for himself and partners, was referred, reported, that it appeared to the committee that the sloop *Dorothy* arrived in this colony from Antigua, and was taken by capt. [James] Barron on her way to Norfolk, and carried into Hampton; that it appeared to them, that the contract made with the commissary of stores, for the purchase of sundry goods, hath been complied with on behalf of the petitioners, and that there is now due to them 1098*l.* current money; and that they had come to the following resolution thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the said sum of 1098*l.* ought to be retained until the money furnished the said John Goodrich by this colony for the purchase of gunpowder be fairly and fully accounted for; and that the said sloop *Dorothy* ought to be delivered to the owners.

A petition of John Goodrich was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that Robert Shedden, of the town of Portsmouth, merchant, with his wife, the daughter of the petitioner, and their two young children, are now on board a sloop in the harbour of Norfolk; that although he had appeared inimical, by sending for goods contrary to the association, yet he had assisted the petitioner in the importation of gunpowder, for the use of this colony; and praying that he may be allowed to come on shore, and reside under the protection of this colony.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to Mr. [Josiah] Parker, Mr. [Archibald] Cary, Mr. Thomas Lee, Mr. [Merriwether] Smith, Mr. David Mason, Mr. Thomas Walker, Mr. [Thomas] Whiting, Mr. Walter Jones, and Mr. [Thomas] Newton [Jr.]; and they are to report the same, together with their opinion thereupon to the Convention.

A petition of John Goodrich, and John Goodrich, jun. was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that they had exposed themselves to great danger, had suffered many hardships and inconveniences, and had incurred considerable expense, in their endeavours to serve this colony, and praying that this Convention would take the same into consideration, and make them such reasonable compensation as shall be thought just.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to [the same committee as above] and they are to report the same, together with their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 98.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Kingsfisher*, CAPTAIN JAMES MONTAGU ¹

January 1776

At Single Anchor below The Distill House
Elizabeth River

Tuesday 16

Arrived the Tender with A Sloop with Salt ²
PM Weighed & Came to Sail at 4 Anchored Below the Distill
House in 5 fm veered to 1/2 A Cable recd on Bd fresh Beef

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

2. The tender had gone out on a cruise on Friday, January 5. Her prize was the *Peace and Plenty*, — Lightboy, master, from Philadelphia to Rappahannock, taken off the Capes of Virginia.MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Tuesday the 16th Day of January AD 1776. —

Upon Motion of Mr John Greene Merchant, Ordered that he have Leave to ship to Philadelphia in the Sloop *Fanny* Nichols Hyman Master, a Quantity of Naval Stores, Deer Skins, Furr, Hemp and Indico, and any other Produce of this Country.

Whereas the General Congress at Philadelphia on the first Day of November 1775, Resolved that no Produce of the United Colonies be exported (except from Colony to Colony under the Direction of the Committees of Inspection and Observation, and except from one part to another of the same Colony) before the first Day of March next, without the Permission and Order of the Congress;

This Committee have thought it expedient and necessary that the several Commodities to be exported should be inspected agreeable to Law, Do therefore Resolve that such Commodities as by the Inspection Law are required and directed to be inspected, shall be inspected at the several Ports of Exportation, within this District, and each Town and County Committee shall require an Inspectors Certificate for the Produce to be exported, where there are Inspectors appointed, from the Exporter thereof, before Permission is given to Vessels to depart.

Ordered that a Copy of this Resolve be sent to the several Committees in this District.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Tuesday January 16th 1776

Resolved that no person whatever do presume to Apply to the Custom-house for Clearances, without first Obtaining leave from this or some other Committee for that purpose; and that this Resolve be made public, and a Copy delivered to the officers of the Customs.

Resolved that the resolution of this Committee passed the 6th Inst ordering the Custom house officers not to clear out Vessels without leave be rescinded. —

Cap: Alexander Maclean having gone down to the Ship *Cruizer* & been with the Governor Contrary to a Resolve of the Provincial Council and also an order of this Committee, —

Resolved therefore that he the Said Alexr Maclean be sent for to come before this Committee to answer such breach aforesaid and give Security for his good behavior – which he has Accordingly done himself, James Walker & Archd Maclaine in the Sum of five hundred pounds proclamation Money for Six Months if he continues in the Province so long –

Ordered, that permission be granted to Captain Butterfield to clear out his Schooner in Ballast only – Also to Capt Bachelder to clear his Brig out, he having nothing on Board but Ballast & necessary Sea Stores Cap: Bacheld[e]r also had leave to send a letter to the Governor desiring to know if his Vessel wd be prevented from going out of this River

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

HENRY LAURENS TO JOHN LAURENS ¹

[Extract]

[Charleston] 16th January 1776

. . . let me close this by a brief account of our present circumstances & prospects in Charles Town & perhaps you may wonder how there can be a tranquil Heart within our Walls. – on Thursday the 11th. appeared in the Offing two Ships & a one Masted Sloop – on Friday a pilot Boat & two Smaller Vessels from Fort Johnson were dispatched to reconnoitre – the Same Morning a ten Oared Barge Manned by a Lieutenant, a Coxswain & the Oarsmen all well armed & having a chest of Spare loaded Arms came into Rebellion Road, the Lieutenant boarded the Spanish Snow conversed with Mr Rilliet the only Man on board who could speak English – enquired the Strength of the Fort of the Town – where the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* were gone to, informed the Strength of the Ships without & Said they had Seven pilots, Should come over the Bar & proceed directly up to the Town – Mr Rilliet who is very Sensible & who very sincerely abhors tyranny, gave the Gentleman proper answers – the Barge then was returning to her Ship, Fort Johnson fired two Shot at her, not certainly knowing what She was, but in obedience to orders to bring all Strangers to. – in her way She first cut off one of the Boats which had been Sent from the Fort the Soldiers & people on board escaped by a Stratagem when the Barge came along side & the Lieutenant asked many questions relative to the Strength of the place, why those Shot had been fired at him. – boasted of this great force of the Ships in the offing, said one of them was of 50 Guns, which was to be lightened by the Sloop in order to get over the Bar, that before 10 oClock that Night he would make the Commander of the Fort Smart for his Insolence, would batter the Fort & Town about their Ears – that they had on board the Ships Seven pilots – the Serjeant & Master of our Boat answered generally they were only Fishermen & knew none of those things – the Officer then asked for a String of Fish, fortunately they had two, which they gave & complained of bad luck or they would give him more – he quitted these people & put off in pursuit of the Pilot Boat came up with, hailed & Fired upon her, the pilot Boat being Armed returned the Fire & many exchanges were made in which the Master of the Boat was wounded by a Splinter, & one of the Barge Men Seen to fall Supposed to be killed – the Barge went off & our Boats came into Harbour & reported.

Next Morning being Saturday, three Ships appeared at Anchor close in with the Bar, but no Sloop, their Boats were employed in Sounding the Channel & the best glasses & Eyes, determined their quality to be, a Frigate of 28 or 36 Guns & two Smaller Ships of War – & it was generally conjectured that the Sloop had been detached to Savanna in Search of the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* & for intelligence – the Lieutenant amidst all his unnecessary vaunting had betrayed Some regret for the absence of those Vessels which he said he had expected to have found in Rebellion Road – this day the Tide was remarkably low & wind not favourable – Sunday Morning those three Ships having weighed Anchor were Seen Stretching South-erly, the weather has been ever Since very rainy & dirty & we have heard nothing more concerning them – they are probably Standing off, till better weather & Spring tides Shall happen, the latter will begin tomorrow & according to the Wind, continue three to Six days – or possibly they may be gone to join the *Tamar* & *Cherokee* upon a conjecture that they are in Tybee sound – I dispatched a Messenger the 7th Inst to learn the certainty of their being there, who is not yet returned whence I am inclined to hope that they were not there the 14th – otherwise I should have been informed last Night –

On Sunday the 14th a General Alarm was Fired, Expresses Sent through the Country – hundreds of Men came in to the aid of Charles Town as Volunteers & Thousands are preparing to join them if needful – a Battery on Sullivant's Island, another at Haddrell's point, Fort Johnson, and adjacent & important Battery, all the old Forts & four new Batteries on the front of this Town & a Ship mounting twenty two 12 & 9 pounders are in readiness to make a defence – & Men appear to be animated – God only knows what will be the event – if the people are cool in Action a conquest will be very dearly purchased by the Shipping, & a Manly defence against British Ships of War will cost many a valuable Life & Limb on our part – Heads of families, Brothers, Sons, friends and good fellow Citizens – not the Canaille of Soldiery will fall – who can dry eyed reflect upon this picture! will you not wonder that there is a tranquil Heart within our Walls? & yet I believe there is. – but thro' the crevices I perceive day light, I must hasten to conclude or I may lose the opportunity for conveying my Letter; God grant this may be a happy Omen, that his light may break in upon & deliver us from the power of our Cruel Brethren; upon their minds & discover to them the fatal error into which they have been led by crafty & designing Men who for Selfish purposes brought on & continue to Support this barbarous persecution & who, at the hazard of all Curses, are willing to owe their greatness to their Country's Ruin – . . .

1. Henry Laurens Letter Book, SCHS.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 16th, 1776.

The Council being informed that a bark had come to anchor off the bar:
The following letter was written, and sent to Capt. Tufts, of the *Defence*, in Rebellion-Road.

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 16th, 1776.

Sir – The Council of Safety being informed that a bark supposed to be unarmed, and nothing else, appears in the offing, you are directed, provided you think the act practicable, to bring her in; but, take care of approaching superior force, or being decoyed to such. If you want assistance, a few soldiers may be taken from the island – the commanding officer will order them on board, upon sight of this dispatch. I am sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Simon Tufts.

In the Council of Safety,
Tuesday evening, Jan. 16th, 1776.

Mr. John Coram, jun., applied for a permit to Mr. Pharaoh to pilot the Spanish snow in the Road over the bar, and for himself to accompany the pilot.

Ordered, That a permit be granted accordingly – but it be recommended to the pilot to take especial care not to fall into the enemy's hands.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 185–87.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Council of Safety at Mrs. Tondee's [Savannah], January 16th, 1776.

Capt. Wells presented to the Board an account against the public for moving a quantity of ammunition from Savannah to Ebenezer, and for removing Capt. McKenzie's ship from the Road of Cockspur to Savannah, and the expence attending the same amounting in the whole to £ 16, 10s 9d, which passed and was ordered to be paid.

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety
Jan. 16th, 1776, p.m.

Resolved, That the President issue orders to Joseph Rice, that he immediately go down to Capt. [John] Stirk, in the schooner on Provincial service, now on her way to Savannah, and that he take with him the Riflemen from Saint John's, and that when on board they act in obedience to the directions of Capt. Stirk.

Ordered, that Col. [Samuel] Elbert be made acquainted with the foregoing Resolution and that he be desired to send an officer with a detachment of men to keep a lookout at Causton's Bluff, and to give the earliest information to this Board, of any boats which may be sent from the men of war.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 98–101.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH¹

January 1776

[Friday] 12

Tybey Light house NW 4 Leagues

AM very foggy, the *Elizabeth* Brig lost our Kedge Anchor & hauser at 8 AM weighd & made sail under double Reef Topsails.

- at 9 fired 4 Swivel Guns P Signal & Tack'd at 11 Wore Ship & came to an Anchor with the best bowr in 7 fm water Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable
 First pt Calm & foggy Middle fresh breezes & Cloudy Latter little wind & foggy with thick drizzling rain P M Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable
- [Saturday] 13 A M the *Elizabeth* Brig drove out to Sea by a Southerly Current Little wind & Cloudy with drizzling rain at 4 PM lost Sight of the *Polly* Schooner suppos'd to be drove to Sea by a Southerly Current at 5 Tybey Lighthouse NBW $\frac{3}{4}$ Wt 4 or 5 Leagues
- [Sunday] 14 First & Middle pt Little wind & Cloudy with Latter Do with a thick fog
- [Monday] 15 At 2 AM Anchored here his Maj's Ships the *Syron*, *Raven* & *Raven's* Prize ² the *Polly* Joyned Company.
 First & middle pt little wind and foggy with hard rain Latter mode & Cloudy with drizzling rain
- [Tuesday] 16 at 9 AM weigh'd & came to Sail in Co with the *Syron*, *Raven*, *Cherokee*, *Sandwich Packet*, *Polly* Schooner & *Raven's* Prize at 10 Tybey Light house NWBW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 6 or 7 Miles at Noon in Co as before
 First pt mode & Cloudy middle & latter hard gales & Clear Empd working in over Tybey Barr $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 P M Anchor'd with the small Bowr in 4 fm water Veered to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable the lighthouse S B W $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile in Co as before at 5 the *Raven* got a ground and made Signal of Distress, and we Sent our Boat to Assist them

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. The ship *Rittenhouse*, Ambrose Bartlett, master, Messrs. York and Potts, owners, from Philadelphia for Lisbon, in ballast and with £2000 hard money, taken December 28, 1775 off the coast of Virginia.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH FITCH, JAMAICA MERCHANT ¹

Jamaica ss—

Joseph Fitch of the Parish of Kingston Mercht being duly sworn maketh Oath and saith that being informed that Robert Sands late Master and commander of the Sloop called the *Cornelia* and Nathan Bull late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Dove* ² were both forcibly detain'd prisoners on Board his Majesties Ship the *Antelope* now in the Harbour of Portroyall and under the Command of Clarke Gayton Esqr and being applied to for the Purpose he this deponent on behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull did between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock of thirteenth Instant go to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esqr at the Admirals penn ³ in the Parish of Kingston and did then Demand from him whether the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull were so detain'd on Board his Majesty's said Ship by him or by his directions or Command and by what Authority? and the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire did then declare to him this deponent that the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull were then prisoners in his Custody and so detain'd by him on Board the said Ship Called the *Antelope* and that he did so detain them in his Custody by virtue of his

Orders or Instructions or to that Effect: and this Deponent further saith that he did then for and on Behalf aforesaid demand from the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire a true Copy of the warrant or order of Commitment and Detainer by virtue of which he (as he said) detained the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull prisoners in his Custody as aforesaid, and this Deponent further saith that the said Admiral Clarke Gayton thereunto answered and positively refused and denied to this Deponent such true Copy of such Warrant order and further this deponent saith not.

Jos: Fitch

Sworn before me this 16th }
Day of January 1776 } Edw^d Webley

Jany: 16th 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. "Kingston (Jamaica) December 23. On Thursday afternoon the sloop *Dove*, Capt. Bull, belonging to Rhode-Island, was brought into Port-Royal harbour. This vessel had loaded at Cape Nichola Mole with French produce, and on her passage homeward was met by his Majesty's ship *Maidstone*, Allan Gardiner, Esq; commander, who seized her. We are informed that the *Maidstone* was then in chase of a brigantine and sloop, the latter laden with gunpowder, and came out of Cape Francois, which was yesterday sent in." *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 18, 1776.

3. Term used in West Indies meaning country house or plantation.

JOSEPH FITCH TO EDWARD WEBLEY¹

Jamaica ss. To His Honor Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of his Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature in the said Island

The Request of Joseph Fitch of the Town of Kingston Merchant on behalf of Robert Sands late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Cornelia* and Nathan Bull late Master and Commander of the Sloop called the *Dove* both now prisoners in the Custody of Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire and so detained by him on board his Majesties Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal.

Humbly sheweth That the said Joseph Fitch on behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull did between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock in the forenoon of the thirteenth Instant apply personally unto the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire at the Admirals penn in the parish of Kingston and demanded from him a Copy of the Warrant of Commitment and Detainer of the said prisoners.

That the said Admiral Clarke Gayton did then acknowledge and declare that the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull then were prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command and that he did so detain them in his Custody by Virtue of his Orders or Instructions or to that Effect but positively refused to deliver to the said Joseph Fitch any Copy of such orders or Instructions or of any Warrant whereby he detained the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull prisoners as aforesaid as by the Affidavit hereunto annexed more fully appears. —

The said Joseph Fitch on the Behalf of the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull doth therefore humbly request of Your Honor to award and Grant his

Majesties Writ of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of King Charles the Second to be directed to the said Admiral Clarke Gayton Esquire returnable immediate before your Honor to have the Bodies of them the said Robert Sands and Nathan Bull before your Honor together with the Cause of their Caption and Detention to the End that Your Honor may examine the Legality thereof and do thereupon what to Justice and Right shall Appertain

Jos: Fitch

Made and delivered in E. Bowman
the prese[n]ce of James Davis

[Endorsed] Let Writs of Habeas Corpus cum causa issue returnable before me immediate

Edwd Webley January 16, 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

EDWARD WEBLEY TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Jamaica ss. George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith &c. To Clarke Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majesties Fleet on the Station of this Island of Jamaica Greeting.

We command you that the body of Nathan Bull Mariner now in Your Custody on board his Majesties Ship the *Antelope* (as it is said) under safe and Secure Conduct together with the Day and cause of his Caption and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he may be therein named or called. You have before me immediately at my house situated in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do submitt to and receive all such Things as shall be considered of by me in this Particular and have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your peril Witness the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the sixteenth Day of January in the Sixteenth Year of our Reign.

William Singer Cl. Corona

Edw^d Webley
1776 January 16th

per Statutum tricesimo primo Caroli secundi Regis -

Edw^d Webley January 16th 1776

Take Security for his not escaping himself in £200 his Security £200, And also One pound five shillings mile money and Expences of bringing up. EW^e

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Same order issued with respect to Robert Sands.

17 Jan.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY¹

Sir

Cambridge Jany 17. 1776

I am to inform you by command of his Excellcy that Archibald Templeton, James Crawford, Joseph Douglass, James Hamilton & John McIver, who belonged to the Ship *Concord* Capt Lawrie [James Lowrie],² have his Permission to go on

board our Armed Vessells — You will please to Observe that his Excellency would not wish that too great a Number of them should be in one Vessel — For tho these men may be well disposed to serve us, It is only right to guard against Accidents — I am &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The ship *Concord* was taken December 3, 1775, by Captain John Manley in the schooner *Lee* of Washington's fleet, Volume 2, 1245-47.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Watertown] 17th [January, 1776].

we are now called on for more men to come in till the 1st of April, seven Regiments to consist of 728 each, Connecticut for four, N. Hampshire for two, in all thirteen, all which will but Compleat the Army to your Establishment. from which you may Judge of the present Situation of it. Two Prizes Carried in Yesterday to Newberry Port by a small Privateer, one a Ship from London with Coal and Porter, the other a Brigantine from Ireland with Provisions.²

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, II, 433. Continuation of January 14 letter.

2. The ship *Friends*, 200 tons burden, Archibald Bowie, master, and brig *Sukey*, 90 tons burden, Madett Engs, master.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 17, 1776.

The Committee appointed to report a Bill for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty reported.

Read and considered, and *Ordered* to be brought in, in Form of a Resolve.

Afternoon.

The List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty were again considered and recommitted to Col. [Joseph] Otis, Mr. [Dummer] Jewett, and Mr. [Daniel] Perry.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NORTHAMPTON COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

No Hampton 17th Janry 1776

May it please your Excellency

The Gentlemen of the [British] Navy who have been sent to this place by your Excellencys Order were permitted to go five Miles from No Hampton, The Towns of Hatfield & Hadley are within those Limits in the former of which Towns several Persons live who are considered as unfriendly to the Country, with which Persons those Gentlemen have already become intimate to the great Uneasiness of the People. — Complaints have been made to this Committee by the Inhabitants of both the Towns abovementioned of the ill Effects of the sd Indulgence, They suppose it in our Power to lessen it. — We beg leave also to Inform your Excellency that divers Gentlemen who have been sent to this Town by the Council of this Colony & Governor Cooke of Rhode Island are confin'd to the Town. The distinction gives Uneasiness, We therefore respectfully submit it to Your Excellency

whether it wou'd not be prudent to contract the Limits of those Who are allowed to go five Miles from No Hampton that thereby the same Indulgence be shewn to all. — We are Sir [&c.]

pr Order

Seth Pomeroy

{ Chairman of the
Committee of
Safety

1. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND,
H.M.S. *Roebuck* ¹

Whereas Intelligence is received that the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania in open Rebellion against the King have been for some time past preparing a Number of Armed Craft, in the form of Floating Batteries for the purpose of annoying and attacking His Majesty's Ships that may be sent into that River, and that they have also prepared and Sunk in the Channel of the River, Machines for obstructing the Navigation, And the Earl of Suffolk having transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the particulars of the aforesaid Intelligence; (Copies of which you will receive herewith) You are hereby required and directed, to do your utmost to destroy those Floating Batteries, and to Weight up or otherwise render useless the Machines sunk in the Channel of the said River, with a view to Obstruct the Navigation thereof.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* off Boston 17th January 1776.

M Shuldham

By Command of the Admiral E. Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LETTER FROM A CAPTAIN OF AN ENGLISH TRANSPORT TO HIS OWNERS IN
LONDON ¹

[Extract]

Boston, January 17, 1776

I have the pleasure to acquaint you of my safe arrival here on the 1st instant, having had one continued storm of wind since my last letter to you, dated at sea, November 6th. The sea continually washed over us, and froze so excessively hard, that, had it not been for our masts, we might have been taken for an island of ice.

I was told that I might depend on meeting a good many cruisers at a distance from the land, who would conduct us safe into port; but I did not see ship or vessel for three weeks after I got over St. George's Bank, and my orders from the Admiralty forbade me to go into any port without first speaking with a King's ship, who was to conduct me into port, or inform me of a place of safety.

After being baffled about for three weeks, with only six men fit for duty, the rest being frost-bitten, or sick through fatigue (having, besides, had the misfortune to lose one, washed overboard,) I made for the land, and got, as I judged, from my reckoning, within three leagues of Boston light-house, when, it coming on to blow a gale of wind, and meeting neither cruiser nor pilot, I was forced out to sea again, and continued in a storm, at sea, eight days more. I got in with the land again,

with the wind at north, and though thick, snowy weather, I stood in boldly, and made the light-house, and met one of the King's schooners, and asked for a pilot, but he could not spare one, as he was going on a cruise. Soon after, I got to an anchor in Nantasket Road, and found several King's ships, I believe ten sail, in all. To them I applied for a pilot; but they had none to spare, and were so weakly manned that they could give me no assistance. They told me there were many privateers out, well manned and armed, and that they were going to cruise for them; but if they meet with any bad weather, as I have done, they are so badly manned they will make no hand of it.

At last I got a pilot from Boston, who tells me that a ship with ordnance stores is taken by the Rebels, and that, likewise, several coal and porter ships are taken² which I find, now, to be likely, for there are only eight sail, of the forty, arrived yet, and they had no force to resist.

They have not begun to unload us yet. We have split several of our sails, and the rest are much the worse for wear. All our running rigging is bad; our ropes cracked like glass, and we broke our maintopmast backstay; and all our rigging is much damaged.

I can see the Rebels' camp very plain, whose colours, a little while ago, were entirely red; but, on the receipt of the King's speech, (which they burnt,) they have hoisted the Union Flag, which is here supposed to intimate the union of the Provinces.

About a week ago, the Rebels made an excursion into Charlestown, and burnt down some few houses that were left standing, and carried off a sergeant and four men prisoners; but, at present, all is quiet.

You had better, if any of your ships should come out, get higher freight, for the loss, in wear, is greater than I expected, and no supply can be had. If you send some naval stores, they will sell well. There are a great many privateers out, and more will be soon ready; but I suppose the ships, after this, will come with convoy.

I am, &c.

P.S. I brought but fourteen hogs alive; and another ship, that had one hundred and thirty sheep, brought in five, and all as thin as you could expect, and, as the sailors say, only fit for lanterns.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 710-12.

2. Referring to the ordnance brig *Nancy*, and the ships *Concord* and *Jenny*, and brig *Little Hannah*, all taken by Captain John Manley, in the schooner *Lee*, between November 28 and December 8, 1775. See also Volume 2.

JOURNAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

Colony of Rhode Island, &c. In General Assembly.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Council of the Town of Newport be allowed to supply Capt. [James] Wallace so long as he shall remain peaceably within the Colony without committing any Depredations upon the Islands or upon any of the Lands in the Colony weekly with Two Thousand Pounds weight of Beef and with Beer as usual under the Direction of the Commanding Officer of the Troops stationed on Rhode Island; that he appoint the Person to provide and

deliver the said Provisions: and that no Member of either House or Assembly be appointed to deliver the same, or to go on board of either of the Ships of War under said Wallaces Command on any Occasion whatever.

And this Assembly considering the Situation and defenceless State of the Town of Newport do advise and strongly recommend it to the Inhabitants of said Town forthwith to remove to some Place of Safety all their Aged People, Women children and those who are unable to assist in Defence of the Place together with their valuable Effects:

And do further Vote and Resolve That the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money be paid out of the General Treasury to the Committee hereinafter appointed which shall be improved in removing such poor Persons in said Town as are incapable of removing themselves and for no other Use whatever: That Messrs John Collins, John Cooke, Thomas Freebody, George Irish and Daniel Holloway or the Major Part of them be and they are hereby appointed a Committee for that Purpose: That the said Committee be empowered to settle the Price of the Transportation of the Effects of the Inhabitants of the said Town to the Places where they shall be shipped and also the Price of Transportation over the Ferries: And that each of the said Committee be empowered to impress Teams, Horses and Cattle to remove such Effects at the Prices which shall be so affixed.

A true Copy

Witness Henry Ward Secry

[Providence] January 17th 1776.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Enclosed in Cooke to Washington, January 21, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Jany 17 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

sundry Matters were negotiated this evening for the forwarding the Business
Reckoning 21/LMy paid by Joseph Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Fryday evening 6 o'clock.

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Delight* ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we Thomas Green[e] of Providence in the County of Providence & Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant and Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth in the County of Bristol and Province of the Massachusetts Bay Merchant are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the Colony aforesaid in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony, 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 Seventeenth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Joseph Rotch Master of the Sloop *Delight* burthen'd about Eighty Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop with her Cargo consisting of Two Thousand Bushells of Barley and one Hundred Barrels of Oil to Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylvania. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Joseph Rotch shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there land his said Cargo & take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them, and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else to be and remain in full Force. Sealed and Deliver'd in the Presence of

John G. Wanton William Mumford.

Tho Greene
Leonard Jarvis

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 17, 1776

A letter from Messrs. P[hilip] Livingston, [John] Alsop, and [Francis] Lewis, dated 15 January, informing that only 462 quarter casks of powder were imported,² being laid before Congress, was read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the propriety of opening the ports after the 1 March next; and after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Samuel] Ward reported, that the Committee had taken into consideration the matter to them referred, and had come to a resolution, which he read in his place, and delivered in.

The report of the committee being read,

Ordered, That the same lie on the table.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to consider under what regulations and restrictions the trade of these Colonies ought to be carried on, after the 1st of March next.

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Robert] Morris, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [Samuel] Adams, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman.

Resolved, That a member be appointed on the committee to confer with Mr. [Bernard] Romans.

The member chosen, Mr. [Oliver] Wolcott.

A letter from General Schuyler, dated 13th January, enclosing copies of letters from Generals Wooster, Arnold, and others, were laid before Congress, and read, containing an account of an unsuccessful attempts made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December, and the death of General Montgomery.

The committee to whom the matter of South Carolina, respecting the engaging seamen, was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 61-64.

2. *Ibid.*, the Secret Journal of the Continental Congress states that the powder "had arrived at Newport," but the reference is to the report of Livingston, Alsop and Lewis, of January 15, giving the total amount of powder in New York.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 17 Jany 1776 In Grand Comee on the Propriety of opening Trade after 1 March next it was concluded to trade to the Foreign West Indian Islands & to open the Trade under certain regulations to be fixed by a Comee now chosen - While we were in the midst of this Business a Packet of Letters came from Gens [Philip] Schuyler, [David] Wooster and [Benedict] Arnold, Col. Donald Campbell and others with the unfortunate News that Gen. Montgomery had attempted before Day Break of the [31st] of Decr to storm Quebec but this gallant Soldier and amiable Man was killed with the first Fire, Brig. Arnold wounded in the Leg and carried off to a Hospital whereby the Command developed on Col. Campbell who retreated, not being able to make his Men advance - Major [John] MacPherson Aid du Camp to Mr Montgomery was killed with Capt [Jacob] Cheeseman and a few more and on the other Side of the City, Arnolds Detachment to the Number of between 3 & 400 Hundred including Major [John] Lamb and his Artillery had made a Lodgment in the Lower Town but was obliged to surrender after 3 Hours Resistance

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] - 17th Jan'y, 1776.

Upon Motion of Mr. Thomas Wharton, one of the Committee for Importing and procuring of Powder, Arms &c., for the use of this Province,

Resolved, That they, the said Committee, load the Brig *Dolphin*, Capt. [John] Prole, with the produce of these Colonies, for the purpose of procuring said articles from Foreign parts, and that the following Certificate be Issued, viz't:

"This is to Certifie, that Messrs. Rob't Morris & Thos. Wharton, jr., has permission to load the Brig't *Dolphin*, Capt. Prole, with the produce of these Colonies, the same being for account of this Province, agreeable to a Resolve of the Honorable the [Continental] Congress, dated 26th Oct'r, 1775."

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 459.

Andrew Doria JOURNAL ¹

Friday At 9 A M Cast off from the Pierse, with a fresh Breeze at
January 17th N W, & Run Down to Reedy Island, the[re] Being much Ice In
the River was Oblidge to haul In to the Pierse and was there De-

tain'd by the Ice till the 11th of February Employ'd her[e] Wood-
ing & Wartering the Sloop *Providence & Fly* Join'd the Fle[et]
since we left Philadelphia & gott 40 Men for the Fleet from Rhode
Island in the *Fly*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

Jan'y 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia

Wednesday 17 the *Kingsfisher* Shifted her Birth lower down the River – the Long
Boat being on Shore Watering the Crew were Attacked by a
partey of the rebels who made the petty Officer and men prisoners.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. *Ibid.*, the cutter was sent ashore on January 19, and "brot off the Long Boat."

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety
[Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the council the following copy of a permit for
piloting out the Spanish snow.

Charles-Town, Jan. 17th, 1776.

Sir – Mr. Pharaoh is to pilot the Spanish snow, now lying in Rebellion-
Road over Charles-Town bar. You are also to attend that vessel, and to
bring off the pilot, Mr. [John] Coram, and such other persons as belong
to this town, and who go on board the snow with an intent to return.
You will insist, before the snow gets under sail, upon the delivery of
certain cloths the property of a young seaman whose name is Stone, and
who accompanies Mr. Coram, which are said to be in the hands of Mrs.
Morelli. If [Francisco] Morelli himself, or any inhabitant of this colony
who has not been permitted to depart, or any negro, shall be found on
board, you are to bring on shore such inhabitant or negro, and if the
Spanish commander shall offer any violence or opposition, the pilot is to
be taken from on board.

By order of the Council of Safety.
Henry Laurens, President.

To Capt. [Thomas] Smith.

Ordered, That Mr. [Cornelius] Dewees do supply no more than four
thousand palmetto logs, of the dimensions particularly specified in his agreement
with this board on the 9th instant, for the works on Sullivan's Island

Ordered, That Col. [Charles Cotesworthy] Pinckney, Mr. [John] Rutledge,
Doct. Oliphant, Mr. Arthur Middleton, Mr. Heyward, be a committee to confer
with the field-officers of the army and commanders in the navy, to prepare a plan,
for defence of this town, harbour, and adjacent parts.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 187–89.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

- January 1776 At Anchor off Savannah Bar
- Monday 15 A M at 3 made the signl to Anchor Came too with the Bt Br
in 7½ ffm sandy ground Veered away to a Cable at 6 found
riding here His Majestys Ships *Syren Tamer* and *Cherokee* an
Armed Ship Swayed up T L Masts
First and middle mode wth heavy rains Latter Cloudy
- Tuesday 16 A M at 7 hove short let the reefs out of the T S weighed and
made Sail as did His Majtys Ships *Syren, Tamer* and *Cherokee*,
together with the *Sandwich packet* & *Rittenhouse* working into
Savanna River
First part mode breezes middle and Latter fresh gales and Clear
Working as above at 4 the Ship in Stays took the Ground carried
out an Anchor and made the signal for Assistance but could not
heave her off
- Wednesday 17 At Anchor in Savannah [River]
- A M at 4 Hove off without receiving any Damage the Ship Sueing
6 feet Struck yards and Topmasts Came too wth the Bt Br
in 3½ ffm Veered away to 1/3/d of a Cable the Light House Et
Anchd here the above Ships
First part fresh gales middle and Latter mode and fair

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

18 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO CAPTAIN HECTOR McNEILL ¹

Holland House [near Quebec] Jany 18, 1776

To Capt. Hector McNeill at Point aux Trembles.²

Dear Sir:

Your favour of the 17th Inst I duly received, I am heartily glad to hear
your are recovering your health, and most obliged to you, for your kind officer of,
Cash, which I accept with thanks, as we are really distressed for, that Article, you
may depend on receiving it at any time you may have occasion for it – you will
please to order in regard to Capt. Moran as you think best. I am greatly obliged
to you for your Good Wishes, & Tender of services, I wish it was In your power
to bestow happiness, &c, but the Guilty Conciences of those lukewarm wretches
Joined to the frowns of their Country must be Sufficent to blast them unless
they Are Callous – I hope soon to have the Pleasure seeing you here, and that
we shall have the happiness of seeing the New Year End more propitious than
the last, tho we have met a severe Check, I believe the last years ballance greatly

in our favour. My best Wishes, & respects Wait on you, Mrs. McNeill & the Ladies. – I am very sincerely Dr Sir [&c.]

B. Arnold

P.S. You will please to send the money by any officer coming Down. B.A.

1. Private Collection of the late Kenneth Roberts.

2. McNeill, at one time a shipmaster in the British navy, and long a merchant mariner, had been residing in Quebec until the advent of the American forces, when he removed to Point aux Trembles. A sketch of his life appears in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, LV, 46–54.

RECEIPT FOR ITEMS TAKEN FROM MIDSHIPMAN THOMAS SPRY'S BAGGAGE ¹

Machias January 18. 1776 –

Then received of Mr James Lyon Chairman of the Committee of safety three Rolls of paper, whereon are several plans, that were taken out from among Mr Thomas Sprys baggage, & two small paper books, containing directions for sailing into divers harbours. And a piece of parchment, or paper in a frame, containing signals ² &c. all which I have received for the use of the United Colonies, as I am in their service –

A true Copy Ja^s Lyon

Aaron Willard

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 197,400.

2. Spry was on board H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, which, while on survey duty, blundered into Machias harbor and was seized in August 1775.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Copy

Cambridge January 18th 1776.

Dear Sir I received your Favour of the 13th Inst. with Its Inclosures and am heartily sorry and most sincerely condole with you upon the unhappy Fall of the brave and worthy Montgomery and those gallant Officers and Men who have experienced a like Fate. In the Death of this Gentleman, America has sustained a heavy Loss as he had approved himself a steady Friend to her Rights, and of Ability to render her the most essential Services. I am much concerned for the intrepid and enterprising [Benedict] Arnold and greatly fear that Consequences of the most alarming Nature will result from this well intended but unfortunate Attempt.

It would give me the greatest Happiness if I could be the happy Means of relieving our Fellow Citizens now in Canada and preventing the Ministerial Troops from exulting long and availing themselves of the Advantages arising from this Repulse – But it is not in my power – Since the Dissolution of the old Army, the progress in raising Recruits for the new has been so very slow & inconsiderable that five thousand Militia have been called in to the Defence of our Lines. – A great part of these are gone Home the Time they engaged for being expired, and the rest retained with the utmost Difficulty and persuasion, tho'

their going away would render the holding of them precarious & hazardous in Case of an Attack – In short I have not a Man to spare.

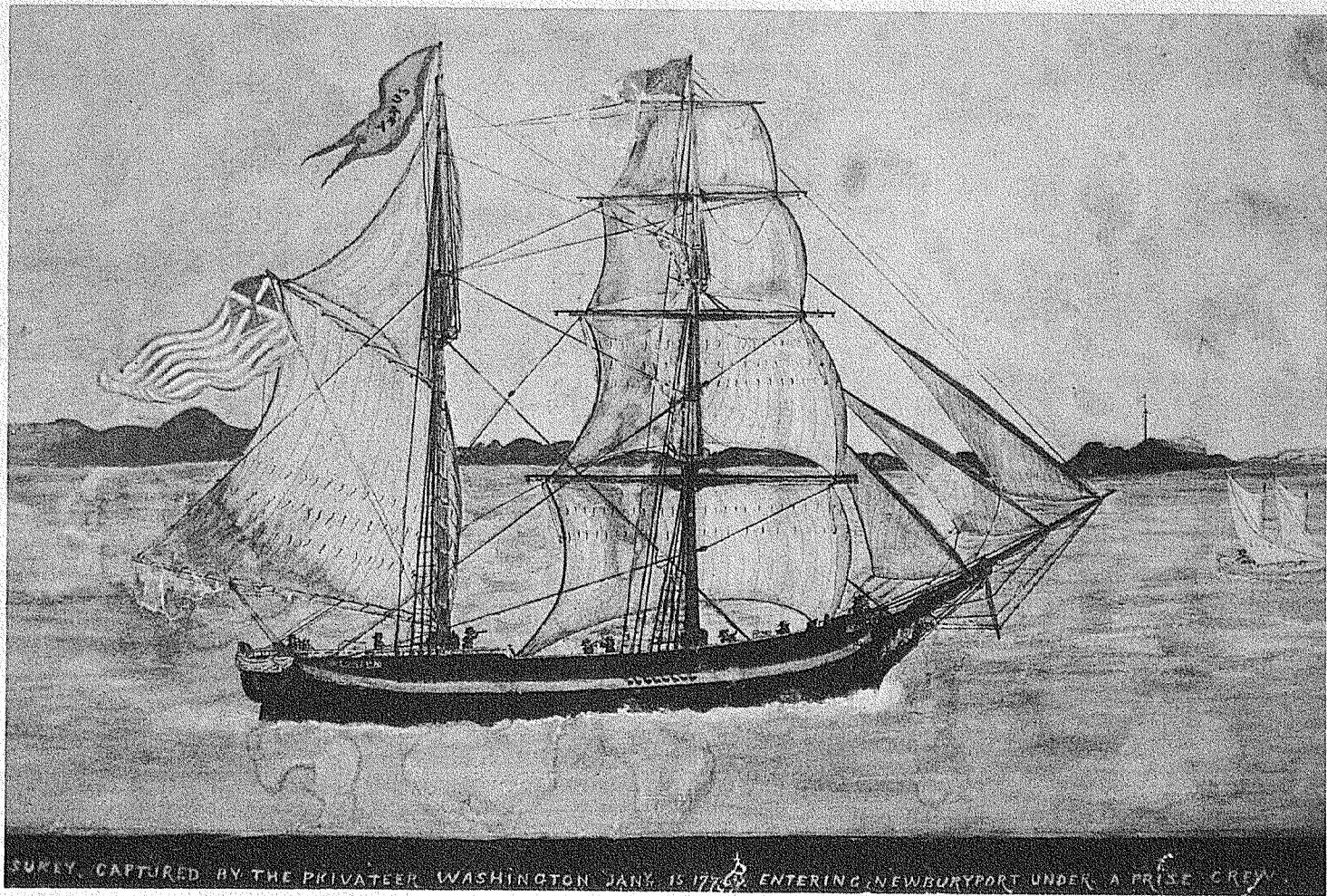
In order that proper Measures might be adopted I called a Council of General Officers and upon Mr John Adams & other Members of Influence, of the General Court, and laid before them your Letter and proposition – After due Consideration of their Importance, they determined that the province of Massachusetts and Colonies of Connecticut & New Hampshire should each immediately raise a Regiment to continue in Service for one Year and to March forthwith to Canada agreeable to the Rout proposed in your Letter to Congress. This Determination with a Copy of your Letter and the several Inclosures will be immediately transmitted to the different Governments, for raising those Regiments, which I have Reason to believe will be complied with from the Assurances I have received from such of the Members of the Court as attended in Council and the General Officers promising to exert their utmost Interest and Influence in their respective Colonies. If these Regiments should not be raised so soon as I could wish yet I would willingly hope from the Accounts we have received that Col Arnold and his Corps will be joined by a Number of Men under Colo: [Seth] Warner and from Connecticut, who it is said marched off directly on their getting Intelligence of this Melancholy Affair – If this Account be true, I trust they will be in a Situation to oppose and prevent Mr [Guy] Carleton from regaining possession of what he has lost and that upon the arrival of the Reinforcement from these Colonies, which we have judged necessary to be sent the City of Quebec will be reduced to our possession – This ought to be effected before the Winter is entirely over otherwise it will be exceedingly difficult, if not impracticable, as the Enemy will undoubtedly place a strong Garrison there – Should this desirable Work be accomplished our Conquest in that Quarter will be compleat: But yet the Loss of General Montgomery will ever be remembered.

It gives me pleasure to find that you will continue in Service and afford your Assistance to relieve your Country from the Distresses which at present threaten her in the North.

I am much obliged by your sending the Clothing, but they are not yet arrived.

None of the Letters give an Account how this unfortunate affair ended – In Col. [Donald] Campbell's Letter of the 31st Ult the Division which Col: [Christopher] Green was in, he seems to think was in a very disagreeable Situation, and drawing it off at Night or throwing in a party to sustain it was an Object he had much in view – here his Information stops – In his Letter of the 2d Jany he says Nothing about it – Wishing for the best I hope they have not fallen a Sacrifice – But I dread further Intelligence in the Matter.

General [Israel] Putnam is of Opinion that it will be better for the Troops which may be raised in the Western parts of Connecticut to go by Albany than the Rout you have mentioned by Number four and that you must have pointed out this Way from a Supposition that the Reinforcement would be detached from this Army.



SURELY CAPTURED BY THE PRIVATEER WASHINGTON JAN. 1776. ENTERING NEWBURYPORT UNDER A PRIZE CREW.

You will please to consider of what he has said and if you concur with him in Sentiments, inform Governor Trumbull of it by Letter that he may give the necessary Orders. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 454-56, NA.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED JAN. 18, 1776"¹

From Newbury-Port, we learn, That they have lately taken a Ship from London, laden with Coals, Porter and Cheese; and a Brig from Ireland, with Beef, Pork and Butter, designed for the ministerial Army in Boston,² and were in Chace of three more Ships in Ipswich Bay.

1. *Connecticut Courant*, January 22, 1776.

2. The ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master, and the brig *Sukey*, Madett Engs, master.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1776

Cambridge, January 18.

We hear from Newport, that Capt. Wallace, commander of the ministerial pirates, which have long infested that harbour, having received on board his ship, a number of Negroes who had absconded from the town, the Commander of the Colony troops thought of an expedient for giving him a check. Captain [William] Barton, with a party of men, was sent to Brenton's Point, from which Wallace usually took off the slaves; and having placed his men properly, ordered a Negro to hail the Pirate's ship, which the fellow complied with; he was answered from the ship, and asked what he wanted;—he replied, that he was a poor Negro belonging to Mr. John Collins, was tired of living with Yankees, and wanted to go on board the ship. Wallace swallowed the bate immediately; he ordered a boat ashore, with a midshipman and two seamen, who were all made prisoners by Captain Barton.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Thursday, January 18, 1776.

On Information received from the Committee of Correspondence of St. Georges, respecting two Vessels held in Custody by said Committee:

Resolved, That the Vessels mentioned in said Information from the Committee of St. Georges, be held in Custody by the said Committee, until the Courts shall be opened for the Trial of Vessels, which have been in any way employed in aiding and assisting our Enemies (according to the Act of this Colony made for that Purpose) and that the said Vessels and their Appurtunences, be delivered into the Hands of the Captors, when said Courts shall be open'd for the aforesaid Purposes.

The House considered the Fee Bill for the Admiralty Courts.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, January] 18

His Majesty's Ship *Centurion* of 50 Guns, Captain [Richard] Brathwaite, now arrived from England with a War Complement of 350 Men. And the *Nautilus* went on a Cruise. Rear Admiral Shuldhham wrote to the Admiral to desire Lieutt [Henry] Mowat (whose Ship, the *Canceaux*, had by a Survey been reported un-serviceable) might be left in America, as being well acquainted with the Coast, But, as the Lieutenant was very desirous of returning to England, having many years Accounts to settle, and the detaining him longer in America would be much to his own Prejudice; and his knowledge of the Coast extended only from Boston Harbour Eastward to the River St Lawrence, and Mr Graves knew full well that the Operations of his Majs Forces must be far to the Southward to be of Real Service: He acquainted the Rear Admiral therewith, and continued his Orders for the *Canceaux* to sail for England in Company with the *Preston*.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 29, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Sir/

Preston Boston 18 Janry 1776

I transmit, with the disposition of his Majs Ships and Vessels under my Command stationed to the Southward of Boston, an order to take them under your Command and Copies of the general and particular Orders and Instructions their Commanders are now acting under, to the End that availing yourself of the Opportunity of the *Mercury* and *Falcon*'s sailing to the Southward to send such Directions as you shall think necessary at this Juncture, his Majesty's Service may receive as little injury as possible from the change which is soon to take place in the Commander in Chief. I am, Sir, &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 118, BM.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO. A M. January 18th, 1776

Francis Lewis, Esqr. came into the Committee and informed them that the shipwrights who were to be applied on the Continental account, had fixed on a place on the shore, a part of or adjoining to land of James Livingston, Esqr. whereon to go to work,² and that Mr. Livingston said he had not any objection to their using that place, but requested an order of the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety, for that purpose.

The Committee conceive they are not authorized for that purpose, but at Mr. Lewis' request, who urged it as necessary, they conceived they might recommend. Thereupon a draft of a letter to Mr. Livingston was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety, New-York,
18th Jany. 1776.

Sir –

We have been applied to by proper authority to obtain for certain ship builders employed by order of the Continental Congress, a convenient spot on your shore for public service.

We are also informed that you make some difficulties about complying with the request made to you by the ship builders. Though neither the Continental or Provincial Congress would chose to possess themselves of any man's property against his will, yet you will readily see that your refusal to comply with the request above mentioned will render you obnoxious to all the friends of liberty.

It is therefore recommended to you by this Committee to permit the ship builders to occupy the spot they have applied for, and we engage to make you a proper compensation for the same.

We are sir [&c.]

Jas. Livingston, Esqr.

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

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 254–55.

2. Site selected for building the two Continental frigates was in the vicinity of Poughkeepsie.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 18, 1776

A letter from the committee of Frederic town, Maryland, enclosing sundry intercepted letters of [Dr. John] Connolly, taken on Dr. John Smith, one of Connolly's associates, and brought by the guard who had the charge of bringing down said Smith, was laid before Congress and read:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to take the examination of Dr. Smith, and then commit him to safe and close confinement.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the letter of General Schuyler of the 13th of January, and the enclosures, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, Mr. [George] Wythe, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Samuel] Ward, and Mr. S[amuel] Adams.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 65.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 18 Jany Dr [John] Smith an Associate to Connolly [Dr. John Connolly] was brought in Prisoner from Maryland, some of Connollys Letters written since his Confinement were found on Smith & read & the Prisoner consigned to the Comee of Safety here – the Letters recd Yesterday concerng the Storm of Quebec were again read and Mr [Edward] Antill, Son of the late Hon. Mr Antill of N Jersey, who brought the Packet, was called in &

examined for 2 Hours, he gave a very clear Account of every Circumstance, he was with Gen. Montgy when he fell . . . Our Troops have made a Stand about 3 Miles from that City,

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir –

Philadelphia January 18. 1776

As this perhaps may be the last opportunity we may have to write to you before you go to sea, we thought it necessary to give you every intelligence that is come to our knowledge – We shall first give you the disagreeable intelligence brought hither by an Express from Quebec of an unsuccessful attack that was made to storm that city on the 31st of December in the morning in which General [Richard] Montgomery, his Aid de Camp Capt [John] Macpherson, and Capt [Jacob] Cheesman, both by his side were all shott instantly dead by the Grape-shott of one Cannon – upon which his party rather deserted their duty – Coll Arnold who conducted a different attack proceeded awhile successfully but upon his receiving a wound and falling after he had entered the city – altho the Party were afterward commanded and behaved with great bravery, by the other attack failing were overpowered and surrounded by numbers and after a most gallant defence of four hours were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war, and we hear are very kindly used by General Charlton – This is the substance of what we have heard from thence – we have just received a report from New York, that three Men of War and eighteen transports had sailed from Boston, to what place not known, but supposed to be for New Port, New York or Virginia – Thus much of the report is certain, that the *Asia* and *Phoenix* are laying in the East river in New York and that the *Viper* is laying at Sandy hook – ²

From Virginia we have heard nothing material but what you are well acquainted with – From the Carolinas, we are informed that Lord William Campbell with the *Tamar* Sloop and *Cherokee* Cutter had departed from Charles Town road – That Govr [Josiah] Martin in the *Scorpion* Sloop of war had also departed from Cape Fear – It is supposed that both these are gone to savanna in Georgia, in order to seduce that Province, if it is in their power, from the Union of the Colonies, and to get provisions if they can, to subsist on – Should it be your fate to go Southward as far as Savanna it is very probable you may have three Governors to dine with you on board your own ship – and increase your Naval Strength by the *Tamar*, *Scorpion* & *Cherokee*

The Congress have determined to erect a splendid Monument to the Memory of the Gallant Montgomery and to every other commanding officer bravely fighting and falling in his countrys cause – We wish you a successful Cruize and are [&c].

Step Hopkins Joseph Hewes Silas Deane

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. This information, gleaned from the letter of the New York Delegates of January 15, 1776, was incorrect concerning H.M.S. *Viper*, which had been driven off shore in December and forced to turn south to Antigua.

BILL FOR CHANDLERY SUPPLIED THE CONTINENTAL FLEET¹

Jany 18th 1776	The Hon'ble Continentall Congress	Dr
To Ship <i>Alfred</i> for	amot of her bill	£1031..4.10
" Brig <i>Andw Doria</i>	Do	171..4..7½
" Ship <i>Collumbus</i>	Do	161.18..2
" Sloop <i>Fly</i> Capt Morrow	Do	25.14..2½
" S Chandy for Sunds for		
Brig <i>Cabot</i> p Book pg 26[2]		44..4.11½
" S Chandry for Sloop <i>Providence</i> pg 264		37..0..2½
" S Chandy for Sunds Sent to Baltimore 263 ²		9..0..5
		£1480..7..6

1. James Wharton's Day Book, HSP. The details of the chandlery summarized in the above bill will be found in Appendix D.
2. Sent to Baltimore for the sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp*.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 18th Jan'y, 1776.

Doct'r John Smith being brought to this City by Capt. Shryock as a person inimical to the liberties of America, was by order of the Board, committed to prison, agreeable to the following Commitment, viz't.:

Whereas, Doct'r Jno. Smith stands charg'd before this Board with practices inimical to the Liberties of America, these are to authorize and require you to receive into your custody the said Doct'r John Smith, and him safely and closely keep confined, without admitting any person to speak with, or have access to him, unless by special order from the Honorable the Continental Congress, or this Board, and without Pen, Ink, & Paper, until he is discharged by the said Congress or the Committee, and hereof you are not to fail, at your peril.

By order of the Committee,

Sign'd Jno. Nixon, Chair'n.

To the Keeper of the Gaol of the City & County of Philad'a.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 460, 461.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1776

Philadelphia, January 18.

On Sunday last [January 14] Col. [Moses] Kirkland was brought to town from Cambridge, under a guard, and on Monday was committed to jail. This man was a ringleader of a gang of Tories in the back parts of South-Carolina; from thence he went to the Virginia Negro Chief,¹ who sent him to General Howe at Boston, in a tender, which was taken by Captain Manly, in the *Lee* privateer.² In the same tender was taken Mr. [William] Robinson and Captain [Thomas] Matthews of Virginia, whom Dunmore was sending prisoners to Boston, under the guard of the above colonel. These gentlemen arrived in town also on Sunday night, having in their turn had the pleasure of escorting Colonel Kirkland.

The *Tamer* (on board of which is Lord William Campbell, late Governor of South-Carolina) having taken a sloop from Bermuda, with two hundred and sixty half Johannes, the property of a house in Charlestown,³ the Convention granted the injured an order to sell as much of his Lordship's goods and chattels as would repay the money stolen from them; on which they sold his coach, horses, &c. and have wrote him word that they have a balance of thirty pounds, which they are ready to pay him to order.⁴

1. Lord Dunmore.

2. The sloop *Betsey*, taken December 17.

3. The sloop *Thomas and Stafford*, Solmon Gibbs master.

4. See Minutes of the South Carolina Council of Safety, December 10 and 12, 1775.

WATCH LIST FOR CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*¹

[Baltimore Jany 18th, 1776]

Starboard Watch

William Hallock Capn
 Elijah Bowen [2d.Lieut.]
 James Willson [Master's Mate]
 John Webster [Boatswain]
 John Killen E.R.
 Edmund Tillson
 John Thompson [Sgt.Marines]
 Risdon Robinson
 John Burk
 John Wisenthall [Surgeon]
 Samuel Williams
 John DarCarrow
 [James Ratlief]²
 Nicholass Caldwell
 Ezekial Vangilder
 Henry Young
 Matthew Brannon
 Barney Gaff
 Aron [*sic* Oliver?] Quigly
 Philip Heanes
 Olliver Molds
 James Crawford
 Thomas Heany
 John Davis
 Arthur Carty
 Jesse Crossman

Larboard Watch

Isaack Buck [1st.Lieut.]
 William Huddle [Lieut.Marines]
 Joseph Veasey [Master's Mate]
 Benjamin Roberts [Master]
 Charles Gough
 Joseph Evitts
 John Prior
 John Davidson
 Thomas Lyne
 Abraham Sing [Marine]
 Mathias Grimes
 John Williams
 John Stewart
 James Anslow [Marine]
 Thomas Bivins
 William Arthurs
 John Munalay
 John Howell [Marine]
 Hopkins Driver
 Christopher Dugan
 John Luton
 John Powell
 Samuel Fry No 23 -

1. Log Book of the *Wasp*, PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10. Upon the cover is the date "Jany 18th 1776," which can be assumed as the date the crew was mustered and assigned to watches.

2. On the Watch List the name is erased, but it can be supplied from a log entry indicating that Ratlief had deserted while at New Providence in March, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, January 18, 1776.

Mr. [Josiah] Parker, from the committee to whom the petition of John Goodrich was referred, reported, that they had, according to order, had the same under their consideration, and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to.

Resolved, That Robert Shedden and family, mentioned in the said petition, are sufficiently provided for by a declaration of this Convention, and the repeated promises of Colonels [Robert] Howe and [William] Woodford, wherein they offered every friendly office which humanity could dictate, to the unhappy women and children on board the fleet under the command of Lord Dunmore.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 100.

MINUTES OF THE NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Thursday the 18th January 1776. —

Whereas we have received Information by a Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of the Town of New Bern that in Consequence of Intelligence they had received from the Committee of Safety for the District of Edenton, the Property of Mr [Thomas] McKnight wherever to be found was to be seized; and Whereas the Committee of the Town aforesaid, made Seizure of a Ship the Property of the said McKnight and others at the Barr, being laden and bound to Sea contrary to the Resolutions of the Continental Congress, and caused her to be brought to New Bern, and further that some of the Effects on Board said Ship had been destroyed, on Motion —

Resolved that it be recommended to the Committee of said Town of New Bern, and we do hereby recommend it accordingly, that they dismantle the Ship *Belville*, Store the Materials, have her moored at a wharf, take the Ammunition on Board into the Magazine at New Bern, discharge Capt Vaunce and his Men, and Order the Commanding Officer of the Continental Troops stationed at New Bern to mount Guard on Board said Shp and see that she does not depart untill Permission is obtained from the Congress or Council of Safety; and that Capt Scadlock have Liberty to keep Possession of the Cabbin of said Ship, unt[il] further Proceedings had thereon by the Provincial Congress or Council of Safety. —

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 18th, 1776.

Upon an information, that Mr. Morelli and five slaves belonging to some of the inhabitants are concealed on board the Spanish snow in the Road the following order was issued to Capt Tufts, commander of the Colony schooner *Defence*:

In the Council of Safety,
Jan. 18th, 1776.

Sir – Besides repeated applications for leave to search the Spanish snow for the negroes which gave rise to strong suspicions, we have now received such information as appears to us to be well grounded that Morelli and at least five negroes are actually on board.

We therefore desire and order you to go on board the snow and demand Morelli, and all the negroes which are concealed in her: we have no doubt but that there are some, and declare in plain terms to the commander of that vessel, that unless the said Morelli and all the negroes are immediately delivered up to you, and also all the effects of Mr. Rilliet, the snow shall be brought up to Charles-Town. You will immediately inform this board of the event of our application, and we will give such further orders as shall appear necessary.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Tufts.

Upon application of the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton.

Ordered, That all the seamen enlisted in Georgia, for the naval service of this colony, be shipped on board the colony ship *Prosper*.

On motion,

Resolved, That four 12-pounders be removed from the lines on Charles-Town neck to the battery at Haddrell's Point; and that the 18 pounders now at that battery be removed to the battery on Sullivan's Island.

Resolved, That the surface of the wall on the land-side of Fort Johnson be made smooth, and a draw bridge erected there; and that two 6-pounders be carried down to the said fort to be mounted on the land side.

Resolved, That the creek at the back of Fort Johnson be stopped up, so as effectually to prevent boats coming up to the said creek.

Resolved, That proper boats to contain about fifty men each be provided, to be stationed in the cove near Sullivan's Island – near the battery at Haddrell's Point – at Fort Johnson – and at some wharf in Charles-Town, for conveying orders or intelligence and transporting troops.

In the Council of Safety,
Thursday evening, Jan. 18th, 1776.

Mr. President also reported, that Capt. Tufts, having, agreeable to the order of this board, searched the Spanish snow in the Road, he had brought up and delivered to the militia guard, Francisco Morelli, and the following negro slaves, viz: Daniel and Richard belonging to Mr. Justice Cosslett, Jack belonging to Mr. Brewton's Estate, Polydore belonging to Mr. Donovan, and Sambo belonging to Mr. John Gaillard, whom he found very artfully concealed on board the said Spanish vessel.

Ordered, That the five negroes taken out of the Spanish snow be brought before this board immediately.

Being brought accordingly, they were separately examined, and each declared, that he had been seduced from his owner – secreted on board the said vessel – promised £100 a month wages, good usage, clothing and living – and on their arrival in Spain, freedom – by Francisco Morelli – who had been concealed with them, a whole week, in the same part of the vessel.

Francisco Morelli was then also ordered to be brought before the board, for examination: in the course of which, he acknowledged, that he knew all the negroes, that he had conversed with them, and that they were secreted with him on board the Spanish snow: but he pretended, their saying they would rather die than return to their owners, was the reason that he did not advise the Spanish captain to restore, or give notice where they were to the proper persons.

Ordered, That Mr. President do issue his warrant for the immediate commitment of said Morelli to Charles-Town jail.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 189–94.

INFORMATION TO THE TOWN OF SAVANNAH FROM GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT ¹

[Savannah] Thursday night, 10 o'clock, January 18, 1776.

The Governour sent for Doctor Jones and Joseph Clay, and acquainted them that he had sent for them as the only remaining Representatives of the town of Savannah, and acquainted them that the following men-of-war, with the packet and one or two other vessels, were arrived at Cockspur, viz: the *Syren*, of 28 guns; the *Tamar*, of 18 or 20 guns; the *Raven* of 18 guns; the *Cherokee*, of 16 guns.

That he was very certain their orders were to treat any of the Colonies who were in arms, had raised fortifications, seized any of the Crown officers, or King's stores, as in a state of rebellion, and would, if in their power, destroy their towns and property, wherever they would come at them; and, he apprehended, they would look on us as in that state, and, as far as in their power, treat us accordingly.

That the *Raven*, man-of-war, was stationed here. That they were all in want of provisions, particularly the *Tamar*, the *Cherokee*, and the packet,² which vessels, as well as the *Syren*, he believed, would depart the Province as soon as they were supplied with provisions. That if he, the Governour, could be assured from the inhabitants of the town that they would supply them with provisions, and permit their boats to come to town unmolested, and purchase such provisions as they can get, that he would go down on board these ships and endeavor to settle every thing with the officers in such a manner as to prevent their doing any injury to this town, or the inhabitants of the Province, or their property.

That if they could not be supplied with provisions, they certainly would take it by force, where they can find it, and will, if in their power, attack this town and destroy it, which, as several of the vessels were of an easy draft of water, he presumed they could get up to town and effect.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 799. Sir James Wright was Royal Governor of Georgia.

2. The *Sandwich Packet*.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah] Jan. 18th, 1776, p.m.

Resolved, That the persons of his Excellency, Sir James Wright, Baronet, and of John Mulryne, Josiah Tattnall and Anthony Stokes, Esqrs., be forthwith arrested and secured and that all non-associates be forthwith disarmed, except those, who will give their parole, assuring that they will not aid, assist or comfort any of the persons on board his Majesty's ships of war, or take up arms against America in the present unhappy dispute.

Resolved, That the commanding officer do secure the Governor and Council till further orders from this Board

At a special meeting of the Council of Safety, Jan. 18th, at 11 o'clock at night, 1776.

Resolved, That the Members of his Majesty's Council be permitted to go to their respective homes upon their parole assuring that they will attend his Excellency the Governor's house, at nine-o'clock to-morrow morning and there consider themselves as in their present condition, and upon his Excellency the Governor, giving assurance to Major [Joseph] Habersham, that the peace of the town shall not be disturbed by any persons from the ships of war.

Ordered, that Mr. [Basil] Cooper [Cowper] and Dr. [Noble Wimbleton] Jones attend Major Habersham to his Excellency the Governor, with the foregoing resolution.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, I, 101-03.

WILLIAM PANTON TO GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN¹

Copy of a Letter from Mr Panton
Sir

Frederica 18th January 1776.

Sickness and unavoidable Accidents has prevented my sending my Sloop to Florida untill now, and I have known of but one opportunity to St Augustine since my arrival in Georgia, and it too late, for me to testify the high Sense I have of the favour You conferred upon me by the loan of the Gun Powder. With it I am enabled to begin my Trade with the Indians, without it I must have dropt a Trade in the bud which I hoped in a little time to have rendered Advantageous to the Province and myself. Much about this time I expected to have been enabled to return to your Excellency the Quantity of Gun Powder you favoured me with from two Sources the first, was, I expected to have received from England upwards of three thousand weight which I ordered to be shipped last June, the other was an Information I received when in Florida, that the people who took the Indian Traders powder, and 2000 lb. of mine amongst the rest, had agreed to return a certain Quantity to them [*sic* me] for the use of the Indians, and it is in the greatest distress that I acquaint your Excellency of my disappointment in both these.

I am informed by Letters from my Partner (Mr Forbes in England) that just as my Powder and Indian Goods were ready to be shipped, Orders were issued for the total prohibition of Ammunition and Guns to any part of North America

or the West Indias, and even Vessels who had on hand a small quantity of Powder and Arms for a trading Voyage to Africa were ordered to reland them, for fear any part of them should find its way to the Rebels in America. And the Council of Safety in Georgia as they stile themselves have left me out, the only Trader they have forgot, in the division of Powder which they have returned to the Traders. Upon my complaining of this partiality, they replied "That as I was known to be disaffected to their Cause, and supposed to be under your Influence, they thought it inconsistent with the Safety of the Province that I should be supplied." Thus am I prevented from returning the Quantity of Powder You were pleased to lend me, and obliged again to trouble Your Excellency by imploring your Interposition in my behalf or I shall be under the necessity of relinquishing a Trade which I have so warmly at heart—The other Traders who have all signed the Association are and will be supplied by the Provincials who are sending out Smuggling Vessels to purchase Ammunition and they have declared that they will dispose of to such Traders as have adopted their Measures the Necessary Quantity for the Indian Trade – I alone am excluded because I never shall adopt a Measure of Sentiment I do not approve of, – I wish you Sir, and the Superintendent would state my case to the Minister it surely cannot be the Intention of Government to distress its Friends. – It would be madness in me to bring Goods into the Indian Country without some Means can be devised to supply them with Ammunition as by that Article alone they are enabled to pay for them & I leave it to Your Excellencys knowledge of the Indians to point out the Influence that Trade maintains over them. If You and Mr [John] Stuart are pleased to represent my Case to the Earl of Dartmouth I shall have great hopes that my Correspondents Greenwood & Higginson of London will have leave to ship me about 3500 lb. Gun Powder with a proportional Quantity of Bullets and Flints with 200 Indian trading Guns to be lodged in the Magazine in St Augustine and disposed of under your Excellencys inspection—By doing this you will confer a favour upon me which it shall be my study to deserve. I have the honor to be &ca

(Signed) W^m Panton

[Endorsed] In Govr Tonyn's (No 38) of 16th Feby 1776.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 283–86.

19 Jan.

JAMES LYON TO JAMES OTIS ¹

Sir,

Machias, Jan. 19. 1776

I think it my Duty to remind you, as you have doubtly been informed of what we have [done that w]e generously, perhaps too generously, gave the officers taken in the Schooner *Diligent*, all their pr[ivate pr]operty, & among other things all the plans of this Continent, in their possession, which oversight we greatly regret & for which we can make no apology but our distress & confusion at that time, which would not admit of our attending to this matter as its vast importance required. Lieut [John] Knights goods are all sent away ² Lieut [Thomas] Spry's only remain in our possession. These goods, by Capt. [Aaron] Willards advice we have examined, & have found the s[k]etches now in his hands, together with a valuable com-

pass, some slop cloathing &c. which he secreted.³ I now, in behalf of the Committee, humbly ask, if Lieut. Thomas Spry has not forfeited all his right to said goods? I therefore beg advice & direction of the Honorable General Court, which we should be glad to receive as soon as may be –

By order of the Committee of safety I am [&c.]

Ja^s Lyon Ch M

Sir Capt. Willard can give [you farther infor]mation, to whom [I refer you.] –

[Endorsed] In Council Feby 15th 1776

Read & committed to Benja Lincoln Esqr with such as the Honol House shall join

sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry

In the House of Representatives Feb. 15. 1776

Read and concurred and Collo [Solomon] Lovell & Coll [John] Bliss are joined – William Cooper Speakr Pro T[em.]

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 221–21a. Otis was president of the Massachusetts Council.
2. Vice Admiral Samuel Graves commented, when news of the capture of the *Diligent* was received, that “the Rebels having possession of the *Diligent* not only deprives the Squadron of her assistance, but will I fear for sometime hinder the publication of such of Mr Des Barres Draughts as wait only for the Soundings.” Graves’s Conduct, I, 109, BM.
3. See Willard’s receipt for items from Midshipman Spry’s baggage, January 18, 1776.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1776

Newbury Port, January 19.

On Monday last [January 15] a brigantine [the *Sukey*] from Ireland, burthen about 90 tons, [Maddet] Engs, master, owned by Lewis Gray, an enemy to the rights of America, laden with provisions for the use of the ministerial army at Boston, was taken and brought into this town, the particulars of her cargo are as follows:

29 Tierces of best Beef,	1 Tierce of best Pork,
18 Barrels ditto,	11 Barrels ditto,
31 Half barrels ditto,	9 Half barrels ditto,
150 Firkins of Butter,	8 Puncheons of Oats,
72 Casks ditto,	2 Firkins of Lard,
64 Firkins of Tongues,	19 Kegs of Tripe,
1 Barrel ditto,	2 Casks of Peas,
10 Half barrels ditto,	109 Hampers of Patatoes,
10 Puncheons of Claret Wine	

Likewise, on the same evening a ship from London [the *Friends*], burthen about 200 tons, [Archibald] Bowie, master, owned at London, out 12 weeks, with the following articles on board, intended for the same use as the brig’s cargo, viz.

52 Chaldron of Coals,	20 Hogsheads of Vinegar,
86 Butts of Porter,	16 ditto of Sower Krout,
30 Hogsheads ditto,	23 Live Hogs.

In the above Brig came passengers, Mr. John Gray, son to Harrison Gray Esq. of Boston, and a regular Officer, who, together with the Captains were yesterday sent to Cambridge.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* ¹

January 1776

Cape Ann West 15 Leags

Friday 19th

at ½ past 6, saw a sail in the SEt Chaced Do out 2d reef Tops at ½ past 7 Cape Ann bore NBW 5 or 6 Leags sett Steering sails, at 8 Fresh gales & clear Wr at 10 fir'd severall shott at the Chace, seeing a Number of men on bd her; Carried a way the foretopmast Steering sail Boom, found our maintopmast Sprung a little above the Capp; at Noon still in Chace of a Schooner, about one mile from her.

Do Wr Lattd Obsd 42:44 No

Fresh gales and Cloudy Wr still in Chace of a Schooner; at 4 Do fir'd severall shott at Do at 6, Lost sight of her, shorten'd sail & hawl'd our wind, close reefd the Topsl Down Topgt yards, and Struck the Topgt masts Handed Mizen Topsail, at 8: Fresh gales & Cloudy Wr

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Mr. Adams

Salem, January 19, 1776

I had wrote you several posts before my hearing you was returned. I should be very glad if you and Mrs. Adams could take a turn this way before you return to Philadelphia again.

I had lately a schooner arrived, with some powder, at Barnstable, rather better than three hundred pounds, which was disposed of there, as the people wanted it much. I understand that any person importing powder shall be entitled to ship the value of it in fish, and to bring the produce thereof in powder. As such, I should be glad to have a certificate from the proper persons authorized to give one. I want to ship the fish in a different bottom, which cannot make any odds, as both belong to me. I should be glad to have liberty for one hundred and eighty quintals of fish, being about the amount of the powder. The powder was imported in the schooner *Sally*, Ebenezer Nickerson, master, from St. Eustatius, and now want to ship the fish by the schooner *Endeavour*, Jesse Harding, for the West-Indies.

Your assisting the bearer in procuring the above, will oblige your humble servant,

Isaac Smith

[Endorsed by Adams] Mr. Adams presents his compliments to Mr. [Thomas] Cushing, Mr. [Joseph] Palmer, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, and the other gentlemen at Mr. Hunt's, and begs the favour of them to assist the bearer in the business mentioned in the within letter.²

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 342.

2. Members of the Massachusetts Council, who, on January 20, 1776, complied with the request.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, January 19, 1776.

Afternoon.

Benjamin White, Esq; brought down a Letter from Mr. Samuel Jordan, dated Gouldsbrough, 30th, Nov. 1775, relative to the Conduct of Col. [James] Cargill, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January, 19th, 1776.

Read and *Ordered*, That Eldad Taylor, and John Taylor, Esq's. with such as the Hon. House shall join, be a Committee to take the foregoing Letter, and Papers accompanying it, into Consideration and report.

Read and concurr'd, and Mr. [Daniel] Hopkins, Col. [Samuel] Thompson, and Col. [Joseph] Cushing are joined.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Boston 19th Janry 1776

Vice Admiral Graves intending to proceed to England in a few days in the *Preston* gives me an opportunity of transmitting to you, some late Intelligence from Captains Parker and Vandeput, and Governor Tryon, of the State of Affairs at New York,² by which I hope their Lordships will see the necessity of continuing the *Asia* some time longer at that place, and that they will please to dispense with my immediate Obedience to their Order for sending her home at this Critical Juncture when perhaps the appearance of that Ship, may be the means of bringing over many of the disaffected, to a sense of their Duty to His Majesty, and disuniting that Colony from those where the Inhabitants are in a more open and avowed state of Rebellion; and in this opinion General [William] Howe, whom I have confer'd with and consulted on this Subject, is pleased to concur with me.

I transmit to you likewise, Sir, a Copy of the last Letter received from Captain Wallace of the *Rose* at Rhode Island, giving an account of the State of, and the Situation he is in at that place,³ and as Captain Wallace's services deserve every reward can be confer'd on him, I humbly recommend it to Their Lordships Consideration sending him out a Larger and better Ship, especially as the *Rose* is Two years Foul, and that from his keeping the Inhabitants of that Province in so much Awe it would be improper to remove him from it.

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you of the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship *Centurion* at this place the 18th Instant after a Passage of Twelve Weeks, in which Captain [Richard] Brathwaite informs me all his Sails were blown away except those now bent to his Yards. I am, Sir [&c.]

M. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. These various intelligence reports range from November 16 to December 18, 1775. See Volume 2 and this volume.

3. See Wallace's letter of December 28, 1775.

HENRY QUINCY TO RICHARD DEVENS¹

Sir

Barnstable Jan'y 19 1776

This will be Delivered you [by] Mess Bucklin's & Brown Waggoners, Who has been with me here to Purchase Ct Solomon Davis Duck for the Committee of the Colony of R.I. Land but Ct Davis Having Sold it to the Massachusetts Colony, & as they Are Bearers of 100 Peices for you if so be, its to be Transported to Providence for the Use of the Ships Building there for the Colonys Service

I wd Ask it a favour that you Permit there Carting of it there Which will in some Measure make up there Disappointment here, & am [&c.]

H^y Quincy

P.S. The order pr Ct Davis in my favour I shall forward from Providence soon.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 215.

SOLOMON DAVIS TO NICHOLAS BROWN¹

Barnstable Jan'y 19 1776

Your favours of the 12th Instant p Mr [Henry] Quincy. I had sold my Duck before he came – to the Commissary of the Colony. I have no late price Currant from Amsterdam my goods was shipd last April from Holland and came [by] the way of St Eustatius My Duck cost [£] 20.10 [illegible] besides the Bags, Matts, Packg &c as for the Cord Wire I cant say what it cost as it was made for me in Germany by particular order. Spermaceti Candles p the last accots was 24 sh[gs] pr lb [Dutch] wt & no allowance for the Boxes. I suppose 300 Boxes might sell at Amsterdam I never tryd an[y] other Market. 5 & 6 [is] found answer best the 5 fluted & the 6 round. I have a letter from Mr Hodshon in April when my goods was shipd that after the goods was shipd on board there was an order from the Stats of Holland to search the Ship & take all the powder & arms that was on board which was shipd for America or the Dutch West Indies Except what was for the Garrisons there & it was accordingly done, what alteration since I cant say. have you any of your old packets about twenty five tons for sell with you if you have pray write price & how found, & you will oblige [&c.]

Sol Davis

1. Misc. Mss., RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Jan'y 19th 1776

Meeting in Being according to adjournment

Voted. That Benjamin Tolman be Master Carpenter for the largest ship. –

Voted. That Mr Jno J. Clarke go to Newport to morrow to purchase all the cordage he can not exceeding 20 Tons at not exceeding Nine Dollars P C also to hurry the Spars & pine Logs to be got up as fast as possible, to buy all the good Barr Iron he can to call on James Daggett on his way & Ingage him to get all the Timber & Plank he can to Dispatch the Locus as soon as may be, to get what 2d 3d 4d 6d 8d 10d & 20d Nails he Can, Get all the clear pine Bords & Plank he can & make up the Qy with merchantable to 20m Feet, and as many of them in

plank as he can, to engage what Iron hoops can be had in Newport @ 40/ [P C] & what white Oak Hhd Staves he can, @ 20 Dollrs P m dld in Providence to purchase Codlines, Pump & scupper Nails & English Augers of 1 & 1½ Inch – to call on John Manly what he has done respecting the Sparrs & purchase all Milles Run –

Voted. That Nicholas Brown Esqr be Treasurer & Pay-master to this Committee. –

Voted. That Nicholas Cooke Junr & Joseph Russell Junr go to Philadelphia and bring sixty Thousand Dollars at least and as much more as Mr [Stephen] Hopkins shall think proper to send by them and that they be allowed six shillings P Day & Twenty Dollars each for their Horses, and their Reasonable expences. –

Voted. That Nicholas Brown, William Russell & Jabez Bowen write a Letter to the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esqr to send by the Above Young Gentlemen, and that the same be signed by a Majority of this Committee.

Reckoning 22/6 paid By Coll Nightingale

Meeting Adjourned to Monday Evening 6 o'clock.

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

MANIFEST OF MILITARY STORES BROUGHT IN THE BRIG *Sally*¹

45 Cask Powder wt 2475 lb a 6/	£742. 10 –
60 lb. Bullits a 7d	1. 15 –
	<hr/>
	£744. 5 –
20 Small Arms a 54/	54 –
20 prs Pistells a 36/	36 –
	<hr/>
	£834. 5 –

The above was brot home in the Brigg *Sally* Silvanus Jenckes Masr in her Last Voyage from Suranam — test
[Providence] Jan'y 19. 1776

John Brown

1. Manifest of Imports, R.I. Arch.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN SYLVANUS JENCKES¹

Sir

Providence Janury 19th 1776 –

You being Master of my Brigg *Sally* now bound, and ready to Sail for Suranam, my Orders are that you proceed Immediately to Sea by the way of Seacunnet and gain your passage to Suranam as soone you possibly can, and their dispose of the Cargo for the most it will fetch, to Engage and get afull Load of Good Melasses and to See that every Cask be well made and well Trimed before its Stowd away, and also to Engage about Sixty Hogsheads Melasses more to be ready for aSmall Vessel which I Expect soone to send after you in Order to bring the Valuable part of your Cargo which may be Over and above the melasses Afforsaid Vizt in Powder, Salt Peter, Sulpher, Duck, Ticklinburgh or Oznabriggs, as I Chuse not to trust these Articles in so heavy a Vessel as Your Brigg, but I hope you'l this



A South West View of the City of New York, in NORTH AMERICA. & *Vue de Sud Ouest de la Ville de New York, dans L'AMERIQUE SEPTENTRION.*

Drawn on the Spot by Geo. Thomas Hine, & del. the Reed, & Engraved by P. Cunat.

Time get the Brigg Deep Loaded with Melasses on my Account Excepting Only 1220 Gs for yourself 400 Gs for the Mate, 300 Gs for the Cooper, and as much for the people as is Enterd in portledge Bill and no more, I hope youl be able to bring me as much melasses as Ever the Brigg yet brought to her Owners, On your return which will be as soone as possible youl either Stop on the Back of Nantucket the Vinyard or Long Island. to know how the Men of Warr and Tenders are Generally Stationd in Order that you may Run in by night so as to Escape them if possible and Come Directly to this Town with the Brigg, as the melasses will be worth more here than in any other place. You'l do every thing in your power to get it here safe If a quantity Good Rousia Duck and seaming Twine is to be bought at a reasonable rate and Powder nor Salt Peter not to be had, youl Engage as much as you think you shall be able to purchase over and above a full Load of melasses as above in Order that it may be ready for the Small Vessell to Come after you, Youl also get a quantity of Light Duck Ticklinburgh or Oznabrigs if to be had at a Reasonable price but take Special Care to keep Enough in your hands to Load full with Melasses. I am wishing you a Good Voyage, Your Owner

John Brown

P.S. your Commission is to [be] Five PCent on the sales, and Two and a half PCent on the Returns. If any thing happens to you during the Voyage to Disable you to the Business your Mate Mr Tower is to take the Command, and follow these Orders.

1. Peck Mss., RIHS.

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

Gentlemen

His Majestys Ship *Rose* at
Rhode Island the 19th Jany 1776.—

I shall be glad to know whether you will come to any Terms, whether we shall have any Supplies from you or whether we must Prosecute the War to the Extent, as we do about the Rest of the Country. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Ja^s Wallace

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

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N. ¹

Copy
Sir,

Ship *Dutchess of Gordan*, off
New York, 19th January 1776.

This evening I have received intelligence of a Plan intended in Connecticut Government against the King's Ships. Vizt. that a number of Sloops loaded with Combustibles, are to sail through Hell Gate, and to rendezvous off Blackwell's Island, where they are to be chained together and sent down to New York with the Ebb Tide, in some dark and Tempestuous Night, when they think the Ships of War cannot escape being destroyed by the Fire. General [Charles] Lee is supposed to have been consulted on this Scheme, an intention that may be forwarded without the knowledge of this City. I am Sir [&c.]

W^m Tryon

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 10 HO. A.M. Jany. 19th, 1776.

The Committee taking into consideration the distress this Colony may soon be reduced to for want of canvass or some other proper materials to make tents of, and also the high probability of obtaining gunpowder at Curaçoa;

Ordered, That Mr. [Comfort] Sands, with all possible despatch on behalf of the Congress of this Colony, and by order of this Committee, do employ a proper vessel and load here with flour for Curaçoa, with proper letters and orders to procure gunpowder and ravens Duck.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 255, 256.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 19, 1776

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on the matter of South Carolina, respecting seamen; Whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to Captain [Robert] Cochran, who is arrived for the purpose of recruiting seamen, to pursue the following plan in the inlisting service in which he is employed by the province of South Carolina.

That he offer to each able bodied seaman the wages of eight dollars per month, and that he pay to them upon inlisting nine dollars bounty, and, upon their arrival in South Carolina, the farther bounty of five dollars.

That Captain Cochran repair immediately to the camp at Cambridge, and take the advice and direction of General Washington on this affair, and proceed to inlist his seamen in such parts of the country as will be the least prejudicial to the continental service.

That the president write to General Washington, acquainting him with the situation of South Carolina, the necessity that colony is in for seamen, and desiring that he will please to forward this service.

The Committee to whom General Schuyler's letter of the 13th of January, with the papers and letters enclosures, was referred, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the American army in Canada be reinforced with all possible despatch, as well for the security and relief of our friends there, as for better securing the rights and liberties not only of that colony, but the other United Colonies.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 65-72.

2. Here follows a series of resolutions detailing how the reinforcements are to be raised, provisioned and expedited.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 19th Jan'y, 1776.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to view Liberty Island, repair as soon as the season will permit, to that place with Dav'd Rittenhouse, Robert Smith & John M'Neal, and determine on and lay out such works as they shall think

sufficient to defend it, and that those Gentlemen employ such Persons as may be necessary to compleat said works, agreeable to the Report of the Committee appointed for that business.

Resolved, That the Commodore be directed to cause four hundred Sea Men and Landsmen immediately to be recruited for the service of the armed Boats and other Naval Equipments, on the same Terms the other Men were raised.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 461, 462.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE'S ACCOUNT WITH THE CONTINENTAL NAVAL
COMMITTEE ¹

[Philadelphia, January 19, 1776] ²

Naval Committee of Congress Dr to Nicholas Biddle

To Cash paid for Officers and Seamens Board Wages as P enclosed Account ³	£53 - 15 - 3
To a Months pay Advance to John Chiswell. James Wilson. George Kelly. John Moies. and William Adams, Seamen and Peter Miller Landsman	17 - 10 - 0
To Cash paid Mr [James] Josiah for his expences in Philadelphia in quest of Deserters. for 9 days	1 - 13 - 0
To Cash paid Mr Josiah for Boarding five Men four days in Philadelphia. and for Supper and Lodging for the Boats Crew one night. ⁴	1 - 10 - 0
To Cash paid Leut Josiah for Horse hire and other Expences he was at in travelling from Philadelphia to Port Penn with five Seamen. as p Account	5 - 19 - 0
To Cash paid John Berketts for Boarding 6 Men from the 2nd to the fourth of January 1776	10 - 0
To Cash paid (for wages due) to Mr William Moran 1st Mate	6 - 10 - 0
To a Months Advance paid to John Mergeson 3rd Mate	3 - 15 - 0
To Cash paid for an Arm Chest	1 - 05 - 0
	<hr/>
	92 - 7 - 3
Naval Comittee Cr	
By Cash Received of Silas Deane Esqr	88 - 10 - 0
By Cash Leut Josiah Received from Silas Deane Esqr	4 - 2 - 6
	<hr/>
	92 - 12 - 6
	92 - 7 - 3
	<hr/>
	£ 0 - 5 - 3

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

2. As the *Andrew Doria* dropped down with the fleet to Reedy Island on January 17, 1776, the account, which refers to Lieutenant Josiah's traveling to Port Penn, opposite Reedy Island, would place it after that date, and approximately as given.

3. *Ibid.*, the account of cash paid was made out by Lieutenant Josiah, and was dated January 8, 1776. It contains no details.

4. On the verso of the Josiah account the names of the five men are listed as George McKain, William Hays, James McGuire, Barnett Garland and James Evans.

WILLIAM WALL TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Baltimore Jan'y 19. 1776

I arrived here in 15 Days after I left home, and had Excessive cold Weather on the Road and the day after I arrived my Vessel anchored and find here Sperm Cti Candles in no great Demand here or at Annapolis but am in hopes to sell them to a french man that brought In Warlike Stores here who has a permitt to Load his Vessel away But Expect to have Hard Work to make them meet the first cost But if not shall leave them agreeable to your orders flour when I got here was In Demand Occasioned by the Goverment Taking up a Number of Vessels to send after Powder which Rise it from 10s [illegible] to 12/6 & 13/6 But they are now Mostly Supplied so Expect it plenty again soon an cheap as there will be but few Purchasers if so I expect I shall be able to freight your Effects in flour if I sell the Candles, and if not shall wait on Mr Williamson for his freight for you, I h[ave] no news to write at Present as I Amagine you have had the News of Norfolk Being Burnt by Lord Dunmore.

[Endorsed] Wm Wall to N.B.

1. Misc. Mss., RIHS.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO HERCULES COURTENAY ¹

I am sorry by Your Last ² to find that the Vessel Must be Delay'd unless We Raise the Price of flower to 13/ [However] as Our Businss Will suffer by Not Hurr[yin]g her [illegible] off With the Utmost Dispatch I now Acqua[i]nt you that we have the Consent of the Council of Safety to [ra]ise the Price for the Remainder of Her Cargo if it Cann[ot] be got Under I am &c

C C

Annap[oli]s Jan'y 19 1776

To Mr Hers Courtenay Mercht Balt Town

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. Courtenay's letter of January 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 19 January 1776

Instructions and sailing Orders were given to Capt. Robert Forsythe, of the Brig *Sam*, and to Capt. Thomas Kell, of the Schooner *Dolphin*.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch. A new Council of Safety had been appointed by the Maryland Convention on January 17, 1776. It consisted of four members from the Western Shore (Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Charles Carroll, barrister, John Hall and Benjamin Rumsey), and three from the Eastern Shore (James Tilghman, Thomas Smyth and Thomas Bedingfield Hands).

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ROBERT FORSYTHE ¹

Sir

Annapolis 19 Jan'y 1776.

You are to proceed from hence to the Island of Martinico and there deliver the inclosed Letter and your cargo to Mr Richard Harrison, if Mr Harrison should not be at the Island of Martinico, addressed to Mr McCreary and if he

should not be there, You are in that Case to open the Letter, addressed to Mr Harrison sell your Cargo at the very highest Prices you can get, the Money arising from the Sales you must lay out in Gunpowder if you can get it, if not, in Muskets fitted with good Bayonets & if they are not to be had, Salt petre and Sulphur & if you cannot get those Articles, then lay out the whole in strong coarse Linens & russia Duck; And take care you are not imposed on in your purchases. As soon as you have done your Business make the best of your way homie, and avoid speaking with Vessels on the Coast, when you come into the Latitude of our Capes if you have a strong fair wind in, push up the Bay as far as possible, and if you find it failing, run into some small Harbour & there wait till you have a favourable Opportunity to get into Patowmack Patuxent or Annapolis. If you find a better Chance of getting into any of the Inlets between Cape Charles and Cape Henlopen, than into our Bay, you may push into one of them, and send an Express to the Council of Safety, letting them know where you are and what you have got but take Care and land your Goods under the Care of a Committee as soon as you can for fear of being followed by the Tenders.

In going out you had better take a brisk gale of wind, or get out of Nights, as Tenders commonly keep a strict Watch at the Capes in the Day Time. [We] hope you will behave with Care and Industry on this Voyage If you are chased and find you must be taken throw all your papers overboard, with Weights to sink them.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON¹

No 1.

[Annapolis] 19th January 1776

To Mr Richard Harrison. (Martinico)

P Brigantine *Sam*.

Sir You have inclosed an Invoice and Bill of Lading of thirteen hundred and eighty six Barrels of Flour, in the Brig *Sam* Robert Forsythe Master, with ninety one Barrels of Bread, also 4000 Staves, on Account of the Province, which you will dispose of in the best Manner according to your general Instructions and the Le[tters] heretofore sent you. We have only engaged this Vessel to deliver her Cargo to you, as soon therefore as she is unloaded, if you should have no further Use for her you may discharge her. We shall be glad to hea[r of] her safe Arrival and likewise to have Intelligence fr[om] you of your Transactions by every good Opportunity. We are &c.

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Friday, 19th Jan., 1776.

Read a letter from Ralph Izard, esq., dated January 18th, 1776 – relative to the servants, and of Lord William Campbell.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do immediately give all possible assistance to Capt. [Simon] Tufts and Capt. [Thomas] Smith, to proceed to sea with the vessels under their respective commands, in pursuit of two schooners that have

this day appeared in the offing, in order to ascertain what they are; and if they should be found putting any cargo on board the Brig. *Amphetrile*, to bring in the three vessels

Ordered, That the Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton do likewise give all the aid in his power.

Don Joachim de Larraguibal, master of the snow on board which Morelli and the five negroes were found concealed, attended – produced a ticket from the secretary's office dated the 2d instant, signed by Lord William Campbell, and by Thos. Winstanley, pro. secr., certifying that "the terms prescribed by law had been complied with," and authorizing the captain to carry off said Morelli and his family – and declared, that he thought the negroes were the property of said Morelli.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 195–96.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1776

Charlestown, January 19.

Last Week the Brigantine *Fortune*, Capt. Brown, from London, arrived off Georgetown. We have been only able to procure a few of the latest Papers brought by her; but hope, before our next, to receive the intermediate ones, from October 10 to October 24, and fill up that Chasm in our European Intelligence.

The three Ships mentioned in our last to be in the Offing, disappeared on Monday. It is generally thought they are gone to Georgia, where it is said the *Tamar* and *Cherokee* are.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Syren*, CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX ¹

January 1776

[Off Charleston Bar]

Sunday 14

AM at 4 weighed in Co the *Raven* & her Prize, stood to the So wd at 10 saw a Sloop to the C Wt gave Chace ½ pt 11 fired a Shot & bro't too the Sloop spoke with two days before – Mode & hazy with Rain –

P: M at 1 made Sail, at 3 saw a Sail in the S Wt Quar at 4 regular Soundgs from 10 to 5 Fath's the *Raven* spoke the Chace, a Sloop from New York bound to Savannah, saw another Sail to the So ward & stood for her, at 6 bro't too a Schooner belongg to the *Tamer*, by whom we were informed that the *Tamer*, *Cherokee* & *Sandwich Packet* were at Anchor about 7 Leagues from us, at 8 Wore & made Sail –

Monday 15

A M at 1 saw 3 Sail at Anchor, at 2 Anchored with the Best Bower in 8 Fath's Water Fired 2 Guns Sigl to Anchor, at 3 the *Cherokee's* Boat came on board. –

Tuesday 16

Do Wear A M at 1 Weighed & made Sail in Co the *Tamer*, *Cherokee*, *Raven*, *Pacquet* & *Ravens* Prize, at 11 fired a Shot & bro't too the Sloop the *Raven* spoke with the 15th [*sic* 14th] at noon in Co as before. –

First part Mode & fair, latter fresh Gales & Clear with hard frost, depth of Water from 3 to 5 Faths Working over the Bar into the Harbour [Savannah River], at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 came too with the best Bowr in 5 Fath's & Moored a Cable each way. P:M at 5 sent the Boats with a Stream Anchor & Cable to assist the *Raven* she being aground.

- Wednesday 17th A M at 5 the *Raven* floated – Cutter empd Watering First & Middle fresh breezes & Clear latter part Mode & Cloudy with hard Frost. Empd working up Junk, Watering, & paying the sides with Tar. –
- Thursday 18 AM Punished Jno Harris Seaman with 24 lashes for Drunkenness & Theft, & Edwd Thompson & John Wallais Marines with 12 lashes each for Drunkenness –
Light Breezes & Cloudy Wear Empd Watering, Gunrs on shore destroying some Gun Carriages
- Friday 19 A M at 7 Lieut Josh Pennington, died of a Wound supposed to be received by a Pistol Ball in a duel with Lieut Cuming of the Marines –
Light breezes & Cloudy Empd Wooding, Watering & about the Rigging: Anchd off Cock-Spur Island, His Majesty's Sloops *Tamer*, *Raven*, *Cherokee*, & Packet & *Ravens* Prize. –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Council of Safety [Savannah] Jan. 19th, 1776.

Resolved, That his Excellency Sir James Wright, Baronet, his Majesty's Council, and the Crown Officers in general, be enjoined upon their parole of honor not to go out of the Town, or hold any correspondence with any of the officers or others on board the ships of war now at Tybee, without permission of this Board, and that should either or any of them refuse to give such parole, such person or persons shall immediately be arrested and confined under guard.

Resolved, That John Mulryne and Josiah Tattnall, Esquires, arrested by order of the Board, be also enjoined, upon their parole of honor to the like effect.

Resolved, That in case any ships or boats of war should appear, or land in or near the Town, before the resolution of Congress in regard to the said ships of war can be entered into, and published, that then the persons aforesaid shall be immediately removed to and confined in the country.

Ordered, that Mr.[John] Smith and Mr.[William] Gibbons do wait on them with a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

p.m.

Mr.Smith and Mr.Gibbon reported that they had served his Excellency the Governor and his Majesty's Council with the Resolution entered into this morning, and that they requested to furnish them with a copy thereof, which accordingly they did.

Capt.[Francis Henry] Harris informed the Board that in pursuance of a Resolution of the same, he had arrested and had now in custody the body of

John Mulryne, Esqr., whereupon Mr.[Basil] Cowper and Mr.[John] Girardeau were ordered to require his parole of honor, which he pledged in the following manner: That he will not aid, assist or comfort the officers or others on board his Majesty's ships of war now in this Province, by holding any intercourse or correspondence with them; that he will not supply them with any provisions whatsoever, and that he will not take up arms against America on the present unhappy contest with the mother country.

Ordered, That Capt. Harris serve Col. Mulryne with a copy of the above; which he having done the Colonel assured him, on his honor, that he would strictly abide by the same.

1. Candler, comp., *Georgia Records*, 103-05.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ¹

I the within named Clark Gayton do certify and return that the within named Robert Sands before the Obtaining and issuing the within Writ was taken by one of his Majesty's Ships of War under my Command as he the said Robert Sands was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of New York in North America of which Sloop or Vessel he was Master and which said Robert Sands had in the said Port of Cape Nicholas Mole discharged a Cargo which he had laden at New York aforesaid and Cleared out for one of the British Islands in the West Indies and was then on his return in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Molasses and Coffee which he had laden and taken on Board the said Sloop or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid to and for the Colony of Georgia in North America aforesaid. And that I have taken and detained the said Robert Sands by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty Third Day of August last past and His Majesty's Orders and Instructions Signified to me by the Commisioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority And this is the Cause of the Cap[tion] and Detention of the said Robert Sands whose Body at the Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required -

Clark Gayton.

Filed the 19th January 1776 -

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

DECISION OF EDWARD WEBLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE JAMAICA SUPREME COURT ¹

January 19th 1776 The within named Robert Sands being this Day brought before me in Vertue of the within Writ of Habeas Corpus which with the return thereof and also the Instructions therein mentioned being read Upon Motion of Henry Browne Esquire and on hearing what could be alledged as well by him as by Thomas Harrison Esquire Attorney and Advocate General I do discharge the said Robert Sands out of Custody and he is Discharged accordingly./.

Edw^d Webley January 19th 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Webley also discharged Nathan Bull.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ¹

I the within named Clark Gayton do certify and return that the within named Nathan Bull was before the obtaining and issuing the within Writ taken by one of his Majesty's Ships of War under my Command as he the said Nathan Bull was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicolas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of Rhode Island in North America of which Sloop or Vessell he was Master and which said Nathan Bull had in the said Port of Cape Nicolas Mole discharged a Cargo which he had laden at Rhode Island aforesaid and cleared out for Jamaica and was then on his return in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Sugar and Molasses to and for the said Colony of Rhode Island and that I have taken and detained the said Nathan Bull by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty third Day of August last past and his Majesty's orders and Instructions Signified to me by the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their Secretary acting under their Authority and this is the Cause of the Caption and Detention of the said Nathan Bull whose Body at the Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required —

Clark Gayton

Filed the 19th January 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

THOMAS HARRISON TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir As I was apprehensive that the Cou[n]sel concerned for [Bu]ll & Sands would require a copy of the Admiralty orders [?] be annexed to & made part of the Return or would otherwise [co]ntend that no respect ought to be paid to them, it was necessa[ry] for me to be provided agt the worst; I therefore mentioned [in] my last letter the annexing a copy of the orders to the return [th]at the Chief Justice has, on my motion & without any ob[je]ction being made thereto by the other side, contented himself [wi]th hearing the original orders read to him at the time [of] the return; so that, they have been reced & considered one of the causes of detention, without being put on [re]cord & thereby subject to official inspection & being copied [and] dispersed abroad — These were points I despaired of [ob]taining.

[Yo]u will observe from the proceedings, of which Mr Smith [has] taken an Office-Copy, that the Chief Justice, on consideration of the return & orders mentioned therein, has thought [pro]per to discharge both Bull & Sands. As this judicial dec[ision] must prevail in every similar case, I submit it to [yo]ur consideration whet[her] their Lordships can expect you to [pu]t others in the like predicament to the expence & trouble [of] like application. For my own part, I am confident that [the] calm we here enjoy would instantly have become a storm, [?] you had not complied with these writs & that you have as much contributed to the peace of your Country by your ready submission to its civil authority as you have to [its] prosperity & [honour] by the spirited firmness of your [?]ry conduct: The Publick [illegible] must be fully satisfied that you will not affect

the liberties & properties of your fellow subjects beyond what the necessity of your service & duty to his Majesty requires. I am, Sir [&c.]

Ths: Harrison

Jany: 19th: 1776

[Endorsed by Gayton] Letter from the Attorney General with respect to the two North Americans, who were Summond, before the Chief Justice, by Writs of Habeas Corpus, and his Opinion, with regard to my complying, with those Writs.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was Advocate General of Jamaica.

20 Jan.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO JOHN ANDERSON¹

Sir

Secys Office Halifax 20th Jany: 1776

It being necessary for His Majestys Service, that the Governor should have the best & most certain information of the motions and designs of the Rebels, & more particularly as they may in any manner Affect this Province.

His Excellency the Governor has therefore thought fitt to place confidence in you, & that you will from time to time by Trusty persons hir'd for that purpose, transmitt to this Office, to be laid before him, all such usefull and necessary intelligence, as you shall Judge necessary for his information, and by the return of these Couriers, send such accounts of the motions of the Rebels, & State of Affairs in Canada, as may have come to your knowledge.

As these Couriers may want provisions for their return as far as Cumberland, it is requested that you will supply them with what will be necessary for that purpose.

And you may be assur'd that any Services you can do to Government, will be as far as can be suitably rewarded. I am &c

(Sign'd) Rich^d Bulkeley

John Anderson, Esqr Superintend[e]nt of Indians at St Johns River.

1. Council Letter Book, 233, N.S.Arch.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO WILLIAM WATSON¹

Sir

Cambridge Jany 20, 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 15 Inst. His Excellency is glad to hear of the vessels being libelled & doubts not of your assiduity to have the legality of the Captures determined as soon as It shall be in your power.

His Excellency is well pleased that the Schooner *Harrison* is yet good & fit for service, & from the Character you have given Captn Dyar, is willing that you should give him the command of her, & to Indulge such men as may offer their service to Inlist only for Six months – The Captain thinks that a square Sail & some other small sails will be of great advantage to him – This his Excellency leaves to your Judgement: If they are necessary in your opinion, and the expence will not be out of proportion to the benefit likely to be derived from them, you will please to provide them. You will immediately dispatch the Captain

upon a cruize with such Sails as he has, If they will Answer, those he wants may be made while he is out.

As to the Vessels taken & carried into Dartmouth by Major [Benjamin] Tupper, his Excellency thinks they ought to be Libelled. I am &c

R H

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN CHARLES DYAR¹

To Capt Charles Dyar of the Armed Schooner *Harrison*

Sir You being appointed Captain and Commander of the Armed Schooner *Harrison* in the Service of the United Colonies are to Pay all attention and Obedience to the following Instructions –

1st You are to proceed immediately on a Cruze against Such Vessels as may be found on the high Seas or elsewhere bound Inwards or outwards to or from Boston in the Service of the Ministerial Army – and to take & Seize all such vessels, Laden with Soldiers Arms Ammunition or Provisions going to or from Said town of Boston or which you shall have good reason to Suspect are employed for the purpose of aiding or assisting the Ministerial Troops or Navy –

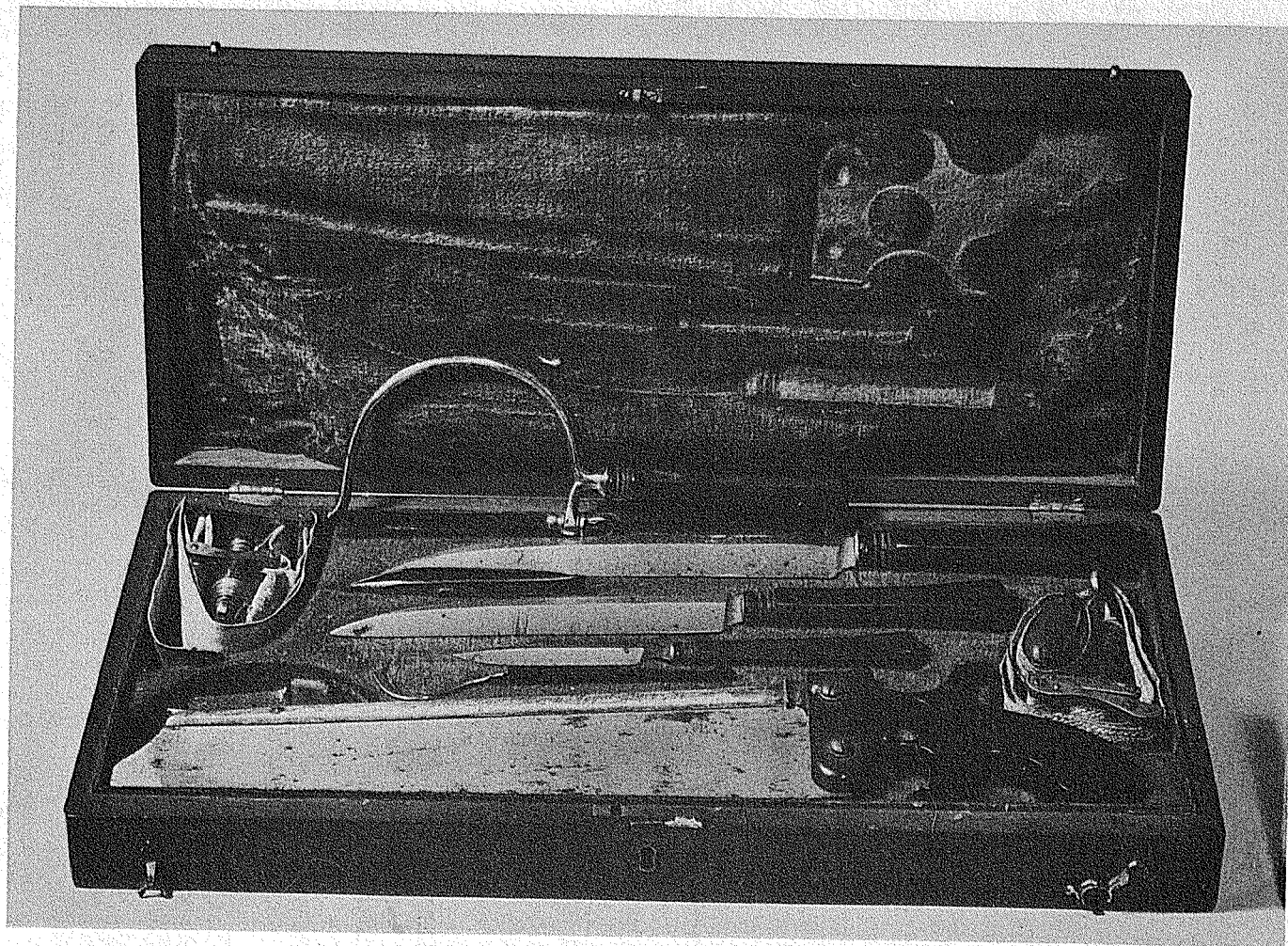
2 If you should be so Successful as to take any of Said vessels, you are immediately to Send them to the Nearest and Safest port to this Camp, under a Carefull Prize Master directing him to Deliver Said Prize unto the Agent by me appointed for the port into which a prize is Carried (if any there) if none Should be in that port notice is to be given to the nearest Agent thereto at same time an Account of such Capture to be transmitted to Head Quarters with all particulars thereto belonging by express –

3 You are to be very particular & diligent in your Search after all Letters or other papers tending to discover the designs of the Enemy or of any other kind & to forward all such to me as soon as possible –

4 Whatever prisoners you take, must be treated with Kindness & Humanity – there private stock of Money & apparel to be given them after being strictly Searched and when they arrive at any port, they are to be delivered up to the Agent [(]if any there) if not to the Comittee of safety of such port –

5 For your encouragement and that of the other Officers & men to diligence & Activity over and above there pay which will be the same as in the Army of the United Colonies – you shall be entitled to one third part of every vessel & Cargo, after Condemnation in the Court of Admiralty, which shall be [by] you taken & Sent into port if she is an Armed Vessel that resists as an inducement for you, your Officers and Men to act Courageously one half of Vessel & Cargo will be allotted to you which parts are to be devided in the following proportions –

Captain	6 shares	Gunner	1½ Shares
First Lieut	5. do	Gunners Mate	1½
2 Lieut	4. do	private	1 Share each
Ships Master	3. do		
Steward	2 do		
Mate	1½ do		



Amputation instruments used by a naval surgeon, late 18th century.

6 As Captain Manly is appointed Comodore of the four Schooners now fitted out – he will fix upon proper Signals by which you may Know each other & you are to obey him as Such in all Cases. if it Should So happen that a Prize is taken in sight of other Vessels fitted out at the Continental expence or at the Charge of Individuals – the Rules which take place among private Ships of War to be observed in the distribution of prize Money –

7 You are to be extreemly Careful & frugal of your Ammunition & other Stores – by no Means to waist any of it in salutes, or for any purpose but what is absolutely Necessary –

8 You, Your Officers & Men are from the date hereof to Consider yourselves as engaged in the Service of the United Colonies & in every respect Subject to the Rules & Regulations formed by the Congress – for the Government of the Army Raisd for the defence of American liberty – or as near as possible Consistent with the difference of the Land & Sea Service – a book of the rules & articles you will receive herewith at the end of which – you your Officers and Men must Subscribe Your names –

9 As it is very aparent that the ill Success which attended the Major part of the Armed Vessels in former Cruzes was owing to the want of Industry & the inactivity of the Officers who Commanded You will therefore take Notice, that a fondness to be on Shore – indolence or inactivity will meat with there Just deserts – for if it appears, that the Captain or any of the Officers do not exert themselves & do all that they possibly Can for there own & the publick good – they shall be dismissd the Service – & renderd incapable of Serveing there Country in any Honourable Station hereafter – in the Army or Navy –

Given under my hand at Head Quarters, Cambridge the 20th day of January 1776

[George Washington]

[Endorsed] Copy of Instructns to Capt Dyar of the *Harrison* Jan'y 20. 1776

The same to Capt'n John Ayres of the *Lynch* Schooner Feby. 1. 1776.

The Same to Capt Wm. Burke of the *Warren* Feby. [blotted] 1776 ²

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. While not listed in the endorsement, a copy of these instructions went on January 20 to Samuel Tucker, commanding the schooner *Franklin*. An edited version appears in John H. Sheppard, *The Life of Samuel Tucker* (Boston, 1868), 32–35. This same source quotes a letter from Tucker to John Holmes, March 6, 1818, in which the captain said: "The first cruise I made was performed in January 1776, and I had to purchase the small arms to encounter my enemy with money from my own pocket, or go without them; and the consort [his wife] made the banner I fought under, the field of which was white and the union was green, made therein in the figure of a pine tree, made of cloth of her own purchasing, at her own expense."

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir

Cambridge Jan'y 20, 1776

Your letter of the 19 Inst was delivered early yesterday & would have been Answered before this Evening, had not his Excellency's time been much employed in dispatchg Expresses to sundry places.

His Excellency is much pleased that our fleet is likely to get out again & wishes your return as soon as you have dispatched them. Herewith you will receive the Commissions you wrote for, also a Copy of private Signals used by the Kings Ships in the American service, which his Excellency desires you to furnish each of our Captains with & to return the Copy sent, when you come back.

As to the Attempt on the *Fowey*, he thinks that the situation of our affairs at present will not Justifie It – But on your arrival will consider more of It, should there be the same prospect of success that you apprehend there is now.

The report you have had is too true, but not so bad we hope as you have heard – However It is certain that the Great & Gallant [Richard] Montgomery is no more – he with his Aid de Camp Capn [John] McPherson, & Capn [Jacob] Cheeseman of New York fell the first fire – Also Col [Benedict] Arnold is wounded in the Leg – I am &c.

R H H

1. Washington Papers, LC.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JOSEPH DENISON ¹

Sir

Cambridge Jany 20, 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to Acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 8 Inst: As you from having fully inquired into matters respecting the Capture of Captain [John] Dennys vessell, ² must be better able to determine the propriety of the same than here, he again refers it intirely to your decision, In full confidence that the same will be founded upon the principles of Equity & the strictest Justice – I am &c

To Joseph Denison Esqr

Chairman of the Committee &c Stonington –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Warren*, from Gaspé for Nantucket, taken November 5, 1775, by Captains Nicholson Broughton and John Selman in Washington's schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*. See Volume 2, 899–900.

ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO JONATHAN JACKSON ¹

Sir

Cambridge Jany 20. 1776

I am commanded by his Excellency to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16 Inst, with the Inclosures No 1. 2. 3: 4 & 5.²

His Excellency desires thro you Sir, to return the Committee of Newberry port his sincere thanks for their great politeness in this Instance & wishes that these prizes may be Succeeded by others I am &c

To Jonath Jackson Esq

Chairman of the Comittee of Newb port

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. These were letters found concealed on board the ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK,¹

Dear Sir

Cambridge Head Quarters Jan'y 20. 1776

I arrived here the 15 Instant & delivered the Money to the Treasurer & your Letters to the General Court – I immediately endeavoured to find out the most convenient & safe place to Build the Vessells for the Continental Service,² Consulted the several Members of the Council & other Gentlemen who were of opinion that Newbury Port was the most suitable place Upon all Accounts & I conferred with Mr Cross of Newbury Port³ about Building the same who is gone to that Town to Confer with Mr Jona Greenleaf upon the Subject, I think I shall Contract with those Gentlemen, I have already engaged fifteen Tons of Hemp & am Informed can procure the Rest & Duck sufficient for both Vessells of Mr Willm Dennie, I have purchased the sea Coal of Mr [Thomas] Mifflin, The Iron, in order to get it upon the cheapest Terms must be had from Philadelphia – Mr Cross tells me as the Timber for these Vessells must be very large, he must pay the Cash down for it & therefore must be furnished with at least one Third of the Builders Bill immediately or he shall not be able to procure the stuff; this will amount at least to Two Thousand pounds lawfull money; The Cost of the Hemp Duck Coal will be very Considerable so that you will perceive the Necessity of my being furnished with a Considerable Sum of Money immediately in order to proceed upon this Affair with Expedition. –

As there will be constant & frequent Calls Upon the Continental Treasury for Cash I submit it to your Consideration whether it would not be adviseable to secure the Cash for the Vessells to be Built in our Province immediately. I hope to hear from you soon with further directions and also the drafts of the Vessells, let me know the size of the Timber & the Thickness of the plank, pray be as particular in your directions as possible – We have no news here except the repulse of Our Troops at Quebec. I heartily greive for the loss of Genl Montgomery & his Aid the Camp Mr McPherson – we have taken A Vessel from London & another from Ireland with Provisions for the Ministerial Troops,⁴ in great haste I conclude with my respects to Mrs Hancock [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Personal Papers, Misc., Accession 1930, LC.

2. Cushing had arrived from Philadelphia with authority to have built the two Continental frigates to be constructed in Massachusetts.

3. Stephen and Ralph Cross were involved in building the frigates; Cushing is not clear about which one he consulted.

4. The ship *Friends* and brig *Sukey*, carried into Newburyport on January 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown] Saturday, January 20, 1776.

A Petition of Philip Hodgkins, setting forth the cruel Treatment he met with from Col. Cargill, and praying the Consideration of the Court.

Read, and committed to the Committee appointed to consider the Letter from Mr. Samuel Jordan brought down Yesterday.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] In Council Jany 20th 1776

On Examination of the Prisoners by the Major part of the Council – Orderd – That a Letter be wrote to his Excelly Genl Washington & sent with 2 of the prisoners vizt. Lieut. Hill & his Servant to be at his Excellys disposal – That a Letter be wrote to the Comtee of Safety of Newbury Port & that the Captains of the 2 Vessels ² be sent to their care & disposal – And John Gray the other prisoner be sent to the Goal in Newbury Port & held in close confinement at his Own expence until further Ord

John Lowell Dpy Secy P T

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 203a.

2. Archibald Bowie, master of the ship *Friends*, and Madett Engs, master of the brig *Sukey*. See Jonathan Jackson to the Massachusetts Council, January 16, 1776.WILLIAM SEVER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Council Chamber [Watertown,] Jany 20th 1776.

Sir The Council upon Examination of several persons who were sent here by the Committee of Safety of Newburyport, and were taken on board a Ship from London and a Brig from Cork, both bound to Boston, find that one of the passengers in the latter is a Lieutenant in the 5th Regimt (Earl Percy's) now in Boston, they have therefore ordered the sd Lieutenant Hill with his Servant to be sent to your Excellency to be disposed of as you may think proper –

In the Name & by order of the Council

W Sever

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE NEWBURYPORT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Council Chamber [Watertown,] Jany 20th 1776

Gentlemen We have sent to your care Archibald Bowie and Madatt Engs Masters of the two Vessels lately taken and carried into Newbury port,² and you are requested to see that the Abovemention'd persons do not go without the Limits of sd Town, and if you see cause therefor you are desired to confine sd persons or either of them 'till the further order of the Council –

In the Name & by Ord'r of the Council

W Severs

To The Committee of Safety Newbury Port

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 223.

2. The ship *Friends*, and the brig *Sukey*.JOHN ADAMS TO THOMAS CUSHING AND OTHERS ¹

[Watertown, January 20, 1776]

Mr. Adams presents his Compliments to Mr [Thomas] Cushing Mr [Joseph] Palmer, Mr [Elbridge] Gerry and the other Gentlemen at Mr Hunts and begs the

Favour of them, to assist the Bearer, in the Business mentioned in the within Letter.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 212.

2. See Isaac Smith to Adams, January 19, 1776.

JOSEPH OTIS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Cou[nc]ell of the Colony of the Massachusetts bay
This May Certify that Isaac Smith Esqr had a vessell (Eb[e]nezer Nickerson Master) Called the *Sallee* arrived at Barnstable from St Eustatia with three hundred and Fifty Weight of Gun Powder which was Landed there as I am Informed by Letter

your Honours [&c.]
Joseph Otis

Watertown Janry 20th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 213.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL IN FAVOR OF ISAAC SMITH ¹

Council Chamber: Watertown. Janry 20th 1776

Whereas. Isaac Smith Esqr late of Boston, has Imported into the Town of Barnstable, within this Colony, in the Schr *Sally*, Ebenezer Nickerson Master, from St. Eustatius, a Quantity of Powder. — ²

Order'd, agreeable to a Resolution of the American Congress of the 15th July last, that he be & hereby is permitted to export, one hundred and fifty Quintals Fish to the West Indies (being about the Value of said Powder) in the Schooner *Endeavour* Jesse Harding Master, he the said Isaac Smith, giving bond, to the Committee of Inspection, for the Town, from wch he may Export the said fish, that he will lay out the Neat p[rocee]ds of the same in Powder, Saltpetre, or Sulphur, (provided they are to be had, at the port to which said Vessell may go) and Import the same into any ports within this Colony, (Boston & Nantucket Excepted.)

W Sever	B Lincoln
W Spooner	Cha Chauncy
Caleb Cushing	M Farley
I Winthrop	Moses Gill
T Cushing	Jabez Fisher
Jed ^h Foster	B White
Eldad Taylor	S Holten

John Whetcomb

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 214.

2. See Isaac Smith to John Adams, January 19, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, JAN. 20." ¹

You desire I will tell you the State of the Fleet. By what I can yet learn they are only a nominal Fleet; almost all of them came out short of their lowest Peace Compliment, and have had no Opportunity of recruiting their Numbers; so that from Death and Desertion, and other Accidents, they are reduced to a State of

Inactivity. The whole of our Numbers put together would not man one half of the Ships, which are likewise in want of all Sorts of Stores and Necessaries. You may depend on it, the Remissness complained of did not arise from the Admiral, who frequently left his own Ship in too defenceless a State (in my Opinion) in order to keep his Cruisers at Sea. On the Information I have procured, I do not scruple to assure you he has been cruelly used. What we are to do who succeed I know not. Much will be expected, but little can be done. Those Ships who have cruized have suffered much, and are much dispirited. The Truth of the Case is: You in England complain of them; we in America complain as much of you: This is general. All Ranks of Officers think themselves neglected at home, and those of the Fleet have never served under the same Disadvantages they do at present. Ill manned, ill provided, ill supplied: They accuse you in England of being the Cause of their ill Success. The Ordnance Vessel, said to be taken, is, I believe, drove to the West Indies, as I cannot find any Authority to suppose she is in the Hands of the Provincials. Eight Ships are arrived that had Stock in, but they lost almost the whole on the Passage. The Arrival of a Ship, should she contain nothing, serves to enliven the Garrison, and to keep up their Spirits. We intend to form Packets for the Amusement of our Friends of the Fleet; most of which have for their Comfort the Change of Administration, and particularly that of Lord S — [Sandwich].

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, February 27, 1776.

JOHN AND NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOSIAH HEWES ¹

(Copy)

Providence Januy 20th 1776

Sr We being about to Enter in to a Contract with the Congress Committee of Secr[e]cy to Import on Acot of the Cont[i]nent Sundry Articels as they May Enumerate to the Amount of Twenty Four Thousand Dollers and Neither of us being at phileda Makes it Necessary to Appoint a Friend to Sighne the Contract in our behalf and have Therefore Inclosed You our Genl & Special power of Attorney for that purpose, You'l please to Apply to the Honoble Saml Ward Esqr who is one of Sd Committe of Secr[e]cy & Acquaint him of your being Desired to Negotiate the Matter for us, & we now haveing a Good oppertunity to Send for the Mony by the Berrers Mr Nichs Cooke Junr & Mr Joseph Dolbear Russill Junr we Desire You'l Finnish the Contract with Mr Ward as Soone as You Can So that these Young Gentle[men] Mr Cooke & Mr Russill may Receive And bring all the Money to us Excepting Three Thousand Dollers which You'l please to keep in Your hands & Cr John Browns act with as he proposes Sending Capt Coffin (if he arrives safe) Immediately back to You with the Sloop he is now in, for another Load of Flour Iron &c This being the needfull we Rest [&c.]

N B
Jn^o B

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCB.L.

NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN TO SAMUEL WARD ¹

(Copy)

Providence Jany 20, 1776.

Honrd Sir Your Brother Mr secry Ward shewed Us your late Letter wherein you Mention that If we Inclined to Contract wth the Honbl Contentental Comte of Secrecy as before Hinted by Letter, That we Should write you Upon it, And having taken the Matter into Consideration, have Concluded to enter into A Contract for the Sum Mentiond by J B — for Twenty four Thousand Dollars, the Value thereof to be shiped to such foreign ports & the Nett proceeds Laid Out in such things as shall be Deredcted and for that purpose have Wrote Our friend Mr Josiah Hewes Mercht in Phia & Given him Our General & special Power to Make & sign in Our behalf such Contract, as the Honbl Comte make with Others for Procuring Clothing &c As Messrs Cooke & Russel [Nicholas Cooke, Jr. and Joseph Dolbear Russell] are Dispatch'd by the Navel Comte here, to bring them a Sum of Money, We desire you Yr Honr to pay the Whole Amount to Mr Hewes & the sd Young Gentl[emen] that they may be Dispatched on Our Accots as Soon as on Acct the Navel Affairs, You'll please to Make the Contract as Extensive as to the Articlcs wanted as may be We are &c

Nich^o Brown
John Brown

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS AND JOHN BROWN ¹

BE IT REMEMBERED, That it is agreed by and between John Brown of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island of the one part, and Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin, Josiah Bartlet, John Langdon, Robert Morris, and Thomas McKean, Esquires, Members of the Committee of secrecy appointed by the Honourable Continental Congress of the Thirteen united Colonies of North America of the other part. That a Voyage or Voyages Shall be undertaken for the Speedy procuring Thirty Six Tons of Good Gun powder (or if Gun Powder is not to be had then as much Salt Petre with a proportion of 15 lb of Sulphur to every Hundred pounds of salt Petre as will be Sufficient to make that quantity of Gun Powder) One Thousand Stand of Good arms, one Thousand double bridled Gun Locks, Twenty Tons of Lead, and One Thousand Bolts of Russia Duck, — if the arms are not to be had, their value to be laid out in Good Gun Powder (or Salt Petre & Sulphur) If neither are to be had — then in Ticklinburgs, Oznabrigs, or Vitreys — or in Case those are not to be had the neat proceeds to be returned in Gold or Silver — That the vessel or Vessels shall be Charterd for the use of the united Colonys aforesaid, the freight to be paid on their return, the Owners runing the risque of the sea and the united Colonies to Insure them against all British Captors — That Skilful and prudent SuperCargo[es] be Employd by the said John Brown, That five pCent Commission shall be allowed for purchaseing the Cargoes to be Exported, two and a half pCent on the sales thereof in the West Indies or in Europe, and two & a half pCent for purchaseing the returns — That Twenty Thousand Dollars Continental Currency be advanced to the said John Brown for which he is hereafter to render an Account to the united Colonies, who are to bear the whole risque of the

said Adventure – The said Powder &c is to be put on shore in some safe and Convenient place in the united Colonies Eastward of Chesopeak bay and notice thereof given to a Quorum of the said Committe[e] of Secrecy as soon as possible – Witness our Hands the Day and Year aforesaid –

Sam: Ward
B Franklin
Josiah Bartlett
Rob^t Morris
Tho M:Kean

[Endorsed]

Providence Jany 20. 1776

Recd of John Brown Four Thousand Six Hundred & sixty six Dollars & Two thirds which together with Two Thousand Dollars sent to Nantuckett to purchase Oil Make up One Third of the Within sum And I do hereby Ingage to be One third part Consarn'd in the Within Contract & to be Accountable to the secret Committee Accordingly

Nich^o Brown

Dolrs	4666 2/3
1/3 sent p J Waterman to buy Oil	} 2000

Dolrs	6666 2/3
-------	----------

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOHN BROWN'S BOND FOR BRIG *Sally* TO PROCEED TO SURINAM ¹

Know all Men by these Presents that I John Brown of Providence in the County of Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island &c Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr General Treasurer of the Colony aforesaid in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds lawful Money of the said Colony to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity for the Use of the Colony or to his Successors in said Office; to which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors & Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal Dated the Twentieth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said John Brown hath imported into the said Colony a Quantity of Powder and warlike Stores amounting to Eight Hundred and Thirty four Pounds 5/ and in Consequence of a Resolution of the Continental Congress of the 15th of July last for the Encouragement of the Importation of Powder hath equipped the Brige *Sally* Sylvanus Jenckes Master with a Cargo for Surinam but hath put on board Goods to the Amount of Two Hundred and Forty six Pounds 11/7 more than the Value of the warlike Stores so imported; and whence pursuant to said Resolution and of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Colony the said Sylvanus Jenckes hadth received Permission from the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr Governor of said Colony to proceed to Surinam in the said Brig with the said Cargo: Now the Condition of this Obligation is such that if the said Sylvanus Jenckes shall in all Things during his said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress and shall lay out such a Proportion of the Neat Proceeds

[Vol. XIII.]

THE

Lately Printed by Henry Hall.

[Nums. 629.]

PROVIDENCE
AND COUNTRY



GAZETTE;
JOURNAL.

Containing the freshest AD- VICES, Foreign and Domestic.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1776.

Wanted immediately,

A Number of good Ship-Carpenters; also a large Quantity of Ship-Timber and Plank, for which Cash will be given on Delivery. For Terms apply to Messieurs JOHN BROWN, JOHN SMITH, JOSEPH and WILLIAM RUSSELL, or CLARK and NIGHTINGALE.

Providence, Jan. 12, 1776.

Wanted for Continental frigates being built at Providence.

of his Cargo as the said sum of Two Hundred and Forty six Pounds 11/7 bears to the Sum of One Thousand and Eighty Pounds 16/7 (the whole Amount of his Cargo) in Powder Salt petre Small Arms Sulphur, Duck, Ozenbrigs or Ticklenburgh, giving the Preference to Powder, Saltpetre & Small Arms and import the same into this or some other of the United Colonies, and lodging within Three Days after his Arrival in this Colony proper Certificates in the Secretary's Office (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered

John Brown

in the Presence of

Henry Ward William Mumford

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1776

Providence, January 20.

The following is sent us as a particular Account of the Movements of the Fleet in the River since Yesterday Se'nnight, and of the Actions which happened in Consequence thereof.

On Friday the 12th Inst. Capt. Wallace, with all the Vessels under his Command, consisting of 12 Sail, came up the River from Newport, and at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon landed about 250 Men on the Island of Prudence, where about 40 or 50 of our Men were stationed, under the Command of Capt. [Job] Pearce. They were soon fired upon by the Enemy, which was returned with much Spirit; but Capt. Pearce finding the Enemy greatly superior in Number, retreated, and with his Men went off the Island; he had one Man wounded and taken prisoner, and it is said several of the Enemy were killed and wounded. The Enemy about Sunset burnt seven Houses on the Island, which being discovered here, his Honor the Deputy Governor, General [William] West, Col. [William] Richmond, Col. [Nathaniel] Martin, Col. [John] Cook[e], Capt. [Matthew] Allen, and Capt. [Thomas] Wells, immediately set out to send Forces upon the Island, by Way of Warren and Bristol, from the former of which Places General West ordered 50 Men, directing them to join such as should be collected at Warwick Neck, and proceed to the Island. — His Honor, with the General, then went to Bristol, and sent off Major Talman [Benjamin Tallman], with 80 Men in Whaleboats, who landed about the Dawn of Day. — Capt. [William] Barton, with a few Men, had landed from Head-Quarters, but those at Warwick Neck were not able to join them for Want of Boats. About Nine o'Clock in the Morning the Enemy landed 250 Men, and attacked Lieut. Car [John Carr], who was stationed with a Guard of 40 Men to observe their motions; the Remainder of our Men, about 50 in Number, soon coming up, a smart Engagement ensued, which lasted three Hours. The Enemy several Times sent out flanking Parties, which were as often drove back to their main Body. They were at length drove to their Vessels, leaving our People in Possession of the Island, having the Night before got on board about 100 Sheep, but no Cattle are missing. — Two of their Men were found dead after the Action, and one wounded in the Thigh; they likewise

carried off a Number of Killed and Wounded, particularly an Officer, that appeared to be badly wounded, and who it is supposed had the Command. We had only three Men slightly wounded. — Our Officers and Men behaved with the greatest Bravery, and had there been Boats at Warwick to carry over the Reinforcements from thence, it is thought the Enemy's whole Party wou'd have been killed or taken. — Sunday Evening the Enemy burnt two Buildings on Patience Island, on Monday they cut a Quantity of Wood at Hope Island, and Yesterday it is said returned to Newport.

Yesterday Se'nnight [January 12], while the Bomb Brig ¹ lay off Prudence, the Gunner and 5 Seamen made their Escape in a Boat, and arrived safe at Bristol.

A Ship is arrived at the Eastward from London in which came Passenger Capt. Gideon Crawford, of this Town,² by whom we have received a London Print of the 31st of October; the most material Articles contained therein are as follows: that the House of Commons had resolved on granting a Supply to his Majesty; that a Bill for embodying the Militia of the Kingdom had been read in the House, and ordered a second Reading; that 7 Frigates, from 28 to 36 Guns, were to be fitted out immediately for America; and that the Men of War stationed at Newfoundland, for Protection of the Fishery, instead of returning to England, were ordered to Boston.

Capt. Crawford informs that a Ship and Brig from London laden with Coal and pickled Cabbage for the ministerial Army at Boston, were carried into Newbury-Port last Monday, by an American Privateer.³

1. H.M. Brig *Bolton*.

2. The brig *Squirrel*; see *Essex Journal*, January 12, 1776.

3. The ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master, and the brig *Sukey*, Madett Engs, master.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Jany. 20th, 1776.

On the subject of the resolve of Congress for an exchange of Lieut. Tylee [Edward Tilley], we beg leave to inform the Congress, that a few days before the receipt of that resolve, application was made to Capt. [George] Vandeput under our direction, by a person connected with Lieut. Tylee to procure his exchange, Capt. Vandeput answered that it was not in his power to exchange him at present; that he had long since wrote to his admiral for directions on that subject, the answer to which had miscarried, and that he had not any directions to exchange. We have appointed a member to request the mayor of this city to use his influence with Capt. Vandeput or Capt. [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], to make a second application to the admiral on that matter.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 258.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO. A.M.

January 20th, 1776.

Col. [Abraham] Lott came into the committee and conferred with them relating to his vessel, which is to go to the foreign W. Indies for gunpowder; and the material parts or outlines being fixed, the agreement was left to be completed by Mr. [Comfort] Sands.

Thomas Henderson, Esqr. a major of minute men in Monmouth county, in New-Jersey, attended on the Committee, and informed that he was sent by the Committee of Safety of New-Jersey, with a guard, to conduct several prisoners taken in New-Jersey, being inhabitants of this Colony, who had been proceeding in the sloop *Polly and Ann*, from this port, to Boston.

Major Henderson delivered to the Committee the affidavit of James Webb, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

James Webb, of full age, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that in Decr. last, he, this deponent, with his wife, entered on board a small sloop in New-York harbour, called the *Polly and Ann*, whereof one Hains was captain, bound (as this deponent was then informed) to Boston, which vessel was laden with provisions. That on or about the 20th of said Decr. the said vessel sailed from New-York, and that he never heard that said vessel was bound to any other port than Boston, until said vessel soon after met with bad weather, when it was said on board said vessel that she was bound to the West Indies; that on the 23d Decr. the said vessel was stranded on the Jersey shore; that the captain of the said sloop, one Isaac Gidney master, Bartholomew Hains a passenger, one Palmer who owned part of the cargo, all from Mamaroneck, in Westchester county, Moses Marden, one Graham, this deponent and his wife, with one Sanford and two more, were on board said vessel when she stranded. That this deponent verily believes said vessel was bound to Boston; that since the said vessel was on shore, this deponent observed that the labels on the packages, casks and boxes, were torn off, but that he does not remember to have taken notice of any marks or labels on any of the freight so as to describe them, before taken off; that most of the persons on board left the said vessel to go by land to New-York, soon after they got on the shore, among whom this deponent went to New-York, from whence he lately returned to this Province for his wife and several small effects he had on board; and further this deponent saith not.

James Webb.

Sworn the 11th Jany. 1776, before me.

John Dennis.

Major Henderson also delivered a copy of the proceedings of the Committee of Safety of New-Jersey, with respect to those prisoners, which was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit :

Committee of Safety,
Prince Town, January 11th, 1776.

This Committee received information from the Committee of the county of Monmouth, by Dr. Scudder and Dr. Henderson, and also by letter from the chairman of said committee, that a small sloop called the *Polly and Ann*, one Hains captain, was, on the 23d of December last, stranded on Squam Beach, on board of which was a quantity of beef, pork, and other provisions; which vessel and cargo is now in the care and custody of Col. Furman, except such articles as were perishable, which the committee directed to be sold by Dr. Scudder and Dr. Henderson; an inventory of which cargo, as well such as were sold as such as remain, was laid before this Committee; and one James Webb, a passenger on board said vessel which is stranded, appeared before this Committee, by whose deposition it appears that said vessel was bound from New-York to Boston, and from all circumstances the provisions on board were destined for the ministerial army. The committee, taking the above matters into consideration, think it proper that the whole of said cargo be immediately sold and the vessel secured, which vessel, with the amount of the sales, after deducting the necessary expenses, be referred to the disposal of the Congress of this Colony at their next sitting; and that Col. David Furman, Dr. N. Scudder, and Dr. Thomas Henderson, be and are hereby authorized and empowered to secure the above said vessel, and complete the sales of the cargo, in some convenient time, and account for their sales and report their proceedings to the Congress of this Province at their next sitting; and may deliver to the seamen and passengers belonging to said vessel, all such clothing and other effects as belong to them, (exclusive of the cargo,) provided they in a reasonable time call for the same; and that the thanks of this Committee be returned to Col. Furman for his extraordinary care and vigilance in securing the said vessel and cargo.

And, Whereas, it appears that the captain, master and passengers of the said sloop *Polly and Ann*, stranded on Squam Beach, are inhabitants of the Colony of New-York, it is therefore,

Ordered, That the said captain, master and passengers, or such of them as are in this Province, be conveyed under a guard as Col. David Furman may think proper, to New-York, and delivered to the Provincial Congress or Committee of Safety, to be dealt with as they may think proper.

A true copy, By order of the Committee.

Abra. Clark, D. Secy.

James Webb being personally brought before the Committee says, that he intended to go to Britain to take care of a relation and her estate, and expected to be enabled to return to this country at some future time and carry on his business with spirit; that he was going to Boston to obtain a passage from thence to Britain; that he went on board the sloop *Polly and Ann* before she sailed; that he did not then see the captain, but that a person then on board informed him that the sloop was to go to Boston, and that they would take him and his wife passengers; thereupon he went on board of the vessel the next day, which was the day before she sailed; that the vessel sailed on Wednesday and was stranded on Saturday night following; that the captain told him that his cousin Bartholomew Hains fled from home, and that in running away he fell down and lost either his gun or bayonet or both, and would not stay to take it up.

Major Henderson says that James Webb appeared open and candid in his examination before the Committee of New-Jersey.

James Webb requested a certificate to protect him while he tarries in this Colony. Thereupon a certificate was given to him in the words following, to wit:

This Committee have heard and examined the case of James Webb, in his presence, and nothing appearing against him he is discharged; and this certificate is given to him as a protection whilst he tarries in this Colony and demeanes himself well and consistent with the liberties of this Colony.

Major Henderson says that Hains, the captain of the said sloop, broke jail in New-York a few weeks ago, and stole a boat and got on board of the man of war, and was there protected until the vessel sailed, and the said Haines confessed this to one of the guard on the way to New-York. He farther says, that the casks and boxes found on board of the said sloop had had labels nailed to them, but that all the labels were torn off; that among the labels torn off he found one directed to Genl. How [William Howe], Boston, turnips; another, to Mrs. Ann Wood, Boston; another to Genl. [Timothy] Ruggles, Boston; several to one Willard, at Boston; and a back of a letter directed to Genl. How; that the directions to Genl. Ruggles is lost, but that the directions to Genl. How and Mrs. Wood can be sent here.

That he was informed by Wm. Taylor that several persons who had been passengers in the sloop *Poly and Ann* had informed John Morris, of Shrewsbury, that three quarter cask of Madeira wine and other things which were on board for Genl. How were shipped by Governor Tryon, and by a bit of an invoice, found it cost £ 22 10s. per quarter cask.

That John Graham declared he had shipped on board to go to the West Indies, but that he verily believes the sloop was bound to Boston.

Major Henderson says that it appears to him the sloop must have been intended to go only coastwise, for that it is testified by the late master and people on board that they did not keep any reckoning or heave a log-line.

David Rhea says that Capt. Hains told him he was put in jail because he refused to deliver up his arms, and that his punishment had been determined; that he should not eat nor drink until he had delivered them up. That he broke jail by breaking six grates out of a window, and stole a boat about midnight, and got on board of the man of war. That the sloop *Polly and Ann* was purchased for him about three days or less before the time of her sailing, and that she was purchased of Isaac Gidney.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 256-58.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 20, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Captain Henry Shylock [Shyrook], for his expences in bringing Dr. John Smith from Hagars town, for his expences in returning home, the sum of 89 3/0 dollars.

To John Nelson, for his expences in bringing the said Dr. Smith from the Little Meadows to Hagars town, and for his trouble in attending him to this city, with allowance of expences in returning home, the sum of 75 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee on General Schuyler's letter, brought in a farther report, which being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That General Washington be desired to despatch a general officer, if he can be spared from the service at Cambridge, to command the army in Canada.

That it will not be expedient at present to send a committee of Congress to Canada.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 72-76.

2. Further resolutions were passed this day relative to supplying the army in Canada with money and gunpowder, and authorizing raising additional forces.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, January 20th 1776

Sir The Colony of South Carolina has been so fortunate as to oblige Lord W. Campbell, with the armed vessel to quit their harbour. Being earnestly desirous of providing for their defence they have resolved to fit out some armed vessels, but not having seamen among themselves they have dispatched Capn [Robert] Cochran to the Northward to enlist a number of seamen for the service of that Colony.

Lest the offers he was empowered to make might prejudice the service the Congress have chalked out a plan for him to go by, as you will see in the enclosed extracts and I am directed to desire you will please to forward this service —

John Hancock President

1. *Washington Papers*, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

In Committee,

[Philadelphia] 20th Jan'y, 1776.

Robert Towers, Commiss'y, Reports his having deliver'd to Capt. [Nathaniel] Falconer, on account of Congress,

500 lbs of Musket Balls,

200 lbs of Lead,

Resolved, That the Number of Artillery Men in the service of this province, be augmented to one hundred Men, (including non Commission'd officers,) and a suitable number of Commission'd officers to be appointed thereto.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 463, 464.

ARTICLES OF ENLISTMENT FOR THE CONTINENTAL NAVY¹

The INVITATION

Of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, to their Brethren who are Sons of LIBERTY and SEAMEN, to engage in the defence of the LIBERTIES of AMERICA.

[Reedy Island, Delaware River, January 20, 1776]²

WE whose hands and marks are hereunto set and subscribed being officers, seamen and marines, do and each of us doth agree to and with *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* of the good *Sloop* called the *Fly* belonging to the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, now bound on a cruise, from the port of *Philadelphia* against the enemies of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America in manner and form following, That is to say,

In the first place – We do hereby agree for, by, and under the considerations after mentioned, to and with the said Commander, forthwith to enter and ship ourselves, and in due and seasonable time, to repair on board the sail *Sloop* called the *Fly* and during the term of twelve months, unless sooner discharged by the CONGRESS, to the utmost of our power and ability respectively to discharge our several services or stations, and in everything to be conformable and obedient to the several requirings and lawful commands of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* and his successors in command.

Secondly – We do also oblige and subject ourselves, to serve on board the said ship, during the said cruise, and as she is a ship of war, We do severally oblige ourselves by these articles, to comply with and be subject to the rules and discipline of the American Fleet as established by the CONGRESS, and to be governed and commanded in time of action with an enemy according to the same rules, and submit ourselves to the same punishments and penalties as are there inflicted, in case we or any of us, offer to desert our quarters, or not obey the commands of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* or his successors in command, in giving chase to any ship or ships, vessel or vessels, or otherwise, and if upon a scrutiny of our said *Commander* or his said officers, we or any of us should be found guilty of any breach contrary to the tenor of this agreement, or any act

of cowardice, We do hereby severally submit and agree, to allow and forfeit our several and respective shares, of and in any prize or prizes we shall then have taken to be divided among the said ships company.

Thirdly – We do also severally agree and oblige ourselves that when any prize or prizes have been taken, to follow the express directions of the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* or his successors in command in boarding the said prize, and be under the command of any officer whom the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* shall appoint, and be assisting to him to carry the said prize to whatever port or ports such prize or prizes shall be assigned by the said *Commander*. And we do hereby further severally agree and covenant in that case, to be true and faithful in discharge of our duty and trust, and will not in any shape embezzle, defraud or plunder any thing on board such prize or prizes – And in case any or either of us shall be found guilty of any breach, contrary to the true meaning of this agreement, we and such of us being guilty thereof, do hereby severally submit and agree, to allow so much of all and every of our shares and parts of our shares of and in the said prize and prizes then or thenceafter to be taken, and of all our respective wages that then shall be due and coming to us in respect of our services, as shall make good such plunder or embezzlement we shall have been found guilty of.

Fourthly – And it is also further agreed, to be the true intent and meaning of all parties hereto, that the officer or officers, or any of the ships company sent on board any prize, shall have as good a share and interest of any prize as shall be thereafter taken, during his or their absence, as if he or they had been on board the said vessel at the time of taking thereof, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. – Provided always, And it is hereby agreed to be the meaning of the said last abovementioned clause, that if the said officer or officers, and such of the said ships company to whom the conduct and management of any prize has been entrusted, do not (first having accepted the commands of the said commander concerning the said prize under his or their custody) immediately repair to the respective port or harbour where the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esqr* or his successors in command shall order or do not proceed with the said prize or prizes so taken to the respective port or ports to be assigned by the said *Commander* for the time being, that then and in failure of any or either of the agreements aforesaid contained on our parts, We and each and every of us so offending, do hereby severally submit and agree to be cashiered not only for our several and respective interests and shares of and in the captures or prize money, but totally to be excluded and divested from the payment of any wages then due to us for and in respect of our several services on board the said ~~ship~~ Sloop *Fly* and the interest and shares of such delinquents that otherwise would have accrued to us.

Fifthly – And the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* for and in behalf of himself and the said Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said officers, seamen and marines whose names or marks are hereto set or subscribed to pay them in consideration of such services, so much money per month as in a schedule hereunder mentioned and set opposite to their names or marks of each respective officer, seaman or landsman, and likewise to

advance unto each and every of them one months pay at entrance (due security for the same being first given) the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge.

Sixthly – And as an encouragement to exert the valour of the seamen and mariners, in defending the said *Sloop* and in subduing and distressing the said enemy, the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* for and on behalf of the said Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth further covenant, promise and agree to and with all and every of the officers, seamen and marines parties hereto, that in case any prize or prizes shall be taken by the said ship during the intended cruize, that the same shall be proceeded against, and distributed according to the resolution of the CONGRESS, passed the 15th day of November, 1775.

Seventhly – And it is by these presents mutually agreed and consented to by and between the said *Hoysteed Hacker Esquire* and the officers, seamen and marines parties thereto, That in case the Commander for the time being lose a limb in an engagement or be otherwise disabled so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a livelihood to subsist upon, he shall receive out of the neat profits of such prize or prizes and prize goods, if so much arise, before a dividend or distribution be declared the sum of Four Hundred Dollars, or if he lose his life, his widow or children (if any) shall receive the said bounty of Four Hundred Dollars, together with all prize money to him belonging at the time of his decease. And if the Captain of the marines, or any other commission or warrant office lose a limb or be otherwise disabled, so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistence, he or they so disabled, shall receive a bounty of Three Hundred Dollars if so much arise from the neat profits as aforesaid, and in case of death, the widow or children (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same together with their share of prize money, due at the time of their decease. And if an inferior officer, marine or sailor, lose a limb or be otherwise disabled so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistence, he or they shall receive a bounty of Two Hundred Dollars, to be deducted as aforesaid, and in case of death, his widow or children (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same, together with his share of prize money due at the time of his decease.

He who first discovers a ship or other vessel which shall afterwards become a prize, shall be entitled to a double share of such prize.

He who shall first board a ship or other vessel making resistance, which shall become a prize, shall be entitled to a triple share.

There shall be ten shares of every prize which shall be taken and condemned set apart to be given to such inferior officers, seamen and marines, as shall be adjudged best to deserve them by the superior officers who shall be appointed to make such determination.

Provided always – And it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of the parties to the afore-mentioned orders and articles, that any of the officers, seamen or marines shall be liable to be removed by the CONGRESS, or Committee of CONGRESS, during the recess thereof, or by the Commander in chief of the American Fleet for the time being, from the aforesaid vessel to any other armed vessel in the service of the United Colonies, any thing contained in the foregoing orders and articles notwithstanding.

We further agree as an addition to the above Invitation that all Prize or Prizes that shall be taken in Company or in Case of a Separation by the Ship Alfred Dudley Saltonstall Esqr Commander, Abraham Whipple Esqr of the Ship Columbus, Nicholas Biddle Esqr of the Brigantine Andrew Doria, John Hopkins Esqr of the Brigantine Cabot, John Hazard Esqr of the Sloop Providence and Hoysteed Hacker of the Sloop Fly Shall be equally divided according to the Resolution of the Congress, as if at all times they were Embodied in one Fleet – In Case any of the above Ships or Vessels should be taken, Lost, or Cast away they shall be Entitled to as good a Share or Shares thereof as if they had actually been at the Capture of the aforesaid Prize or Prizes during the Term mentioned in the above Invitation – Provided always that the Officers or Seamen so Cast away or Taken shall do their best Endeavours to get Onboard some One of the above Mentioned Vessels – And the Captain of each Ship shall send as soon as may be to the Commander in Chief a Certificate under his hand that his Ships Company has Subscribed the above agreement – ³

1. RIHS. This document is based upon "Orders of Congress" as set forth at the conclusion of the "Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies," adopted November 28, 1775, by the Continental Congress. Immediate printing was ordered by Congress on November 30, 1775. That enlistments should be until January 1, 1777 was determined December 5, 1775. Hence, actual printing of the "Invitation" was not undertaken until after the passage of the December 5 resolution, as is indicated by the insertion of the words "twelve months" in the first article. Undoubtedly it was used by all the vessels in the fleet, but the printed "Invitation" is a rare document. Only two of them have been located, and one is imperfect. The second one, for the ship *Columbus*, also was used by Hoysteed Hacker at the time he assumed command of that vessel on January 5, 1777. It, likewise, is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.
2. The date is an approximate one. It is the date that Hoysteed Hacker was commissioned to the command of the *Fly*. That sloop, with forty men from Rhode Island for the fleet, had arrived at Reedy Island a day or two before, and Congress on January 16, 1776, had authorized a tender for the fleet.
3. The italicized paragraph was entered at the bottom of the "Invitation" in the same hand that had inserted names in the printed form. Nicholas Biddle, writing to his brother, James, have Signd an agreement to Share all Prizes that may be taken in Case of seperation on February 16, 1776, said: "I forgot to tell You that all the Officers and Men of the Fleet the same as if the whole fleet were together and concerned in taking Such Prizes." Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP. A copy of the agreement, undated, is in *ibid*. John Paul Jones, in a letter to Robert Morris, February 10, 1777, stated: "No man or private Society of men hath a Right to add to the Established laws of the land Yet by the Inclosed Invitation we see that Individuals in the Navy have Assumed that Authority," Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

No 2.

Gentn By a Resolution of the Convention, the City of Annapolis and the Town of Baltimore, are to be for[tified] if it be practicable; as we are much at a Loss for Cannon, and as we hear they have more at New-York and Philadelphia than they have Occasion for; we imagine they may be willing to spare some of them. We must therefore request you will be pleased to enquire of the Gentlemen of those Provinces in Congress, or of the Committee of Philadelphia, whether it will be agreeable to them, to Lend us any of them and acquaint us with their Answer; We shall want about thirty or forty eighteen Pounders – if we are favoured with

the Loan of them, they shall be returned, or paid for, if lost, or damaged, as there will be great Danger in attempting to get them round by Water, if we borrow them from the Province of New-York; we judge it may be best to get them down by Land to Delawar[e]-Bay, from thence over short carrying Places, they may be got into our Bay.

Any Money, that may be necessary to defray the Expense in getting them down, shall be sent you, or lodged, where you think proper –

We inclose you a Copy of the Resolutions of the Convention for emitting Bills of Credit, as some Clauses require particular Duties to be performed by Yourselves. We are [&c.]
[Annapolis 20] Jany 1776

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

STEPHEN STEWARD TO CHARLES WALLACE ¹

[West River] Saturday the 20 of January

Dr Charles

I have long been thinking of a moshen of sum sort to save your town I think I have now fell on one that shall withstand against any ship in the navey that they can trust before your town the moshen must float and carey 20-18 pounders it must be about 108 feet long 32 feet or less broad 5½ feet deep the sides and ends to be glasaded so that the men shall fight under cover and the sides and ends canon proof, this moshen I think may be completed in two months at the expense of 2500 £ or less the friendship I have from yourself &c Tome Hyde and Tome Harwood has partly employed my mind this six weeks past – If the commetey of safety thinks well of this mater there is no time to be lost and you must come down to me tomorrow morning as I cant wait neither on you nor the comitey in all next week, if this moshen or floating batrey can be got ready in time I think it will save your town from any thing that can be dun to it by sea, every man of you must atend to this matter as one hundred men may be employed.

I am Charles with sencir Respect yours

S. Steward

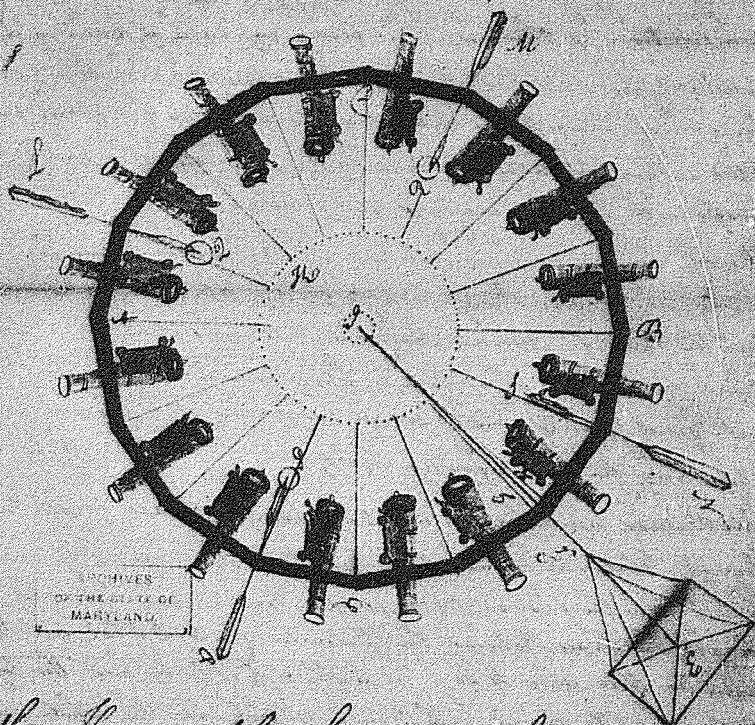
You must get John Saverson to rede this for I Cant this moshen may all-ways keep a Propeatill fier on the enemy as there must be two canon in each end and 8 on each side she may carey 52 swivels on her sides and ends to prevent her being boarded – My friend I think, ill used both Congress and convention the congress gave them ships to build to men that nose nothing of the business Jack Steward you no has been used ill by convention but still I am ready to serve my country in every degree that lys in my power.

If any opportunity send Tome Johnson a copy of this to day as he desired I would think of this sort to save the town.

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

JAMES MURRAY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn The Bearer hereof Mr James Campbell (who acted as a Capt of our militia) had the Honour, on application of being appointed a lieut of the light



To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the Province of Maryland, This new plan of a floating Battery is most humbly dedicated and presented by their most Obedient humble servant

James Campbell

Explanation

A, B, C, the primitive circle described with a Radius of 16 feet and divided into 16 equal parts

E, a Square frame of wood resembling that of a house filled with stone, to support the center pin, and keep the Battery in its place

F, the center pin upon which the Battery turns round, fixed in the frame aforesaid, and supported by strong braces,

G, H, a channel left open in the side of the Battery with a well round it, to let the center pin in and out,

I, a Well round the head of the center pin communicating with the Well G, H,

J, the Room for stores and Ammunition

K, M, N, O, the Oars by which the Battery turns round its Axis

P, Q, R, S, Gunwales like cut in the platform for the Towers to stand in

James Campbell's plan for a floating battery.

infantry company at our last convention. I am to beg Leave to introduce this Gentleman to you, as particularly worthy your notice.

I think upon conversation with him he may afford some very useful hints in those branches that we, at this time stand so much in need of, I mean gunnery & Fortification,

Have known him for several years in character of a Capt of a ship the seafaring life having been his calling from his infancy, and think, to do his [him] justice in that scene or any other that he engages in, he will merit esteem. I believe he brings with him a plan of floating battery, his own invention, which may very probably afford matter for improvement, should the original fail.² If you attempt fortification and are not already supplied with an abler hand, believe you'll find him very cleaver in drawing & taking charts of yr harbours & Bay and pointing out the fittest place to erect Fortifications on. with due regard I remain [&c.]

Cambridge [Maryland]
20th Janry 1776.

James Murray

1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

2. In the Maryland State Archives is Campbell's drawing of a circular battery of sixteen cannon with an explanation of its operation and bearing the inscription: "To the Honourable the Council of Safety for the Province of Maryland, this new plan of a floating Battery is most humbly dedicated and presented by their most obedt humble Servant James Campbell." See illustration, page 893.

"AN AMERICAN" TO THE PRINTER OF THE *Virginia Gazette* ¹

Mr. Pinkney,

[Williamsburg, January 20]

As the ministry, and their tools, have persisted in charging America with a desire of independence, and, in spite of all the most solemn declarations on her part, that she is still (or rather, I hope, was) willing to be subject to Britain, as compleately as she was in the year 1763, and as we have good reason to suppose, great as their lust of power is, that avarice has the greatest share in influencing their conduct, and that therefore not merely an empty title to superiority is claimed, or even a substantial revenue, but that something more is insisted on, the total monopoly of our trade; I say, as these things are evident, we have just cause of complaint, and may well resent such low suspicion, and base treatment. Whoever considers the acts of parliament, laying restrictions on the trade of the colonies, before the year 1763, will be astonished to find that the congress, after one of their petitions had been treated with contempt, and a bloody, perfidious, and inhuman war, was entered into against them, should consent that those acts should still be binding on them! When we entered into an association not to trade with Great Britain, provided she had been contented to try who could hold out longest, and see who would repent first, and make the first overtures of an accommodation, it would have been right to have contended ourselves with our own manufactures: But when they not only laugh at our efforts in this way, and affect to despise our

whole trade as of no importance to them, but also have, by levying against us a heavy and savage war, obliged us to incur many and great expences, and to neglect in many parts of our country, agriculture and manufactures, we must be fools indeed not to open our ports, and to try what value may be put on our trade by France and Spain, and how we may thereby influence them in our favour, and endeavour, by our trade, to procure every thing necessary for the support of the war, and our defence and comfort. By doing this we pave the way to a powerful alliance, and by it may humble the pride of our enemies, may shew them we bid defiance to their attempts to enslave us, and that, so far from being sufferers for want of their trade, we can do ten times better without it.

If the ports were open to all nations, except the British, we might soon sink our paper money, and our estates would be of ten times their present value. Our tobacco, hemp, flax, cotton, tar, pitch, turpentine, iron, lead, staves and lumber; our wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, Indian corn, peas, beans, &c. &c. might be sold for their real value, in cash, or such commodities as we might wish to barter them for. Our tobacco would then always command a good price, and ready money; we should seldom get less than 30 or 40s a hundred for it in cash; good wheat would sell for 6 or 7 shillings a bushel, and all other things in proportion; and, instead of paying the high price we now do for British goods, bought of Scotch factors, at an extravagant rate after selling them our tobacco for a mere nothing, we should buy every thing equally good, if not better, at half price, and often get them in exchange for articles of our produce, which now we never attend to: The truth of this can be asserted by those who have traded in French, Spanish, Dutch, or Italian ports. Claret would then be as cheap as Madeira wine, and velvet as broadcloth, and rum, sugar, molasses, wine, oyl, olives, French brandy, arrack, tea, spices, &c. &c. would be exchanged here for such necessities, or rarities, as would be wanted in the different ships, by the captains, factors, or men, and by their friends and customers, at the different ports they come from. Our ports would then be filled with ships, and our towns with respectable merchants; the value of our country would soon be known aboard, and numbers of people of ingenuity and property would come and settle among us. We should have the trade protected against our present oppressors, the amplest means of defence afforded us, and even Great Britain herself would soon court our favour, and be willing to form a commercial league with us. Let any one consider these things, and then let him say, whether he would hesitate a moment to open our ports.

An American.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, January 20, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 20.

Some time this week two tenders seized, and carried into Norfolk harbour, a topsail vessel belonging to Mr. Ritchie of Hobb's Hole, loaded with salt.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 20th, 1776.

Mr. President laid the following copies of letter's before the board, which he had written by their direction.

Charles-Town, Jan. 19th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Capt. Crawford this morning delivered us your letter of the 12th, to which we have paid due regard.

The thirty pounds paid to the four New-England seamen for the reasons which you have assigned, we think was well applied.

We desire you will give us the earliest intelligence of the *Tamar* and *Cherokee*, supposed to be now at Cockspur, and of any other man-of-war or armed vessels belonging to the enemy: and you cannot be too much upon your guard against their procuring provision from some part of our coast and on the north banks of Savannah – against all illicit correspondence with them and against attempts to make an attack upon your town and plantations and for recovering the Brigantine *William*.

The whole coast should be alarmed, and every friend to American interest ought in an especial manner to exert himself.

Lord William Campbell may possibly visit a plantation on our side of the Savannah. In such a case, it would be well to conduct him with politeness and security to the seat of government which he ought not to have deserted, and all expences will be properly reimbursed.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Committee at Beaufort.

Charles-Town, South Carolina

Jan. 19th, 1776.

Sir – As we have been informed that seamen, arms, ammunition and vessels may be procured at Bermuda, and as you have been pleased to offer your service to this colony, we desire you will immediately proceed in the sloop *Little Thomas* to that island with such rice as Capt. [Edward] Blake has shipped on board her, an invoice of which he will put into your hands. Upon your arrival there, lose no time, but immediately endeavour to enlist for the service and defence of this colony, two hundred, or as many not exceeding that number as you can, able seamen, on the following terms – bounty money ten pounds Carolina currency – wages twenty-one pounds per Calendar month, and provisions, to commence the day of embarkation in a vessel at this port or to some of the inlets to the southward of this port which will be less exposed to the ravages of the enemy.

You will stipulate with the men whom you may enlist to serve till the 1st of March, 1777 – liable to be sooner disbanded by the Congress or

Council of Safety of this colony on receiving one month's additional pay, and that they are to be subject to similar rules and orders as well as intitled to the same share of prizes as seamen who are employed by the continent in sea service. If the men will receive rice in lieu of bounty-money, you may dispose of the rice in that way, otherwise lodge or dispose of it in such manner as Capt. Blake shall direct.

It will be no small encouragement to men to inlist in our service, to be informed, that the Provincial Congress have resolved, that provision shall be made for the support of such men as may be maimed or disabled and for the families of any who may be killed in the service of the colony.

You are to procure also at Bermuda any quantity you can of good gunpowder and salt-petre, and good muskets, good six and four-pound cannon, with shot, match, and all necessary appurtenances, swiveled guns and shot, swiveled blunderbusses, and good pistols, cutlasses and half-pikes or lances, musket, pistol and blunderbuss ball, hand-grenades, good flints and cartridge-paper. We refer you more particularly for the articles to a gentleman to whom Mr. Thos. Savage will write.

If you are so fortunate as to inlist more men than the *Little Thomas* can conveniently and safely accomodate, you are to purchase a proper vessel on account of this colony, appoint a master and mate, and man her with the men whom you shall have inlisted over and above the number in the schooner and give the master proper orders for proceeding as you are directed above, particularly to be careful not to fall into the hands of an enemy. Pay great attention to the goodness and reputation for fast sailing of any vessel which you may purchase, and no less to the price which we expect will be very moderate in these times – and it will be no small consideration to the parties from whom you may purchase powder, arms, military stores and vessel, that we will, if required, pay in the produce of this colony and permit such produce in any vessel sent for that purpose to be shipped to a foreign market. And we desire you will acquaint all proper persons (not to be publicly advertised) that we will give a liberal price for good gunpowder and good muskets, with bayonets, and pay in produce with license to export.

If it shall happen that men will not inlist in our naval service at Bermuda, you are to call in your way hither at [New] Providence, and attempt to inlist men there; and if you fail there, purchase a cargo of salt, and return with all possible dispatch, and prefer entering any of our southern inlets to this harbour. Transmit intelligence to us immediately upon your arrival, and also from Bermuda, if you have opportunity.

If these instructions are not sufficiently clear for your guide, in particular cases which may occur, exercise your own discretion, and take the advice of the gentleman to whom Mr. Savage will write, and we shall be satisfied with your best endeavours for the service of the

public. We shall likewise allow you a reasonable commission for your several transactions in the affairs now committed to your charge.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. Elisha Sawyer.

Resolved, That Mr. Paul Pritchard be ordered forthwith to proceed, with all his hands, to work upon the fortifications on Sullivan's Island; and, if he shall sustain any damage in consequence of his obedience to such order, that the same shall be considered.

Ordered, That Mr. Ferguson and Col. Parsons be added to the committee to confer with the field officers of the army and navy on a plan of defence for Charles-Town.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 196-203.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

January 1776	River [in] Savanah Georgia
[Thursday] 18	Fresh breezes at 2 PM Weighd & made Sail Employ'd in working up the Harbour at ½ past 4 Came too with the best bowr in 3 fm water, Veered away & Moor'd Ship a Cable on the Small bowr and ½ a Cable on the small bowr
[Friday] 19	at 9 A M unmoor'd Ship & hove into ½ a Cable on the small bowr the Light House Et the Block house on Cockspur Island WBN ½ a Mile
	Do Wthr Moord Ship with the Stream Anchor & Cable
[Saturday] 20	A M Recd out of the Sloop <i>York Packett</i> from New York, Stephen Weeks - Master which we detained with Bread 6733 lb & Flour 9390 lb ² Recd 186 lb fresh Beef which we Shot on Tybey Inspected by the Acting Master
	Mode & Clear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. The prize, a sloop, was bound from New York for Savannah. Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir

St John New providence 20th Jany 1776

I had the honour to acquaint you with the Schooner's arrival at Pensacola; as also with the State and Condition of her, and at the same time informed you of the Orders I had received from Capt Bromedge; and altho I conceived those orders Incompatible with your's of the 10 June, Yet I readily obey'd them Notwithstanding the Condition of the Schooner made it very hazardous to Carry her into deep water, she accordingly proved Leaky all the passage; & as her Leaks daily increased at Pensacola I gave in her State and Condition to Capt Davey Commander of His Majestie's Ship *Defiance*; but found it quite impracticable to get her repaired there, As neither Materials nor Stores were to be purchased at any Rate: and after having waited Six weeks without hearing any Accot of Govr [Montfort] Brown and it being quite uncertain when he might return from

the Mississippi (the place he was supposed to be at) and well knowing that it would be impossible on account of the Worms to keep the Schooner free much longer, I proposed getting to my Station again if possible, tho' at the Extreme hazard of our Lives. The day preceeding that of my Intended departure an Express arrived from the Indian Nation informing that the Spaniards had attacked and taken St Augustine the opinion of the Council which was Immediately conveyed, on the receipt of this News was I suppose the Occasion of my receiving the Inclosed Orders from Capt Davey, which I immediately complied with Notwithstanding the bad Condition of the Schooner for such a Service: For the reasons of my being forced off that Station, the Difficulties and Danger we have encountered & the distress to which we have been reduced I beg leave to refer you to my Journal.

We arrived here with near four Feet water in the hauld and She went to the bottom a few minutes after while we were mooring her; – I immediately apply'd to the Commander in Chief for a survey on her to which I also refer to & have sent another Copy Inclosed –

It is really impossible to find Words to express the very bad Condition of the Schooner's Bottom, which as soon as it is touched with any Tool, crumble to Dust: her fore part, as far as abaft the main Chains is quite a honey Comb: With the people that were able to work I have hove her down, Keel out several times, I have also purchased, tho' at a very Extravagant rate, Mahogany Plank and some other Materials in order to new Bottom and sheath her but as this place cant supply me with every necessary Article – I am obliged to leave off[f] work after giving her New bows, Sheathing part of the Starboard side and Chaulking every Seam in her, that will bear it: I have paid [payed] her bottom four times over, but without Effect! She still Continues leaky & Keeps the pumps Continually going, – Add to this her Masts & Boombs are either Sprung or Carried away; her Sails and rigging worn & torn to pieces & her Boats all straved [stoved] or worn out. In short its my Opinion she never can be made fit for service again, without a thorough repair in a dry Dock – And as she is destitute of every kind of Stores, should it be yours Orders to have that done here, her refitting must amount to a very Large Sum, Owing to the very high price of Labour & every Materials at this place – I have been obliged, to send already money to all parts of America and the West Indies to purchase Stores but without Success owing to the Disorder of the Times – To this account of the Schooner I must beg leave to subjoin that of my self and my people, which is really alarming and Deplorable – I have been sick for a Considerable time past, and am at present very unwell, My Officers and Servants all sick on Shore My Master is Dead and there are not three Well men to help the Sick on board: and the Sick are so Extremely Weak that it will be a long time if ever before they can recover their Health/ I must therefore beg your Advice & Directions with regard to my future Conduct relative to the Schooner, as soon as possible as I cant but be very uneasy untill I receive them – There are some few Materials lately arrived here, such as Nails Pitch Tarr &c and I now intend beginning to repair her with what things we can scrape together in the best manner we can. I have the honour to be with much respect Sir [&c.]

W^m Grant

Copy

P.S. I beg leave to observe that I have been supplied with no Stores for three Years past but what I purchased & have had no Orders from any Commanding Officer since yours of the 10th June 1775, which subjects me to inexpressible Difficulties at the public Offices. They neither do nor will know my Situation and have only to rest on your good offices and Assistances, which I hope will be granted as it will be of the most Essential Service to me, having a just sense of your humanity and great goodness. I am Sir [&c.]

W^m Grant.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

2. *Ibid.*, this letter traveled to England before it was received by Graves, who forwarded it to Philip Stephens on August 5, 1777.

21 Jan. (Sunday)

REV. JACOB BAILEY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER¹

[Extract]

Newbury Cove January 21st 1776 –

Dear Sir – We have here the Malancholy News of a Defeat of General Montgomery at Quebec, tho' we are not Certain of the Truth of it yet think it our Duty to send Men not only to get Intelligence ourselves but that the Situation of Affairs in Canada may be known at Head Quarters & the quickest way to March from Cambridge to Canada . . . nothing new here only four Vessels taken from England by Capn Manly and another Privateer,

Jacob Bayley, by Order of
the Committees of Haverhill and Newbury –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

January 1776 At Single Anchor Marble Head WbS $\frac{1}{2}$ S The So most
rock on Cat Island SbE $\frac{1}{2}$ E – Off Shore $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile
Saturday 20. at 9 AM veered away & unmoor'd hove up the best Bower
& into $\frac{1}{3}$ on the small, at 11 sent the Cutter & Longboat
Man'd & Armed in pursuit of two schooners And run them on
shore.
Sunday 21. A M reced water on board at 1 PM fired 2 Guns and made
the signal for the boats to return.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Mercury*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER GRAEME¹

Jan'y 1776 At single Anchor in Nantasket Road
Saturday 20 [Fresh Gales & Cloudy] came on Board Major Genl [Henry]
Clinton Saluted him with 13 Guns at 7 PM fired a Signal
Gun for the Convoy to weigh and come to sail at 10 fired a
Gun to Anchor $\frac{1}{2}$ past anchored with B B in 7 fm

Sunday 21 Cape Cod S W b W Diste, 6 or 7 Leags
Modt & Cloudy at 5 weighed and came to sail in Co with the
Kitty Glasgow Packet & Three Sisters

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Providence January 21st 1776

Sir Your Favour of the 6th instant I received & laid before the General Assembly. It had great Weight: And I believe that no Supplies to the Enemy's Ships would have been permitted had it not appeared to us that the Members of the Continental Congress were of Opinion that they should be continued. The following is an Extract of a Letter from our Delegates on that Subject "A Memorial from the town of Newport forwarded to us by Express having been referred to the General Assembly we now inclose that with the Papers pertinent thereto. We should not do Justice to the Benevolence of Congress or to the distressed Situation of the Town if we did not acquaint you that all the Gentlemen who spoke in this Debate expressed the most tender Regard for the distressed People and gave it as their Opinion that as long as the Ships of War now in the Harbour could be supplied with fresh Provisions Beer and such like – Necessaries for their own immediate Support consistently with the great Principles of the general Good and Safety of America the Town ought to be permitted to furnish them; the greatest Care being taken by Government that no more than the barely necessary Supplies be furnished them from Time to Time, lest the common Enemy in other Parts of the Continent should through them obtain Provisions." – In Consequence of which the General Assembly have ordered that Capt. Wallace should be supplied, as you will see by the inclosed Vote.² But, as he may canonade and even burn the Town, a discretionary Power, by a private Vote, which it is designed should be kept a profound Secret, is given to the Commander of the Forces on Rhode Island to permit Supplies in Cases of imminent Danger until the next Session to be holden on the last Monday in next Month.

Similar Measures to those taken by Connecticut as mentioned in your Letter have been adopted by this Colony. Besides which the commanding Officer of any Body of the Continental troops is empowered to impress Carriages &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. See Journal of Rhode Island Assembly, January 17, 1776.

INTELLIGENCE FROM RHODE ISLAND, SUPPLIED BY CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE,
R.N.¹

Intelligence from Rhode Island the 21st Janry 1776. Says.

That the Morning of the 31st Ulto the Rebels Army Commanded by Montgomery attempted to get Possession of Quebec by Escalade, but were repulsed with the loss (by their own Accounts) of 70 killed on the Spot, and 300 taken Prisoners within the Walls. – Among the Dead are General Montgomery and his Aid De

Camp – Colonel Arnold wounded in the Thigh, but not a Prisoner – Major [Christopher] Green, of [James Mitchell] Varnum's Regiment, a Prisoner and many other Officers Killed and Wounded.

N.B. This account from Genl Wooster to Govr Trumbull.

That the Congress had order'd 30 Ships to be built, and ready for Sea by the 1st of April, force, from 20 to 36 Guns – All the Carpenters in this part of the Country (Vizt Newport) are gone to Providence to assist in building Two Ships, that are ordered to be got ready there, one of 28 the other of 32 Guns.²

That the Rebel Army about Boston, consists of about 12,000 Men, and that General [Charles] Lee was gone to New York.

That a Detachment from the King's Forces (under command of Lord Dunmore) Commanded by Captain [Charles] Fordyce, attacked a Party of the Rebels in their Intrenchments near the great Bridge at Norfolk, in which Captain Fordyce was killed on the Spot, and the Detachment lost 90 or 100 Men killed and taken Prisoners. – That Lord Dunmore with the Main Body of his Army, had retreated to the Ships, and had Cannonaded the Town of Norfolk. –

Signed Ja^s Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldhams to Stephens, January 28, 1776.

2. Referring to the resolution of the Continental Congress on December 13, 1775, to build thirteen frigates; specifically to the two which were contracted to be built at Providence, subsequently named the *Providence*, 28 guns, and the *Warren*, 32 guns.

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

His Majesty's Ship *Rose* at Rhodeisland

Gentlemen,

the 21st January 1776 –

I can make no Treaty with People in open Arms against their Sovereign committing every Act of Hostility – I wish & believe the Town of Newport is not so; therefore they shall be safe & unmolested on our Part, upon their granting us our Supplies – Boats with Fuel & Provisions to pass as usual, having my Permits I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Ja^s Wallace

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

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Solis, 3 ho. P.M.

Jany. 21st, 1776.

Mr. William Leary the town major came and informed this Committee of Safety that part of the city guard under his direction, had apprehended a certain Joseph Woolcombe, who was come from on board of a transport ship off Sandy Hook to go on board of the ships of war in port; and that he had also apprehended Capt. William Dobbs, the pilot, who had brought him on shore for that purpose, and that he had sent them to the guard-house. That he caused the said Joseph

Woolcombe to be searched, and had found in his custody five letters, which he had brought to the Committee of Safety for their inspection or direction.

The said several letters being opened and read, appeared to be wrote and directed to the persons for that purpose hereinafter named, and to the following effect, to wit:

1st. A letter from I. H. Dempster, captain of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, dated January 22nd, 1776, and directed to his brother, George Dempster, Esqr. Oxford-street, London. He therein informs him "that he was now preparing to send an officer on shore to be fully satisfied of the propriety of going into New-York. That he had been three weeks on the coast without seeing or speaking with any of the King's ships.

"That he was greatly amazed at not yet seeing any of the men of war; his instructions strictly forbidding him *to enter Boston or any other port or harbour in America 'till he had spoke with some of His Majesty's ships, proper orders having been sent out for that purpose.* That the ship was in a bad state; he feared that her rudder must be unhung before he could proceed any further, and that they were in want of water."

2nd. Letter from the said I.H.Dempster of the same date, directed to Robert Hunter Esqr. Coleman-street, London. In this letter he says "they had been three weeks on the coast, that they had not seen any of the King's vessels, though by the tenor of his instructions from the board he had reason to suppose he should long ere this time have met some of them."

3d. A letter from the said I.H.Dempster, of the same date as the others, directed to Richard Cardin, Esqr. Bucklersbury, London; containing advices to the same effect as the letters before mentioned.

4th. A letter from I.H.Dempster, of the same date, directed to his brother[?], I.Townshend, London; containing the like advices as the others.

5th. A letter dated said 22d January,² from Joseph Woolcombe, the mate (and now in the barrack) to his father, containing advices of a long passage, very bad weather, loss of sails, ship in bad order; that they had 80 hogs when they sailed, and had now only ten left; that pork would come dear to the soldiers.

Capt. William Dobbs, by order of the Committee, was brought before them and examined: He described the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, says she is a transport from England with porter and coal for the ministerial army; that Joseph Woolcombe is mate of the said ship; that he did not promise to put said Woolcombe on board of one of the ships of war, but only promised to bring him to the city; that Woolcombe did not mention any thing about the going on board of the ships of war, or either of them, until he was near the city, and that he, the said William Dobbs, refused to put him on board.

Capt. William Dobbs returned with a guard to the guardhouse, at the upper barracks.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 259-60.

2. A probable explanation of the dating of the five letters a day later than they were written is that somehow on the long passage the reckoning became a day off.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO LORD STIRLING¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety, New-York,

My Lord:

Sunday Evening, 8 o'clock, January 21, 1776.

By the seizure of a man brought up from the Hook by one of our pilots from on board a transport, we, this instant, have learned her being in a distressed condition, and waiting there for direction and assistance from this port. She has been out thirteen weeks, destined for the Head-Quarters of the Ministerial troops, so that, if she receives relief, she will, doubtless, proceed for Boston. She is deeply laden with all kinds of stores for the army.

Our intelligence is from letters found on the prisoner, directed to certain persons under fictitious directions, which were intended to be conveyed, by him, on board of the man-of-war. It would greatly serve the publick cause could she be seized. There are the most evident reasons why we, in New-York, ought not, in point of prudence, to do it. We have two ships-of-war lying here, and our exports, as yet, happily, uninterrupted by them. This Discovery cannot be kept long a secret and we deem it our duty to submit this case to your immediate attention.

. . . Should it be known to the ships-of-war, they will, doubtless, send down their boats, which consideration has induced us, by express, to furnish you with this opportunity of serving the publick.

The above reasons point out the propriety of keeping the source of your information a secret, and, to this end, we beg you will destroy this as soon as read.

We are, my Lord, [&c.]

By order of the Committee:

P.S. She is a ship of between three and four hundred tons, a galley-built ship, without a head; has yellow sides, blue quarter-boards, with the trophies of war painted on the quarter-boards; has six three-pounders on the quarter-deck. She has, it is thought a quantity of ammunition on board. She has about twenty hands, and lies hovering off and on, without the Hook, and will not leave that station till she receives intelligence from shore. Captain William Rogers, the bearer of this, will be a proper person to take the direction of the undertaking.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 795-96.

PERMIT TO JOHN RIDDELL FROM THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Permit the Bearer Mr. John Riddell mercht at Dumfries to pass to any Seaport town in this Colony by Land in order to take his passage for Great Britain, with his Baggage

By Order of the Commee of Safety

Jan. 21, 1776

Virginia

Edmd Pendleton Sr

1. Charles G. Slack Collection, Dawes Memorial Library, MCL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]
 Sunday 21 at 10 A M Departed this life John Dawson Seaman
 Variable Weather at 4 P M the Rebels fired on a Merchantmans
 boats taking off Tobacco the property of English Merchants from
 Norfolk, on which the *Liverpool* and us began to cannonade them
 to cover the boats which continued till 8 o'clock

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COL. WOODFORD TO THE HON. THE PRESIDENT
 OF THE [VIRGINIA] CONVENTION, DATED NORFOLK, JANUARY 21, 1776." ¹

We have had a party, these ten days, upon Tanner's creek, who yesterday had a brush with a tender's boat attempting to land at [Andrew] Sprowle's plantation; they beat her off and killed one man.

8 o'clock at night. About 4 this afternoon, another heavy cannonading began from the *Liverpool* and *Otter*, during which the enemy landed and set fire to some houses that remained unhurt, near to what is called Town Point wharf. I sent strong parties to reinforce our water guards. We had three fine men killed with cannon shot, and one wounded, who, it is thought, will lose his arm. We have found one sailor and two negroes dead, and suppose many others were killed and wounded, that were carried off in their boats. Capts. [John] Green and [John] Markham arrived in the height of the fire.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, January 26, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
 [Charleston] Sunday, Jan. 21st, 1776.

Mr. [John] Rutledge from the committee to confer with the field officers of the army and the commanders of the navy, and form a plan of defence, reported.

The Council then proceeded to take a view of the several forts and batteries about this town.

And adjourned to 5 o'clock in the evening.

In the Council of Safety,
 Sunday evening, Jan. 21st, 1776.

Resolved, That three twenty-six pounders be taken, one from the battery on Col. [Henry] Laurens's land, one from Mr. Prioleau's wharf, and one from M. Beale's and immediately transported to Sullivan's Island, to be mounted on the works there: and that the said twenty-six pounders be replaced by twelve pounders from the lines upon Charles-Town neck.

Ordered, That Capt. [Edward] Blake do give all possible aid and assistance in providing proper boats and men for transporting cannon and stores.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 203-04.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH¹

January 1776

River Savanah Georgia

[Sunday] 21

AM came in the *Shark* pilot Boat from St Augustine & *Pensicola Packet*. Recd out of the above boat one puncheon of Rum Contg 111 Gallns

Fresh breezes & Clear P M unmoored Ship & dropt further up the Harbour at 6 Moor'd in 4 fm water, a Cable on the small Bowr & ½ a Cable on the best bowr the Light house E½N the Block house on Cockspur Island nne ¼ of a Mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Antelope Jamaica January 21st: 1776

Sir./ I have received your Four Letters; dated the 5th October 1775, Three of them, Answers to those of mine, from Janry to July 1775, and am happy, their Lordships, approve of my Proceedings – The Fourth, respecting the Ships, under my Command, not being supply'd, with Fresh Beef, more than One Day, in each Week, agreeable to the Contractors Contract, except in cases of urgent Necessity – I beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that they never have, unless when their Captains, have represented to me, of their People being Sickly, & the Surgeons, of Opinion, that Fresh Meat, twice a Week, would contribute to their Recovery – I then have order'd them, to be supply'd with it, for a Month, which has never happen'd but twice, since I releev'd Sir George Rodney, excepting the *Pallas*, who I order'd it, during the time she was here, (which was about Six Weeks) her People, being much afflicted, with the Scurvey.

I beg leave to Inclose you, the Duplicate of a Letter, which I wrote you, by a Merchant Ship, the 22d of last December, which I hope, you have received, in the Latter part, of which, I beg'd you'd inform their Lordships, of the *Maidstones*, having sent, into this Port, a North American Sloop, Since which, she has sent in, a Schooner & two Sloops, from Cape Nichola, Loaden with French produce, and bound to the Rebellious Colonies

The *Squirrel*, has likewise sent in, two Sloops, one from Cape Nichola, with French produce, the other from Turks Islands, with Salt, both bound to the Rebellious Colonies.

I beg leave to acquaint their Lordships that the 4th instant, I received a Letter, from the Collector & Comptroller of His Majestys Customs at Kingston, demanding these Vessels, to be Deliver'd into their Custody, to be proceeded against as Smuglers – In answer, to which I acquainted them, that they were Seized in pursuance of the Kings pleasure, signi[fied] to me by their Lordships, not as Smuglers, but as belonging, to People, in actual Rebellion; against His Majesty & his Authority therefore, I should detain them, 'till their Lordships Pleasure, was known – But as I thought, they had done, no more, than their Duty, as Officers of the Customs, by applying to me, they were exceedingly welcome, to transmit my Letter, to the Commissioners of the Customs, to take off any Imputation; which

they might lay on them, which hope, will meet, with their Lordships Approbation.

I beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that agreeable to their directions, signified to me, in your Letter of the 6th Sept I order'd the People, who were sent in, in the North American Vessels, to be put onboard the *Antelope*, as I judged it unsafe, to continue them in their Vessels, and order'd Captain [William] Judd not to permit them, to go ou[t] of the Ship, without my Orders, the 16th instant I was Served, with two Writs of Habeas Corpus Commanding the Appearance, of two, of the Masters² of those Vessels, before the Chief Justice and to assign, a reason, for the Caption of their Vessels, & detention of the People, which I answer'd by complying with the Writs, communicating their Lordships orders, on which, the Chief Justice, order'd them, both to be Discharged. And as I was apprehensive, my refusing to comply with these Writs, might Occasion great Disturbances, here, I acquiesced, with the Chief Justices Decission, & have order'd Captain Judd, to Discharge them. Inclosed, for their Lordships information, are attested Copies of the Habeas Corpus Writs, with the Affidavits & Petitions, for their being granted I likewise, beg leave to Inclose their Lordships, a Letter, I received from His Majestys Attorney General, respecting these Writs, wherein he says, he is very confident, that the Calm, we here enjoy, would instantly have become a Storm, had I not comply'd with them.³ I hope therefore, their Lordships, will approve of my Conduct in this Affair.

I likewise beg leave to inclose, the Opinion of the Attorney General, respecting the Detention of these Vessels,⁴ and am to acquaint their Lordships, that only one of them can be proceeded against, in the Court of Admiralty – the others; agreeable to their directions, I shall detain; 'till further orders; As the Gentlemen of the Law, seem to be much; at a loss, in regard; to the proceeding[s] against these Vessels, if there's any; late Act of Parliament, or Proclamation, should be glad to have it, by the first Opportunity.

I further beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that the 10th instant, the French Frigate Saild from here, & with regard to the expence, incurred by her Heaving down, I order'd the Storekeeper, to charge for the Workman Ship, the Kings Pay, & for what Stores, he had Supplied (which has been very trifling) to take a Conditional Bill, for such Value, to be paid for the same as the Commissioners of the Navy, should [pass] thereon – and by this Oppertunity, have wrote to the Navy Board, & Inclosed them, a Copy of my order, for that purpose – I have the Pleasure, to acquaint their Lordships, that the Count was exceedingly Pleased, with the Assistance, which I gave him, in Careening and fitting his Ship for Sea, & very well satisfied, with the Manner, in which, I had order'd, the Expence, attending the same to be Settled I further beg leave, to acquaint their Lordships, that the 19th inst the Contractor, compleated the Careening Wharf, &c that, I have order'd; the Storekeeper to pay him, the Remainder; of what is due to him, for the above Work, amounting to the Sum of £1051-17-2 Currency, & have likewise; wrote to the Navy Board; & transmitted them, a Copy of my Order, to the Storekeeper, for Payment of the same.

In my Letter; of the 24th December I acquainted their Lordships, with the private Intelligence, I have gained from Hispaniola, with respect; to the Warlike preparations; making there, & have it now, from undoubted authority, that they

have; a Reinforcement of 3000 Troops, already arrived, & the same Number; Dayly expected, that they are Mounting all their Guns, in the Different Forts, furnishing; their Magazines, with Shot and Powder With regard; to the Dissposition; of His Majesty's Ships & Vessels under my Command, I beg leave; to acquaint their Lordships, that the *Squirrel*, and *Maidstone*, are still on their Cruize, and *Antelope*, at Port Royal – The *Florida*; Surveying Sloop, arrived the 15th instant, from Pensacola, & has brought me Letters, from Captain Davey, of the *Diligence*, & Mr Gould, the Surveyior Captain Davey, informs me, that he, shall be again; fit for the Sea, by the end of November, & shall then proceed, into the Mississippi, in Pursuance of my orders – Mr Gould, acquaints me, that he has survey'd; as far as Cape Florida; for particulars, I refer you, to his Letter, which I inclose The *Ferret* Sloop, was spoke, the 22nd of last August, off the Havanna, since that, she has never been heard of, and as, on the 26th of the same Month, there was a violent Hurricane, I think; it is more than probable, she was lossed in it I've order'd the *Florida*, to be Careen'd as fast, as possible, after which, I shall employ her in the best manner, for His Majestys Service, 'till 'tis time, for her to return to the Surveyior I am, with great Respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

[Endorsed] Recd 20 Mar

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.
2. Robert Sands and Nathan Bull.
3. Thomas Harrison to Gayton, January 19, 1776.
4. See the following entry.

LEGAL OPINION RELATIVE TO SEIZURE OF THE SLOOP *Dove*¹

By a British Act of Parliament made in the 15th year of the reign of his present Majesty Chap: 10th it is (among other things) Enacted "That from & after the 1st Day of July 1775 and during the Continuance of this Act, No Goods wares or merchandizes, which are particularly enumerated in and by the therein before mentioned Act, made in the 12th year of King Charles the 2d or any other Act, being the Growth, product, or Manufacture of the provinces of Massachusetts Bay, or New Hampshire, or Colonies of Connecticut, Rhode Island, or providence plantation in North America, or any or either of them, are to be brought to some other British Colony, or to Great Britain; or any such enumerated Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, which shall at any Time or Times have been imported or brought into the said provinces or Colonies, or any or either of them shall be Shipped, carried, Conveyed or Transported, from any of the said provinces or Colonies respectively to any Land, Island Territory, Dominion, Port, or place whatsoever, other than to Great Britain or some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there, And that no other Goods Wares, or Merchandizes whatsoever, of the Growth product or Manufacture of [the provinces or Colonies hereinbefore mentione]d, or which shall at any Time or Times have been imported or brought into the [same, sh]all from and after the said 1st Day of July, and during the Continuance of this Act, be shipped, Carried, Conveyed, or transported, from any of the said provinces or Colonies respectively, to any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, port, or place whatsoever, Except to the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland or to

some of the British Islands in the West Indies, to be laid on Shore there; Any Law, Custom, or Usage, to the Contrary Notwithstanding." And it is thereby further enacted "That from and after the said 1st Day of July, before any Ship or Vessel shall Lade, or take on Board, any Goods, as aforesaid, in any or either of the Provinces or Colonies before mentioned, Sufficient Bond, with one Surety, besides the Master of Such Ship or Vessel shall be Given to the Collector, or other principal Officer, of the Customs at the Port or Place where such Goods are intended to be laden, or taken on Board, in the Penalty of One thousand pounds, if the Ship be of less burthen that One hundred Tons, and of the sum of Two thousand pounds, if the Ship Shall be of that or any Greater burthen, with Condition that such enumerated Goods shall not be landed or put on Shore at or upon any other Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port, or place whatsoever except some port or place within the Kingdom of Great Britian, or some of the British Islands in the West Indies And that all other Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, so intended to be laden as aforesaid, shall not be landed or put on Shore at or upon any Land, Island, Territory, Dominion, Port or Place whatsoever, other than and Except some port or place within the Kingdoms of Great Britain or Ireland or some of the British Islands of the West Indies; and with further Condition, to bring a Certificate in discharge thereof, within Eighteen Months from the Date of such Bond, for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in Great Britain or Ireland respectively, and within Six Months for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in any of the British Islands in the West Indies; which respective Certificates shall be under the hands and Seals of the Office of the Collector and Comptroller, or other Principal Officer of the Customs, resident at the Port or place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the landing thereof; or such Bond or Bonds shall and May be Discharged by proof, upon Oath made by Credible persons, that the said Goods were taken by Enemies or Perished in the Seas. ["]

And it is thereby further Enacted "That where any such Bond or Bonds shall be Given as aforesaid, in pursuance of this Act, the Collector, or other Principal Officer of the Customs to whom such Bond or Bonds shall have been Given, shall deliver, under his hand and Seal of Office, without Fee or reward, to the Master of the Ship or Vessel taking in such Goods, for the Security of her Navigation a Certificate that such Bond or Bonds hath or have been given, Expressing therein the Quantity and Species of the Goods with the Marks and Numbers of the Packages, and the Port or place for which they were entered, and if any such Goods shall be laden on board any such Ship or Vessel in any of the Provinces or Colonies in this Act before mentioned, before such Bond or Bonds shall be Given, or shall be found on board any Ship or Vessel without the Certificate hereinbefore directed that such Bond or Bonds hath or have been Given, the Goods so laden, together with the Ship or Vessel, with her Guns, Ammunition, Tackle, Apparel, and Furniture, shall be forfeited, and if any Goods, so laden as aforesaid, shall be landed or Discharged at any Port or place Contrary to the Intent and meaning of this Act, over and above the Penalty of the Bond or Bonds, the Shipper and Owner of such Goods, and the Master or Person taken Charge of the Vessel on Board which they were laden shall respectively forfeit

the full Value of the Goods so landed or Discharged, to be Estimated according to the highest price or Value which such Sort of Goods bear in the Province or Colony where and at the time when they were Shipped and laden; which Ship and Goods may be Seized and Prosecuted or the Value of such Goods Prosecuted for, by any Admiral, Chief Commander, or Commissioned Officer of his Majesty's fleet or Ships of War, or by any Officer of his Majesty's Customs in the manner therein after directed"

And it is hereby further Enacted "That the several Forfeitures and Penaltys inflicted by this Act, shall and may be prosecuted Sued for and recovered and be divided paid and applied in like Manner as other penaltys and Forfeitures inflicted by any Act or Acts of Parliament relating to the Trade or Revenues of the British Colonys or plantations in America are directed to be prosecuted Sued for or recovered divided paid and applied by two Several Acts of Parliament the one Passed in the Fourth year of his present Majesty. Chap. 15. Clause 41 & 42 and the other passed in the Eighth year of his present Majesty Chap 22" See the Copy of the abovementioned Act & also Ruffheads Statutes Vol 9 & 10

Admiral Gayton lately received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty dated 2d September, 1775, of the following Tenor, You are hereby required and directed, in pursuance of the Kings pleasure Signified to us, by the Earl of Dartmouth one of his Majestys principal Secretarys of State in his letter of the 2[9]th of last month to Give Orders to the respective Captains and Commanders of his Majestys Ships & Vessells under your Command to Seize all Ships & Vessells, belonging to any of the said Colonies or owned by the Inhabitants thereof Except only in Cases where it shall Clearly appear from their papers or from other Evidence that they are bound to or returning from some port or place in Great Britain, Ireland or his Majestys Islands in the West Indies; But you are to Observe that this Exception is not to Extend or be applied to such Ships or Vessells as may have Armes or Ammunition on Board, which Ships & Vessells, are to be Seized in all Cases whatsoever, unless it shall appear that the Arms & Ammunition shall have been Shipped with Licence either from his Majesty in Council, from the Master General & principal Officers of the Ordnance or under the usual Clearance from the Commissioners of his Majestys Customs.

And in pursuance of his Majestys further pleasure Signified to us as aforesaid you are to Cause all Ships and Vessells which shall be Seized in the Cases before mentioned to be Carried to some British port not within the Twelve Associated Colonys and there detained 'till further Orders, or be prosecuted against according to Law as the Nature of the Case shall require – See the Copy of the above Orders and also the Copy of their Lordships former Orders of the 11th August 1775

Admiral Gayton in pursuance of the above mentioned Orders sent Captain [Alan] Gardner in his Majesty's Ship the *Maidstone* to Cruise off Cape Nicholas Mole and put their Lordships Orders in Execution

On the 13th Day of this Instant December Captain Gardner Seized the Sloop *Dove* Jonathan Bull² Master, just as she came out of the Harbour of Cape Nicholas Mole upon Searching for her papers they found all the proper Clearances & Certificates from Rhode Island for Jamaica Dated the 4th of September

1775 The Cargo Shipped Consisting of 2500 feet of Board & Scantlings, 50,000 Shingles, 1500 hoops, 2250 Staves, 45 Shaken Casks 162 Boxes of Spermacati Candles 1000 Ropes of Onions, 15 Barrels of Apples & 9 Chairs – They also found a proper register for the Sloop – See the Clearance register & Certificate.

Upon Seizing the Vessell the Master Acknowledged that he had landed & Sold his Cargo from Rhode Island at Cape Nicholas Mole and that he had then on Board 36 Barrells of Sugar & 11,000 Gallons of Molasses and was bound on his return to Rhode Island the weather was so bad at the Time he seized the *Dove* that Captain Gardner had not Time or Opportunity to search her hold, But Ordered the Hatches to be fastned down & Sent her to Port Royal Harbour where she now lays, Nor do the Captors know any thing of her present Cargo but from the Account which the Master of the Sloop has Given them

Captain Gardner is extremely anxious that the proceedings against this Seizure should be Strictly legal, least he should be subject to an Action at the Instance of the Master and Owners of the Vessell or Cargo at a future Day – Your Opinion is therefore requested on the following Points.

Quere – Is the Sloop *Dove* & her present Cargo or either & which of them liable to Condemnation in any & what Court? And if so what Mode of proceeding do you advise to Attain that End?

Answer – We are of Opinion that neither the Sloop *Dove* nor her present Cargo are liable to Condemnation, or a forfeiture

2d Quere – If the Vessell and Cargo are not forfeited, are they or any part of them Subject to any penalty and what? And if so how should the same be prosecuted?

Answer – The Master of the Sloop is liable to forfeit the full Value of the goods, Landed & Discharged at Cape Nicholas Mole, to be estimated according to their highest price, at Rhode Island, when the same were Shipped. The Master likewise as Owner & the other Owners of such Goods are liable to forfeit the face value of them according to their respective Interests therein. If the Respondent does not appear, or is justly Suspected of flight, & Sufficient sureties are not Given to Answer the sentence & for Divers other reasons mentioned in Clerke's praxis (Title 28) the Vessell & Goods May be arrested to Answer the penalty –

3d Quere – If the Vessell & her Cargo or any part thereof is Subject to Condemnation; In what proportions and to whom will the Nett proceeds of the Seizure be payable?

Answer – One moiety of the Penalty in this Case will Go to the Captors & the other will go to the Collector of the Customs both of them Subject to such Distribution as the King shall be pleased to make by Order of Council or by his Proclamation.

4th Quere – Is it adviseable, that the Captors should open the Sloops Hatches & Search her hold, in order to take an Account of her present Cargo before any legal proceedings are Commenced, or should they wait untill they have the Authority of a Court so to do?

Answer – The Sloop's Hold should be Searched, as her Cargo May furnish other grounds of Condemnation or penalties, than what in this Case are stated & the Authority of the Court should be Obtained for this purpose –

5th Quere – Upon the whole of this Case, how do you advise Captain Gardner's Agent to proceed with respect to this Seizure? keeping in View his Expectations of present advantage, & Fears of future Troubles from it.

Answer – The Admiral is the most Competent Judge which part of his disjunctive instructions he will follow; either the prosecution for the Penalty in the Admiralty Courts, or the detention of the Sloop & Cargo 'till further orders; If he means to proceed judicially, the above mode of proceeding must be pursued.

Tho: Harrison
Richard Welch

[Endorsed] In Vice Adml Gaytons Letter 21st January 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. According to the legal proceedings for his release, the master of the sloop *Dove* was Nathan (not Jonathan) Bull.

22 Jan.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Exeter] Monday Jany 22d

Voted, That Coll Nicholas Gilman Capt Josiah Moulton & Capt Ezekiel Worthen be a Committee of this House to join a Committee of the Honble Board to hire or agree with a Person or Persons to build for the use of this Colony, a Row Galley, agreeable to a Plan or Draught Presented to this house by Major [James] Hackett.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 47–48.

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

January 1776

Remarks in Marble Head Harbour

Tuesday 16

AM got up Yards and Topmast at 9 Unmoord and Hove short at 11 Weighd & Came to Sail at Noon Standing to wards the No shore to prevent the Rebel Vessels getting out of Beverley Harbour First and Middle parts light Breezes and Cloudy Weather Latter Do and Foggy at ½ past Noon Came too with the Sml Br in 7½ fathoms of Water Veer to ¼ of a Cable Beverly Church NWbW No Mt point of Bakers Island East the Middle Steeple at Marblehead town SW Muddy Bottom PM got all Clear for Action Boat Empd during the Night rowing Guard

Wednesdy 17

AM Heard the report of Seven Guns supposed to be from Boston First part fresh Breezes and foggy W with snow & hail Middle fresh Gales and thick fogg PM Servd slops to the Ships Company at 5 a Large schooner Came down from Beverley and Fird several shott at her but it

being a thick fogg and fresh of wind she soon got past us after fiering seven shott at us, and Not being acquainted wt that passage she got safe out to sea at Sunsett cleared for Action the *Fowey* feird several shott at a Schooner comeing through the So Wt Passage but could not bring her too – Rowd Guard –

Thursday 18

AM Empd making Wadds & as pr Occasion

First and Middle parts fresh Breezes and fair Weather wt frost at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Noon weighd and Gave Chace to a Schooner on the Et Side of the Bay fird several shott to bring her too Sent the Yawl Mannd & Armd after her. The Schooner run on shore the Boat boarded her and brought her off Notwithstanding the feiring of the Rebels from the Beach found the Chace to be a Small fishing schooner belonging to Marble Head with two Men on bd at 5 Anchord wt the Sml Br in 8 fathems Muddy Bottom Veerd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable Middle Steeple at Marble Head SWbW – the Shoul off Eagle Island NW

Friday 19

AM got the prize a long side and fitted a Swivel stock in her Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Weather

at Sunsett sent the schooner to look out a Head of us as a Guard Boat

Saturday 20th

AM Captn Montague [George Montagu] Came on Board Weighd and Came to sail run down the NE passage to Bakers Island Came too wt the Sml Br on the W side Bakers Island Veerd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable Hardys Rocks W $\frac{1}{4}$ N Eagle Isld SW the House on Bakers Island SE in 9 fathoms Muddy Bottom sent the Cutter Mannd & Armed and people to Cutt wood on Bakers Island saw a Schooner comeing down from Beverly Made the signal for Do to the *Fowey* fird two Shott at her – She Run in on the Back of Mt Missery the *Fowey* sent her Boats in Chace Do Mannd and Armd the Schooner and Boats and sent them In Chase of the Schooner

First part fresh Breezes and fair Weather Middle and [latter] Mod wt frost

At 2 the Boats Returnd haveing Run the Schooner on shore Near Manchester but the Rebels coming down and feiring on our Boats Prevented them from destroying Her Sent the Pinnace on shore on Bakers Island to Cut Wood weighd the Small Br and dropt further to the So Wd and came too again Veerd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable and Moored with the Kedge Anchor Eagle Island WSW the NE point of Bakers Island ENE

Monday 21st

AM Empd wooding & watering

[sic Sunday]

First and latter part Moderate Breezes and Clear Weather Middle fresh Gales & Squally wt Frost

PM Empd wooding and watering from Bakers Island

Monday 22d AM at 8 the *Fowey* made our signal to Chace to the Southward weighd and Came to sail and stood under the *Fowey's* stern and spoke Her. Saw 4 Sail in the Offing at 10 run back and Came too off Bakers Island pr Order from the *Fowey*, When Anchord bearings as Before Steddied with the Kedge Anchor
Mod Breezes and fair Weather wt some Frost.
PM saw a fishing Schooner within the Miserry Islands sent the prize in Chace and fird two 4 pound shott at her at 4 the Tender returnd having Chaced the Schooner into Beverley Harbour.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, January 22, 1776

Afternoon.

The House considered the List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty, and *Ordered*, That it be re-commended, and Mr. [William] Story, and Capt. [Josiah] Batcheldor were added to the Committee, in the Room of Mr. [Dummer] Jewett, and Mr. [Daniel] Perry, absent.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

Watertown, January 22.

Last Monday a large Ship from and own'd in London, laden with Coal, Cheese and Porter, bound for the Ministerial Assassins at Boston, was taken by one of our Privateers and carried into Newbury Port.¹

The same Day a Brig from Ireland, bound also for Boston, laden with Beef, Butter, Cheese and Potatoes, was likewise taken and carried into the same Port. — This Brig we hear, belong'd to Lewis Gray, son of Lady Harrison Gray, a noted Mandamus Councillor, and formerly Treasurer of the (now) Province of Boston.²

Yesterday Capt. Manly sent another Prize in to Newbury[por]t; where from, or what laden with, we have not heard.³

1. The ship *Friends*, Archibald Bowie, master.

2. The brigantine *Sukey*, Madett Engs, master.

3. An erroneous report.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1776 Jany 22

The *Nautilus* anchored in Nantasket having chaced a Privateer 30 Leagues off the Coast and at last lost her in thick Weather; Lieutt [Christopher] Mason her Commander informed the Admiral he had met with several Vessels bound to Boston, which he had seen safe within the Lighthouse, and that Want of Fuel had obliged him to come in with a Vessel with fresh Beef from Halifax. The Admiral ordered an immediate Supply of Coals, Wood, Beef and some Stores to the *Nau-*

tilus, and directed Lieutt Mason to push out again as fast as possible; and finding she was short of Complement and had many sick, ordered the *Chatham*, *Renown* and *Centurion* to lend each seven men to her.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.

CHARTER PARTY FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Diamond*¹

This Agreement or Charterparty made between Nicholas Cooke Esquire of Providence Owner of the Sloop *Diamond* burdened eighty Seven Tons and Two Thirds of the One Part and John Jenckes of said Providence Merchant who acts in this Matter for and in Behalf of the Colony of Rhode-Island Of the other Part witnesseth That the said Nicholas Cooke hath letten unto Fright unto the said John Jenckes for the Use of the Colony the aforesaid Sloop for a Voyage from Providence aforesaid to the West-Indies and back again And the said Nicholas Cooke shall be at the Expence of keeping her in good and customary Repair during the Voyage. In Consideration whereof the [said] John Jenckes on the Part of said Colony shall pay unto the [said] Nicholas Cooke for the Hire of said Sloop at and after the rate of one Dollar a Ton per Month for the whole Time she shall [be i]n performing said Voyage to be computed from the first Day of January instant until she shall be returned back and redelivered to the said Nicholas Cooke And the said John Jenckes on Behalf of the Colony shall wholly risque said Sloop in all Cases during the Voyage and in Case of Loss by any Means whatsoever he shall pay unto the said Nicholas Cooke Fifteen Hundred Dollars for her In Witness whereof the said Parties have hereunto interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the twenty second Day of January in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Witnesses

Jabez Bowen
Joseph West

Nich^s Cooke
John Jenckes

P S. If the Sloop is taken or Lost, no Charter money is to be paid only the Fifteen Hundred Dollars.

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOSIAH HEWES¹

Esteemd Frd Provid[ence] Jany 22nd 1776 -

My last was of the 18 Inst p Capt Phinehas Potter In the Schooner *Unety* with Abot 40 seafareg Men for the Contl fleet wth him I sent you 68 Cask Qy 31 bbs [?] Galls of Straind Oile & 50 Box[e]s Candl[e]s, wch I tho't by this Oppoy wod Just mention, As have Not time to give a full Coppy [of] that Letr I here Mention the Articles we Ordd by him as some of them May be Carr[te]d below where he must be in Case of Ice - Vizt 10 Tons best Refined Bar Iron For /9s As Much papr as Can be purchased a 4/a 4/3 Pha Cury from 10 to 50 Doz silk Romalls a 6/. to 6/3. same Qy Black Barcelong Do a £5.10 small £5 - these & the papr wod ha[v]g purchas'd as May be Car'd to the Vesell Cocoa 10 hhd a £4.10 [?] 40 firkins Butter a 8d 10 Do if it Cost 12d to fill in with flour In

this Voyage Messrs Clark & Nightin[gale] Brown & Power & My Self are Concern'd & if All our Money in yr hands is no[t] sufficient you are Desir'd to Call on Govr [Stephen] Hopkins & take what you want wch hes to Charge the Nav[a]l Comte

P.S. Brother Jno Brown & I wrote you of the 20th Inst p this Oppoy requesting your Assistance with our full power to Compleat a Contract with the Secret Comte wch I now Confirm & Desire you to be refer'd thereto – as they Messrs [Nicholas] Cook [Jr.] & [Joseph Dolbear] Russel [Jr.] will have a Bulkey Sum to bring us (the Navel Comte) here, Shod be Glad of yr Advise & assistance in Changing what they bring us into larger Money on Accot of Carriage –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES
IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Jan'y 22, 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That thirteen pounds 10/ LMy for good sound four Inch pl[ank] of thirty feet long and upwards.

Voted. That Good sound square Plank logs of 30 feet long & upwards & well hewed be 20/ P Ton deliver'd in Town.

Voted. That Sylvester Bowen be master workman for the smallest of the Ships. –

Reckoning 22/6 paid by Coll Nightingale

Meeting adjourned to Wednesday night 6 o'clock

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL ¹

Head Quarters Middletown Jan'y 22d 1776 –

Gentlemen – I understand you are upon a Negociation with Capt [James] Wallace in Consequence of an Act of the General Assembly and that a Committee appointed by you for that Purpose hath been on Board and laid the Act relative thereto before him. – Your Committee informs me that Capt Wallace hath sent You a Letter by them, the Contents of which I am entirely ignorant of, and would be much obliged to you for a Copy of the same, transmitted to me as soon as may be. –

I now take the Opportunity to inform You, that if you have not compleated your Treaty with Capt Wallace, You must finish it this Day, as there will be no Negociation allowed of hereafter with him, unless by a particular Permit from me. –

When Your said Negociation is compleated I shall expect a Copy thereof, immediately. – I am Gentlemen with Respect[&c.]

W^m West

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

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

Newport, January 22.

We are told Major [Benjamin] Tallman and Captain [Andrew] Waterman behaved with great spirit, and distinguished themselves much in repulsing the enemy from Prudence.

The men of war, &c. lay near Hope Island several days last week, where 'tis supposed they supplied themselves with wood and water. On Friday they came down to this harbour again.

Within a week past, the Continental Cruisers have taken a ship and a brig from England, loaded with provisions, bound into Boston, said to be rich prizes ¹

1. The *Friends* and *Sukey* were not taken by "Continental Cruisers."

MINUTES OF A NEWPORT TOWN MEETING ¹

At a Town Meeting Newport January 22d 1776

Voted, that this Town will Supply Capt Wallace with Beef, Beer &c agreeable to Act of Government

Voted, That Mess Wm Ellery & Jos Anthony be a Committee to wait on Genl [William] West at Head Quarters, & to lay before him the above Vote of the Town; And also to request that he will appoint a Person to provide & deliver the Provisions to Capt Wallace, & to request that he will give Orders to his Officers at Jamestown and elsewhere, to permit the Ferry Boats to Pass & repass with Provisions &c.

By Ordr Wm Coddington Town Clerk

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

BARNABAS DEANE TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

Wethersfield Jany 22d 1776 -

. . . I propose Setting out this Afternoon from Say Brook, to Engage Carpenters Timber &c. I Shall Write you by Every Opportunity, pray get the Plan of the Ship compleated ² & Send it by the first hand, Also Enquire in Regard to What the New York Carpenters have Said Ab[out] the Length of the Ship, I Suppose you have their plans before this Time

1. Silas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. Continental frigate building in Connecticut; later named the *Trumbull*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany January 22d 1776

The Resolve of the 8th Instant "That Shipwrights be immediately sent from New York and Philadelphia to build Batteaus" I could wish not to be put into Execution; as our Albany Shipwright will do nearly as much of that Kind of Work as two that are not accustomed to it - I can also make them work early and late which the others will not, besides there will be great Saving in the travelling Charges.

I shall immediately desire General Wooster to cause the River St Lawrence to be explored, agreeable to the Resolution of Congress, but I fear he is much

in Want of an Engineer for the purpose as well as for a proper person to ascertain what Kind of armed-Boat it would be most expedient to build.

I shall immediately proceed to get every Thing in readiness for building Batteaus at Fort George as Wood Creek cannot be cleared this Winter and I shall send up all the provisions and other Stores.

I fear I shall not be able to get a sufficient Quantity of Nails made in Time at this place what I cannot get I shall be obliged to pay 15d per pound for.

Part of the Troops, which I sent Colo. [Seth] Warner to raise are already on their March, the first party I have Reason to think is at farthest within a Days March of St Johns. I have ordered them off by Fifties as they would get ready – A Regiment on the last Continental Arrangement is compleating in the County of Berkshire; part of it is already marched. I was however obliged to give the like Bounty as I did to Colo: Warner – It is commanded by Colo: [John] Fellows and all the Officers were nominated by the General Committee of that County – They will not engage beyond the 15th of April – It was however lucky that I took these Measures for General Washington writes me that he cannot spare a Man. Inclose you a Copy of his Letter, a few Hours before I received it I wrote him by Express that the Necessity of sending Troops from Cambridge to Canada appeared to me to be superseded because of those going which I have mentioned above, and that there were two Regiments on their March from Pensylvania and New Jersey, which in all probability would reach Canada as soon as any he could send.

Governor Trumbull in a Letter of the 20th Instant advises me that a Regiment is raising in Connecticut to march immediately to Canada to be engaged to the first Day of November next.

As I have had no accounts from Canada since those which Mr [Edward] Antill brought I conclude that Nothing material has happened since the unfortunate affair of the 30th Ultimo.

I have in a former Letter observed that all the heavy Cannon and Mortars were ordered to Cambridge; I suppose they are there now – Should Quebec not fall into our Hands this Winter we shall want a considerable Number of these. Whence are we to be supplied? And from whence are we to get Ammunition?

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 408–10, NA.

INVOICE OF MERCHANDISE SHIPPED ON BOARD THE SCHOONER *Polly*¹

Invoice of Sundry Merchandize Shipped by Comfort Sands for acct & risque of [the New York Provincial] Congress on board the Schooner *Polly* Matthew VanAlstyne Master for Martinico [illegible]

30 Barrels Pork (bought pickled)	
16 ditto do	
32 do do	
12 do beef	
20 do do	
paid picklin & Cooperage [72] barr[el]s	
27 Furkens salt m[ea]t wt 1607 lb	
16 ditto do	862 lb

[burned]²

13 Firkins 2/ Cooperage & nailing
 1 Cask 60 hams 580 lb
 1 do 25 do 369 lb
 1 do 25 Chases 231 lb
 1 do 14 do 120 lb [do] 3 Hams 27 lb 154 lb Smokd beef
 24 Tierces Ship bread 45 . . 1 . . 2 wt
 24 Casks & packing
 8 barrels & 3 Tierces midlin bread 12 . . 1 . . 19 wt
 8 barrels 1/9 3 Tierces
 441 barrels Flour Nt weight 825 . . 3 . . 3
 441 barrels
 Inspecting & Carting
 paid Carting Pork salt & hams
 8 bushel [bran] for hams 1/9 4 Casks for do & beef
 2250 hogs[head]s Staves
 paid Carting 7 loads Staves & Trimming Flour

£1302.11..4

Cr

13 bbs Flour part of a parcell bought of James Stewart			
Left behind Nt wt 25 . . 4 . . 15	19/	24 . . 2 . . 3	
12 Casks 1/9 Inspection & Carting	3d	1 . . 6	25 . . 8 . . 3
			<hr/>
			1277.13..1

Errors Excepted N York Jany 22d 1776

Comfort Sands

[Endorsed] Examined & allowed the above Acct of Twelve Hundred & Seventy
 Seven pounds [1]3/1 on Provincial Acct
 [burned] Livingston Esqr

James Beekman
 John Ray
 Bra [burned]

1. NYSL.

2. This document was salvaged after the State Library at Albany burned. While some figures are visible in the right hand column, the items are so incomplete that it was judged better to show the total only, except the credit items which were unharmed by the flames. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety, February 1, 1776.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[New York] 22 Jany 1776

In several Visits from Lord Drummond, who left England in Sepr. and came in the *Roebuck* to Hallifax & thence to Boston where he tarried only one Night and then set out in the *Phoenix* Man of War for New York & after some Days went with Mr.[Andrew] Elliot the Collector a Brother of Sir Gilbert Elliot the Minister to Philadelphia where he conversed with several of the Continental Delegates I learnt

That he had been intimate with several Persons now at the Head of the British Councils . . .

He denied that he had Credentials for Proposals of Peace but spoke in Terms of great Confidence that he knew those to be Sentiments of Administration—confessed that he had communicated them to the Congress and asserted

that if they would send Home Commissioners who would assure the Ministry of America's closing with them upon some such Agreement it would put an End to the War – He expressed great Satisfaction in his Journey to Philadelphia, was happy in discovering that the Congress had more moderate Sentiments than People on either Side of the Water imagined and that he saw Nothing to discourage him . . .

I relied muc[h] upon these Hints from Lord Drummond because he was related to the Arch Bishop of York & Lord Mansfield & had been about the Ministers in Hopes of gaining a Part of the forfeited Estate of his uncle the attainted Duke of Perth and I thought that neither he nor Elliot would dare to intermix with the Delegates without authority from Administration, nor risk their Fortunes here by any Plan of Perfidy.

It was some confirmation that Lord Drummond expressed the greatest Uneasiness for Fear of a Rupture between the Town and the Captains of the *Asia* and *Phoenix* who he knew were under the old unrepealed Orders of June last to fire upon Towns were [*sic*] stores were seized Forts erected Officers imprisoned &c And he seemed to be anxious lest Mr. Tryon's Impatience in his disgraced Condition should put [Hyde] Parker and Vanderput to Difficulties who he said well knew the Admn. had changed their Sentiments greatly since Tryon left England in May.

Upon Advice that General [Charles] Lee had left Boston and was raising Troops in Connecticut to possess and fortify New York Lord Drummond required me to urge the [Provincial] Congress here to prevent his approach as it would imbarass the Captains & might end in the burning of the City and render the expected Negotiations abortive – I told him that I did not intermeddle in their Affairs nor seek their Confidence . . . Lord Drummond declared that the Captains knew Peace would take Place soon and that Admn. would not thank any servants of the Crown for irritating Men's Minds – That General [William] Howe was also apprized of the amiable Desires of Government and that if Mischiefs ensued he was perswaded the Fault would be our's – That Adml. Greaves (this in Answer to the Activity of the Navy) was a Fool seeking to prefer six Nephews & watching the Halting of others for that Purpose & that Lord Dunmore's Operations were neither authorized by Genl. Howe nor from Home but only countenanced by the Admiral.

1. William H. W. Sabine, ed., *Historical Memoirs from 16 March 1763 to 9 July 1776 of William Smith* . . . (New York, 1956), 257–59. Hereafter cited as Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 10 HO. A.M.

Jany. 22nd, 1776.

Col. [Alexander] McDougall informed the Committee that the captain of the man of war had despatched a pilot boat with mariners and marines to the relief of the transport ship at the Hook.

The Committee are of opinion that notice thereof should be given to Lord Stirling by express.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to his lordship was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Jany. 22d, 1776 – 12 o'clock.

My Lord – This minute the captains of the men of war have taken a pilot boat, and sent her down towards the Hook with mariners and marines on board from 20 to 25 in number.

If your party goes to secure the ship, they should secure the pilot boat first; or, in our opinion, there should be two or more boats with men, to contain at least 50 or more men in the whole, otherwise they may fail of success.

We have the honour to be [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Safety.

To the Right Honble. Wm. Earl of Sterling,
and in his absence to the Chairman of the
Committee at Elizth. Town.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted by Sampson Dyckman.

Col. McDougall informed the Committee that he had purchased the sloop *Sally* to be made an armed vessel, for the sum of £325, and requested an order for that sum.

Ordered, That Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Col. McDougall the sum of £325 to enable him to pay for the sloop or vessel called the *Sally*, which he has purchased in pursuance of an order of Provincial Congress of the 20th day of December last past. And,

Ordered, farther, That the said Treasurer advance and pay to Commodore James Smith, on Continental account, the sum of £26 13s.4d. for 2 months' pay, in part of his pay while in the Continental service at Lake Champlain, and that Mr. Livingston take a receipt or receipts for the same.

The Committee took into consideration the necessity and advantage of having sundry small armed vessels to protect trade in this and the neighbouring Colonies, and also to seize transports with provisions intended for the ministerial army and navy, and to prevent the same from being exported by persons unfriendly to the measures of the Colonies.

Thereupon a draft of a letter to the Delegates of this Colony at [Continental] Congress, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, Jany. 22nd, 1776.

Gentlemen – With the utmost anxiety we have beheld the supply of provisions collected last autumn on board the ship of war, by the means of small boats from Queens and Westchester counties, for the purpose of supplying the ministerial army at Boston. Our [Provincial] Congress, impelled by a desire to prevent so great a mischief, authorized Col. McDougall to equip a small armed vessel, to watch those and other dangerous supplies of the like kind.

We are informed by one of our Delegates that Congress will readily take this vessel into the Continental service; should it be so determined, her flag should be described to us, marine articles of war provided, with a toll of pay, and sent to us without delay. An acquaintance with the navigation in our neighbourhood, points out the necessity of immediately equipping three other small vessels of easy draft of water, sufficiently manned and provided both to attack and repulse the barges of the men of war with success, and constructed in such manner as to take shelter in coves and inlets out of the reach of superior force, and under cover of the musketry of the country. Those vessels will effectually scour the navigation of this port and its environs, and besides procuring offensive advantages, will prevent the above mentioned mischiefs. One of them should be stationed at Amboy, to watch the navigation from thence to Sandy Hook; another at Elizabeth Town, to attend that between Staten island and New-Jersey and the southwardmost parts of our bay; another on Hudson's river; and a fourth, the parts of the Sound to the eastward of this harbour, and they all might be occasionally used as express boats. The one already provided, is commanded by James Smith, who was commodore on the lakes the last summer with the rank of major. He has approved himself a man of worth in the naval service of the Continent, and as he has yet received no pay, we shall advance him some money on that score for his last year's service. Should the Congress approve of the proposed plan, we will cheerfully engage under their direction in the equipment of three more vessels; but to answer the good ends proposed, their order should be handed to us without delay. The vessels completely equipped, except the artillery and musquetry which we will supply, will cost about £600 each.

Egg Harbour is now known to our enemies as a place of debarkment for certain necessities. We therefore think that a small redoubt should be there built, garrisoned always by a proper captain's guard, with barracks to contain 200 men, so situated as to command the entrance of the harbour, and provided with cisterns to take rain water. Cedar wood is plenty there, which will answer all the purposes of wood work; and to complete the defence, a galley to mount a six pounder in her stem should, we think, be provided.

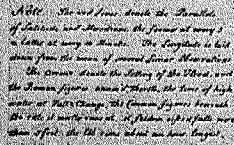
We have no grape shot for our field pieces, six pounders, nor coals to manufacture them. We beg to be informed if we can be supplied with that article at Philadelphia? If so, be pleased to send two tons to Elizabeth Town without delay, to our direction, together with the amount of the cost, which we shall remit without delay.

We are, gentlemen, [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

To the New-York Delegates in
Continental Congress, Philadelphia.

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.²



Joseph Woolcomb, mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, was brought before the Committee and examined. He says he was chief mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*; that she is laden with hogs, provisions, &c. for Boston; left London 13 weeks ago; that he was sent up to New-York by the captain, to put some letters for England on board of the men of war, and to return; that the ship was to lie off and on 14 hours for him; that they have had bad weather; that 36 sail of transports with stores and provisions came out with them; that as many more transports were ready to sail; that they have had such weather that he believes many other transports are gone to the West Indies; that the *Blue Mountain Valley* is a sharp built ship, and would make as good weather on a winter coast as any ship; that two troops of light horse came out in transports with *their* vessel, and were to winter in the West Indies.

Ordered, That Mr. Woolcombe remain in custody in Capt. [Benjamin] Ledyard's room, for farther examination.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 260–61.
2. The original of this letter, enclosed in one from General Charles Lee, is in Papers CC (Letters from General Officers, 1775–89), 158, I, 9, NA. For action upon it, see *Journal of the Continental Congress*, January 26, 1776.

CAPTAIN J. H. DEMPSTER TO GEORGE DEMPSTER¹

Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* Jany 22nd 1776.

Dear Brother, After a tedious and disagreeable passage of near thirteen Weeks, I have the pleasure to inform you that I am safe arriv'd at the Mouth of New York Harbour, but am not yet determin'd on going in 'till I am fully satisfied of the propriety of such proceeding; for which purpose I am now preparing to send an Officer on shore in order to gain, the necessary intelligence. I am urged to this step haveing been near three Weeks on the Coast, and not seeing or speaking with any of the King's Ships am (consequently) oblig'd to any small Vessels for information, which I am doubtful how far I can with safety rely on the truth of at this time. I am greatly amazed at not yet Seeing any of the Men of War, my instructions strictly forbidding me "to enter Boston or any other Port or Harbour in America 'till I have Spoke with some of His Majesty's Ships – proper Orders having been sent out for that purpose" – How far, and, in what manner these orders are obey'd, I think my present situation sufficiently evinces – However the present Condition of the Ship obliges me to go into some Harbour, and for these two cogent reasons, First, The bad State of the Ships rudder, wch I fear must be unhung before we can proceed any further, and Secondly, The Want of Water; in these two particulars we have suffer'd much from the frequent severe Gales of Wind we have met with, having in general had a very hard passage – From what is here premis'd I hope you will think my present Conduct Strictly justifiable – I have only now to inform you that from the necessary hurry of the Ship – I am oblig'd to employ one of my Officers to write this – therefore hope your Candour in excusing all defects – You may fully depend on hearing from me by every opportunity either here or elsewhere.

I remain Dear Brother Yrs Affectionately

J H Dempster

P S I am in perfect health but have not time to Write More fully Remember me to Mrs Dempster my mother &c And Am [&c.]

J H Dempster

A Most Dreadful Voyage we have made

To George Dempster Esqre No 71 Berner's Street
In Oxford Street London England

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. This intercepted letter, and the next entry, should have been dated January 21, 1776. See Minutes of the New York Committee of Safety of that date.

CAPTAIN J. H. DEMPSTER TO RICHARD CARDIN ¹

Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*
Off New York Jany 22, 1776

Dear Sir I am, after a turbulent passage of near thirteen Weeks Safe arriv'd off New York harbour but am not yet satisfied with going in 'till I am assur'd such a Step will be prudent respecting the Ship's safety, which is very precarious on this side the water, in these times. I am now sending on Shore in order to gain the proper intelligence, which opportunity my friendship and esteem for yourself & family cou'd not think of missing, to inform you of my present Welfare &ca You may fully depend on hearing from me by the earliest opportunity & in a more particular manner, as I have not time at present to write myself from the necessary hurry of the Ship – in the mean time beg you will present my best respects to Yr Spouse & family and accept the same Yr Self with the greatest Sincerity from Dr Sir [&c.]

J H Dempster

To Richd Cardin Esqre
Bucklers Bury London – England

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40. An intercepted letter.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, January 22, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due To Colonel Benedick Arnold, on account of the expences in the expedition against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, a ballance amounting to £245 14 1 lawful money – 819 dollars, Ordered that the same be paid to Silas Deane, Esqr

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, 77–79.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 22nd Jan'y, 1776.

Mr. [John] Ross, Muster Master, agreeable to a Resolve of this Board, made a Return of the Men employed on Board the armed Boats, which is as follows, viz't:

Men in pay,	410,
of whom are sick,	25,
of whom in Gaol	1,

Resolved, That Mr. Samuel Morris of this Board, Mr. [David] Rittenhouse, Mr. [John] McNeal & Capt. [Daniel] Joy, be a Committee to Survey the Jersey Shore from Billingsport to Newtown Creek, to determine what posts it may be necessary to fortify against the attempts of an Enemy who may endeavour to land, to make an Estimate of the Expence thereof, and to Report to this Board by this day week.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X 464, 465.

Pennsylvania Packet, MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1776

Philadelphia, January 22.

By an express arrived here last week from Canada we are informed that General Montgomery was most unfortunately killed in storming the city of Quebec; that the Provincial Troops were drawn off; and that John M'Pherson, jun. Esq; Aid de Camp to General Schuyler, was also killed.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Monday 22 Jany 1776 – The Committee met –

Messrs R. & A. McKim having applied to this Committee for Liberty to ship a Cargo of Provisions to some Port of New England in a Sloop lately arrived in this Port from Nantucket commanded by Capt Seth Paddock: This Committee do permit the said Robt & Alexr McKim to load said Vessel, on these express Conditions, That the said Capt Paddock shall not proceed in said Vessel, and that she shall be put under the Command of a Master, who shall be approved of by this Committee, the said R. & A. McKim also giving Security, that the said Vessel shall not proceed to any Port or Place prohibited by the Resolves of the [Continental] Congress –

Mr Thomas Ewing made Application to the Committee for Permission to load the Schooner *John*, Danl Merchant Master, lately arrived in this Port for Salem in N England with a Cargo of Flour & Corn; At the same Time a Certificate from the Committee of Gloucester in New England, and a Letter from Major Richard Carey were produced, which being deemed satisfactory, a Permission was granted to Mr Ewing to load said Vessel –

Captn William McNeil applied to the Committee for Permission to take in a Cargo of Provisions for New England on Condition of the Shipper of said Provision giving sufficient Security, that said Vessel shall not proceed to any Port or Place prohibited by the Resolves of the Continental Congress, which Application is granted –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO STEPHEN STEWARD ¹

No 3.

[Annapolis] Monday 22d Jany 1776.

To Mr Stephan Steward, West River.

sir The Council of Safety are informed that you have been at Philadelphia, and are acquainted with the Method, the Committee [of Safety] have taken there to prevent the Approach of Men of War, and armed Vessels to that City. As the

Convention have resolved, that the Sum of five thousand, nine hundred Pounds be appropriated to fortify Annapolis, and place Obstructions in the Channel of the River – the Council would be glad to see you, and take your Opinion on any Plans, or Designs, that may be thought necessary in carrying this Resolution of the Convention into Execution. Mr [Charles] Wallace has been so kind as to lay before us your Letter of the 20th Inst on which we shall be glad to confer with you. We are with Respect [&c.]

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, 1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 22d January 1776.

The following Agreement was made with Captain John Pitt.

Whereas the Honorable the late Convention of the Province of Maryland, Resolved, that two pilot Boats be immediately employed and stationed to gain and [communicate notice of any Attem]pt that might be made by the Men of [war to com]e into this Province, I do hereby agree with the Honorable Daniel of St Thomas Jenifer Charles Carroll (Barrister) John Hall & James Tilghman Esqrs (of the Council of Safety for this Province) to furnish one pilot Boat for the above purpose at the Rate of twenty five Shillings per Day, and immediately to sail with my said Boat for the purpose of gaining Intelligence agreeable to said Resolution; and that I will from Time to Time use my best Endeavours to gain such Intelligence and as Occasion may require, communicate the same to the Council of Safety.

Jn^o Pitt.

Instructions were given accordingly to Captain pitt.

Mr Jo. Middleton agreed to furnish a Boat for the like purposes and on the same Terms as Captain pitt and received his In[structions accordingly.]

A Copy of the Letter (No 3) relative to placing Obstructions in the Channel of this River was sent to Mr Stephen Steward,

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

Janury 1776

Off Norfolk in Virginia

Monday 22

at 3 A M the Rebels fird on a party of Volunteers who were bringing off some Tabaco from the Shore belonging to the British Merchants here, fird several Shot and Dispers'd them arrived here our Tender with a small sloop taken from the Rebels.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. *Ibid.*, the sloop *Edward*, tender, which had sailed on her first cruise, January 14, after being supplied from the *Liverpool* with "a Lieut and 25 men." The prize was the sloop *Susannah*, Francis Bright, master, the property of Christie & Gilmore, of Baltimore. She was returning from Antigua with a cargo of salt; Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Monday, Jan. 22nd, 1776

The report of the committee to prepare a plan of defence, being taken into consideration, the council resolved to issue the following orders:

1. That proper signals, for giving notice of the appearance of vessels on the coast, be fired on, at the Light-House, Sullivan's Island, and Fort Johnson. That a corporal and six men of the first or second regiment be stationed at the Light-House, and that a good look-out be kept, at all those places. The signals not to be by guns, except in thick foggy weather.

2. That one hundred and thirty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be posted on Sullivan's Island, for manning the battery there, and eighty good rifle-men, rank and file, under proper officers, to prevent an enemy's landing.

3. That no boat or other vessel, be suffered to pass that island, without a permit, from the Council of Safety, the commander of the troops, or the officer commanding at that or some other post, and that the forces stationed on Sullivan's Island use their best endeavours to take or destroy every boat or other vessel, which shall pass, or attempt to pass without such permit.

4. That no boat be suffered to land on that island, without such permit; and that the forces stationed there, use their best indeavours, to take or destroy all boats attempting so to do.

5. That fifty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, and a detachment of two officers and twenty-five men of the volunteer and militia companies in Christ-Church Parish (the latter to be relieved every fortnight, by a like detachment from the companies) be always posted at the battery on Haddrell's Point, for the like purposes as those stationed at Sullivan's Island.

6. That two hundred and fifty men, rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be stationed at Fort Johnson, for the like purposes.

7. That the command of the battery westward of Fort Johnson, being given to Capt. [Benjamin] Stone's company of militia on James Island, twenty men of that company under a proper officer be constantly posted there; the remainder of the company to repair thither upon any alarm by beat of drum. That sixty men rank and file, of the first or second regiment, under proper officers, be posted near that battery, to sustain it – and that the commanding officer of Fort Johnson do reinforce that battery when necessary; and if he shall see occasion, send an officer to take the command of it, that the forces stationed at this battery use their best endeavours to take or dstroy any vessel which shall attempt to annoy or pass Fort Johnson.

8. That the slooper *Defence* be stationed about Crab Bank in Hog Island Creek, and the Ship *Prosper* to the westward of and near the battery next to Fort Johnson; and that the commanders of those vessels use their best endeavours to take or destroy the enemy's boats or other vessels.

(Eighth order postponed, till Capt. [William Henry] Drayton according to his desire, be heard.)

9. That on the drums in Charles-Town beating to arms, the artillery company, together with an officer and twenty-five men of Col [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney's regiment, to be appointed for that purpose, repair to, and take post in, Broughton's battery – Capt. Darrel's company, and an officer and the like number of men from Col. Pinckney's regiment, Lyttleton's Bastion – the grenadier company of the second regiment augmented to fifty men, and one subaltern and twenty men from the regiment of artillery, in Granvilles – the fuziliers company in Beale's – Capt. Cannon's company in Prioleau – Capt. Alexander Moultrie's musketeers to Craven's Bastion – the remainder of the artillery regiment in Lauren's – and forty men of Col. Pinckney's regiment, under proper officer's in Gibbes's.

10. That six subalterns, six sergeants, and one hundred and twenty rank and file, of Col. Pinckney's regiment, take post at the State House, Branford's Corner, Grimke's, Rantowles, Ramadges, and Brewton's, viz: one subaltern, one sergeant, and twenty privates at each of those places, with one of the Fire engines, and a sufficient number of negroes with fire hooks, axes, ropes, and every thing necessary for extinguishing fires or pulling down houses, that Mr. Manigault and Mr. Smith, and four such persons as they shall think proper and appoint for that purpose (which they are desired to do) be requested to attend at the places above mentioned (one at each of them) and to give such directions as they shall think necessary for extinguishing any fires that may break out in the town: which directions are to be obeyed by the detachments aforesaid.

11. That if fire should break out in the night, some persons from the main guard go to the upper gallery of St. Michael's Church Steeple, and there hold out a lighted lantern on a pole, pointing to the fire.

12. That a guard of fifty men, rank and file, of the militia be stationed at the magazine and prison: and the like number at the barracks, for the protection of women and children who may be sent there.

13. That there be proper patrols, on horseback or foot as shall be ordered, in the back parts of the town, to prevent disorder.

14. That the remainder of the first and second regiments – of Col. Pinckney's regiment – and of the country militia and volunteer companies who may be in town, repair to such places as the commanding officer shall appoint, and there wait orders.

15. That able-bodied negro men be taken into the public service, and enrolled and employed, without arms for the defence of the several batteries in Charles-Town, Fort Johnson and other batteries, at the rate of two to each gun, and that this be done as soon as possible, for every battery, by the officer whose company is directed to be stationed at it. That they be in constant pay at the rate of ten shillings per day, and the public to find them in provisions. If killed, wounded or disabled in the public service, the loss or damage to be paid for by the public, and that suitable rewards shall be given to those slaves, who behave well in time of action.

16. That the men directed to be stationed at or on an alarm, to take post in the forts and batteries, be exercised at the cannon there one hour every day,

from eleven to twelve o'clock, for ten days next ensuing, the delivery of these orders.

17. That a return be forthwith made to this board, of the state of the first and second regiments, the artillery regiment, Col. Pinckney's regiment, and Charles-Town artillery company, and the country militia and volunteer companies now in town; and of the sloop *Defence*, ship *Prosper* and Brigantine *Comet*, and of what arms and ammunition are still wanting for those forces and vessels respectively.

18. That no guns be fired in or about town without permission from the proper officers.

19. That as the Council of Safety will repair to the State-House on any alarm, the commanding officer give them notice where he is to be found in such case.

Read a letter from the Hon. Capt. Drayton of this date.

The Council issued an order for the payment of £160 to James Barker, for his expenses and service in engaging seamen for the naval armament of this colony.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 204-09.

CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Raven at Savannah 22d Jany 1776

I beg you will please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of Admiral Graves's order dated the 29th of last November, I sailed from Boston with directions to endeavour to land some dispatches for the Governors of Philadelphia, Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas and Georgia, but being repeatedly blown off the Coast by violent Gales of wind, I was only Able to fetch Charles Town bar, off which place I anchored on the 12th instant, where I found riding His Majesty's Ship *Syren*: after waiting on Captain [Tobias] Furneaux, he advised me not to go into the Harbour with His Majestys Sloop under my Command, that Lord William Campbell had been forced to quit his Government and was on board the *Cherokee* Arm-Ship: upon this intelligence I declined going in, and proceeded in Company with the *Syren*, *Tamer*, and *Cherokee* which two last Ships we fell in with on our passage hither, and arrived here on the 16th where I am Stationed until further Orders.

Since my arrival at this Port, I have had no Open communication with this Colony or Town of Savannah, and from the intelligence which I have received, they are in open Rebellion against the King: that on the 18 instant the Governour and Council were confined, but were again released on a promise that they would not leave the Town without permission.

I am sorry to acquaint their Lordships, that since my leaving Boston, the greatest part of the Ships Company have been very much afflicted with the Scurvey, (some of whom died of this distemper) but I am in hopes, that with the few refreshments I have already procured and the prospect of future supplies, I shall be able to restore them to their proper health.

I further beg you will please to acquaint their Lordships that I fell in with, and Seized a Ship belonging to Philadelphia with near Two Thousand Pounds on board in Money, which she brought from Lisbon;² and on my arrival here I seized a Ship belonging to Rhode Island, laden with Lumber,³ an account of which

Ships I have transmitted to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Boston. I am, Sir [&c.]

Jn^o Stanhope

P.S. I herewith inclose the *Georgia Gazette* for their Lordships perusal in which the[y] will perceive in some measure what is going on in this Province, as well as the other parts of America.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2483.
2. The ship *Rittenhouse*, Ambrose Bartlett, master. Shulldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. *Ibid.*, the ship *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master.

CAPTAIN TOBIAS FURNEAUX, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS,¹

Syren, Sevanah River, January the 22d 1776 –

Sir I take this opportunity by the *Sandwich packet*, which Lord William Campble sends home express, to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship *Syren* under my Command off Cape Fear, on the 4th Inst after a most disagreeable passage of seven Weeks, and four days from Plymouth Sound, and found my stay must be two or three days there to procure Pilots, thought it most prudent to run the Ship within the barr, for her more security; as it is an open Road, and very much exposed to Southerly and Easterly winds, which prevail much, and occasion such a heavy swell, as no Anchors could have held her. And on the 10th sail'd from Cape Fear, for Charles town, with four Pilots on board, on the 12th Anchored off the Barr, and made the Signal, but had no Answer. it being thick heavy Weather could not see any thing of our Ships; the next Morning sent the pinnace with the first Lieutenant, Mann'd and Armed, into the Harbour, but finding neither the *Tamer* or *Cherokee* there went on board a Spanish Snow, that then lay at Anchor in Rebellion Road, who informed Lieutenant Pennington that they had left that place about eight or ten days before; Mr Pennington had two Shots fired at him from the Fort, which fell short of the boat, and as he was returning on board, saw a small Schooner at Anchor without the Barr, in the Channel he was to go, and being informed she was looking out for him was on his Guard, as soon as she saw the boat she got under way, and stood towards him, and hail'd Mr Pennington and ordered him, to go before him into Charles town, but on Mr Pennington's answering him he fired two Shott at the boat, on which the people were ordered to lay their Oars across and fire; and after an Engagement of Ten minutes (supposing to have kill'd their Captain) she bore away for our boat, which gave chase but could not come up with her, our boat return'd having received no damage. The Schooner mounted Six Swivels, and some Musquetoons, and had between Twenty and Thirty hands. –

As I was sure the Ships could not be gone to the Northward as Captain [John] Stanhope of His Majesty's Sloop *Raven* who had that day Anchored off Charles town barr, from Boston, bound to Georgia, and myself from Cape Fear must have fallen in with them; thought most probable they were gone to Port Royal: on the 14th I got under way; the 15th at four OClock in the evening, having nearly run the length, of Port Royal saw a Sail to the Southward, which

we chased, at 8 spoke her which proved to be the *Polly* Schooner belonging to the *Tamer*, who informed me that Lord William Campble in the *Cherokee*, and the *Tamer*, were at Anchor about eight leagues to the S W of us; we then stood for them, and very luckily fell in with them (it being thick fogg and heavy rain) about 2 oClock in the Morning, and Anchor'd about five leagues off the Land, that evening sent his Lordship's packet on board to him, intending to have gone to Port Royal, as I was very short of Water, but as [there] was no Pilot for that place to be got out of any of the Ships, and none would come off to us, and the place being Fortified, thought it most prudent to go into Sevanah for Water, and having got on board about twenty Tuns, shall proceed off Cape Fear as soon as possible. —

On my arrival at Cape Fear, I found the Ships short of all stores, and the *Cruizer* very much worm eaten, and as she had no boat fitt for service, on an application from Captain [Francis] Parry, Supplied him with the spare boat; The *Tamer* is so bad that she is not fitt for Sea, her bottom much worm eaten, main Yard gone, and in great want of all stores, and short of Provisions; The *Raven* very sickly having had a passage of seven weeks from Boston. —

I am sorry to acquaint their Lordships of the death of Lieutenant Pennington, who was shot in a Duell with Lieutenant Cumming of the Marines; Mr Cumming is now under Confinement on board. —

During our passage from England had very bad weather, in general found the Ship answer to our expectations. — I am Sir [&c.]

Tob^s Furneaux

[Endorsed] Read 4 Mar 5 Mar Own rect

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1790.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Raven*, CAPTAIN JOHN STANHOPE ¹

January 1776	Laying in Savannah River
Saturday 20	(AM) Unbent the Mainsail The people empd Occasionally First middle and Latter mode and Cloudy Detained a Ship belonging to Rhode Island, Laden with Lumber bound to Jamaica, took out all the People and sent on board an Officer with 2 Men to take Charge of her ²
Sunday 21	(AM) Stopt a Schooner and examined her The people empd as above First part mode and Cloudy middle and Latter fair Carpenters empd Sheathing the small bower Anchor Stock.
Monday 22	(AM) sailed hence the <i>Syren</i> Frigate Recd on board from the Sloop ³ that was Stopt 10 Barrels of Cyder and 10 of Apples

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The ship *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master, owned by Roch and Lopez, Rhode Island merchants; Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

3. Note that on Sunday, January 21, she is spoken of as a schooner.

INFORMATION TO THE TOWN OF SAVANNAH FROM GOVERNOR SIR JAMES WRIGHT ¹

Savannah, Monday, January 22, 1776

Doctor Jones and Joseph Clay waited on the Governour in consequence of a written request from him, when he informed them, that as soon as he heard there was a man-of-war in the river, which was on Tuesday last, he sent orders to Captain Lightenstone to go on board them and to inquire who they were and what number, and endeavour to learn their intentions. And as the Governour was apprehensive, if any of the man-of-war boats came up to town, it might be the occasion of disputes between them and the inhabitants, and, perhaps, bloodshed, for which reason he directed Captain Lightenstone to acquaint them that the town was in much confusion, and to request that they would not send any of their boats up to town.

But his orders reached Captain Lightenstone at Skidway, on Wednesday morning, who, immediately went on board the men-of-war, and returned from them on Thursday afternoon, and to Savannah this morning; who acquainted him, the Governour, that in pursuance of his orders, he had been on board the ships-of-war – that they informed him, by Lightenstone, that the *Syran* and the packet would prob'y, go to sea this day or to-morrow; that the *Tamar* had sprung her main-yard, and was in want of provisions, as was the *Cherokee*; that as soon as she (the *Tamar*) had got a new yard, which they expected to supply themselves with from Tybee, that she (the *Cherokee*) would, as soon as that was done, and they had supplied themselves with provisions, which they expected soon to procure, having already got five or seven beeves from Tybee, and expected to get some other provisions from Little Tybee (which they were then sending for,) go to sea also; and then there would be left in this harbour only the *Raven*, which is stationed here; and that he apprehended this town had nothing to fear from the men-of-war, unless they should attempt any thing in consequence of hearing of his, the Governour, being under arrest, which he assured us if they had, it was not from him or with his knowledge.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 799.

23 Jan.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, January 23, 1776.

Moses Gill, Esq; brought down the Report of a Committee appointed to consider a Plan for fitting out armed Vessels, with the following Vote of Council thereon, *viz.*

In Council, January 23d, 1776.

Ordered, That Thomas Cushing, Esq; be of the aforesaid Committee on the Part of the Board, in the Room of John Adams, Esq; who is absent.

Read and concurr'd.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday, Jany 23rd 1776

Petition of Joseph Deane, setting forth that he has for several years past used the Surinam Trade, in Consequence of which a very considerable part of his Interest, to the amount of Five hundred pounds, now remains in the Hands of the Merchants in that place – The time limited for the payment of which, has already expired – Your Petitioner begs leave further to represent to the Honle Court, that he last spring purchased a Bill of Exchange to the amount of Five hundred pounds more, drawn by a dutch Merchant there on his correspondent in Amsterdam – which Bill has since come back protested to your Petitioner – both of which Sums must be infallibly lost to your Memorialist, in case of failure of any of his debtors (which at this day is not improbable:) He therefore prays your Honors, to grant him Liberty to sail from this Colony to Surinam in a Brigantine, which he now has by him, and laying totally useless, in order to secure the aforesaid Sums – He means not, nor does he wish to contravene the Resolves of the American Congress, or the regulations made by this Colony – He therefore only Asks permission to carry empty Molosses Casks enough to bring home the proceeds of his said debt in the produce of Surinam and the rest ballast – He intends, if by any means can be obtained, to purchase a Cargo of Powder – But as this is a matter altogether uncertain, and as Molosses Casks can not be procured in Surinam, he prays your Honors to grant him the Permission above prayed for.

In the House of Representatives Read and committed to the Committee appointed the 15th Currant to consider the subject matter of Thomas Russels Petition –

In Council Read and Concurred

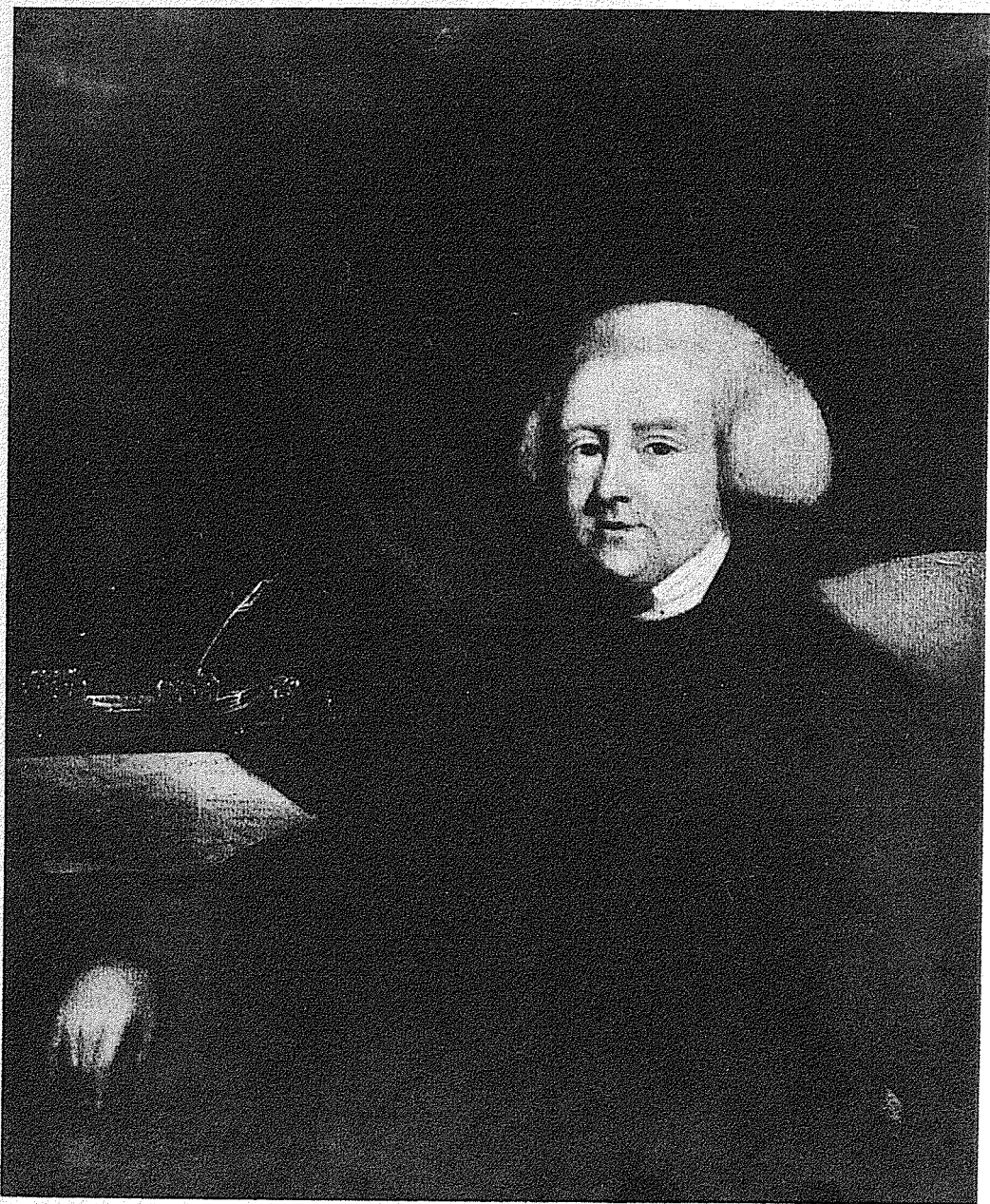
The Committee of both Houses on the above Petition, have attended that service, and having Considered the same, report the following Resolve. –

Resolved, That Joseph Dean be allowed to send the Brigantine, in his Petition mentioned, to the Foreign West Indias, in order to collect any money's which may be due to him there – he giving Bonds with sufficient sureties, in the sum of One Thousand pounds, to the Treasurer of this Colony, that he will not export in said Brigantine, any Cash or produce of the Colonies. – And it is recommended to the said Joseph Dean, to purchase and return here, Arms, Ammunition or any species of Military Stores enumerated in a late Resolution of the Congress, if they are to be obtained –

In Council read and accepted

In the House of Representatives read & Concurred

Petition of Thomas Russell late of Charlestown setting forth that he has now due to him considerable sums of money from the foreign West India Islands, for the recovery of which he conceives there are no possible means, if the intercourse between them and us is totally stopped: That your Petitioner is also possessed of a small Schooner of which Mathew Groves is Master, now in the Harbour of Salem, the Inactivity of which, if a total stagnation of Trade takes place, your Honors are doubtless sensible must prove a dead loss. –



John Adams.

That your Petitioner by no means proposes to export the Produce of this Province to the foreign West Indias, but to sail in Ballast and make a return with the Commodities of said foreign Island. – Wherefore and considering the amazing scarcity and consequently high Price of West India commodities – your Petitioner prays that the said Schooner may be permitted to perform said Voyage. –

In the House of Representatives – Ordered that the Speaker, Mr [Daniel] Hopkins, and Colo [Ebenezer] Sawyer, with such as the honle Board shall join, be a Committee to consider at large the Subject matter of the within Petition and report –

In Council Read and Concurred and William Sever and John Winthrop Esqrs are joined. –

The Committee of both Houses on the Petition of Thoms Russell have attended that service and having considered the same, report the following –

Resolved that Thomas Russell be allowed to send the Schooner, of which Mathew Groves is master to the foreign West Indias, in order to collect any Monies which may be due him there, he giving Bonds with sufficient Sureties in the sum of One Thousand pounds to the Treasurer of this Colony, that he will not export in said Schooner, any Cash, or produce of the Colonies: and it is hereby recommended to the said Thoms Russell, to direct the Master of said Vessell to purchase Arms, Ammunition, or any kind of Military Stores enumerated in a late Resolution, of the Congress, if they are to be obtained. –

In Council Read and Accepted

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 539–43.

[JOSEPH PALMER] JOHN BORLAND TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, 23d January 1776.

Dear Sir To regulate the trade of the United Colonies, being a field of vast extent, far exceeds my present comprehension; & 'tis not likely I shall ever fully investigate that complicated System of Regulation, which will best Serve the trade of these Colonies; however, I will venture to Suggest to you several reasons which incline me to favour the following Regulation, which respects the importation of foreign Articles. I wou'd first premise, that I apprehend it necessary that we shou'd have a good Sumptuary Law, well adapted to our circumstances: This being supposed, I think we Shall be best able to guard against some breaches of this Law, by being our own Carriers; & by having all imports in our own Bottoms, we Shall have all the advantages of Supplying & carrying; this will also encourage Ship-building, & will be an effectual Nursery for Seamen; & will also prevent other Nations obtaining Such knowledge of our Ports, as may, in Some future time, enable them to improve it to our damage, as our unnatural enemies have lately done. When this matter is contemplated, I shou'd be very fond, for the reasons mentioned, to Secure this point, even at a great expence (if necessary) in Some other way. For as we don't want any Imports, as necessary to Life; & as our Exports of the Provision kind will be large, I think we may, in treaty, fairly claim the proposed Article. I have no time, but only at the Board, where many interruptions necessarily take place; if I shou'd have oppo, will write more fully.

. . . We now see that our enemies are determined to push with all their might early in the Spring; how necessary it is then that we take effectual measures for reducing both Que[bec] & Bos[ton] before the Spring arrives. But this is not all; may we not also attempt to divert the Storm? If the United [Colonies] shou'd declare for independence, & offer their Trade, in some general way, until treaty shall settle particulars, to Somebody else; wd not our Enemies find themselves immediately involved in a War with that Somebody? & wd not that involvement break the Storm, in some degree, for the present? and can anybody accept such Trade without such involvement? And if these things must be done at all, prudence says that they must be done soon, without any delay, & that a better form of Governmt, at least a more compleat one, is necessary for expedition. —

Borland

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Plymouth 23. January 1776.

I am much obliged by your Excellency's favour of the 20th instant pr Capt [Charles] Dyar — I shall do every thing in my power to dispatch the *Harrison*. shall get the square sail prepared, & think it very necessary, the expence wont be great — Lieutenant [John] Wigglesworth the bearer of this will wait on your Excellency for his Commission as 2d Lieutenant, by whom you please to send a Commisn for Mr Thomas Doten as first Lieut — Mr Wigglesworth has conducted in this matter with great Dignity. — I had appointed him as 1st Lieut but Mr. Doten offering his service, Wigglesworth generously gave way to Doten as being a more experienced sailor, & as haveing been some years commander of a good ves[sel] —

Nothing is wanting for the *Harrison* but a Guner & a few Quire of cartridge paper, which your Excellency will please to order. — I have the honr to be your Excellencys [&c.]

William Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL¹

Head Quarters Middletown Jan'y 23d 1776 —

Gentlemen Yesterday I received the Copy of Capt Wallace's Letter to you of the 21st Inst. by which I perceive he refuses making any Treaty with any part of the Colony, while in Arms against their Sovereign (Newport only excepted) which he believes is not so: Nevertheless considering the present defenceless Situation of the Town of Newport, shall permit said Town to supply Capt Wallace, with two thousand Weight of Beef and with Beer as usual, so long as he shall continue peaceably within the Colony, without committing any Depredations upon the Islands, or upon any of the Lands within the Colony & no longer. — I also received a Copy of the Votes of the Town of Newport by the hands of Your Comtee Mess Wm Ellery and Joseph Anthony appointed for that Purpose, in which You have voted Capt Wallace Supplies agreeable to Act of Government and requested me to appoint a Person to provide and deliver the Provisions to the said Wallace; agreeably

thereto I have appointed Mr George Irish to deliver the Supplies. In your Vote you also request, that I would give Orders to my Officers at Jamestown & elsewhere to permit the Ferry Boats to pass and repass with Provisions &c which Request I cannot comply with, But do strictly forbid any Boat or Vessel from passing within Hail of Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet, unless by a particular Permit from me. – I desire you Gentlemen of the Town Counsel of Newport when You have Occasion for any Treaty to be made with the Commander in chief at Head Quarters relative to the Town & Capt Wallace by a Committee, that Mess. John Collins, Wm Ellery and George Sears or either of them be the Committee for that Purpose. – Any Boat or any Vessel of any kind, that shall pass so near Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet, as to be spoke with, shall be immediately taken up and dealt with according to the Law of this Colony for Persons giving Intelligence to the ministerial Fleet

I am Gentlemen [&c.]

W^m West

P:S: The Supplies for Capt. Wallace will be deliverd from the Ferry Wharf, at the Point, as heretofore, untill I may judge some other Place more convenient.

W W

a True Copy Witness W^m Coddington Town Clerk

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

NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST ¹

Newport January 23d 1776 –

Yours of this Day we received, and as its contents were in our opinion of the highest Importance to the Peace and Security of this Town, we conceived it to be our Duty immediately to convene the Inhabitants in order to lay the same before them, for their Information, and to take their opinion upon the Subject Matter thereof, which we have accordingly done this afternoon.

You observe, Sir, in Answer to the Vote of the Town passed Yesterday requesting that you wou'd appoint a Person to provide and deliver the Beef, Beer &c for Capt [James] Wallace, that you have appointed Mr George Irish to deliver the Said Supplies from which we suppose you have left it with us to employ a Person to procure the Same; We shall therefore give Directions to some Person who may be agreeable to you to provide & kill the Beef, the appointment of Mr Irish to deliver the same being Satisfactory to us: This we presume you will approve of as Consistent with the Law of the Colony which allows the Town Council of this Town to Supply Capt Wallace weekly with Beef &c

When you consider the distressed and unhappy Circumstances of the Inhabitants of this Town we perswade ourselves you do not wish to adopt any Measures that have a Tendency to increase their Difficulties; And as the Fleet under the Command of Capt Wallace are so numerous that they may be extended along the Whole Western side of this Island it must appear to you impossible that any Boats can pass them without being within Hail either with or without your Permits; and

when it is further Consider'd that it is not Criminal for any of the Boats to Pass within Hail of the Ships of War and that no Permits are required by any Act of the General Assembly we are at a Loss to account for your strictly forbidding any Boat or Vessel from passing within Hail of Capt Wallace or any of his Fleet unless by a particular Permit from you without you have received any Orders for so doing; in which Case we cou'd wish they might be communicated to us; But if you have no such Directions, we request that you wou'd give Orders to your subordinate Officers for the Ferry Boats and Wood Vessels to pass with Provisions and Fuel for the Use of the Town without Interruption –

We have no Objection to the Gentlemen you have desired may be appointed a Committee to treat with the Commander in Chief at Head Quarters on any Matter relative to the Town and Capt Wallace, however we must beg leave to observe that the confining our Choice to any three particular Persons may not only be attended with great Inconveniences, but is in our opinion inconsistent with the Liberty we have an Indisputable Right to of nominating our own Committee –

By Order of the Worshipful Town Council, I have the honor to be sr [&c.]

W^m Coddington Council Clerk

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

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir, –

New London, Jan. 23d, 1776.

Lieutenant Elisha Hinman sailed for Philadelphia, in Sloop *Lizard*, Joshua Hempsted, Junr, Master, Friday morning, 19th inst.; wind at W.N.W.; continued in same point next day; Sabbath and yesterday N.E., this day N.W.; all the time, moderate breeze and clear weather; make no doubt the *Lizard* will be this day at Reedy Island, unless she meets the Fleet sooner. I thought it prudent to furnish the *Lizard* with six weeks' provisions, and twenty Sloop oars, to serve in case of distress, which, with all the other stores and provisions not used on the passage and charged in the accompt, will be delivered to the Fleet.

First Lieut. Hinman's crew, 48; Second Lieut. [Jonathan] Maltbie's, 16; Mastr David Phipp's, 18; total 82; ² deduct one of Hinman's men, Samuel Slack, left very ill with a fever, (who died this morning;) and possibly some charge will arise, that can't be known just now. Thought it not improper to charge the Sloop *Lizard*'s hire, although not paid, as it must be paid, by Charter Party, in three days after advice received that she has performed the service.

You have enclosed, my accompt [with] Sloop [*sic* ship] *Alfred*, D. Saltonstall, Comr, amounting to £314 14s. 3d. Lawful Money, or 1049 Continental Dollars; which sum, desire you will remit me as proposed, to New London, immediately. I could not find any person that wanted money at Philadelphia, and was obliged to borrow of a friend.

Enclosed also, you have the roll of Lieut. Hinman's men, containing their months' pay, and billeting paid them from time of shipping to 13th instant, when they went on board the *Lizard*.

Thank you for the Journal of Congress, received some time since. This evening the western Post came in, and am not favoured with a line from you or Capt. Saltonstall. Tell him, all well, here and at Westerly. I am [&c.]

G. Saltonstall.

1. "Correspondence of Silas Deane," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 352-53.
2. Narrative of Richard Bulkeley: "In the Winter of 1775 and 1776 Capt. Dudley Saltonstall was appointed to the command of the Ship *Alfred*, lying at Philadelphia. I was then appointed a midshipman under him. Lt. E[lisha] Hinman, Lt. [Jonathan] Maltbie, Sailing Master [David] Phipps, Midshipman Peter Richards, Alexander P. Adams, Capt. Clark, myself, and about 74 others, sailed from N. London to join the fleet then lying in the Delaware," NLCHS.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY¹

Sir -

Yesterday on the road I had the honour of receiving yours, and ought to make a thousand apologies for not having answered it immediately, but the circumstance of being on the road, together with the necessity of finishing some despatches to General Washington, and to the Continental Congress, rendered it almost impossible.

I should certainly, sir, have apprized you of my march, had I not concluded that you would have learnt it time enough from the Congress. The letter I have from the general, directed to the Chairman of the Committee of Safety, I was ordered to deliver with my own hand.

With respect, sir, to the alarms of the inhabitants, on the suspicion that my business was to commence active hostilities against the men of war in your harbour, I can assure you that they may be perfectly easy. Such never was the intention of the general, and I hope you will believe that I never entertained a thought of transgressing the letter of my instructions. The motive of the general for detaching me, was solely to prevent the enemy from taking post in your city, or lodging themselves in Long island, which we have the greatest reason to think, sir, is their design.

Some subordinate purposes were likewise to be executed, which are much more proper to communicate by word of mouth than by writing; but I give you my word that no active service is proposed, as you seem to apprehend. If the ships of war are quiet I shall be quiet; but I declare solemnly that if they make a pretext of my presence to fire on the town, the first house set in flames by their guns, shall be the funeral pile of some of their best friends; but I believe, sir, the inhabitants may rest in security on this subject. I am convinced, and every man who considers a moment must be convinced, that the destruction of the seaport towns, would, if possible, be a severe stroke to the ministry and their instruments, than to the inhabitants themselves. The seaport towns are the only holds they have in America; they are considered as the pledges of servitude; the menacing destruction of them may indeed be of admirable use, but the real destruction of them must extinguish all hopes of success.

In compliance, sir, with your request, I shall only carry with me into town a force just strong enough to secure it against any designs of the enemy, until it shall please the Continental Congress to take measures for its permanent security.

The main body I shall leave on the western frontiers of Connecticut, according to your directions. I hope, sir, and persuade myself, that the Committee and inhabitants can have no objection to this plan. If Mr. [William] Tryon and the captains of the ships of war are to prescribe what numbers are, and what numbers are not, to enter the town, they are absolute directors to all intents and purposes. The condition is too humiliating for freemen to put up with.

You take pains to assure me, sir, that your Congress and Committee are not less zealous in the cause of American liberty than any representative body on the Continent. I give you my word, sir, that this assurance was unnecessary. I am not one of those who have entertained a bad opinion of the virtue of New-York, or made it my business to asperse them; on the contrary I have condemned loudly the illiberal, impolitic, and unjust reflections I have heard frequently thrown out. I should not have taken the liberty of troubling you with the opinion, good or bad, which an unimportant individual like myself may entertain of so respectable a body as your Committee or Congress, had not this particular paragraph of your letter thrown the temptation in my way.

I am, sir, [&c.]

Charles Lee.

Stamford, 23rd January, 1776.

Peter V. B. Livingston, Esqr. Chairman of the Committee of Safety.²

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 266.

2. *Ibid.*, the letter, received by the Committee on the morning of January 24, 1776, was recorded in the minutes and filed.

INTELLIGENCE CONVEYED FROM NEW YORK TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX
SHULDHAM ¹

[New York, January 23, 1776] ²

Intelligence received by persons who may be depended upon, since 18th Decemr 1775.

- 1776 Janry 4th Two Brigs fitting out as Privateers from New Haven in the Colony of Connecticut, 12 or 14 Guns each. Their Plan was supposed to make an Attempt upon the Magazine of Gunpowder at Needham's Fort upon the Island of Barbadoes, which they had Intelligence was weakly Guarded.
- 4th By two Seamen who deserted from the Row Gallies at Philadelphia, that then there was Six Privateers laying there, that the Rebels had sunk seventeen Caissoons in the Channel about Nine Miles below Philadelphia (and had five more ready) in such a form as to make a Serpentine Channel, and that each Caissoon was Armed with very large Iron Spikes the bigness of a Man's thigh.
- 8th By a Letter from Baltimore, there were Two Ships of Twenty Guns each, then fitting out as Privateers at that place.
- 9th By Letters from Philadelphia about 2d of January, Two of the Privateers fell down the Delawar; the rest were to follow as soon as possible.

- 9th By a letter of Authority from the Island of Hispaniola, dated the 23d of November. The Port of Ocayes, was opened as a free Port by Proclamation for Six Months for the Importation of North Admerican Produce; the same Letter also Mentions their expectation of the Arrival of Seven Thousand five hundred French Troops at Cape Francois and the same Number at Martinique, and that there is a great Importation of Ordnance Stores daily coming upon that Island.
- 1776 Janry 23d A Schooner the Master's name Stanbury is to discharge her Cargo of Gunpowder at Egg Harbour or Cape May; Ordered not to come within Cape Hinlopen for fear of King's Ships. A great many Merchant Ships cleared out from Philadelphia for the West Indies, and many expected in the last of January, or the first Week in February.
- 23d Received the disagreeable News that the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley* loaded with Coals, Porter, &c was Seized off Sandy Hook by William Alexander commonly called Lord Sterling, he having Arm'd Two Sloops from Elizabeth Town for that purpose.
- Copy

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldhham to Stephens, March 8, 1776.
2. Date established by the last item of intelligence.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO. A.M.

January 23d, 1776.

A bill of sale from Robert Wosan, master and part owner of the sloop *Sally*, and from Isaac Scudder, Hooker St. John and Sarah Isaac, executors of the last will and estate of Benjamin Isaac, deceased, the other owners, to Col. Alexander McDougall and Capt. Anthony Rutgers, for the said sloop and her appurtenances, was prepared and delivered to Capt. James Smith to take to Norwalk to have it executed.

Die Martis, 3 ho. P.M. 23rd Jany. 1776

Joseph Woolcombe, mate of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, was brought before the Committee; he says he had not any other letters than those taken from him when searched. That he was mate of the ship; that 25 or 26 transports sailed with their vessel, which was the whole number then in the Downs. There were other transports taken up; that their ship was loaded with porter and coals; that two transports with horse came out and went to the West Indies for winter quarters; that he had no verbal instructions, but to deliver the letters on board of the man of war; that the ship was to stand in, in the night for him, which would be about 24 hours after he left her, and if he did not arrive in four hours after, the ship was to put off for Boston.

Joseph Woolcombe says he chooses to go on board of one of the men of war: thereupon he was discharged, and the letters found with him were delivered to him, and a permit was given to him in the words following, to wit:

Ordered, That Joseph Woolcombe be permitted to go on board either of His Majesty's ships of war, (now laying in the harbour of New-York) unmolested.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 262.

JOHN GRAHAM TO COLONEL ALEXANDER McDOUGALL ¹

Guard-Room [New York], January 23, 1776.

Sir: I flatter myself you will pardon this intrusion, but hope my present unhappy situation will be a sufficient apology.

I was, unfortunately, cast away on the 23d of December last, on Squan-Beach, in the sloop *Polly and Nancy*, which vessel was laden by his Excellency Governour Tryon, for Boston, with sundry articles as a present to General Howe, and immediately was taken prisoner, by order of the Committee of Freehold, in Monmouth County. As I only went passenger, by permission of his Excellency, in order to get my son home to New-York, think it is cruel; my state of health, at present, is such, that if I have not my enlargement soon, I must inevitably perish.²

I now presume to beg you will be kind enough to procure me at least a hearing; your compliance will be gratefully acknowledged by, sir [&c.]

John Graham.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 818; probably from a document burned in the fire which destroyed the Albany State Library building.
2. Graham was discharged on February 10, 1776 with three New York citizens as surety for his good behavior. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 290.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED JAN. 23." ¹

A transport arrived at the Hook yesterday; the mate was sent on board a pilot boat with some letters; the pilot delivered him to the committee guard who have him in custody.²

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, January 25, 1776.
2. Joseph Woolcombe, mate of the transport *Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

January '776 Moor'd in the East River [New York]
Tuesday 23 sent a petty Officer & 10 Men on board the Schooner with Provisions, Swivels, Musquets & Ammunition ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.
2. *Ibid.*, the schooner *James*, seized by Vandeput on January 19, 1776.

ROBERT OGDEN TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlm Yours of Yesterday directed to the Earl of Stirling Came Express, 5 oClock, and as My Lord was Set of[f] in the Morning with a party of Men as Supposed in order to Take the Vessel & went by the way of Perth Amboy: the Comm[ittee] imedeately Met & Concluded to Send three Boats with a hundred

men well Armed to assist in Takeing Said Vessel; this Resolution with the Letter from your Committee we sent Express at 7 oClock to My Lord, and the 100 [men] well Equipt Set of[f] in the Boats About [12] oClock, & hope on there Return will be able to give a good Account of the Vessel.

We are Gentle [&c.] by Order of the Committee.

Robert Ogden, Chairman

[Elizabethtown] Janry 23 1776

1. Papers laid before the Provincial Congress of New York, 1775–80, vol. 25, Military Committees, 631–33, NYSL. Ogden was chairman of the Elizabethtown, N.J., Committee of Safety.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, January 23, 1776

Resolved, That an Account of the late repulse our troops met with, and the loss we have sustained in the unsuccessful attempt on Quebec, be drawn up by the secretary, and laid before Congress.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Timothy Matlack, for cash paid by him to Archibald Dick, the expenses of a guard over a powder waggon, £6 2 9 – 16 4/10 dollars.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 79, 81.

2. As Matlack was acting as secretary of the Naval Committee, the payment was probably for powder carted to Reedy Island for the use of the Continental fleet.

“PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE SENDING S. DE[ANE] TO FRANCE”¹

At a meeting of the Committee of [Secret] Correspondence

[Philadelphia] Janry 23d 1776

Present

Doctor [Benjamin] Franklin, Colonel [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr [John] Dickinson

Agreed

That a Vessel be immediately chartered for a Voyage to Martinico to carry a Cargo not exceeding two thousand Pounds Pennsylvania Currency to consist chiefly of Flour and Lumber and to be consigned to who engages to go Passenger in the Vessel

That application be made to Congress for a sum not exceeding £2525 Money aforesaid for procuring and fitting out the vessel with the said Cargo, and for promoting the service undertaken by Mr. That instructions for Mr be drawn

1. Henry Laurens Papers, SCHS.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

[Baltimore]

Jany 23d 1776 Recd of Captain James Nicholson Seven pounds ten Shillings
in full for three Boatswains Calls p

£7.10 -

Christopher Hughs

Recd 23d Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Sixteen pounds eight Shillings
and four pence halfpenny for Nails of different sizes for the use of the Ship
Defence

NB the money was pd 20th

£16.8.4½

John Graham

Recd 23d Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Twelve Shi[llings] for Board-
ing George Thomson one Week

his

£ - .12 -

Terence X Grimes
mark1. Account Book, *Ship Defence Papers*, MdHS.MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,

[Charleston] Tuesday, Jan. 23rd, 1776.

Mr. Isaac Rivers informed the council of a sloop in Stono-River, one Pinder, master, and John Ellis of this town passenger; said to be bound for [New] Providence, which had taken some corn on board at Mr. John Holmes's plantation, and probably was intended to be completely loaded, as she had taken a pilot on board to go to Mr. Randall's plantation. And also, of a schooner in Kayawah River, belonging to Mr. Robert Farquhar, suspected to be intended to be loaded in an illicit manner.

In consequence of which information, the following letters were immediately written:

In the Council of Safety,

Jan. 23rd, 1776.

Gentlemen - We are informed of a sloop and a schooner strongly suspected of illicit practices - the former in Stono River, the latter up Kayawah River. We desire you will employ some proper persons to take possession of both, and to conduct them, without delay, to this harbour, and put them under the protection of the ship *Prosper*. Report to this board, and all reasonable expenses will be paid

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

Capt. Benj. Stone, for Committee of James Island.

In the Council of Safety,

Jan. 23rd, 1776.

Sir - We require your attendance at this board, in order to answer to an intimation of your having intended to supply a load of rice for a vessel contrary to the order of Congress and of this board.

The meeting of this council is generally from 10 o'clock in the morning to 3 in the afternoon.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Mr. John Holmes.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 209-10.

JAMES DAVIS TO EDWARD WEBLEY¹

Jamaica ss To the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Justice of the said Island of Jamaica.

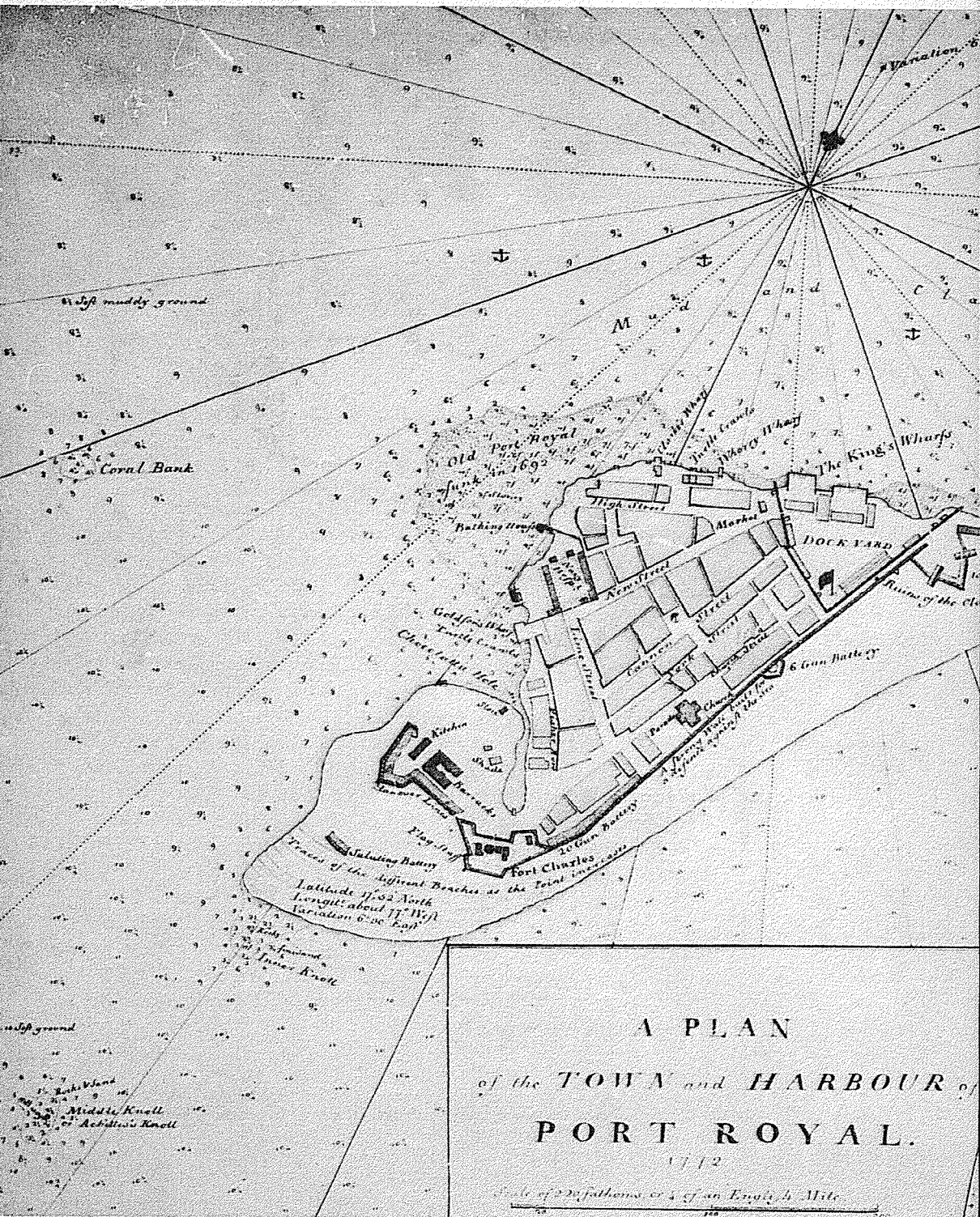
The Request of James Davis of the Parish of Kingston Merchant in behalf of Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser Mariners now Prisoners in the Custody of Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of his Majestys Fleet upon the Station of this Island of Jamaica and detained by him on Board his Majesty's Ship called the *Antelope* under his Command in the Harbour of Port Royal

Sheweth

That the said James Davis on the behalf aforesaid did between the Hours of Nine and Eleven of the Clock in the fore noon on Monday the twenty second of this Instant January go to the said Clark Gayton at the Admirals pen near Kingston and demand from him a Copy of the Warrant or Order of Commitment and Detainer of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser by virtue of which he detained them Prisoners in his Custody as aforesaid and the said Admiral Clark Gayton Esquire did then declare to the said James Davis that the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser were Prisoners in his Custody and detained by him on Board the said Ship called the *Antelope* and that he did there detain them Prisoners by Virtue of his Orders and Instructions or to that Effect but the said Admiral Clark Gayton Esquire did th[en] possitively deny to give to the said James Davis a Copy of the Order or Warrant of Commitment and Detainer of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser or of any order Warrant or Authority for Committing or detaining them.

Therefore

The said James Davis on the Behalf of Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser doth hereb[y] request Your Honor to Grant u[n]to him his Majesty's several Writs of Habeas Corpus upon the Statute of the Thirty first Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second returnable immediately to be directed unto the said Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral as aforesaid to



have the Bodies of them the said Benjamin Bell, Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser before your Honor together with the Cause of their and each of their Caption and Detention to the end that your Honour may examine into the Legality of such Caption and Detention and thereupon do what unto Justice and Right doth appertain

Witness

James Davis

Dⁿ Pennington

Ja^s Martin

[Endorsed] Let Writs of Habeas Corpus issue for each of the above named returnable immediate.

Edw^d Webley

1776 January 23d

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

EDWARD WEBLEY TO REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Jamaica ss George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King and of Jamaica Lord Defender of the Faith and so forth To Clark Gayton Esquire Admiral and Commander in Chief of our Fleet on the station of this Island of Jamaica

Greeting We Command You that the Body of Benjamin Bell Mariner now in your Custody on Board our Ship the *Antelope*, as it is said, under safe and secure Conduct together with the Day and Cause of his Caption and Detention by whatsoever Name or Names he may be therein named or Called You have before our Chief Justice of the Island of Jamaica immediately at his House situate in the Town of Saint Jago de la Vega then and there to do submit to and receive all such things as Shall be Considered of by our said Chief Justice in this Particular And have then there this Writ hereof fail not at your Peril Witness the Honorable Edward Webley Esquire Chief Judge of our Supreme Court of Judicature and Chief Justice of our said Island at Saint Jago de la Vega the twenty third Day of January in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign

William Singer Cl Corona

Edw^d Webley

January 23rd 1776

Per statutum tricesimo primo Caroli Secundi Regis

Edw^d Webley January 23 1776

Take Security in £200. that the prisoner do not Escape and for 25/Mile Money if remanded

E W.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, writs of habeas corpus identically worded were issued the same day for producing the bodies of Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser.

24 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Camp before Quebec January 24th 1776

I wrote the 14th inst ² advising you of our present Scituation, & that of the Enemy, & took the Liberty of presenting you my Sentiments, on a future Plan of Operation, for which my Zeal for the Public Service I hope will Apologize; Since which I have made an Estimate (which I now Inclose) of such Artillery, Stores, Ammunition &c which I imagine will be necessary, If it is thought proper to carry on a Seige in form. of this I can be no Judge, As I know not if Powder can be spared from below, or Shot, Shells &c sent up in Season – The Artillery except a 13 Inch Mortar (at Crown Point) is all in this Country – I have also inclos'd a List of such Ammunition Stores &c as we have on hand, a List of such Articles as can be procur'd at Montreal, St Johns & Chamblee, will be taken & Sent you by General [David] Wooster – I had Encouragement from Monsieur Pelisseire at three Rivers of being furnish'd with Shot, Shells, &c in all the Month of March –

I have this Minute received Advice from him that the want of Coal will prevent his Supplying those Articles before May, as Coal is his only Objection, I have wrote him to procure them at all Events if it can be done to Supply Shells &c by the first of April of which the Bearer Major [Matthias] Ogden will inform, This Measure I hope will meet your Approbation as the Expence of bringing Shells from below will be great and if not wanted here, the Cost will be trifling.

It is very probable the City would Surrender before half or perhaps one quarter of the Shot, Shells, &c in my Memorandum were expended But if they should make an obstinate Resistance perhaps the whole will be necessary – A Gentleman now present assures me that the Kings Magazines containing upwards of three thousand Barrels of Powder were all full And that three hundred Barrels, his private Property taken from him by Government, was obliged to be Stor'd in a private Vault. Add to this ten Thousand Stand of Arms, Seven Thousand of which are New & Arrived last Summer, also Seven Thousand Compleat Suits of new Cloathing with a large Quantity of Artillery Stores, Two Frigates with a Number of other Vessels in the Harbour &c &c The above mentioned Articles exclusive of Securing an extensive Country in our Interest & liberating three or four hundred of our Brave Men Appears an Object of the greatest Importance to us under our present Circumstances – I make no doubt every necessary Measure will be Adopted for reducing the City –

Yesterday arrived here a Reinforcement of 100 Men from Montreal sixty Men are soon expected, We are still very weak handed of Course the Duty Severe, however the Enemy have not dar'd to Come out, tho' they are double our Number – Desertions from the Garrison are frequent they are in want of Fuel, and have Attempted to Supply themselves by Cutting down the Houses in St Rogues Suburbs (under their Guns) to prevent which I have burnt most of them with several Vessels they had, broke up, Every Artifice is used by Governour Carlton to procure Provisions and induce the Canadians to take Arms against us, to no effect, tho' Seconded by the Clergy our bitter Enemies – I make

no doubt of Continuing the Blockade until a proper Reinforcement Arrives to make use of more Coercive Measures –

Major Ogden the Bearer of this to Montreal who Came out with me a Volunteer proposes going down to Philadelphia – I beg leave to Recommend him as a Gentleman who has Acted with great Spirit and Activity through our fatiguing March and at the Attack in Quebec, in which he was wounded.

General Montgomery on his Arrival in this Country was pleased to Appoint Mr John Holsted Commissary he is a Gentleman who has been very Active & Zealous in our Cause is a Merchant & Capable in his Department in which I beg leave to recommend his being Continued –

Our Finances are low we have been obliged to beg, borrow & Squeeze to get money for our Subsistence, and but for Mr [James] Price who has been our greatest Resource we must have Suffered.

I have the agreeable Intelligence from General Wooster that the Paymaster is at home. I am with great Esteem [&c.]

Bened^t Arnold

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, I, 54–56, NA.

2. The letter Arnold mentions was written January 11, 1776, not January 14.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Exeter] Wednesday, Janry 24th 1776.

Voted That Dr Joshua Bracket be Judge of the Court of Admiralty for the Colony of New Hampshire, & that Samuel Penhallow Esq. be Register of said Court.

Voted That Col. Walker & Saml Sherburne Esqr be a Committee of this house to join a Committee of the Honble Board to Consult & Draw up Such Rules & Regulations for the Court of Admiralty to be governed by, as may appear to be Legal & Necessary at this time, and to make report to this house as Soon as may be.

Voted, That the Draft of a Commission for Capt Daniel Jackson as Master and Commander of the Privateer *Enterprise*, bro't by Mr [Wyseman] Clagett into this house, by order of Councill, is acceptable to the house, and that the same be Sealed up in a Letter & Sent to the Committee of Safety of Porthmouth who are to take bond of said Jackson for his faithfull Discharge of his Trust, in case the Same measure is adopted by the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay, the bond to be for one thousand Pounds.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 47, 48.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 24th Jany 1776

I have Accounts from Boston, which I think may be relied on, that General Clinton with about four or five hundred men, hath left that place, within these four days – Whether this is part of the Detachment which was making up, as mentioned in my Letter of the 4 Inst, & then at Nantasket, or not, is not in my power to say – If It is designed for New York, or Long Island, as some think,

throwing a body of Troops there, may prove a fortunate circumstance – If they goe further South agreeable to the Conjectures of others, I hope there will be men to receive them – Notwithstanding the positive assertions of the four Captains from Portsmouth, Noticed in my Letter of the 14, I am now convinced from several corroborating circumstances – the Accounts of Deserters, & of a Lieut Hill, of Lord Percy's Regiment, who left Ireland the 5 of November, & was taken by a privateer from Newbury Port, that the 17 & 55th Regmts are arrived at Boston, & other Troops at Hallifax agreeable to the information of Hutchinson, & others – Lieut Hill says that the Transports of two Regiments only were forced into Milford Haven.

Congress will think me a little remiss I fear, when I inform them that I have done nothing yet towards raising the Battalion of Marines,² but I hope to stand exculpated from blame, when they hear the reason – which was, that already having 26 Incomplete Regiments, I thought It would be adding to an expence already great in Officers, to set two entire Corps of Officers on foot, when perhaps we should not add Ten men a week by It, to our present numbers – In this opinion the General Officers here concurred, which Induced me to Suspend the matter a little longer. Our Inlistments for the two last weeks, have not amounted to 1000 men & are diminishing – the Regiment for Canada It is thought will soon be filled, as the men are to choose all but their Field Officers, which are appointed by the Court.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 435, NA.

2. Resolution of Congress of November 10, 1775, which was suspended on November 30, 1775, apparently without notifying Washington of the action.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO LIEUTENANT HENRY EDWIN
STANHOPE, R.N.¹

Sir

Head Quarters [Cambridge] 24th January 1776

I am directed by his Excellency General Washington, to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 16th Instant, requesting leave to go into the Town of Boston to Solicit The Admiral for your Exchange The Admiral Has already declined every negotiation for Exchange of prisoners. & has not permitted any Money to be sent to those Gentlemen now in the Hands of the United Colonies, though frequently acquainted with Their Necesitys, and Press'd to releive them. Certain Prisoners taken by a Frigate has been by the Admirals Order sent to England,² so that it is not now in his Power to give any Exchange for those in there Hands, and from The Admirals behaviour in other Matters, it very Clearly appears, you would not be permitted to come Back to your Parole; should His Excellency even Allow you to go into the Town of Boston These Reasons you must allow are sufficiently convincing to Oblidge The General at present to Decline complying with your request – I am Sir

H.G.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Stanhope, an acting lieutenant on board H.M.S. *Glasgow*, was taken prisoner in Newport on November 29, 1775, and sent to Northampton on his parole. See Volume 2, 1205.

2. The crew of Washington's brig *Washington*.

BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO LIEUTENANT JOHN KNIGHT, R.N.¹

Sir

Cambridge 24th Jan'y 1776

I have this moment wrote to Captain [Henry Edwin] Stanhope, & given him by his Excellencies Command, Such reasons for not immediatly granting his request as Cannot but be Satisfactory; the Same reasons you will clearly See hold good with respect to you – the General is truly Concerned it is not at present in his power to grant you Leave to go to Nova Scotia to your family the first moment that it Can be done with propriety, you may be assured that Indulgence will be granted.

When his Excellency granted you the District of the town of Northampton & five miles round for your place of Confinement he understood that Northampton & Hadly were towns Like those to the Southward of moderate extent, Since upon better Information, he finds that each of those Towns Contain a District of a very Large extent of Country he directs me to acquaint you, & desires you will acquaint all the Gentlemen upon their Parole at either of those towns, that they must Keep themselves within the Legal Limits of the town they Live in – the Committee of Safety at Northampton & Hadly have by this Conveyance received his orders upon this head – I have regularly forwarded all Letters to & from Boston that you or any of the Gentlemen have Sent to Headquarters Yrs
HG

John Knight Northampton

1. Washington Papers, LC. Knight commanded H.M. Schooner *Diligent*, taken at Machias in July 1775.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

Watertown Jan'y 24, 1776

I have Received your Favor of the ninth Instant, am obliged to you for the letter Return'd, & also for the Information you have given Relative to the Arrival of Powder & Saltpetre, I give You joy upon this Occasion & hope the Saltpetre will be immediately Converted into Powder & forwarded with all possible dispatch to our Camp at Cambridge, Where it is wanted; our Vessells have taken two prizes lately & carried them into Newburyport, one is a large Ship from London with Coal Beer & cheese; the other A Brig from Ireland with Provisions for the Ministerial Army;² I have this Moment been Informed that a Salem privateer has taken another Vessel from England loadened with 130 chaldron of Coals 1400 Blankets, Ten Tons of oatmeal & 100 ps Ticklingburg³ – I am very glad I am Relieved from my Attendance at Philadelphia, as I find it is most for my Interest to be here & People would not be easy without I Returned & attended the office or another Judge was appointed in my Room In great haste I remain [&c.]

T. Cushing

Pray write me particularly how you go on at Congress – Shall write you again & more particularly

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS. Cushing was a member of the Massachusetts Council.

2. The ship *Friends* and brig *Sukey*.

3. The ship *Jenny*, William Wood, master.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, January 24, 1776.

Afternoon.

The List of Fees for the Courts of Admiralty was again considered by the House, and recommitted to Major [Dummer] Sewall, Deacon [Elnathan] Curtis, and Deacon [Daniel] Whitney, the House having previously voted that the Judges of said Court should severally be paid for the Trial of any cause, at the Rate of Twenty Shillings per Day.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, January] 24.

To day News arrived that the Rebels had failed in their Attempt to take Quebec by Escalade, that General Montgomery his Aid de Camp and about 100 rank and file were killed, and 300 wounded and taken Prisoners, among the former Col. Arnold.²

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.

2. Arnold was wounded but not taken prisoner.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON ¹

January 1776 Remarks Boston Harbor

Wednesday 24 Modt and fair Wr ½ past 3 AM 8 Men took the New Yawl from alongside and Deserted to the Rebels Completed the Hold with wood and water at noon a Victualer Brig was Carried up the Harbour with the ice. Sent the Longboat with a Cable and Anchor to her assistance
Do Wr Arrived his Majesty's Sloop *Nautilus* Employed in setting up the rigging at 1 PM sent the Gun Boat with 3 Petty officers and 27 Men in quest of the Boat which was cut away from the Ship this Morning

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES
IN RHODE ISLAND ¹

[Providence] Jany 24 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment

Voted. That the bord of the Carpenters from abroad be paid in Strong weather when they are not able to work. —

Whereas Henry Ward Esqr who was Chosen Secretary to this Committee cannot give his attendance on the said Committee Meetings from the multiplicity of Publick Business that he has to Transact, it is Voted that Jabez Bowen be Chosen Secry to this Committee. —

Reckoning 22/6 paid by Coll Nightingale
Meeting Adjourned to Fryday Evening 6 o'clock ²

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

2. The meeting on Friday, January 26, 1776 showed no business transacted, and a reckoning of sixteen shillings, six pence, paid by Joseph Nightingale.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Honrd Sr.

Head Quarters Middletown Jany 24th 1776.

Last Saturday Evening about Six oClock I arrived here, & was then informed that Capt Wallace had received his usual Supply of Beef, with the following Additions, viz, one Barrel of Apples, one Do of Sugar, two Boxes of Candles, one Do of Soap, a large Role of Tobacco, one Turkey, one Goose, Onions & Other Things in a Bag & one Bunch of Fowls; And early on Sunday Morning a Committee consisting of the following Persons, was chosen by the Town of Newport to go on Board Capt Wallace, viz, Mess. John Malbone, George Gibbs, James Honyman & Wm Wanton, who accordingly went on Board immediately, & laid the late Act of the Genl Assembly before Capt Wallace relative to his Supplies, the Committee returning in the Afternoon brought a Letter from Capt Wallace to the Inhabitants of the Town of Newport, a Copy of which I now send You inclosed, also a Copy of the Proceedings of the Town thereon & the Copies of my Letters to the Town Council of Newport, & the Copy of theirs to me.

Since the Arrival of the King's Speech & the Melancholly news from Quebec, the Friend's to the Ministerial Forces, in Newport, appear more open & Bold than heretofore, by endeavouring to inflame the Minds of the Inhabitants of the Town against the Rest of the Government, in Particular, Jos Wanton, Richd Beale, Leechmore, Benja Brenton, Jas Honyman, James Clarke, Francis Malbone, Geo Gibbs & many others too tedious to enumerate; Their Conduct is not so much to be wondered at, when I consider the Polite Treatment, several of the most inveterate Enemies to the Liberty of this Country, Recd, after they were Taken & conducted to Providence, with several Hundred [blotted] the Colony, & permitted to return Home, when in my Opinion they ought to have been confined in some remote Part of the Colony until the Present Difficulties should come to an End. —

Four Hundred Pounds L: M hath been granted by the General Assembly, for the Removal of the Poor & Helpless Inhabitants of the Town of Newport, which I think would have answered a much Better Purpose had they Ordered that Sum to be expended in the Removal of those Obnoxious Inhabitants of that Town, to the Liberties of their Country; Those Persons give us more Trouble than Wallaces whole Fleet, & as much Danger is to be expected from them —

Early Yesterday Morning three Sail of Wallaces Fleet left this Harbour, bound for Boston, as we suppose, consisting of a Brig, an armed Schooner & a Sloop, I believe they had very Little Stock if any to carry there —

One Slocum a Person belonging to Newport was set on Shore by some of Wallace's Hands Night before last, he has been on Board one of the Armed Sloops for three Months past, he was conducted to Head Quarters immediately & examined, he inform'd us Capt Wallace is very sick of his Voyage to Prudence, having lost fourteen Men kill'd & a Number Wounded — They Buried Several on Hope

Island, I'm informed Nine were found buried there in one Grave. Two of the Wounded are since dead, & were buried on Rose Island – Slocum says they got no Cattle, & but very few Sheep – I am Sir [&c.]

W^m West

P S. I am inform'd the Town of Newport has chosen another Committee to wait uppon the Continental Congress – In my Opinion their Scheme is rather to serve Capt Wallace by observing [blotted] Hopkins, than for the real Service of the Town of Newport

Therefore think it very Necessary that the Principles as well as th[ese] Circumstances of the Town of Newport be made known to the Continental Congress, from some other Quarter I am yours at Supra

W:W

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

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WEST TO THE NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL ¹

Gentlemen

Head Quarters Middletown January 24th, 1776.

Yours of Yesterday, this Day I've received, acknowledging the Receipt of my Letter of the 23d Inst., by which I perceive you have some Objections against the Restrictions contained in my Letter. First You Pretend to be at a Loss who shall provide the Beef & Beer for Capt Wallace, which I thought must be plainly understood before; but if not, I now tell You, Mr George Irish is the Person who I appoint to provide & deliver the said Supplies to Capt. Wallace & receive the pay therefor.

If you will please to attend one Moment to the first Vote of your Town Meeting on the 23d Inst, wherein You Expressly Say you "Will supply Capt Wallace with Beef, Beer &c agreeable to the act of Government;" You also voted "That Mess Wm Ellery & Jos Anthony be a Committee to wait on Genl West at Head Quarters, & to lay before Him the above Vote, and also to request that he will appoint a Person to provide & deliver the Provisions to Capt Wallace;" how your Idea of the Matter differs so much now I can't conceive, when the Act of Government expressly says, that Capt Wallace's Supplies are wholly to be under my Directions. –

You also object against the Restrictions laid upon the Boats and Vessels; I make no Doubt it will be attended with some Inconveniences, but of two Evils, let us chuse the Least.

You say Wallace's Fleet is so numerous, that they can extend all along the Western Shore of this Island; when at the same Time, he has assured you that, the Town of Newport shall be safe on their Part; Therefore it cannot be supposed that he will do any Thing against the Interest of that Town –

I am surprized you should complain of these ill Conveniences, when the Colony indulges you in feeding Capt Wallace on account of saving the Town of Newport, when in the mean Time all the other Parts of the Colony ly exposed to his Ravages & Cruelties.

I have deliberately considered the Advantages & Disadvantages we labour under, in these unhappy Circu[m]stances; and upon the Whole, cannot see it consistent with my Duty, good Reason, or sound Policy to alter my Restrictions. – I

heartily wish to indulge the Town of Newport in every Thing consistent with the Good of the Whole and the Cause we are Engaged in. If I act contrary to the Instructions of my Superiors, I expect to be Censured accordingly –

You intimate in your Letter that, I have confined you in your Choice of a Committee, when I only desired of you that, the Persons Named in my Letter to you, might be the Committee to treat with me in Matters between the Town of Newport & Capt Wallace – You say, you have no Objections against the Persons nominated in my Letter; then, why need there be so much Pester about Matters of no Consequence – I am Gentlemen [&c.]

W^m West

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

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Union* BOUND FOR WEST INDIES ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we John Cooke, Thomas Corey, Isaac Corey and Pardon Gray all of Tiverton in the County of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants as principals and Cromwell Child of Warren in the County & Colony aforesaid Shipwright as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made we bind Ourselves Our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals. Dated the Twenty fourth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Thomas Case Master of the Sloop *Union* burthened about Eighty Tons is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to any of the Foreign Islands in the West Indies to purchase Powder and other Military Stores. Now therefore the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Thomas Case shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun Powder Saltpetre Sulphur Duck or Arms and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America the Danger of the Seas and of the Enemy only excepted, and also further excepting that in Case the said Thomas Case shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Ceti Candles in the Articles abovesaid that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Ozenbriggs Ticklinburgh, Lead Salt petre, Flints, Linnen or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

Henry Ward William Mumford.

Thomas Cory Cromell Child

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Copy

[Albany] January 24th 1776.

I have just now received a Letter from the Committee of Safety at New York inclosing Copies of the Resolutions of Congress of the 8 of January. They observe "That several Things are left indeterminate" in that Resolve which orders a large Quantity of provisions and Stores to be sent to Fort George: In answer I have wrote them that "I cannot believe Congress intended any Thing more by sending the Resolution to them than that they should supply me with what I might want: the almost Impossibility of sending a large Quantity from New York to Fort George at this Season would countenance this Construction."

They have also wrote to me on the Subject of the Shipwrights. I have given them an Extract of what I have above said to Congress on the Occasion and requested that they would not send any until I applied for them.

They also seem to think that they were to procure Batteau-Men, and ask what Wages are to be allowed them – I have promised to write to Congress on that Head. I believe they would be best got in the Vicinity of this place. If Congress thinks so I wish to know what pay to allow to the Officers and Men.

Congress will please to attend to the Naval Department in this Quarter – Perhaps Commodore Douglas [William Douglass] will remain – I could wish a Capt [Jacobus] Wynkoop to be employed under him. He is active and brave. I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 410, 411, NA. Continuation of Schuyler's letter of January 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 10 HO. A.M. Jan'y 24th 1776.

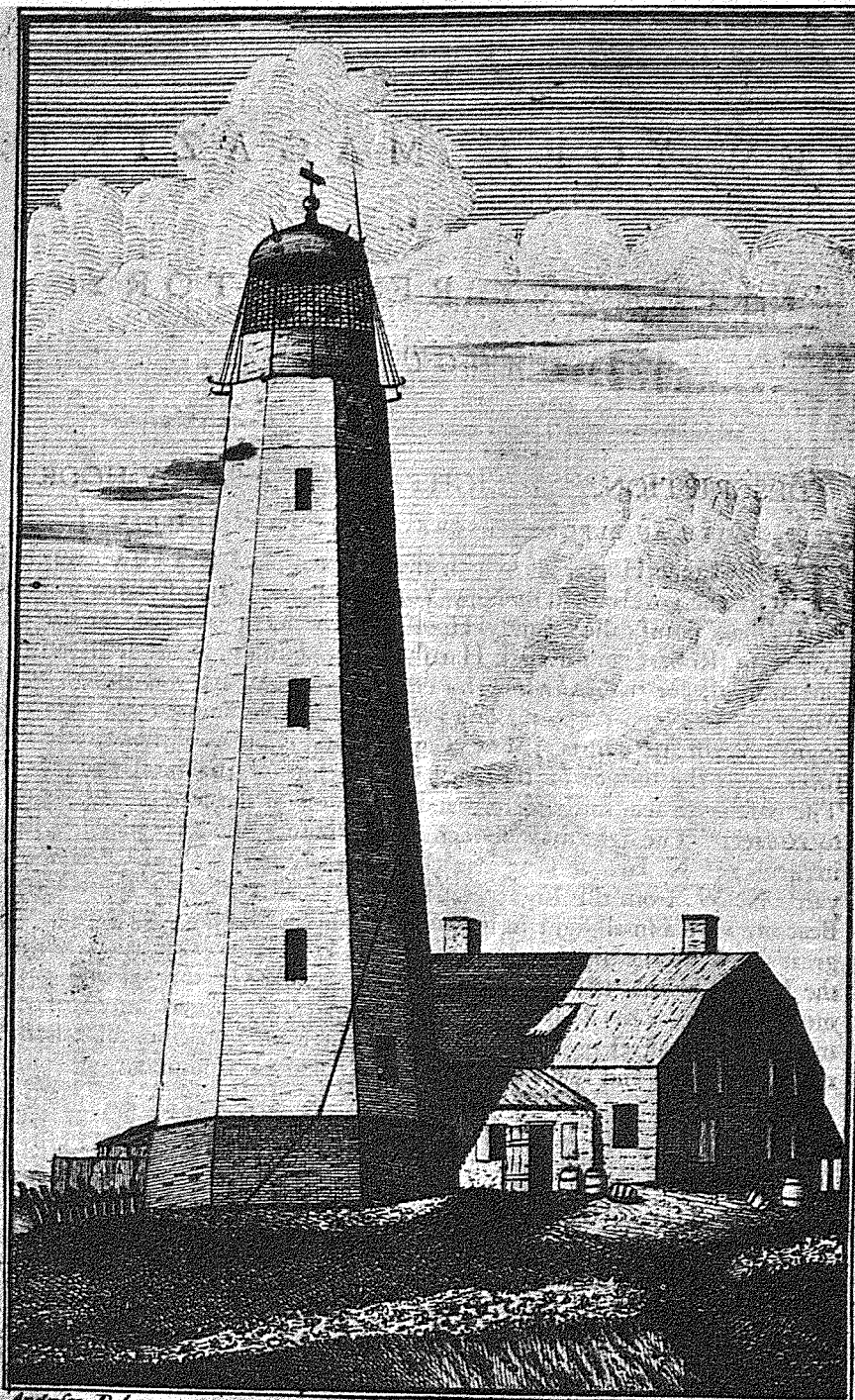
Mr. Donald McLane, of the city of New-York, druggist, attended with a letter from Capt. [George] Vandeput, of the ship *Asia*, requesting him to receive the body of the late purser of the said ship, and have him buried in Trinity church yard.

Thereupon a permit was given to him, in the words following, to wit:

Mr. Donald McLane, of this city, druggist, is hereby permitted to go on board of the *Asia* ship of war, and also to have the body of Mr. George Claypen,² late purser of the said ship, brought on shore and buried.

By order of the Committee.

The said sub-committee mentioned that a great inconvenience arises from vessels loading in this port, by order of the Continental and Provincial Congress, and of this Committee of Safety, by their not having certificates for that purpose. That many of the inhabitants, not knowing why any such vessels are lading, apply to the laders and to the city committee with complaints; that it is also in the power of the laders of such vessels to lade other produce or greater quantities than they are permitted, and that therefore that it is the request of the city committee that



Anderson Del.

Talbot Sculp.

VIEW of the LIGHT HOUSE at SANDY HOOK.

some proper person be appointed to inspect and superintend the loading of all such vessels, and to report thereon to the Provincial Congress or Committee of Safety.

The sub-committee withdrew, and the Committee of Safety requested the Chairman to speak to Capt. William Mercier, to know whether he will undertake to manage and inspect the lading of vessels laded at this port; . . .

Die Mercurii 3 ho. P.M. Jany. 24, 1776.

The Committee took into consideration the subject of the second matter mentioned to them this morning by the sub-committee of this city, and after consideration thereof, this Committee to hereby appoint Capt. William Mercier to superintend and inspect the lading of all such vessels as shall lade in this port. And

Ordered, That Capt. Mercier be empowered, and he is hereby empowered to inspect all permits to vessels to lade in this port, and see that all such vessels lade only agreeable to the resolves of the Continental Congress, and with such matters or produce only as may be agreeable to the said resolves and their permits from the Provincial Congress and Committee of Safety of this Colony, and from time to time to report to this Committee or the Provincial Congress of this colony what vessels are lading or shall have laded, and with what particular commodities and by what authority. And

Ordered and agreed, That Capt. Mercier be allowed 20 dollars per month as pay, while continued in this, and the service of inspecting the lading of vessels in this port.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 264-65.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir [Off Amboy, New Jersey] Jany. 24th 1776

On Monday last [January 22] I received Intelligence that a Transport laden with Stores for the Ministerial Army at Boston was hovering off Sandy Hook in distress & waiting for Assistance from the Men of War at N York I thought it a Matter of so much Importance that I immediately set out for Amboy, and there Seized a pilot Boat and with forty Men was Just pushing out about two yesterday Morning when I was Joined by three other Boats from Elizabeth Town with about forty Men Each, many of them Gent from Elizabeth Town who Voluntarily Came on this Service under the Command of Col [Elias] Dayton & Col [Edward] Thomas, we found her about Six leagues S.E. of Sandy Hook we Boarded & took her without opposition she proves to be the *Blue Mountain Valley* Commanded by Capt. James Hamilton Dempster ² laden with Coal Porter & Sour-Crout &c (I wish it been with Arms & Ammunition as I expected) we are Now off Amboy, and Intend to push in this Evening into the Sound between Staten Island & the Main I write Now in the Hurry & Noise incident to these Occasions, I will write the particulars as soon as possible and Am your [&c.]

Stirling.

she is a Ship of about 100 feet from Stem to Stern above, Capable of making a Ship of War of 20 Six pounders & 10 three pounders. I shall impatiently expect the orders of Congress. —

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 384–85.

2. Extract of a letter from Captain John Hamilton Dempster:

The moment I came off New York, I sent my chief mate on shore by a pilot boat, in order to get on board the ships of war lying there, to demand assistance in carrying the ship into New York, where we might refit, in order to proceed to Boston, our intended port. But unluckily for me, . . . my mate was taken prisoner, and was obliged by threats to discover what the ship was, where bound, and of no force. Upon this intelligence, they fitted out four armed vessels, with about 60 men each, in all upwards of 200 men, an overmatch (as you may easily believe) for a ship with four small guns, and sixteen hands in all, after being 13 weeks at sea, and hardly able to keep the ship from sinking. When the vessels made their appearance, I took them for vessels from the men of war, the officer who commanded the party being drest in the uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy, and I did not then know my mate was taken prisoner. They boarded the ship in every part, and carried her about ten or twelve miles up a river where two of the King's ships lay, to a place called Elizabeth-Town, making a prize of the ship and cargo and myself a prisoner upon parole.

Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], III, Part II, 80–81.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, January 24, 1776

The secretary brought in an account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, the 31st of December; which was read:

An account of the repulse our troops met with in their attempt on Quebec, the 31st December, 1775, published by Congress.

The letters from Canada bring an Account of an unsuccessful attempt made to gain possession of Quebec by storm, on the 31 of December last, between the hours of two and seven in the morning.

The General finding his cannon too light to effect a breach, and that the enemy would not hearken to terms of capitulation, formed a design for carrying the town by escalade. In this he was encouraged by the extensiveness of the works and the weakness of the garrison. When every thing was prepared while he was waiting the opportunity of a snow storm to carry the design into execution, several men deserted to the enemy. His plan at first was to have attacked the upper and lower town at the same time, depending principally for success against the upper town. But discovering from the motions of the enemy, that they were apprized of his design, he altered his plan; and having divided his little army into four detachments, ordered two feints to be made against the upper town, one by Col.[James] Livingston, at the head of the Canadians against St.John's gate; the other by Captain [John] Brown, at the head of a small detachment against cape Diamond; reserving to himself and Colonel Arnold the two principal attacks against the lower town.

At five o'clock the hour appointed for the attack, the general, at the head of the New York troops, advanced against the lower town at Aunce de Mere. Being obliged to take a circuit, the signal for the attack was given and the garrison alarmed before he reached the place. However pressing on he passed the first barrier, and was just opening to attempt the second, when by the first fire

from the enemy he was unfortunately killed, together with his Aid de camp, Captain John Macpherson, Captain [Jacob] Cheeseman and two or three more. This so dispirited the men that Colonel [Donald] Campbell, on whom the command devolved found himself under the disagreeable necessity of drawing them off.

In the mean while Colonel Arnold, at the head of about 350 of those brave troops, who with unparalleled fatigue had penetrated Canada under his command, and Capt [John] Lamb's company of Artillery, had passed through St. Roques, and approached near a two gun battery without being discovered. This he attacked and though it was well defended for about an hour, carried it with the loss of a number of men. In this attack Colonel Arnold had the misfortune to have his leg splintered by a shot, and was obliged to be carried to the hospital. After gaining the battery his detachment passed on to a second barrier, which they took possession of. By this time the enemy, relieved from the other attacks by our troops being drawn off, directed their whole force against this detachment, and a party sallying from Palace gate attacked them in the rear.

These brave men sustained the force of the whole garrison for three hours, but finding themselves hemmed in, and no hopes of relief, they were obliged to yield to numbers and the advantageous situation the garrison had over them.

No regular return is yet come to hand but by the advices received, we learn, that our loss in killed and wounded amounts to about 60, and 300 taken prisoners, who are treated very humanely. Among the slain are Capt. Kendricks [William Hendricks] and Lieutenant [William] Humphreys, of the riflemen, and lieutenant [Samuel] Cooper.

After this unfortunate repulse the remainder of the army retired about three miles from the city, where they have posted themselves advantageously and are continuing the blockade, waiting for reinforcements which are now on their march to join them:

Every possible mark of distinction was shewn to the corpse of General Montgomery, who was interred in Quebec on the 2 January.

Published by Order of the Congress.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 82-87.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 31, 1776.

CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH JAMES READ ¹

1775 Dr The Honoble the Naval Committee in Accot with James Read
Paymaster to the Fleet

Dece	To Cash paid Capt Nicholls's [Samuel Nicholas'] Compy			
	on Months Advance			£182. 5. 0
"	ditto paid Capt [Joseph] Shoemakers	do	do	178. 5. 0
"	ditto paid Capt. [John] Welshs	do	do	148. 10. 0
"	ditto paid [Lieutenant Isaac] Craigs	do	do	110. 5. 0
"	ditto paid the <i>Alfreds</i> Crew Officers & Men	85		302. 0. 0
"	ditto paid the <i>Columbus's</i>	do	do	115
"	ditto paid the <i>Cabots</i>	do	do	75
"	ditto paid the <i>A. Doria's</i>	do	do	72
"	ditto paid the <i>Providence's</i>	do	do	37
"	paid Wm Adams as Surgeon to the Sloop <i>Hornet</i>			
				8. 0. 0

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1776

For Barbados. The Snow *Philadelphia*, Michael Power, Master; A New vessel, and a prime sailer, has good accomodations for passengers, and will sail the beginning of February, wind and weather permitting.

For passage, apply to the master on board, at Mr. Thomas Clifford's wharff, or to Samuel and Charles Massey.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE¹

January 1776 Elizabeth River [Virginia]
 Wednesday 24 Variable Weather. Received Wood & Water on board. Got down Top Gallt Masts in order to fit new ones. Impressed two Men from a Sloop from St Eustatia for Norfolk.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

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

January 1776 Cape Hatteras S81°W 181 Leagues
 Tuesdy 23 at 1 P M Spoke a Brigg from Hispaniola to Halifax
 Wednesy 24 at ½ past 11 am hove too Mn T Sail to the mast Hoisted the long Boat out Sent the master 4 men & 2 Midshipmen on Board her.
 First part modt and Cloudy Middle Squally latter fresh Breezes & Hazey
 at 1 P M the Master Returnd with the Longboat Hoisted her in & made Sail.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. The brig *Hibernia*, Samuel Avery, master, Thomas & James Cochran, owners, carried into Cape Fear by the *Falcon* with a cargo of molasses, sugar and coffee. Although her clearance from Hispaniola had been for Halifax, Linzee apparently surmised a different destination was intended. Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety,
 [Charleston] Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 1776.

The President laid before the board the following letters, written by him in consequence of their orders.

Charles-Town, Jan. 24th, 1776.

Sir – You are hereby permitted to load the Brigantine *Rebecca* with rice, at George-Town, under the inspection of the committee at that place – to whom when the vessel is loaden, you will present a manifest of the cargo, in order to be certified by the committee; and that you may be reimbursed the amount by the public on whose account and risk the exportation will be made on the following terms and conditions, viz:

The cargo to be sold at such market in a foreign island in the West Indies, as your master or super-cargo under your direction shall judge best, the net proceed to be laid out in the best gunpowder to be procured,

or part in salt-petre and good muskets, with bayonets fixed. It is necessary to observe here, that your last importation of guns for the public was of no benefit; those guns are not fit to put into the hands of soldiers, and such again will not be received from you.

If it shall be impossible to procure good gunpowder, salt-petre, and good muskets with bayonets fixed – the net proceeds of the cargo is to be invested in the following articles, as such may be obtained, on the best terms, viz :

Steel, wool and cotton, cords, foreign coarse cloths and blankets, tin plates, coarse linens, sail cloths, Russia canvas, paper for writing and printing, nails of all sorts, spades, good musket locks, pins and needles, whip-saw and hand-saw, . . . The public will take the risk of the cargo and insure at moderate value the vessel, the voyage round, provided you purchase for the net proceed gunpowder, salt-petre, and good guns with bayonets, and allow you fifty per cent profit, upon the amount of the purchase, after safe importation and delivery. If the net proceed are invested in any other articles, you will be allowed sixty per cent on the cost, after safe delivery; but the public will not insure the vessel on her return. These allowances are to be in lieu of freight, commission and shipping charges, so that no other claim, but those of 50 or 60 per cent as the case may happen, shall be made, on the net proceed of the outward cargo, on which no commission or freight is to be charged; but the whole, except unavoidable duties and landing charges, to be accounted net proceed and invested in goods as above mentioned. Fair and well attested accounts of the sale and purchase of goods are to be delivered to the Council of Safety for the time being immediately after the vessels arrival at any one of the inlets on this coast, where the master shall think he may with safety enter, and it is expected, that you will sign a counterpart of this letter, and such further obligation as may be required, for the true and faithful performance of your part of the present engagement.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

P.S. With the invoice for the cargo outward, you will also produce to us a bill of lading.

Capt. James Darrel.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 210–15.

THOMAS CORBETT TO HENRY LAURENS ¹

Addressed: Henry Laurens Esqr Ansonburgh

Sir – I have reced your favour of this day – If I recollect the Tenour of the Agreement with Mr Somersal right, it is this, that, he was to return Ammunition or Arms for the Rice shipt by him, for which he was to be allow'd 100 per Cent. profit on the first purchase, taking all charges & Risques on himself – Captn

Caton, Captn Buckle & Mr Dorcius agreed to return Gunpowder at 18/.P. lb, – I never understood that Mr Somersal was in the least concern'd in any of the Bargains with those Gentlemen.

None of these Contracts were Complied with during the Continuance of the secret Committee that I know of. I am Sir [&c.]

Tho. Corbett

[Charleston] 24th Jany 1776.

[Endorsed by Laurens] "please to look on the Inclosed papers & return them with this –"

[Reply in a different hand] "I did not remember that Mr Somersal had more than one Adventure – Neither of the Contracts have been complied with during the Continuance of the Secret Committee, that I know of – Mr [William Henry] Drayton made the first agreemt to whom I refer for any intelligence more than this –"

1. *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, IV, 9, 10.

25 Jan.

JOURNAL OF ROBERT BARWICK WHILE A PRISONER IN QUEBEC¹

[College of the Recollets, January 1776]

– 24 –

wednesday night about 12 o'clock they [the Americans] sat 2 of their shipping on fire and burnt them up

– 25 –

thursday night they burnt one vessel and sat another on fire but it went out again

1. Robert Barwick's Journal, August 2, 1775 to September 25, 1776, DARL. See Volume 2, Appendix F for 1775 portion of Journal. In *March to Quebec* (New York, revised 1953), Kenneth Roberts compiled and annotated journals of other members of Arnold's expedition.

SAMUEL RUSSELL GERRY'S CLAIM FOR LOSS OF SCHOONER *Charlotte*¹

In Compliance with the Request of the Honorable Committee appointed by the Honorable Assembly of this Colony, directing those who have sustained Losses by the Ministerial Army & Navy forthwith to render proper Accounts of the same to the Honr Joseph Palmer Esq one of the Committee appointed for that Purpose – I the Subscriber do hereby render an Account of the Schooner *Charlotte* loaded with Wood from Damiscotta bound for Newbury taken about the last of September by a Cruizer and carried to Boston –²

Schooner *Charlotte* and Appurtenances

of which Capt Joseph Nathey was

Master when taken 309 . . 18 . . 11 £359 . . 19 . . 11

Wood & Cash on board when taken 50 . .

Marblehead January 25th 1776

Samuel Russell Gerry

[Endorsed] We the Subscribers beleive the Above to be a true Estimate of the Loss sustained by Mr Saml Russell Gerry as Witness our Hands

Mhead Feby 5: 1776

Joshua Orne	John Reed	} Committee of Correspondence
Joseph Homan	Edw ^d Fettyplace	
Stephen Phillips	W ^m Doliber	
William Knight		

[Second endorsement] Colony of the Masstts Bay.

Essex ss. March 29. 1776. Then Samuel Russell Gerry above named did swear that the estimate above made, of the loss he sustained by the navy of Great Britain, amounting to three hundred & fifty nine pounds nineteen shillings & eleven pence, is just and true.

Before Timothy Pickering junr Justice of the Peace.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 412.

2. The *Charlotte* was taken by H.M. *Brig Hope*, and was condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Prize List, II, 36-38, BM.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON, PLYMOUTH ¹

Cambridge 25th Jany 1776

your Letter to his Excellency of the 23d instant is Come to hand, by Lieut. Wiggleworth [John Wigglesworth], his Conduct respecting Mr Dote, in giving up the first Lieutenantcy to him will be taken due notice of on a future occasion

he Carrys the Commissions, & Cartridge paper – the General doubts not your endeavoring to get the *Harrison* out as soon as possible –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18 TO THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 1776

Cambridge, January 25.

Last Saturday [January 20] a vessel, filled with our distressed brethren of Boston, put off from that place, and landed her passengers at Chelsea, among whom were Capt. Andrew S[y]mmes, and Capt. John Dean. It is said a considerable number more were soon to follow.

Last Thursday [January 18] one of our cruisers,¹ commanded by Captain [Stephen] Mascoll, carried into Cape Ann a ship of 250 tons.² She was from Lynn Haven in England, bound to Boston, and had on board, besides other valuable articles, 1500 blankets, 100 bolts of oznabrigs, 100 casks of oatmeal, a large number of shoes, and a quantity of coal.

1. The schooner *Boston Revenge*, commissioned December 7, 1775, receiving the first privateer bond issued in Massachusetts during the American Revolution.

2. Prize was the ship *Jenny*, 200 tons.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, January 25, 1776.

The House again considered the Resolve for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty.

It was moved, that the Vote of Yesterday for allowing the Judges *Twenty Shillings* per Day for sitting on Trial, be reconsidered.

After Debate thereon the Question was put, and it passed in the Negative.

Then the House passed the following Resolves, viz.

Resolved, That the Fees to be hereafter demanded and received in the Courts of (A.) "*Admiralty*," within this Colony, shall be as follows, viz.

To the Constables, for warning a Town-Meeting, and drawing Jury-Men, *Two Shillings*.

For summoning each Juror or Witness, *Six Pence*.

To the Sheriff or Constable, for every Mile's Travel from the Place of Abode to the Place of Trial in making a Return of Warrant or Summons, *Two Pence*.

To each Juror or Witness for every Mile's Travel from the Place of his Abode to the Place of Trial, *Two Pence*.

To every Witness for Attendance per Day, *Two Shillings* and *Eight Pence*.

For the Attendance of the Forman of the Jury in each Cause per Day, *Four Shillings* and *Six Pence*.

For the Attendance of each of the other Jurors per Day, *Four Shillings*.

For the Clerk's Attendance each Day, *Five Shillings*.

For the Sheriff or Constable's Attendance each, per Day, *Four Shillings*.

To the Clerk for recording the Proceedings of the Court, for every Page containing Twenty-four Lines, of Eight Words in a Line, *Six Pence*.

For taxing the Bill, *Five Shillings*.

For all attested Copies *Six Pence* per Page as above.

To the Sheriff for selling a Vessel and Cargo, &c. paying out the Proceeds to the Captors, and the Fees to the Colony Treasurer, *Three Pence* on the *Pound*, or One and a Quarter per Cent.

To the Judge for receiving Information, *Six Shillings*.

For every Warrant, *Five Shillings*.

For his Travel from Home to the Place of Trial for every Ten Miles, *Five Shillings*.

For every Day's sitting on Trial, *One Pound*.

For notifying, or advertising, exclusive of the Expence to the Printers, *Eight Shillings*.

For every Summons for One or more Witnesses, *Six Pence*.

Afternoon.

John Whitcomb, Esq; brought down a Petition of Robert Robbins, praying that the Court would Order a Quantity of Provisions taken with his Schooner and carried into Beverly, on the 8th of November last, to be delivered to him, for Reasons therein set forth, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January 25, 1776.

Read and committed to Benjamin Lincoln, Esq; with such as the Hon. House shall join.

Read and non-concurr'd, and *Ordered* That the Petition be dismissed.²

Charles Chauncy Esq; brought down the Resolve for establishing Fees for the Courts of Admiralty, with the following Vote of Council thereon, viz.

In Council, January 25, 1776.

Read and concurr'd with the Amendment at A. viz: at A dele "*Admiralty*" and insert ["*Courts of Justice for the Trial of the Captures of Vessels.*"]

Read and concurr'd.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

2. The schooner *Two Sisters*, claimed jointly by John Manley, of Washington's schooner *Lee*, and certain citizens of Beverly.

JASON SWAN TO CAPTAIN JOHN HOWLAND¹

As Mr Rapale has alter'd the property of the Schooner & Cleard her out as he did, you'l Endeav[o]r to Get in to Cape Ann harbour, Newbury Port or Salem—provided She is not unloaded & Stored. Say into Dartmouth: but the risque is little More by her going Round – if any thing Should you Get into Boston you Can Sell and Get the Money at a Great price, or Bills at 17½ discount – but I had Rather you Should Not – if you Should, they wou'd use you Well, as the Deception of Clearing for Bermudas wou'd take with them: thinking you design'd Getting in for Rapayle – but not a word of me in the Matter – and I Say again I'd rather you Should not Get in I am Yrs & C

Watertown 25th Janry 1776

J Swan

I woud by all means you Should Get Round the Cape or into Dartmouth – and if you Come without Insurance I'l Make you a handsome Present – Copy –

[Endorsed] The above Letter was Directed Capt Jno Howland of the Schooner *James* To the Care of Major Rogers Norwich –

1. Jedediah Huntington Letters, ConnHS.

PERMIT FOR SLOOP TO SAIL FROM DARTMOUTH TO CONNECTICUT¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay

In Council Janry 25th 1776

Ordered that John Stone of York in the County of York be permitted to proceed in the Sloop [blank] from the Port of Dartmouth on a Voyage to the Colony of Connecticut to procure a load of provisions He giving Bond to the Committee of Correspondence for sd Town of York that He will bring the same into some port in this Colony, Boston & Nantuckett excepted – and that it be & it hereby is recommended to the good people of the Colony of Connecticut that the sd Stone be supplied with such provisions &c as he may want to purchase being a Friend to the common Cause of the United Colonies

Perez Morton Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 244.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND¹

[Extract]

Boston January 25th 1776

Dear Sir I had the pleasure of writing you two letters dated the 14th and 16th Instt by the Ship *Julius Caesar* in which Mrs [Peter] Oliver & Mrs [John] Wentworth went passengers –

This I hope will be handed to you by Captain [James] Urquhart our late Town Major, who is appointed to Command the additional Company of the 14th Regt

I am much disapointed in not having the pleasure of a line from you by the *Centurian* Man of War, or any of the Ships that have arrived from England –

By a letter Majr [Stephen] Kemble this day Recd from Mrs [Thomas] Gage, I have the pleasure to hear you were well the Eighth of October last; the latest Accot we have from England is the 26 Novr The Kings Speech and the addresses of both Houses of Parliament, does not make any good impression on the Minds of the deluded people of this Continant. they interpret it into a desire of Conse[n]trating Matters on their own terms, which I think is lucky for England. No terms will Satisfy them, and there is nothing now left but a good triming to Convince them of their unworthyness. unhappy will it be for Britain, shou'd matters be made up on any other terms, – Three Store Ships arrived Yesterday, its uncommon the long Passages they have had – The Transport with 3 Companys of the 46 Regt mentioned in the English News papers to be missing, was spoke with 10 days ago all well, & its thought they have got into Halifax there is one transport with 4 Companys of the 55 Regt not yet arrived, its thought they have bore away for the Wt Indias.

The gloomy prospect we had some weeks ago, begins to clear up, by the Supplys from England, that have arrived, & we find that we are not forgot.

We have Plays, Assemblys, and Balls. and live as if we were in a place of plenty –

General [James] Robertson is quite the Young Man, gives Balls and Routs, which he may do, Excha will pay for all, he has Six thousand Pounds Sterling Cash arrived in the *Centurian* for bills he sent home last Augt at 15 PCt and has now sent it back again in bills at 10 PCt – the Money for which he may have out again by the last of April, which will Clear him fifteen hundred Sterling. these bills are originaly got from the Paymaster General, for Warrants he had on him, for his Barrack Department – he talked a good deal some time ago of his not geting a Regt but he seems pritty silent now he thinks its near, as he wou'd be develishly disapointed, shou'd they give him one, and take the Barrack Office from him; he knows what he's about as well as any Man –

Mrs. Gage Mentions in her letter to her Brother, that you told her he is appointed Major in the Royal Americans, which is the only account we have of any promotion in the Corps, Except Lt Col [James Mark] Prevosts geting a Battn – Shou'd [John] Brown & [Beamsley] Glaser keep their intention of Quiting, I will than [be] the Eldest, And as feild Officers now go, it is not great presumption to aspire at being one; I have your Justice, and inclination to serve me, and when its my turn you'll not forget me –

I will not trouble you again, on the Subject of my two Last Letters – grievances is not a pleasing repetition.

General [James] Grant has moved into Handcocks house, which General Clinton occupied till his departure a few days ago. Grant is still the same Man you saw him, he is in high Expectation of getting the 38th Regt – both he & Robertson say they wou'd not accept of one of the American Battns – the former its Sour Grapes, the Latter, Barrack Office. [Valentine] Jones Splutters away and is as fit for a General as ever. [Francis] Smith is very Consequencial and the King has made a good Cure of his Wounds.

We had last Night the Blockade of Boston represented without being interruptd by the Yankies, The Audience Expected something better from the Abilities of the Authors. its but a poor performance, Last Night a Deserter came in, and repeats the report I mention'd to you in my last of [Allan] McClean having given a triming to [Benedict] Arnold, who comands the Detachment of the Rebell Army that went last October to Quebec by the Kenebeck River. he further says, that they have an Accot at Cambridge, that General [Richard] Montgomery went with his detachment from Montreal to Quebec, to Support Arnold, and that He attacked the lower town and Carried it; but that General [Guy] Carleton attacked them from the upper town, and beat them. in which action, the Rebels had four hundred killed, and one hundred taken prisoners. he also says that Montgomery and his Aid de Camp are amoung the Killed. this News he says was industrasley kept from their People, but that we may depend upon it.

Captn Wallace has again Landed at Rhode Island, and attacked another party of Rebles, killed fifteen, and burnt Several Houses. he is a fine fellow.²

Last Night Six Rebell Prisoners Confined on board the Admirals Ship the *Preston* found means to get at liberty, Carried off a boat, and landed at Dorchester Neck.³

The 15 Instt a Vessell from Cork with Supplys for this Garrison was taken and carried into Plymouth⁴ – Governor [Francis] Leg[ge] is raizing a Corps of Provencials in Nove Scotia, Captn [John] Stanton of the 14th Regiment is to be Major, and Lt Barry of the 52 last Winter our Poet, and now his Secretary; is to be Eldest Captain. we have dayly Feild Officers and Captains selling out, and many purchaseing on, Majr [Thomas] Smelt of the 65 has sold to Captn [David] Dundass of the 63 Regt A Return has been asked from Each Corps, of the Subalterns that will purchase; I desired Mr Haldimand to put down his Name for a Company when it comes to his turn, but I do not Expect he will be Elowed to Purchase being so Young an Officer; he lives with his Corps, and they seem to like him, and he them; and he has all the attention and Assistance in my power.

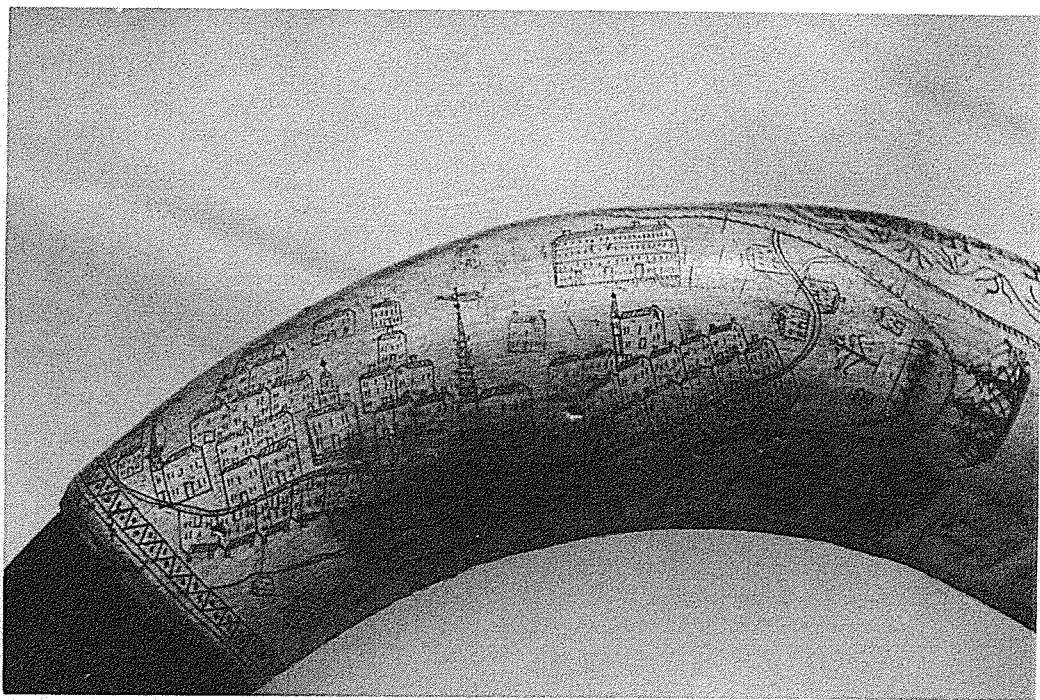
Robertson does all he can to get back to New York, where he wishes to Command and he will not rest untill he carrys that point. It is reported that Sir Jeffery [Amherst] is certainly to come out, which seems to please him much.

1. Haldimand Papers, BM.

2. Captain James Wallace, H.M.S. *Rose*.

3. According to the journal of H.M.S. *Preston*, there were eight who deserted, not six prisoners who escaped.

4. No record of this capture found.



Powder horn engraved with map of Providence, Rhode Island, 1777.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1776 Janry. 25

The Admiral ordered the *Prestons* Marines to be landed and join the Battalion on Shore, and ten Men to be discharged from the *Canceaux* to the *Tryal* Schooner, now compleatly fitted for an Advice Boat and well manned. . . . And Captain [Francis] Banks the senior Officer in Nantasket,² received Orders upon his observing an Attack in the Offing to order any Ship in the Road to slip and run out, and if alone to go himself.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30, BM.

2. Commander of H.M.S. *Renown*.BENJAMIN TALLMAN TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL COMMITTEE ¹

To the Hon'ble the General Committee appointed to act during the Recess of the General Assembly.

May it please your Honors

Having been urged in the most pressing Manner by the Naval Committee to undertake the Building of One of the Frigates ordered to be built in this Town, and having given my Consent thereto from Motives of the publick Interest without any Desire to quit the Service of my Country in that Department in which I at present am Engaged I desire leave to resign my Commission as Major of a Regiment in the Rhode Island Troops and to be discharged: I am Your Honor's [&c.]

Benj^a Tallman

Providence Janry 25th 1776

1. Council of War Papers, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND OF SLOOP *Polly* BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND TO PHILADELPHIA ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we James Cahoone of Newport in the County of Newport and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant as Principal and Nicholas Power of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c Merchant as Surety are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of said Colony in the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony to which Payment well and truly to be made, we bind Ourselves our Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with Our Seals Dated the Twenty fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas Isaac Carr Master of the Sloop *Polly* burthened about Sixty Tons and owned by the above named James Cahoone is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to Philadelphia with Two Thousand Bushells of Barley One Hundred barrels Train Oyl and Forty Boxes SpermaCeti Candles. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Isaac Carr shall proceed with his said Sloop to Philadelphia and there discharge his said Cargo and take on board the

Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the return of said Sloop and further shall not Proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force

Sealed and Delivered }
in the Presence of }

James Cahoone Nich^o Power

William Mumford, Elizabeth Ward

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE SLOOP *Phoenix* BOUND FROM RHODE ISLAND FOR
GEORGIA ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That I John Dennis of Swanzey in the Country of Bristol in the Province of the Massachussetts Bay Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the Colony of Rhode Island in the Sum of Six Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be paid to the said Joseph Clarke in his said Capacity or to his Successors in said Office for the Use of the said Colony To which Payment well and truly to be made I bind myself my Heirs Executors and Administrators firmly by these Presents. Sealed with my Seal. Dated the Twenty fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Whereas Norton Cole Master of the Sloop *Phoenix* burthened about Sixty five Tons and owned by the abovenamed John Dennis is bound by Permission of the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr. Governor of the said Colony on a Voyage with his said Sloop to the Province of Georgia with One Thousand Bunches of Onyons Twenty Bushells Beets Three dozen Felt Hats Six Boxes Hard Soap Twenty barrels Apples Four Hundred Bushells Potatoes Two Hundred and Eighty Barrels Cyder and Three Thousand Pounds weight of Cheese. Now the Condition of the above Obligation is such That if the said Norton Cole shall proceed with his said Sloop to the Province of Georgia and there Discharge his said Cargo and take on board the Produce of the Country or other Articles under the Direction of the Committee of Inspection of the City Town or County where he shall lade and take in his said Cargo and also bring back proper Certificates both of Exports and Imports from them and lodge the same in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop, and further shall not Proceed to any Port or Place not being within the United Colonies (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure of an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation to be void or else in full Force.

Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }

John Dennis

Theodore Foster – William Mumford.

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

May it please your Honor,

Newport, January 25. 1776.

I am directed by the Freemen of this Town, in Town-Meeting assembled on the 24th, Instant to request the Favor that your Honor wou'd transmit me by Mr William Anthony who is dispatched with this Letter for that Purpose the Memorial that was proferred by them to the Honorable Continental Congress together with the Papers that accompanied it – If your Honor desires that those Papers shou'd be returned to you, I am ordered by the Town to assure you that it shall be done – I am, Your Honors [&c.]

W^m Coddington Town Clerk

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

“A MUSTER ROLL AND PAY ROLL FOR THE BRIGANTINE *Minerva* FITTED OUT ON THE ACCT OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT BY ORDER OF HIS HONR THE GOVR AND COMTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE DEFENCE OF SAID COLONY —” ¹

[Extract]

Names of Officers and Men	Quality	When Inlisted [1775]	When Discharged or Disirted 1776
Giles Hall	Captain	Augt 2	Jan'y 26 1775
James Hopkins	1st Lt	Augt 14	Decr 19
Thompson Phillips	2d Lt	Sept 14	Decr 19
William Pluymort	Master	Augt 22	Decr 17
William Warner	1st Mate	Augt 24	Decr 26
John Cotton	2d Mate	Augt 12	Decr 26 1776
Thos Lamb	Clark	Sept 4	Jan'y 26 1776
Andrew Johonnot	Stewart	Sept 11	Jan'y 20 [1775]
Gregory Powers	Boaswain	Augt 14	Decr 26
Benjn Cranston	Gunner	Augt 31	Decr 19
William Miles	Gunners Mate	Augt 15	Decr 19
George Lewis	Carpender	Sept 10	Novr 5
Richd Dickerson	Pilote	Sept 16	Decr 25
John Harris	Carpenders Mate	Augt 15	Decr 26
Jacob Gibson	Mariner	Augt 14	Novr 25
Willm Thomas	Marine	Augt 15	Novr 9
Thos Dande	Mariner	Augt 15	Novr 20
William Warner	Cook	Augt 16	Decr 16
Jesse Higgins	Mariner	Augt 17	Octr 17
Jonathan Tinker	do	Augt 17	Novr 18
Jeremiah Branard	do	Augt 22	Decr 25
Giles Cone	do	Augt 22	Decr 16
John Russell	do	Augt 24	Decr 16
John Chipman	do	Augt 22	Decr 23
Aaron White	do	Augt 27	Decr 19

Jerediah Norton	do	Augt 28	Decr 25
George Pelton	do	Sept 4	Octr 24
Joseph Burr	do	Sept 12	Decr 19
George Lucas	do	Sept 15	Decr 19
Saml Johnson	do	Sept 21	Decr 18
Stephen Lee	do	Sept 21	Decr 23
James Griffin	do	Sept 22	Novr 17
Edward Tryon	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
Peter Granger	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
Dave Whittlecey	do	Octr 7	Decr 19
Giles Gill	do	Octr 9	Decr 26
Walter Spooner	do	Octr 12	Decr 19
Derney Butler	do	Augt 26	Sept 26
Zebediah Mix	Marine	Augt 22	Decr 25
Elisha Ward	do	Augt 24	Decr 19
Peter a Negro Man	do	Augt 25	Decr 23
Gist a Negro Man	do	Augt 25	Decr 19
John Sheaf	do	Augt 25	Octr 17
William Casheen	do	Augt 25	Novr 18
Richard Hunt	do	Augt 25	Novr 10
Philip Mahan	do	Augt 26	Octr 15
Ebenzr Savage	Marine	Augt 27	Decr 19
Phillip Aspell	do	Augt 27	Decr 16
James McDavid	do	Augt 30	Decr 18
Edward Griswold	do	Augt 31	Novr 19
James Johnston	do	Augt 31	Octr 25
George Stow	do	Sept 5	Decr 19
Stephen Jordan	do	Sept 5	Decr 23
Joseph Graum	do	Sept 5	Decr 23
Saml Torry	do	Sept 6	Decr 19
John Wright	do	Sept 11	Novr 18
John Coult	do	Sept 18	Decr 23
Jacob Hail	do	Sept 12	Novr 5
John [Eld]erkin	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
John Allen	do	Octr 3	Decr 19
James Fisher	do	Octr 11	Novr 11
John Lucas	Boaswain's Mate	Augt 24	Surspended Novr 8
David Hall	Mariner	Sept 12	Surspended Novr 8
James Johnson	do	Augt 21	Ran away Octr 14
Reuben Bailey	do	Augt 26	Ran away Decr 5
Timothy Bailey	do	Augt 26	Ran away Decr 5
Peter Gantley	Marine	Augt 26	Ran away Sept [10]
George Spencer	do	Augt 29	Ran away Decr 5
Nathl Witmore	do	Augt 30	Ran away Octr 15
Philimon Roberts	do	Augt 30	Ran away Octr 15
John Nickolas	do	Sept 5	Ran away Decr 6
Moses Pelton	do	Sept 12	Ran away Decr 6
[Total Whole Wages]			£514-18-8¼
To Commission for Paying of [] f at ½ p Ct			7-14-6
Sundries P bill			2-16-6
			<hr/>
			529- 9-8¼

Recd at Sundry times Comtee order on Treasurer for

430- 0-0

Hartford, 25th Jany 1776 Recd an order on Treasurer

£ 95- 9-8¼

Dr indorsd on the Bill therefor

£ 92-13-2½

Errors Excepted Pr Giles Hall

2-16-6

1. Conn. Arch., Revolutionary War, 1st series, IX, 6, ConnSL. Columns listing individual monthly wage, length of time in service, and total wage are omitted from the foregoing table.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir.

Albany January 25th 1776

I have this Moment received a Letter from General Wooster,² Copy of which, with Copys of Sundries inclosed I now do myself the Honor to transmit to you.

I shall order him to send every person from Canada, that may be dangerous to our Cause, if left in that Country.

From General Wooster's Letter one would be led to imagine, that I had sent back vast numbers of dangerous persons, he has before wrote to me on the Occasion with an unbecoming Subacity, I therefore trouble you with the Detail.

Seers, whom he mentions, was sent to me from Connecticut with a Recommendation from the Committee of [blank] to permit him to return to Canada, which I did, ordering him to wait on the commanding officer. Captain Godwin and Lieutenant Schalk I permitted to remain at Ticonderoga at the Request of General Montgomery until they could be informed if their Wives & Children, whom they had left at Quebec where [*sic*] gone to England or had come to Chamblee If to the latter then he wished they might be permitted to return and convey them into these Colonies. They, their Wives and Children are now at Chamblee. Mr McCullough a Commissary was another, a Widower, who had left four small Children in Canada, and whom I likewise permitted to Return on the same Account, these together with the Canadian Peasants taken at St John's are all that I recollect to have sent back, and not even the last without the Approbation of General Montgomery first had - The peasantry were too insignificant to have any Influence, and there seemed at that Time little Danger from the others, and yet I took the precaution of their Word of Honor, not to say any Thing on the Subject of the Controversy; If they have abused my Confidence they are Scoundrels, and I will treat them accordingly, without repenting that I gave them the Indulgence; for that was an Act of Humanity - If they are not culpable they are injured, and I shall sift the Matter to the Bottom, and my Resentment without any Kind of Exception, shall be experienced by those that deserve it.

I have just received a letter from Colo: [Seth] Warner of which the following is a Copy.

Bennington Jany 22d 1776

Sir

My prospect in raising Men seems very encouraging one hundred and upwards I have sent forward, A Number more is ready to march soon - I have twelve Companies a raising tho' the Men shall be sent

forward as fast as possible. More Money is necessary as I have paid the chief out that I received, two companies more I expect to raise, as they have sent me they wish to engage – Major [Samuel] Safford will be the receiver of what Money will be disbursed for said purpose from [&c.]

Seth Warner

In Answer to this I sent the following which I shewed to Mr [Philip] Livingston our Brother Delegate and of which he approved.

Albany Jany 25th 1776

Sir

Major Safford has delivered me your Letter of the 22d Inst I was in Hopes that by that Time a much larger Number of Men had marched than what you mention; the Bounty I promised was in Consideration of their immediately marching, when therefore as many Men are actually marched (which I expect will be without Delay) as I gave you the Bounty for, I shall furnish you with a farther Sum to send as many more as will amount to a Regiment on the present Continental Establishment which is 720 Men, Officers included, but I do expect that the whole march by the first Day of February, such as are not marched by that Time will not be entitled to any part of the Bounty.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 450–52, NA.

2. See Wooster's letter of January 14, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO.A.M.

Jany. 25th, 1776.

Francis Lewis, Esqr. came into the Committee of Safety and informed them that the schooner *Success*, Jonathan Bowne, master, was laded by his order on Continental account, and requested a permit for her to sail:

Thereupon, a certificate [was] given to Col. Alexander McDougall in the words following, to wit:

The schooner *Success*, whereof Jonathan Bowne is master, being laded on Continental account, by order and under the direction of some of the Continental Delegates, is hereby permitted to sail to sea.

Die Jovis, 4 ho.P.M. Jany. 25th, 1776.

The Committee being of opinion that prudence and care of this Colony and of the capital and inhabitants thereof requires that a proper person be kept at the Hook, to keep a look out if any fleet, or any transports or ships of war should be approaching this Colony; and having, on considering that matter yesterday, thought it best, to prevent jealousy among the pilots, and to give different persons among them a chance of earning a subsistence in the present times of difficulty, agreed to employ Samuel Isleton, (who was recommended for that purpose,) in the place of Wm. Dobbs. Samuel Isleton attending, by request, received his

instructions. He is directed to take the pilot boat and oars lately purchased by this Committee, and 4 men to row her, and proceed to the Hook, and stay there and diligently look out for one week, if no fleet or transports or ships of war appear sooner; if any appear he is to give the most immediate notice to this Committee. Samuel Isleton is to have 10s. per day; and James Burns, Robert Bennet, John Besly and William Mullinger, his oarsmen, are to have 8s. per day, each, and they are to find themselves all necessaries and bear their own expenses.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 268.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1776

New-York, January 25.

We hear from New-Jersey, that on Monday last [January 22], the people in the sea port towns, having note that a store ship¹ with coals, porter, cheese, &c. for the murdering army in Boston, was arrived at the Hook, a number of men in a small vessel at night boarded, took and brought her into port, where they have unloaded her.

1. *The Blue Mountain Valley*.

JOHN MCKESSON TO RICHARD SHARP¹

[New York, January 25, 1776]²

Sir:

The Ship *Asia* has been supplied with provisions in the following manner, Vizt.

Abraham Lott Esqr Treasurer of this Colony (in whom you know the Inhabitants universally place great Confidence) has for several years been one of the Agent Victuallers for his Majesty's ships at this port – having recd orders for Provisions he laid them before the provincial Congress – he was directed to obtain the number of men belonging to the Ship and make return thereof to Congress & lest Mr. Lott might be imposed on [as] they had ample means of Information.

The Congress have given him permits to supply the Ship *Asia* with necessary provisions *for her own use and consumption only*, Mr. Lott from time to time making report to Congress of the Species & Quantities supplied. The Ship takes her supply once a week if necessary – The Ship's Boats or any person belonging to her are not permitted to come to the Shore, when the Ship lay off in Hudsons River or toward the Bay the provisions when sent in market Hours in the morning were Sent by such person & Boat as Mr. Lott employed & Landed on Nutten Island; & the Ships Boats were Sent there for it – Since her removal from thence, the Craft and persons employed by Treasurer Lott deliver the provisions in Market hours into the Ship's Boat near the Ship – every other Inhabitant is prohibited any intercourse with the *Asia* nor is she supplied with anything but thro' Mr. Lott or his order.

1. *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts Relating to the War of the Revolution, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y.* (Albany, 1868), I, 154.

2. McKesson was secretary of the New York Provincial Congress. The date of the letter is adduced in part by McKesson's remarks as to the various locations of the *Asia*. She lay in the North river off the Battery from June 15, 1775, until September 6, when she

moored "toward the bay" between the Battery and Oyster Island. On December 20, according to the *Asia's* journal she moved into the East River and moored with "the Old English Church W N W the Battery WSW½W Long Island ferry S E." On January 24, 1776, the ship's purser, who dealt with Abraham Lott, died, and probably was succeeded by Richard Sharp, whose request regarding the method of supplying provisions was answered by McKesson.

COLONEL THOMAS LOWREY TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Perth Amboy Jan'y 25. 1776

Give me leave to Congratulate you and your Honble House on the Success of Lord Stirling, by the Capture of the Transport ship *blue Mountain Valley*, Captain [James Hamilton] Dempster the particulars of which Lord Stirling writes you by this Conveyance, I was on board the ship last evening in Amboy Bay, some of the Sailors informed one of our men that there was a Quantity of Arms & Amunition in the hold – the Ship is now gone up to Elizabeth Town point to wait your Orders – The Bearer Mr [Peter] Barbarie is owner of a Sloop which was taken off Sandy Hook by some of the Men of Warrs Tenders, and retaken on her passage to Boston by Capt Manly or some other New England Captain ² Mr Barbarie is looked upon as friendly to our cause, and now goes down for Instructions from Congress, how to proceed to regain his Sloop and Cargoe. I am with due respect. Sir [&c.]

Thomas Lowrey

P.S. a Number of our Militia with three Companies of Lord Stirlings Regiment are on Long Island, and are disarming the Tories without Opposition – We expect them back in a few days

The Honble John Hancock Esqr

President of Congress Philadelphia

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XIV, 59, NA.

2. The sloop *Sally*, retaken by Captain Winborn Adams, in Washington's schooner *Warren*, on Christmas Day, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, January 25, 1776

Resolved, That the direction of the fleet fitted out by the order of Congress, be left to the marine/naval/committee.²

Resolved, That the fortification at Crown Point be not repaired; and that the fortress at Ticonderoga be repaired and made defensible; and that General Schuyler be desired to make return to the Congress, as soon as may be, of the size and number of cannon, that will be necessary to fortify that place.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 87–92.

2. *Ibid.*, the manuscript text of the Journals reads "marine," but was afterwards corrected to "naval." Secretary Thomson, in a memorandum summarizing the resolution of Congress on naval matters, describes the selection of a committee of thirteen, and adds that this committee "was afterwards denominated the *Marine Comee* to distinguish it from the Naval Comee above mentioned, which was still in existence." He continues with the statement, "The Naval Comee having executed the business for which they were appointed had only to render their accounts, but on the 25 January the direction of the fleet fitted out by order of Congress was left to them."

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 25 Jany. A Petition was read from Matthias Aspden for Permission to load a French Vessel with Produce, it was referred to a Comee . . . 10,000 Dollars voted on Account, to the Troops in North Carolina – 2 or 3 Ships of War are fitting out there for our Service accordg to report.²

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

2. The three vessels were arming for defense of the North Carolina coast and not for Continental service.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 25th Jan'y, 1776.

The Committee of Safety having resolved to increase the Number of Men in the pay of, and for the defence of this Province, Captain [Thomas] Proctor is hereby directed to enlist seventy Volunteers, who are to be instructed principally in the use and management of Artillery, but to be embodied in such manner, and employed occasionally upon such service as may be hereafter determined by the said Committee.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 467.

GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

My Lord,

Annapolis, 25th. January 1776.

The Delegates (of Maryland) in provincial Convention, as they state themselves, having entered into some Resolves, of which I have procured Copies, I think it incumbent upon me to transmit them to your Lordship as speedily as possible, and therefore send this Packet by Express to New York, in hopes that it will arrive safely there, and be forwarded thence, there being no opportunity of a conveyance by any Vessel from this Province at present, tho I have some expectation of being able to send a duplicate of this by a Brig for London, in the course of the ensuing Month.

The enclosed Declaration (No. 3) I am informed is to be immediately published – so I have since heard are the Instructions (No. 2), but I know not if here, or at Philadelphia.²

I am convinced of the sincerity of the Councils Assurances contained in their Address to me the 29th day of August – a Copy of which I have had the Honour of transmitting to your Lordship, and again refer thereto among the inclosed (No 4) and, I must, my Lord, do the Members of the last Convention as they call it, and the People of this Province the Justice to say, I am satisfied they are so far from desiring an Independency that if the Establishment of it were left to their Choice, they would reject it with Abhorrence, so incompatible would such a State be with their real undissembled Attachment to, and Affection for His Majesty, His Family, and the Mother Country; And I am confident they would esteem the full Restoration of Peace and their former Intercourse with the Parent State, to be a most happy Event; an Event which, I doubt not, might be effec-

tually produced, if they were replaced in the same State with respect to the Acts of Parliament that they possessed at the Conclusion of the last War.

My Station and Residence here affording me opportunities of Information, in Justice to the people of this province, as well as by the Duty & Regard I owe to my King and native Country. I think myself obliged to make this candid and faithfull Representation of their Principles and Sentiments, and shall be supremely happy in any pleasing prospect of Success attending every Exertion in my power to bring about an happy Reconciliation between Great Britain, & her Colonies, to the joint Honour and Welfare of both.

I am sorry to have occasion to Apologize for the passage of His Majesty's Post through this Province having been stopped by order of the Convention – I can only say on that Head, My Lord, that I have reason to think those concerned therein, are since sorry for it. Their real Excuse is that it happened early in the Meeting of the Convention, before several of the most moderate Men were come up, and was resolved upon when the Minds of the People were extremely agitated by Lord Dunmore's Proclamation, giving Freedom to the Slaves in Virginia, our Proximity to which Colony, and our similar Circumstances with respect to Negroes augmenting the general Alarm, induced them to prohibit all Correspondence with Virginia by Land or Water. A Fortnight before that, the Post had been stopped in another Province, and Letters taken out, and opened; mine amongst others, and I have not had the Honour of receiving any Letters from your Lordships Office since your circular one of the 22nd & Mr [John] Pownall's of May the 27th

You will observe, my Lord, by the enclosed Paper (No 5) that the Corporation of this City are willing to cooperate with me in preserving its Peace, should any of His Majesty's Ships of War arrive here. I hope they will continue in that Disposition, and it shall be my Endeavour to strengthen it throughout the Province, as earnestly as it is to persevere in my Duty to my Sovereign, and promote that Tranquility which abler heads than mine will, I hope, before Midsummer, point out the path leading to the Recovery of restoring Happiness to Millions – which soon to see is the sincere Wish of, My Lord [&c.]

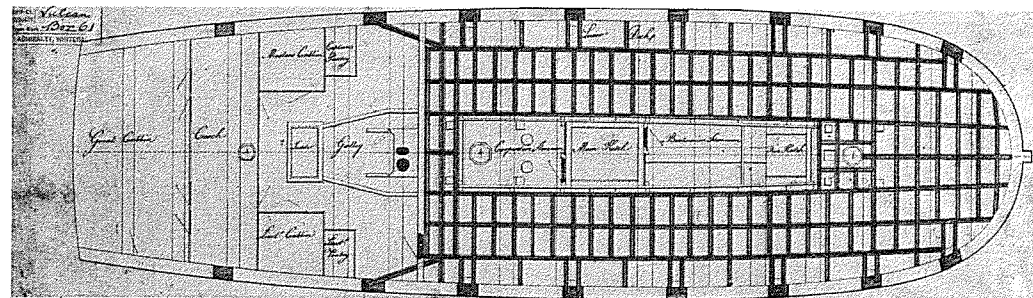
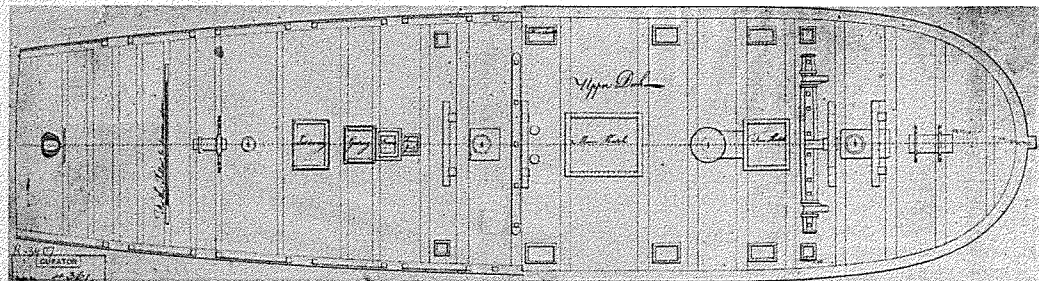
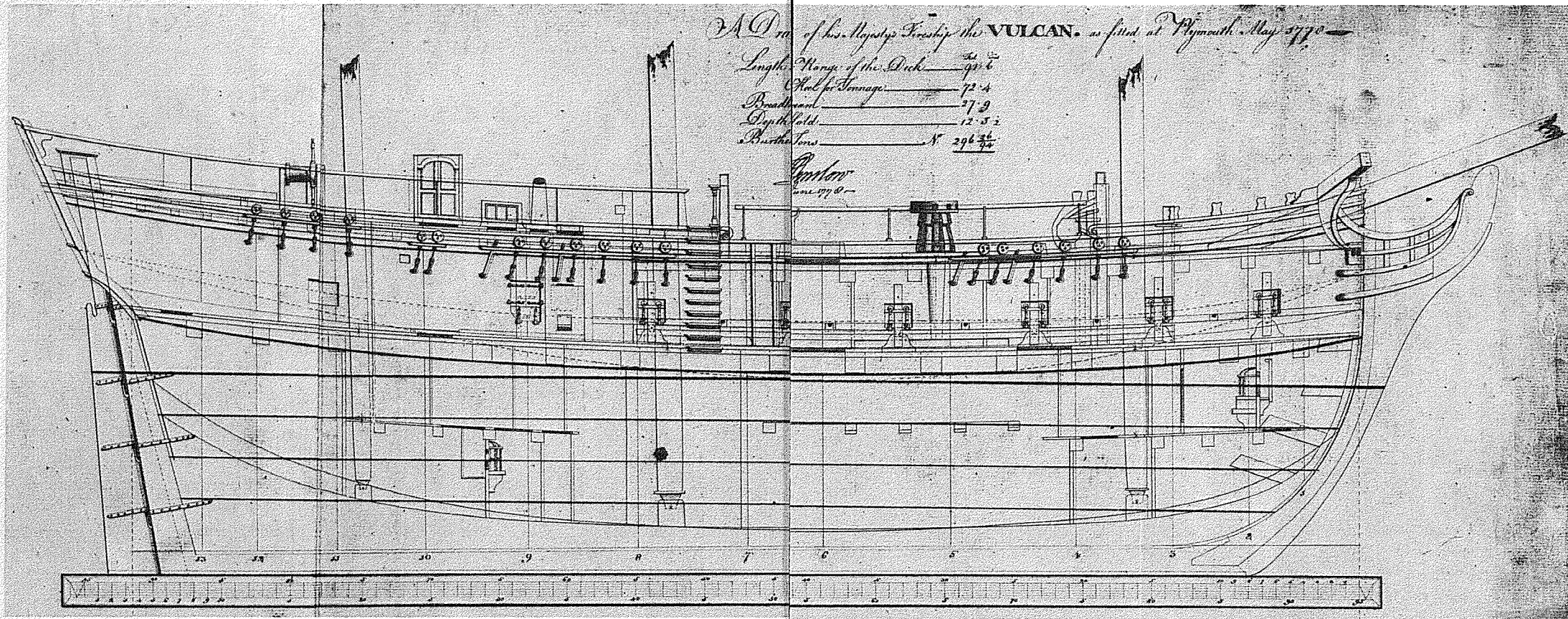
Rob^t Eden.

1. Eden Transcripts, MdHS.

2. The Declaration of the Maryland Convention, January 18, 1776, protesting that they had taken up arms in defense of the liberties they were being deprived of by the British Ministry; and the resolution of January 15, 1776, continuing the powers of the Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress.

MASTER'S BOND FOR NON-ENUMERATED GOODS SHIPPED FROM EDENTON ¹

Know all Men by these Presents, That We [Daniel Cartwright Master of the Sloop Polly and George Gray of Edenton Innholder] are held and firmly bound to our Sovereign Lord George, the Third, by the Grace of God of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, and so forth, in the Sum of [One thousand] Pounds of good and lawful Money of Great-Britain, to be paid to our said Lord the King, His Heirs, or Executors: To which Payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, and each of us by himself, for and in the Whole, our Heirs, Executors, and Administrators and each and every of them



firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated this [Twenty fifth] Day of [January] in the [Sixteenth] Year of the Reign of His said Majesty, and in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and seventy [Six]

WHEREAS by an Act made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for encouraging and increasing of Shipping and Navigation," and several subsequent Acts of Parliament, which are now in Force, it is (amongst other Things) enacted, That for every Ship or Vessel, which shall load any Commodities in those Acts particularly enumerated at any British Plantation, being the Growth, Product or Manufacture thereof, Bond shall be given, with one Surety, to the Value of One Thousand Pounds if the Ship be of less Burthen than One Hundred Tons, and of the Sum of Two Thousand Pounds if the Ship be of greater Burthen, that the same Commodities shall be brought by such Ship or Vessel to some other British Plantation, or to some Port in Great-Britain. And whereas by an Act made in the Sixth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty intituled, "An Act for repealing certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations granted by several Acts of Parliament; and also the Duties imposed by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament upon certain East-India Goods exported from Great-Britain; and for granting other Duties instead thereof; and for further encouraging, regulating, and securing several Branches of the Trade to the Kingdom and the British Dominions in America;" in order more effectually to prevent such Goods being privately carried from any British Colony or Plantation in America into Foreign Parts of Europe in Vessels that clear out with *non-enumerated* Goods, as well as to prevent the clandestine Importation of Foreign European Goods into the said British Colonies, it is (amongst other Things) enacted, that from and after the First Day of January, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, Bond and Security, in the like Penalty, shall also be given to the Collector or other principal Officer of the Customs at any Port or Place in any of the British American Colonies or Plantations, with one Surety besides the Master of every Ship or Vessel that shall lade or take on Board there any Goods not particularly enumerated in the said Acts, with Condition that such Goods shall not be landed at any Part of Europe to the Northward of Cape Finisterre, except in Great Britain. And whereas by an Act made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to amend so much of an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, intituled An Act for repealing certain Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations, granted by several Acts of Parliament; and also the Duties imposed by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament upon certain East-India Goods exported from Great Britain; and for granting other Duties instead thereof; and for further encouraging, regulating, and securing several Branches of the Trade of this Kingdom, and the British Dominions in America as relates to the Exportation of non-enumerated Goods from the British Colonies in America," any *non-enumerated* Goods laden as aforesaid, in any British-American Colony or Plantation, may be landed in *Ireland*; and the said recited Act of the Sixth of His present Majesty, and all the regulations therein contained, so far as the same relate to the Bond and Security of Landing such *non-enumerated* Goods in Great-Britain, shall extend, and be construed to extend to Ireland also, as fully and effectually, to all Intents and

Purposes, as if Ireland had been excepted and named in the said Act. And whereas by an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, any non-Enumerated Goods, except Rum, laden as aforesaid, in any British Colony or Plantation may be landed in the islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey*, under the Regulations in the recited Act of the 6th of *George* 3d.

AND whereas the above-bound [Daniel Cartwright] intends to lade on Board the Ship [Sloop *Polly*] whereof he the said [Danl Cartwright] is Master, sundry Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, not particularly enumerated in the said recited Acts, as specified on the Back hereof:

NOW the Condition of the above-written Obligation is such, That if the said Goods, or any Part thereof shall not be landed at any Part of Europe to the Northward of Cape Finisterre, except in Great-Britain or Ireland, or the Islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey*; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in Great-Britain or Ireland, a Certificate shall be produced, within Eighteen Months from the Date hereof under the Hands and Seals of the Collector and Comptroller, or other principal Officer of the Customs residing at the Port or Place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the Landing thereof; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for, or landed in the Islands of *Jersey* or *Guernsey*, a Certificate shall be produced within eighteen Months from the Date hereof, under the Hands and Seals of any three of the Magistrates of the Royal Courts of the said Islands respectively, testifying the landing thereof; and if for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for or landed in any of the British Colonies or Plantations in America, a Certificate shall be produced within Six Months, under the Hands and Seals of such Officers as aforesaid, residing at the Port or Place where such Goods shall be landed, testifying the Landing thereof; and if, for such of the said Goods as shall be entered for, or landed at, any other Place where the same may be legally landed, a Certificate shall be produced within Twelve Months, under the Common Seal of the Chief Magistrate, or under the Hands and Seals of Two known British merchants residing there, testifying the Landing of such Goods; or if due Proof, upon Oath, by credible Persons shall be made, that such Goods were taken by Enemies, or perished in the Seas; then the above written Obligation to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full Force and Virtue.²

Daniel Cartwright Ls
Geo: Gray Ls

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of
Will^m Knight Compt

1. Treasurer and Comptroller Papers, Port Papers, NCDAH. This is a printed form, the written words being in brackets.
2. Eight such bonds, all for the port of Edenton, are in the Port Papers. One only is printed here, as an example of the severe restrictions imposed by the various acts of King and Parliament upon the exportation of American goods. The other seven bonds were for the sloop *Betsey*, George Rankin, master; schooner *Martha*, Abraham Eve, master; brigantine *Hunter*, Samuel Butler, master, all of January 25, 1776; schooner *Mary*, Benjamin Butts, master, February 23, 1776; sloop *Sally*, John Riggen, master, March 18, 1776; schooner *Polly*, Silas Henry, master, March 28, 1776, and sloop *Friendship*, Abraham Adderley, master, April 8, 1776. In the case of the sloop *Sally*, an additional bond in the sum of two hundred pounds was demanded to cover the landing of her cargo of lumber at Barbados. The text of this latter bond varied only slightly from the *Polly*'s.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In The Council of Safety,
[Charleston] Thursday, Jan. 25th, 1776.

Mr. President laid before the board the following letters which he had written by their order.

Charles-Town, Jan. 25th, 1776.

Sir – Late last night your two letters, both of the 23rd, came to hand

We have now the most pressing call upon us from the Council of Safety at Savannah, for the assistance of two hundred men. We desire therefore that you will immediately march that number, a few more if possible, under proper command to the banks of Savannah. Purrysburg we suppose will be the most proper spot, and give orders to cross over with safety and expedition, to land at such place as shall be judged most proper, and to put the whole under the command of the Council of Safety, whose orders probably will meet with the detachment at Purrysburg. They have applied also in terms equally pressing for gunpowder. We shall send a quantity to-day to the committee at Beaufort, and desire them to forward it from thence by the most secure passage by water or land

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

P.S. Sent in a canow under the care of Mr. Thomson, &c.

Col. [Stephen] Bull.

Charles-Town, South-Carolina,

Jan. 24th, 1776.

Gentlemen – Your messenger arrived late this evening with your dispatch of the 21st. We were immediately summoned, and having taken the contents of your letter under consideration, resolved, to send as much gunpowder as we can with safety to the common cause and our own particular circumstances possibly part with. We shall also give positive orders to Col. Bull, to march two hundred good men to the banks of Savannah under proper officers, to cross the river and land at the most convenient place, and to wait your commands; you will therefore be prepared to meet the commanding officer with orders, if time permits, at Purrysburg.

The excessive bad roads, high rivers and drowned swamps appear to us to be sufficient reasons for sending you the gunpowder by water, at least part of the way. We shall order it to be packed in tight casks conducted in a canow, first to Beaufort and thence towards Savannah, as the committee at that place shall direct, perhaps to New River, within eight miles of Purrysburg. Were we to send it by land, besides the imminent danger of damage from continual moisture and wet, we apprehend it could not reach you in less than seven days. Some parts of the road we are assured are impassable.

We are extremely sorry that we cannot spare you the full quantity which you have claimed; it is not in our power. We sent 5000 lb. of the powder which we received from you to Philadelphia for continental service and we expect every hour a further demand on us, strongly recommended by our representatives in general Congress, 2000 lb. more for North Carolina. We cannot, for these reasons, spare more than 2000 lb., for which, from the situation of your town, and the consideration that the ships-of-war have no men for adventuring hazardous enterprises on land, we hope and trust will be an ample provision for your defence. We consider also the threatened attack upon Savannah, may be calculated as an amusement to us – and make no doubt, but that every one of those ships-of-war now lying at Cockspur, will, after they have obtained a proper stock of provision, embrace the first favourable weather and steer for Charles-Town bar. We have about one hundred pieces of heavy cannon mounted, and are adding to the number with all possible dispatch: it is incumbent on us to be provided for serving them well with ammunition. Nevertheless our cause is one, and if you shall find it absolutely necessary to make a further demand, we will comply as far as we possibly can or dare do. We should guard against a stratagem for weakening this post, which appears but too manifest in the present instance.

Securing the person of your Governor and his suite was certainly a wise measure; the brothers of his Excellency are doing our cause much mischief in St. Mary's river, where they load vessels with lumber, and from there they supply East-Florida with provision – and we have a complaint to lodge against Mr. Panton of this place, now at Savannah. This gentleman lately exported from Mr. Gordan's plantation within this colony a quantity of flour to East-Florida, of which we have satisfactory proof: we therefore desire, that his person may be secured and sent to Charles-Town. He is one of those Men, whose "going at large endangers the public safety."

Nothing on our part shall be wanting for your further assistance. We pray God to grant you success.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Provincial Congress at Savannah.

P. S. Your messenger, Mr. Richardson, having complained that Georgia money will not pass currently on our road, we have supplied him with seven pounds currency. Upon questioning him, he assures us, that the bridges between this and Savannah River are in several places carried away, and that passage for a cart or waggon is at present impracticable.

The several favours of your Council of Safety of the 13th, and of Mr. President the 11th and 18th instant came duly to hand, for which we return our thanks.

Information being given to the Council that a Brigantine had come in over the bar, which might be an enemy.

Ordered, That a boat be sent down to reconnoitre: and that Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, in the *Prosper*, do immediately make sail to cover the said boat, and bring up the Brigantine if practicable.

[Read] a letter from Capt [Simon] Tufts, Otter Island, Jan. 23rd, 1776.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 216–21.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON'S REPLY TO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ¹

I the within Named Clark Gayton do Certify and return that the within named Benjamin Bell before the Obtaining and issuing of the within Writ was taken by one of his Majestys Ships of War under my Command as he the said Benjamin Bell was coming out of the Port of Cape Nicholas Mole in the Island of Hispaniola in a Sloop or Vessell belonging to the Colony of New York in North America of which Sloop or Vessell he was Master and which said Benjamin Bell had at the said Port of Cape Nicholas Mole discharged the Cargo which he had Laden at the Colony of North Carolina in North America aforesaid and cleared out for one of the British Islands in the West Indies and was then on his Voyage in the said Sloop or Vessell with a Cargo of Sugar and Salt which he had laden and taken on Board the said Sloop or Vessell at Cape Nicholas Mole aforesaid to and for the said Colony of North Carolina And that I have taken and detained the said Benjamin Bell by Vertue and in pursuance of his Majesty's late Proclamation dated the Twenty third day of August last past and his Majesty's Orders and Instructions signified to me the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain &c. and by their secretary acting under their Authority and this is the Cause of the Captain and Detention of the said Benjamin Bell whose Body at this Day and place in the within Writ mentioned I have ready as by the within Writ I am required –

Clark Gayton –

Filed 25th January 1776 ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, Gayton made the same reply this date to writs for Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser, all taken in vessels belonging to New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

DECISION OF EDWARD WEBLEY ¹

January 25th 1776 The within Named Benjamin Bell being this day brought before me in virtue of the within Writ of Habeas Corpus which with the return thereof and also the Instructions therein mentioned being read Upon Motion of Henry Browne Esquire of Counsel with the said Benjamin Bell and on hearing what could be alledged as well by him as by Thomas Harrison Esquire Attorney and Advocate General I do discharge the said Benjamin Bell out of Custody And he is Discharged Accordingly

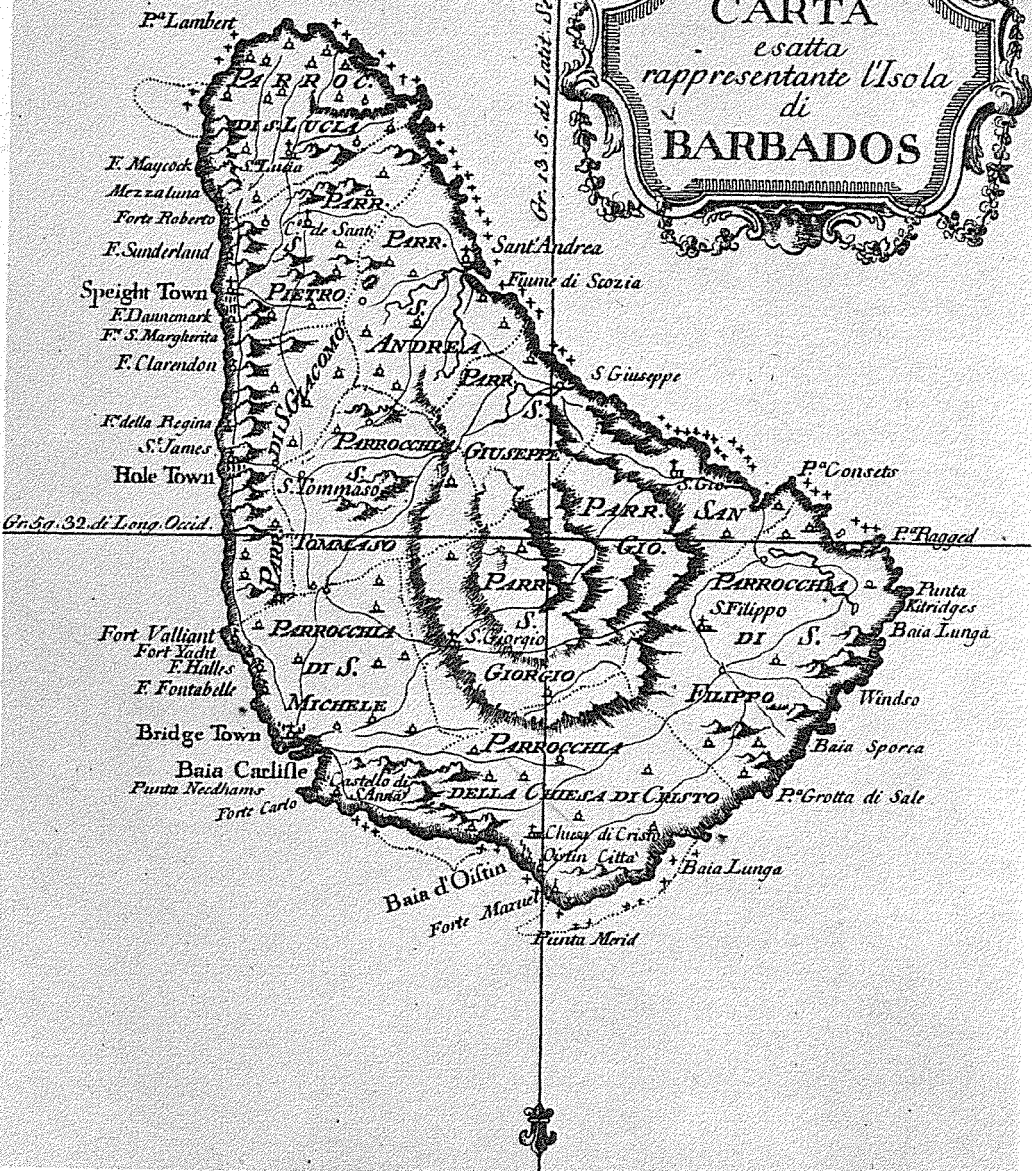
Edw^d Webley ²
January 25th 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, decisions, identically worded, discharging from custody Eliphalet Smith, Daniel Dyke, Benjamin Appleton, America Rogers, Theophilus Lindsay and Daniel Towser, were rendered the same day.



Gr. 13. 5. di Latit. Settentr.



"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BARBADOES, JAN. 25." ¹

The men of war are seizing all the vessels belonging to the Rebel Colonies. They are carried into English harbour. The men are put on board the ships of war as prisoners. The *Viper* sloop, blown off her station in America, accidentally met with, and carried into Antigua, a ship from Philadelphia bound, by leave of the Congress, to Cadiz, with 2200 barrels of flour.² The Captain of the ship jumped overboard at Dominique, where they first put in, and drowned himself.

1. *London Chronicle*, March 26 to March 28, 1776.

2. The ship *Peggy*, taken December 9, 1775.

26 Jan.

RECOMMENDATION FOR JOHN LAMBERT FOR A MASSACHUSETTS NAVY
COMMISSION ¹

To The Honble The Council of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay –
Honble Gentn –

It being generally reported that a Number of Warlike Vessells are to be fitted for Sea, for the Protection of our Trade. likewise to take Seize & Destroy all Enemys to the Liberties of America, As tis not doubted but that a Number of Gentlemen will make applications to your Honours, We beg leave to recommend Mr John Lambert a Gentleman, who has followed the Seas for Fourteen years past, whose Charracter in private Life has been unexceptionable, & nis Publick Conduct merrits the Esteem of all the Friends to America,

We are your Honours [&c.]

Reading Jany 26th 1776

Nat Barber –

Abiel Ruddork

Caleb Prentice Clerk 1st

Par[h] Reading

John Goodwin: Capt

Joseph Bryant Jnr

Benj^a [Paxto]n

Jacob Emerson

John Hatton

Jonas Parker

Eben^r Francis Capt

Benj^a Kimball Capt

Enoch Putnam Capt

Select Men

and

Committee of

Correspondence

for the Town of

Reading

David Green Co[nll]

Benj^a Holden Lt Colo

Israel Hutchinson Colo

Jeremiah Obrien Capt

of the Mechias Priv[a]teers

John Brooks Major of 19th Regt

Nathanael Oliver Surgn Mate 27th Regt

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 232.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY¹

By His Excellency George Washington
Esqr General & Comander in Chief of
the Army of the United Colonies —

Permit William Foster, James Lowrie, Robert Hunter,² to proceed to Great Brittain in the best manner they Can, provided they do not go by way of Boston, they have given their paroles, not to act inimical to the United Colonies.

Cambridge the 26th January 1776

By his Excellencys Comand

Stephen Moylan P.T.S.

[Added notation] Sir his Excellency permits any of the Crews belonging to Captains, Foster, Lowrie & Hunter to proceed with them, I am Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan P.T.S.

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5724, BHS.

2. Captains respectively of the ship *Jenny*, ship *Concord*, and brig *Nancy*.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY¹

Cambridge 26 Jany 1776.

wrote him that Captain [John] Ayres woud have the Comand of a Schooner to be fitted out, in order to supply the place of Such whose Cruizes may be out, and to give Captain Ayres every assistance he Can

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE GLOUCESTER COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Council Chamber [Watertown] Jany 26th 1776

To the Comee of Safety of the Town of Gloucester or Comte of

Correspondence of sd Town —

Greeting

You are hereby requested to take into your Custody & safekeeping William Wood, Master, & Robert Ayles, Mate, lately taken Prisoners in the ship *Jenny*, & brought into your Port² — You are desired to see that they do not pass out of the Limits of the Town of Gloucester on any pretext whatever, and if they or either of them shall attempt it, or for any other reason you may think it most conducive to the public safety to confine them, You are hereby authorised and impowered in either of such cases to cause the said Wood & Ayles, or either of them, to be apprehended & put under close confinement till the further Order of the major part of the Council —

In the Name & by Ordr of the Council

W Severs

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 230.

2. Master and mate of the ship *Jenny*, of 200 tons, taken by Captain Stephen Mascoll in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Boston Revenge*. See *New England Chronicle*, January 25, 1776. Committee was also requested to take into custody, "William Erwin, Henry Wilkinson mariners, John Gopety Rope maker, John Willson tailer — Joseph Lunhley mariner, James Kendel Weaver, John McMaine Carpenter & Robert Flute Cook—" from *Jenny*. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 231.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Friday, January 26, 1776.

Afternoon.

Ordered, That Mr. Speaker, Col. [Azor] Orne, and Mr. [William] Story, with such as the Hon. Board may join, be a Committee to examine the late Act of this Court for encouraging the fitting out armed Vessels, and the Resolves of the Hon. Continental Congress, relative to the Capture of Vessels; and report what is proper to be done thereon.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.

PEREZ MORTON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Watertown] In Council Jany 26 1776

It having been represented to the Council that some time last Fall his Honour General [Artemas] Ward directed that one Haswell an officer of the British Navy and now on half pay be removed from Hull. (or Nantaskett) to the Town of Hingham there to be supported at the Public expence, that he was removed accordingly, and there remains with his Family –

And it having also been represented that it is unfit for him to remain there, considering the situation of said Town, that it borders on Boston Harbour that it is but a few miles from whence now and generally the Ships of War ride that the said Haswell may with ease Correspond with their Officers, that he has evidenced himself to be unfriendly to the Interest of the united Colonies by frequently making such false representations among the Inhabitants as tend to cause divisions, to strengthen our Enemies to intimidate and weaken our friends –

It is therefore Resolved that Benjamin Lincoln Esqr wait on his Excellency General Washington and lay before him this state of the matter, and request that he would direct the said Haswell with his Family be removed to some inland Town, or other ways dispose of, as his Excellency shall think proper.

Perez Morton Dpy Secy

1. Washington Papers, LC.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Preston at Boston 26 January 1776

His Majesty's Army at Boston being in great Want of Rice, and no Vessel with the Article of provisions on board having been met with by the Kings Ships, General [William] Howe proposed and it was determined to send a Detachment from the Army in two Transports, under the protection of one of the Men of War, to Georgia, where it was hoped Sir James Wright supported by such a Force would contrive to load the Transports with Rice and other Provisions. General Howe accordingly embarked 175 Marines and Soldiers on board the *Symmetry* and *Whitby* Transports under the Command of Major [James] Grant of the 40th Regiment; and I appointed the *Scarborough* to go with them, and gave Captain [Andrew] Barkley his Orders on the 26th of last Month "to proceed with the Transports to Savannah in Georgia and there give every Aid and Countenance

in his power towards procuring provisions for his Majs Army at Boston, for payment of which Major Grant carried Cash and Bills of Exchange; The Transports being laden to return with them to Boston, and if possible early in March." With the *Scarborough* I sent the *Hinchinbrook* Schooner, which I had ordered to be sheathed for a Southern Station, and directed Captain Barkley on his Arrival at Savannah to send Lieut. [Alexander] Ellis, with the Secretary of States Dispatches for the Governors of East and West Florida, to St Augustine and Pensacola, and to order him to return again to St Augustine and releive the *St. Lawrence* Schooner, whom Captain Barkley is to take under his Command and employ as he finds best for the Kings Service. I have further instructed Captain Barkley that as the Principal Object of his attention is to procure a speedy Supply of Provisions for the Garrison at Boston every precaution must be observed to secure what may be obtained, and therefore, if found necessary, he may order the *Tamer* and *Cruizer* Sloops to proceed in Company with him and the Transports to Boston. With these Orders and Instructions, in addition to those in consequence of their Lordships Orders, Captain Barkley sailed the Beginning of January.

It being found necessary, in Order to comply with his Majesty's Instructions to Major General [William] Howe, to send a General Officer to take the Command of the Troops expected to arrive on the Coast of North Carolina from Ireland, General Howe applied to me for one of his Majesty's Ships to receive Major General [Henry] Clinton on board and proceed with him to the Southward. At that time the *Lively* and *Mercury* were the only small Ships I had at Boston: The *Lively* foul, the Iron work on her Rudder and Stern Post in great Want of Repair, her Guns, Cables, Anchors and other heavy Stores out, waiting when the Frost would allow of the Smiths working and the Ship to be hawled onshore and Graved; the *Mercury* also in great Want of cleaning, but in other respects wanted only compleating with Stores and provisions to be fit for Service. I therefore ordered Captain [Alexander] Graeme to receive Major General Clinton, his Officers and Servants, and to accomodate them in the best manner the Ship would allow, while the Kings Service required their being on board: To proceed with him to New York, afterwds to Virginia, or to any other Port where it shall be found expedient for his Majs Service to go. I have also instructed Captain Graeme that as the Success of the Expedition will in great measure depend upon the punctual and ready Assistance given by his Majesty's Ships, he is to grant every Aid in his Power of Men, Boats and Stores, without regard to any distinction of Service, to Major General Clinton and to all other his Majs Land Officers in their intended Operations against the Rebels. The *Glasgow Packet*, *Three Sisters* and *Kitty* Transport being appointed to carry military Stores with General Clinton, I ordered Captain Graeme to take them under his Convoy.

Upon further Consultations of Generals Howe and Clinton, it was agreed to send a Sloop of War with a Land Officer on board immediately to North Carolina. I appointed the *Falcon*, General Howe named Captain Evelyn of the King's own Regiment; and on the 12th inst I gave Captain Linzee his Orders to proceed forthwith to Cape Fear and land Captain Evelyn, who is directed to gain all possible Intelligence of the Situation of Affairs in that Province and return again on board the *Falcon*. This done, and Captain Linzee having also

obtained of Governor [Josiah] Martin every necessary information relative to the entering of Ships into Cape Fear River, he is directed to cruize in the most likely Tract to fall in with the Fleet of Transports expected on that coast; upon their Arrival to convoy them into Cape Fear River or to Virginia, which shall be thought best upon consulting with Governor Martin, in case Major General Clinton shall not have previously determined their destination.

I have ordered the Captains of his Maj's Ships *Scarborough* and *Mercury*, and *Falcon* Sloop, and indeed most of the other Cruizers to get as many skilful Pilots as possible for any part of the Coast of America from Cape Florida to Nova Scotia to be distributed as the Kings Ships may require.

The *Mercury* and *Falcon* were ready for sailing early in January, but a severe Frost prevented the Transports being so alert, as they had many things to bring from the Shore. In the mean time, as I could not so soon quit the Station, I gave Rear Admiral Shuldham an Order dated the 15th instant to take all his Majestys Ships and Vessels to the Southward of Boston under his Command and to give their Captains such Orders as he might think proper for his Majs Service. At the same time I furnished him with attested Copies of the general and particular Orders each Ship and Vessel was then under: And that his Majesty's Service might not be delayed, by the intended Change of the Chief Commander, I included the *Mercury* and *Falcon* then in Boston Harbour in the Number of those stationed to the Southward; that Admiral Shuldham might avail himself of the opportunity they afforded to send his Orders to that Part of the Squadron put under his Command.

The *Falcon* sailed the 19th instant and the *Mercury* the next day.

I have ordered the provisions remaining in the *Trident* to be delivered to the *Richmond* and *Friendship* Victuallers: The unserviceable Stores of the Squadron to be put on board the *Trident*; that Ship to return forthwith to Deptford, and to sail from Boston in Company with the *Preston*.

I inclose a Copy of a Letter from Lieut. [William] Hunter brought to me the 23d instant from the Lines. As Lieut. Hunter represents himself and Officers to be Prisoners, I conclude the *Gaspee* Brig is in the Rebels Possession.

It being impossible to provide Rum for the Squadron agreeable to Mr [Robert] Grants Contract with the Commissioners of the Victualing, his Agent at Boston requested a Transport might be allowed to go to some Port of the West Indies for Rum; I therefore ordered Lieut. Parry to send the *Union* to Antigua, where the Agent informs me, Messrs Reid and King, Correspondents to the Contractors, will immediately load her for the Fleet. The *Union* accordingly sailed the beginning of this Month, and I hope will return again in the Middle or latter end of March.

The *Hope* Brig is perhaps one of the best fitted and appointed Vessels of her Size in the Kings Service. She mounts eight 4 Pounders, and six 3 Pounders besides Swivels; I have given her a Corporal and nine Marines to compleat her 50 Men. Lieut. [George] Dawson sailed this day by my Orders to cruize against the Rebels within the Bay of Boston *. And as soon as the Brig goes exceeding well, I hope she will soon do Execution with the Enemies Privateers.

The *Lively* has been graved and refitted, and only waits for the Iron work of her Rudder being done to take in her provisions and proceed to Sea. I am &c

Sam^l Graves

Note *That is from Cape Anne to Cape Cod.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 30-33, BM.

FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND ¹

[Boston]

January 26 – Yesterday two Vessells were taken by a Rebell Privatier off the Light House, & carried into Cowhasack Harbour, they were spoke with last week, and said they were from Whitehaven & Cork, with Pork and Coal for this Place; ² O the Glory of the British Navy. two flags flying with all the Pomp of War, and Yankies can spit in their face – The News from Canada of Montgomerys defeat and being Killed is Confermed, we have great hopes this Will give a Change to affairs in that Country.

By two deserters come in this day we hear that [Charles] Lee is gone with a Detachment of 1500 Men to New York, to oblige the Torys there & on Long Island, to take the Oath he imposed on the People of Rhode Island, which you'll see in the News papers

Admiral Graves Sails on Sunday and no man ever left a place less regretted

1. Haldimand Papers, BM. Continuation of January 25, 1776 letter.

2. The ships *Happy Return* and *Norfolk*, taken by John Manley in Washington's schooner *Hancock*, and carried into Plymouth, not Cohasset. Another British officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kemble, noted in his diary on January 25: "I am not certain if positively this day a Ship and Brig were taken by the Rebels very near the Light House, no Man of War being in the Road to Succour them." "The Kemble Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1883* (New York, 1884), I, 65.

WILLIAM WATSON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Plymouth 26 Jany 1776

This, pr express, comes to inform your Excellency that Com[mo]dore Manly, took yesterday off Cohasset rocks after and hours engagement (haveing one man wounded in the breast, not dangerous) Two Ships from white Haven bound for Boston leaden with sea coal, potatoes &c ² Inc[lo]sd are bills of Loading – your Excellency will please to direct in what manner I shall conduct with these vessells –

The prisoners will be treated with kindness & will be sent forward to morrow – I am getting the Ships to the wharf & shall secure the small articles from pilferers who frequently infest vessels in these circumstances – I congratulate your Excellency on this reiterated instance of Com[mo]dore Manlys succes[s,] and wish sincerely, that all the servants of the american Republic were equally industr[ious] with Manly – I am [&c.]

William Watson

N.B. the express brings all the papers taken in the ships

P.S. I would acquaint your Excellency that the engagement referred to in my letter, was with a tender of eight guns, and full of men, which had these ships

under convoy, which circumstance I forgot to mention through hurry.³ Yours as before,

William Watson.

1. Washington Papers, LC, except postscript which is printed in Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 863.

2. Extract of a letter from Whitehaven, June 18, 1776:

On the 25th of January, at 8 o'clock, A.M. the *Happy Return*, of Whitehaven, James Hall, commander, was taken by the *Hancock* privateer, Capt. John Manly, and at the time of being taken was within two miles of the *Renown*, man of war, then in Nantasket road, who did not offer the least assistance, though the wind was off shore, being N.N.W. The same day as the above, at 9 o'clock, A.M. the *Norfolk* of Whitehaven, was taken in the same manner by the same privateer. At half past nine o'clock, A.M. the privateer and the prizes fell in with two King's tenders, one of which immediately ran in for Boston; but the other engaged the privateer for half an hour, and then left her. The tender and privateer appeared to be a very equal match, and when the tender left the privateer, Captain Manley had but six cartridges left; and he said if both the tenders had attacked him, he should not have fired a gun. At six o'clock they were carried into Plymouth.

Almon, ed., *Remembrancer* [1776], III, Part II, 139-40.

3. Watson had his account badly garbled. Manley's encounter was with the British tender *General Gage*, from Halifax for Boston. There was no second tender involved, as related in the letter from Whitehaven, quoted in note 2.

DEPOSITION OF SIMON NEWCOMB¹

I, Simon Newcomb, of lawful age, do testify and say, that, as I was going from Wellfleet to Salem in a small schooner, burden about twenty-five tons, loaded with oysters, on the twenty-fifth day of July last, off Race-Point, we were boarded and taken by a boat from a man of war, (the *Falkland* [*sic Falcon*], commanded by Captain Lindsey [John Linzee],) and was carried into Boston, and there sold;² and I myself detained on board a man of war for some time, and finally dismissed. And do further testify and say, that, according to the best of my judgment, said schooner, with her appurtenances, was worth at that time (including her cargo,) fifty six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, lawful money, and belonged to Mr. Zoheth Smith and others; and since I was taken, the man that was my partner is deceased. And further saith not.

Simon Newcomb.

Eastham [Massachusetts], January 26, 1776.
Barnstable, ss.

The above-mentioned Simon Newcomb personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace, and, after being duly cautioned, made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 164-65.

2. The schooner *Hawke*, condemned and sold in Boston, Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775. Graves's Conduct, II, 36-38, BM.

HEZEKIAH DOANE & Co. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Sir:

Wellfleet, January 26, 1776.

Being informed that you are one of the Committee appointed by the honourable the Continental Congress to receive an estimate of all losses, seizures, &c., by the King's Troops or Navy, &c., we take this opportunity of informing you of our misfortune, and have enclosed you a well authenticated account thereof; and are, with the greatest respect, sir [&c.]

Hezekiah Doane & Co.

[Enclosures]

I, Elisha Doane, Jun., Master of the Schooner *Hannah*, burden about ninety-five tons, belonging to Hezekiah Doane, Esq., & Co., do testify and say, that, returning from a whaling voyage in said schooner off the back of Cape-Cod, on the seventh day of September last, was boarded and taken by the man of war the *Savage*, commanded by Captain Bromage [Hugh Bromedge], and carried into Boston, contrary to my inclination, and there detained until I had an opportunity of making my escape, and left my vessel there in the hands of the enemy, and have not seen or heard from her since; ² which schooner, with her appurtenances, (exclusive of whaling craft,) was worth at that time, according to the best of my judgment, four hundred pounds, lawful money.

Elisha Doane, Jun.

Eastham, January 26, 1776: The above-named Elisha Doane, Jun, personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace in the County of Barnstable, and made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

I, Elisha Mays, of lawful age, do testify and say, that, on the seventh day of September last, returning from a whaling voyage in Schooner *Hannah*, owned by Hezekiah Doane, Esq., and commanded by Elisha Doane, Jun., off Cape-Cod, discovering a man-of-war, myself, with several others, took the boat, and went on shore. After that, I saw the man-of-war's boat board said schooner, and saw said schooner stand away for Boston. And further saith not.

Elisha Mays.

Eastham, January 26, 1776:

The above-named Elisha Mays personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for the County of Barnstable, and, after being duly cautioned, made oath to the above-written Deposition.

John Atwood, Justice of Peace.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 164.

2. According to Graves's prize list, the *Hannah's* cargo consisted of empty oil casks which were returned to their owners, and the vessel, as of December 31, 1775, remained uncondemned in Boston. Graves's Conduct, II, 36-38, BM.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Albany] January 26th

I was last Night informed that the better part of the Troops to be raised in the County of Berkshire were already marched. I have sent Governor Trumbull a Return of the Arms that were delivered into Store by the Men raised in the Colony of Connecticut, he cannot furnish the Regiment raising there, and I propose to return those Arms or a like Number that they may not be a Colonial Charge against the Continent. I am Sir [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 453, NA. Continuation of Schuyler's letter of January 25, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, 3 ho. P.M. Jany. 26th, 1776.

Mr. Sands, who is managing the lading of the sloop *Sally*, requested a permit. Thereupon a permit was given to him in the words following, to wit:

"Mr. Comfort Sands is permitted to load the sloop *Sally*, Wilkie Dodge master, for the West Indies, with flour, pork, hams and bread."

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 269-70.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, January 26, 1776

A letter from General [Charles] Lee, dated 22 January, enclosing a letter from the committee of safety of New York, being received was read.

A petition from sundry persons respecting the inlisting of apprentices, was presented and read.

The Congress taking into consideration the letter from General Lee, with the enclosure:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to repair to New York, to consult and advise with the council of safety of New York and General Lee respecting the immediate defence of the said city; and that General Lee be directed to follow the determination of the said committee thereupon:

That it be an instruction to said committee, in case the city cannot be defended, that they earnestly recommend it to the inhabitants immediately to remove their most valuable effects to a place of safety:

That the said committee be instructed to consult with General Lee and the committee of safety of New York, about the fortifications on Hudson's river, and about fortifying the pass at Hell gate:

The members appointed Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Thomas] Lynch, and Mr. [Andrew] Allen.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 92-94.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday 26 Jany A Petition from some Citizens of Philada – praying that no Apprentices may be inlisted without Consent of the Masters was neglected – A Letter was read from Gen. Lee Dated from Connect setting forth that he is on his Way for the Defence of N York and has gathered a large Body of Connecticut Militia and inclosing a Letter to him from the Comee of Safety at N York disapproving of his Proceedgs ² – this occasioned a Motion from E. Rutledge & Duane that a Comee may be appointed to repair for New York forthwith and agree with the Comee of Safety there and with Gen. Lee upon the proper Measures of Defence

1. Richard Smith's Diary, L.C.

2. Lee's letter of January 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 26th Jan'y, 1776.

The following is the form of an Enlistment to be signed by the Volunteers to be enlisted by Capt. Procter [Thomas Procter], Viz't.:

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do voluntarily agree to enter into the Service of the Province of Pennsylvania, to be instructed in the use and management of Artillery, Commanded by such officers as now are or may be hereafter appointed by the Assembly of this Province, or Committee of Safety, and to be occasionally employed in such Military Duty and Service in this or the Adjacent Provinces, or the River Delaware, as the defence of this Province may hereafter require, and for which they shall receive the orders of either of the above Boards.

Upon application of Robert Morris, Esq'r., for permission to export the produce of these Colonies to the amount of a quantity of powder imported by him, the following certificate was granted, vizt.:

These may Certifie that Robert Morris, Esq'r., has permission to export in the produce of these Colonies, to the amount of £2065 16 7, which sum is the amount of Gunpowder imported by him, and sold to this Committee.

By order of the Committee.

Sign'd, Jno. Nixon, Char'n.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 468, 469.

JOHN JONES TO WILLING, MORRIS & CO.¹

Gentn I am directed by the Council of safety of this County, to request your Interest with the Council of Safety of your Province for a Supply of Powder, Lead, and Arms; as this County from its situation is likely to receive the first Attack from the Enemies of America. – should we be so fortunate as to succeed in this application the Cash shall be immediately remitted

But if from the great demand of those Articles they are not to be had in your City: I am to request that you will be kind enough to inform us where they are most likely to be had; what Cargo would best Suit for the purchase of them; and further to request that you would permit them to make use of your name in shipping the Cargo. – We are induced Gently to ask this favour as well from your great zeal in the cause of America[n] freedom, as from your universal Correspondence

If you should incline to favour this request; pray be kind enough to let us have your Answer by the bearer hereof: and such orders as you usually give to your Masters upon these occasions; together with your Letters of Address &c

The Vessel that is to be employ'd upon this Occasion is a schooner call'd the *Farmer* of about forty Tons belonging to Nehemiah Field of Lewes. I am [&c.]

John Jones Presid[en]t

Lewes – January 26th 1776

1. Correspondence of Robert Morris, L.C. Jones was president of Sussex County, Delaware, Council of Safety.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN ¹

Dr Sr

[Baltimore] Janry 26 1776

annexed you have Coppy of what I wrote you the 3rd Inst which I hope will get safe to hand all matters of private business much the Same as then I am doing a little. I expect as much as will maintain me, but how long it may Continue so God knows as Lord Dunmore has already burnt norfolk and we have all the Reason in the world to think he intends for this in the spring, which is making me look out for a Retreat for [the] family in the Country and Mrs philpott has offred me a place which I Believe I will Except of & get the family removd in about a month. tho I will not Quit the town whilst theres any probability of Staying my Selfe. to Contract [*sic* Contest] Dunmore the Convention of this province & virginia are Raising Men & doing every thing the[y] think Necessary to oppose him & I think the[y] will be Successful Norfolk make the third town they have burned since this Unnatural war has begun, and I am of opinion that New York & Newport in Road Island will Share the same fate, besides York in virginia annapolis & this town stands a bad Chance, these methods of war that they tools of ministry make use of only hurts them as it almost Unites all the Sufferers against them, and be assured when a man has lost all (that has been affluent) he Cares not how soon he Looses his Life, which is the Case of many at present and no doubt will be of more. so far for Politicks & no further. I have little to add about our business, only that thers no Collecting the Servant Debts of which you better let Lisle know. however I must now be in his Debt 50[£.] Sterl which I wish you Could pay & I ow Sherrid about 30£ and I hope Early in the Spring to sell the Remainder of his goods for Cash. as I write to no person but your Selfe, it is very Necessary for you to write to all our friends whom you Receive any accounts from me, & let them know how matters stand, & I must request you will write my father and let him know I and my family are well and also that my brother Wm is here & well durst I venture I would give you a general acct of every matter here but I am fearful that my letters would be Stopped my best wishes to all friends in the strand, and

also to all others & tell them that if i Should happen to fall in Defence of my property, that I fell in a noble Cause I am Dr Sr your sincere friend; your son is one of my family Wm Woolsey is a first Lieutenant in our train of artillery & has Quit going to Sea, for that office.

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

ACCOUNT OF POWDER AND ARMS SUPPLIED THE *Hornet* AND *Wasp* AT BALTIMORE ¹

1776	Sloop <i>Hornet</i> (Congress)	Dr
Jan'y 26	To 8 double fortified 4 pounders 98 C 12 lb 35 Muskets 5 pr pistols 434 lb Musket Balls 1200 lb Powder	} furnished by Messrs Purviance and Lux.

1776	Schooner <i>Wasp</i>	Dr
Jan'y 26	To 8 Carriage Guns 2 pounders 19C 3qr 4 lb 6 Swivels 2 feet 4 Inches long 16 Muskets 3 pr Pistols 475 lb Gunpowder 63 lb Musket Ball To Canvas to the Amount of --	} furnished by Messrs Purviance & Lux

1. Naval and Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW ¹

January 1776 Off Norfolk in Virginia
Friday 26 modr with rain arvd here our Tender from a Cruize with a Brig from Glasgow out of which we seiz'd 200 Guineas.²
PM our Tender sailed on a Cruise.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. The brig *Betsy and Molly*, James Calvert, master, Cornelius Calvert, owner, from Glasgow to Norfolk, in ballast, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The tender, *Edward*, had sailed on January 23, on her second cruize, the day after she had brought in the prize sloop *Susannah*, PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety.

[Charleston] Friday, 26th, Jan., 1776.

Mr. President laid before the Board the following letters which he had written by their order:

Charles-Town, 25th Jan., 1776.

Sir - Your dispatches under the 31st ult., by the hands of E. Hadley, were laid before us on the 12th instant, the very day on which we received the first intelligence of a fleet of men-of-war on the coast. Yesterday we learned they were the *Syren* of 28 guns, the *Raven* of 16, and

probably a transport ship dismasted in a gale of wind after they had left our Bar; and that they had joined the *Tamar* and *Cherokee* at Cockspur. We detained your messenger from day to day, in order to have written by him, if needful, and not otherwise, to call for the assistance of a few riflemen from your district.

We are informed that the commanding officer of that little fleet has denounced the destruction of Savannah, unless the inhabitants will supply him with provisions and lay down their arms. Our friends, on the contrary, have forbid all intercourse with him or his fleet, and are preparing for defence. We apprehend the Commodore's threats against Georgia may be calculated to amuse us, and accordingly we are proceeding in our endeavours to be prepared for making a successful resistance here, from an assurance of being attacked by those vessels immediately after they are victualled and refitted . . .

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

Maj. [Andrew] Williamson.

The Council issued orders upon the treasury, for the payment of the following sums:

To Hon. Capt. [William Henry] Drayton, for pay to the seamen, and other uses, on board the ship *Prosper*, to be accounted for by him,

1000 00 0

On motion,

Resolved, That Mr. Alexander Elsinore, pilot, be taken into the pay of this colony, as pilot on board the ship *Prosper*, and that he be entered on the said ship's books accordingly, at the same rate as allowed to pilots on board King's [ships] that is thirty-five shillings currency per day.

Read a memorial, dated yesterday, signed by Peter LeVien & Co., in behalf of themselves, and others, shippers on board the Brigantine *William*, John Mercier, master, from Georgia bound for London, which was removed to and is detained at Beaufort – accompanied by the following papers, viz:

1. Copy of their petition to the Council of Safety in Georgia, dated Jan. 6th, 1776.
2. Certificate, signed by the chairman of the Parochial Committee at Savannah, Jan. 8th, 1776.
3. Certified copy of a resolve of the Council of Safety in Georgia, Jan. 8th, 1776.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 221–25.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 TO
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776

Charlestown, January 26.

Last Friday two small Schooners appeared cruising in the Offing, which occasioned the Provincial armed Schooner *Defence*, Capt. [Simon] Tufts, going out. The Brigantine *Amphitrite*, Capt. McNeil, bound from this Port for Jamaica, in

Ballast, was then at an Anchor off the Bar, from whom we learn, that one of the *Tamer's* Tender (formerly one of our Pilot-boats) which sailed about 3 Months ago, and was generally thought to be lost; and the other the *Comet* Packet-boat, Capt. McDonough, from Pensacola. Capt. Tufts, we hear, is at Beaufort.

Yesterday Afternoon, a Brigantine came into the Road, and the Weather being very hazy, fired several Guns. She went out to sea again this Morning. It is said to be the *Diligence* Packet-boat, Capt. Clarke, from Pensacola.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

Jany 1776 [Off Charleston]

Friday 26 at 5 am saw Charleston Light house W N B 4 Leags saw a sail to the westwd fired two Guns and spoke the *Dilligence Pacquett* Lieut Cleark who Inform'd us as he had been in the harbour and oblig'd to leave it Early in the morning that there was no men of war there and the Rebbels was in Possession of Sullivans Island, bore away for augustine in compy the Pacquett

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330. The *St. Lawrence*, in company with the packet *Diligence* and the tender *James*, had sailed from St. Augustine January 16, 1776, and separated the next day.

PAUL ALLEN TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Sir Sant Pears [St. Pierre], Martinico Jany 26 1776

I arrived here after a Tedious Passage of 19 days (I say Tedious) because we had Two or Three hard Gails of Wind a fue days after we came out, and our Vessell proved so Leeky that She made upwards of a Hundred Tons of Water for every 24 Hours after the 3 first, untill we came in here, you may well Judge how fortigueng it must have been where there was but 6 men in all, and my mates Leg Scaulded So as to render him incapable of doing much

I was many times fearful Wheather we Should be able to hold out untill we Could arrive to our Desired Port, but Going from the Pump to the He[lm] my Self and incourageing my People, that we Should soon Arrive at our Desired Heaven, Keep their Spirits up so that they never faulter'd –

But had we arrived at a Good market we should in some measure forgot this But sr I can't think that markets ever were worse for such articles as I have Got

I have sold the Tobacco a 55/pCt French Weight 45 Barrels Pork at £4.10 – p Bl All the Flour at 8 pe 8 pr Bl – have not been offer'd more than 2/6 Pce for the Candles and 12 four for y[torn]& 10 four for the Tallow – there is Two English masters whose Vessells are at Sant Leussia who are obliged to Get their Cargo Freightd from thence to this poor market – and their is no encouragement for my Going their I have Laid out about 1000 Dollars here in Twine Rhubabe Nutmegs Jesuits Bark Cinamon Handkerchiefs &C – altho' I find every thing to be very Dear & scarce here, they take Grate advantage of the times, here is in Powders for sale abt. 25.C which is bought up at 4/6 pe for One Capt Parker at St Lesscia, belonging to Portsmouth – no Guns here, nor Lead, nor Duck, nor Scarc[e] any thing else which we are in want off – I Shall sale this Night for Corisoe, as I have from Good Intelligences that there is 8 Ships of Warr which Crewse for English

Vessells, between Granarda and St Estacia have taken Several, and some from the French –

I Would Willingly Stear as clear of them as Possible which is the cause of my Going there, which I think must be some what out of their Channiel & from thenc[e] I Expect to go to Hispineloa, Am affread shall make you a bad Voyage, but you may depend I will do every thing in my Power for your Interest – our mainsale proved very bad, & Rotten am in hopes to mend it so as to make it Last Home – at what time that will be I can't say – Have Stopted our Leik in Part. when I get to Corisoea intend to Compleat it –

this I send by Capt Smith of Conniticut River who intends to run into either Philadelphia or Egg-Harbour, and then Immediately by Land to his Home – In hast I am [&c.]

Paul Allen

PS. I am not very Well Imputed it to my Hard Service hope as soon as I Get to sea to be Better

[Endorsed] Letter from Paul Allen Came to hand in Apl 1776

1. Brown Papers, JCBL.

27 Jan.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Montreal Jany 27th 1776 –

Your favour of the 30th of Novr I have just received – To a man who engages in this glorious struggle from the pure principle of love to his Country, if he meets with the applause of his countrymen for any services, it must certainly give him very sensible pleasure – My breth[ren] in America were not only entitled to any little services I may have rendered them, but ever will be, to my most strenuous efforts to serve them, and I shall always think myself exceeding happy and most amply rewarded if they prove successful –

Long before this reaches you, you will have received the news of the unhappy attack upon Quebec – I most sincerely condole with you for the loss of the Brave and most amiable General [Richard] Montgomery & the rest of the Brave Officers and Soldiers who fell gloriously with him.

Col. [Benedict] Arnold still keeps up the Blockade. I have sent him all the Troops that could possibly be spared from this Garrison I should have immediately gone there myself, but it was thought unadvisable for me, at that time, to leave this place, which it was necessary to secure as a retreat – Troops now begin to come in, from the Colonies and as I have got matters nearly settled here, I intend in a little time to proceed on to Quebec – We shall want every thing – Men, Money, heavy Cannon Mortars Shott & Shells and a large supply of powder as we have not more than four Tons in the province I have wrote Genl Scuyler [Philip Schuyler] my sentiments fully upon what may be necessary in carrying on the Seige, also of the state of the province & what measures have been taken in it, which suppose he has communicated – to remedy The evil of sinking so much hard Cash in this Country, I have advised that every Article wanted in this

Country from the Colonies especially all kinds of West India Goods and Liquors and N. England Rum be brought over the Lakes which I am convinced may be done & sold lower than what we are now obliged to give These articles may be then paid for, in Continental Money and that in my opinion will go a great way towards giving it a currency I am [&c.]

Dav^d Wooster

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 261, NA.

CAPTAIN HUGH BROMEDGE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Sir,

Savage Sloop, Halifax 27th Janury 1776.

I Embrace this Opportunity of transmitting to you, Copies of my last Orders from Vice Admiral Graves by Captain [Edward] Le Cras, And pursuant to those Orders the 16th Instant I boarded the Ship *Nicholas* of Boston burthen 120 Tons (by her Register) John White Master, (but pretends to be no other than Super Cargo:) from Petersburg and Cowes, laden with Naval Stores, Iron, Hemp, Sail Duck, and light Canvas, all which was cleared out at Cowes for Halifax, as at Cowes I am informed, the Master could not clear out for Salem, or Boston, where the Ships and Owners belong to, the 19th I boarded the Ship *Boston Packet* of Boston, burthen 140 Tons, James Shepherd Master, from Petersburg and Cowes, laden with the same kind of Cargo as the Ship *Nicholas*, but different Owners, as you will observe by the report herewith transmitted; I beg leave, Sir, to Observe to you, that there are no Rope Walks, nor any Consumption for those Two Cargoes in this place, nor in the Province, but a very easy, and even daily conveyance by small Coasting Vessels, from this place to New Liverpool and Cape Sable, from which places it is but a short way across the Bay of Fundy to the Continent of Massachusetts Bay &ca &ca, and those Two Cargoes are Consigned to the Masters: Those two Ships sailed from Salem in December 1774, for Charles Town South Carolina, there loaded Rice for Cowes, and from thence proceeded for the Baltic; the Crews of both Ships entered for my Ship, and I am informed by the Crew of the *Boston Packet*, that the Master declared repeatedly on the Passage, that, could he make Cape Codd, he would go in there and land his Cargo, or could he make Cape Ann, he did not fear meeting with some of his Friends, to carry him into Beverly or Salem, but the Wind hanging to the Southward, he with difficulty made this Harbour: I am firmly of Opinion, that if I have the delivering and Searching those Two Ships, I shall find more than is in their Clearance from Cowes; I shall be extremely happy to know your pleasure respecting those Vessels, likewise Vessels from the French West India Islands with Melasses, and with Salt from Spain and Portugal &ca, as this place is now made the Magazine and Repository which is easily transported to the Continent. I am, Sir, &ca

Hugh Bromedge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

In Council [Watertown], January 27th, 1776.

Whereas it has been practiced heretofore, to bring before the Council, the Crews belonging to those Vessels, which have been taken by the Captains, commissioned, or acting under this Colony; by Means whereof the Public Charge has been needlessly increased:

Therefore, Ordered, That no Men belonging to Vessels, taken as aforesaid, excepting the Masters and Passengers, if any there be, be hereafter brought before the Council, unless there shall be a special Order of Council therefor.

Perez Morton, Dep Sec'y.

1. *Boston Gazette*, January 29, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston, January] 27 [1776]

The *Halifax* came in from Cat Island and brought a Letter from Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey*, acquainting the Admiral that he cannot put A stop to the Insolence of the Privateers without more force, referring the Admiral to Lieutt Quarme for information respecting the Situation of Cat Island, the *Fowey* &c, and also acquainting the Admiral he had moved from Cat Island to Bakers Island for Water, which fell short at the former place, and that he was sent away from Halifax, and fitted there in such a Hurry that the *Fowey* was not in a Condition for any immediate Service.

An Account now came from Captain [William C.] Burnaby,² in a Letter dated the 17th of January, that by Advices received from the Rebels it was said they have an absolute Intention of attacking Boston early in the Spring. Letters from Commissioner [Marriot] Arbuthnot acknowledged the Receipt of the Admirals Orders and Dispatches by the *Cerberus* and *General Gage*, and informed that the *Cerberus* was alongside the Wharfe dismantled, and the *Roebuck* sailed for Virginia. From Captain [William] Duddingstone of the *Senegal* there was Advice that he had arrived at Liverpool the 26th of December, but could get no Volunteers, and that since the *Senegals* Arrival in that Harbour they had prayed for the King, a Custom which had for a long time before been omitted. All which Intelligence the Vice Admiral transmitted forthwith to Mr Shuldham for his better Guidance.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 33-35, BM.

2. Commanding H.M.S. *Merlin*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

By Sam^l Graves Esqr Vice
Admiral of the White and
Commander in Chief &c

You are hereby required and directed to take upon you the direction of the Port Duty, and the Command of his Majestys Ships and Vessels named in the

Margin now in this Harbour, together with those whose Names are mentioned on the other Side; Giving such Orders and Directions to their several Commanders as you shall judge best for his Majesty's Service.

Given under my Hand on board
his Majs Ship *Preston* at
Boston 27th January 1776.
Sam^l Graves

(Ships and Vessels mentioned in the Margin Vizt)

Chatham
Lively
Halifax Schr
Diligent
Dispatch
Tryal
Adventure Storeship
Spinkes Sloop,

Captn Raynor
Bishop
Lieutt Quarme
Dod
Goodridge
Brown
Hallum

formerly Tender to the *Canceaux*,
lately used to carry Provisions and
Stores to the Ships in the Harbour —

(Ships and Vessels mentioned on the other Side Vizt)

<u>Ships Names</u>	<u>Commanders</u>	<u>Where stationed</u>
<i>Renown</i>	Captn Banks	} In Nantasket
<i>Centurion</i>	Brathwaite	
<i>Niger</i>	Talbot	} Cape Cod
<i>Fowey</i>	Geo. Montagu	
<i>Halifax</i>	Lieutt Quarme	} Off Cat Island
<i>Cerberus</i>	Captn Symons	
<i>Lizard</i>	Hamilton	} At Halifax.
<i>Merlin</i>	Burnaby	
<i>Senegal</i>	Duddingston	} Quebec
<i>Savage</i>	Bromedge	
<i>Hunter</i>	Mackenzie	} Annapolis Royal
<i>Gaspee</i> Brig	Lieutt Hunter	} Liverpool.
<i>Nautilus</i>	Mason	} Halifax.
<i>Hope</i> Brig	Dawson	
		} Quebec.
		} The Officer and
		} People taken
		} Prisoners.
		} In Boston Bay.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 34, BM.

"DISPOSITION OF THE FLEET UPON THE ADMIRALS [GRAVES] QUITTING THE
COMMAND OF IT ON 27 JANRY 1776"¹

Name	Guns	Commanders	Comple- ment	Station
<i>Preston</i>	50	Vice Adml Graves		
		Capt. John Robinson	350	Before the Town
<i>Chatham</i>	50	Rear Adml Shuldham		
		Capt John Raynor	350	
<i>Renown</i>	50	Banks	350	In Nantasket
<i>Centurion</i>	50	Brathwaite	350	Do
<i>Lively</i>	20	Bishop	150	Before the Town
<i>Nautilus</i>	16	Lieutt. Mason	110	Cruizing in the Bay
<i>Adventure</i>	8	Hallum	40	Off Longwharf Boston
Storeship				
<i>Canceaux A Ship</i>	6	Mowat	45	Do ordered to England
<i>Halifax Schr</i>	6	Quarme	30	Cruizing in the Bay
<i>Diligent Schr</i>	6	Dodd	30	New Vessels } fitting out } Boston
<i>Tryal Adv. Boat</i>	2	Browne	20	
<i>Dispatch Schr</i>	6	Goodridge	30	
<i>Niger</i>	32	Talbot	180	In Cape Cod Harbour
<i>Rose</i>	20	Wallace	150	At New York [<i>sic</i> Rhode Island]
<i>Glasgow</i>	20	Howe	150	
<i>Swan</i>	16	Ayscough	110	
<i>Bolton Brig</i>	6	Sneyd	30	Cruizing in the Bay
<i>Hope Brig</i>	8	Dawson	30	
<i>Phoenix</i>	44	Parker	250	
<i>Asia</i>	64	Vandeput	500	At New York
<i>Viper</i>	10	Saml Graves	80	On her Passage to New York
<i>Liverpool</i>	20	Bellew	130	Supposed to be at Virginia
<i>Otter</i>	16	Squire	100	At Virginia.
<i>Kingsfisher</i>	16	Jas Montagu	100	
<i>Roebuck</i>	44	Hammond	250	On her passage to Virginia
<i>Raven</i>	14	Stanhope	110	Do to Georgia
<i>Cruizer</i>	8	Parry	60	At No Carolina, ordered to Boston
<i>Scorpion</i>	14	Tollemache	100	On her passage to No Carolina
<i>Tamer</i>	16	Thornborough	100	At So Carolina, ordered to Boston
<i>Mercury</i>	20	Graeme	150	With Major Genl Clinton to the Southward
<i>Falcon</i>	14	Linzee	110	On her Passage to Cape Fear
<i>Scarborough</i>	20	Barkley	150	On their passage to Savannah in Georgia
<i>Hinchinbrook Schr</i>	6	Lt Ellis	30	
<i>St Lawrence Schr</i>	6	Jno Graves	30	At St Augustine
<i>St John Schr</i>	6	Wm Grant	36	Bahama Islands
<i>Cerberus</i>	28	C. Symons	150	At Halifax
<i>Savage</i>	8	Bromedge	60	
<i>Senegal</i>	14	Duddingstone	110	At Liverpool
<i>Merlin</i>	16	Burnaby	110	At Annapolis [Royal]
<i>Lizard</i>	20	Hamilton	150	At Quebec
<i>Hunter</i>	10	Mackenzie	80	
<i>Fowey</i>	20	Geo. Montagu	150	Off Bakers Island near Salem

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 35-36, BM.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope*¹Remark's on bd the *Hope* Saturdy 27th Janry 1776

- 5 [A.M.] Weigh'd and Came to Sail [from Boston harbor]
 7 Past His Majesty's Ships *Renown*, *Centurion* and *Nawtillus* [*Nautilus*] in Nantasket Road
 8 Boston Light Hous W S W 4 Lgs
 9 Spoek the *General Gawe* Sloop from Halifax bound to Boston,²
 10 Bor away for Plimouth
 12 at Noon Gurnet Head So 2 Miles
 2 [P.M.] Fresh Gales and Squaly Turning in to Plimouth
 3 Saw one of the Rebel Schooners in Side of the Beach Point
 4 Bor away for Cap Cod Gurnet Head Wt 5 Leagues
 9 Anchored here in Cape Cod harbr with the Smal Bour in 5 fms and
 12 [M.] of[f] Shore 2 Miles found Riding here his Majesty's Ship *Niger* and a
 Transport

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The *General Gage* had just had an encounter with Washington's schooner *Hancock* off Plymouth.AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS HOLBROOK¹

An estimate of the loss I the Subscriber sufferd by Reason of the Capture of Two small Vessells by a Man of War of[f] Plymouth Harbour on Novr 25 1775
 Viz

Cash paid for retakeing one of sd Vessels damage done to Her &c	£ 155. 14. 8
Cash paid for getting of[f] the other Vessel damage done &c	35. 6. 8
700 Bushels Oysters all lost by reason of sd Vessels being taken	46. 13. 4
	<hr/>
	237. 14. 8
	Tho ^s Holbrook

Janry 27, 1776 Barnstable ss

The above named Thomas Holbrook personally apeared before me and made Oath to the above estimate by him subscrib'd

Jn^o Atwood Justes Peace

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 285.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Providence, January 27.

Capt. Joseph Manchester, of this Place, who in August last was taken by two Tenders in the River, and sent to Boston,¹ arrived here from thence on Wednesday last. — He got to Chelsea in a Vessel which had been ordered from Boston, with a Number of the Poor of that Town. — He informs that General [Henry] Clinton sailed from thence on Thursday Se'nnight, with several Transports, having on board 500 Troops, under Convoy of a Man of War, supposed to be bound to the Southward — He likewise informs, that when the Houses at Charlestown were

burnt by a Party of Continental Troops, most of the Officers belonging to the ministerial Army were attending the Representation of a Comedy, called *The Blockade of Boston*. The Play was immediately suspended, the Town thrown into the utmost Confusion and Consternation, and it is thought might have been safely carried at that Time. — Captain Manchester also advises, that Provisions and Fuel continue to be very scarce and dear in Boston, and that a Vessel from that Place, with Invalids bound to England, lately foundered on the Banks of New-foundland, and every Soul on board perished.

A Ship from London, and a Brig from Cork, bound for Boston, were last Week taken at the Eastward by our Privateers — The following is given as the List of their Cargoes, viz

Ship *Friend's* Cargo, from London, out 11 Weeks.

52 Chaldrons of Coal, 20 Hogsheads of Vinegar, 86 Butts of Porter, 30 Hogsheads of Ditto, 16 Hogsheads of Sour-Grout (pickled Cabbage) 60 Hogs, 23 alive, Cordage and sundry other Articles.

Brig *Sukey's* Cargo from Cork, out 10 Weeks.

58 Tierces of [best] Beef, 10 Barrels of Ditto, 31 Half Barrels of Ditto, 1 Tierce of best Pork, 11 Barrels of Ditto, 9 Half Barrels Ditto, 150 Firkins of Butter, 72 Crocks Ditto, 3 Puncheons of Oats, 2 Firkins of Lard, 64 Firkins of Tongues, 1 Barrel of Ditto, 10 Half Barrels of Ditto, 91 Kegs of Tripe, 1 Keg Cheeks, 1 Keg of Tallow, 10 Puncheons of Claret, 2 Casks of Peas, 1 Box (Contents unknown) 109 Hampers of Potatoes, 2 large Canisters of Tea.²

We learn that a Ship from Whitehaven, bound to Boston, was likewise taken a few Days since at the Eastward, laden principally with Coal and Provisions: She had also on board, it is said, 1500 Blankets for the ministerial Troops.

1. The brig *Sea Flower*, from Hispaniola for Providence, taken by tenders from H.M.S. *Rose* and *Swan*, Graves's Prize List, December 31, 1775, Graves's Conduct, II, 36–38, BM.
2. These are more complete inventories of the *Friends* and *Sukey* than those given in the *Essex Journal*, January 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Lebanon Jany 27th 1776

In Committee of Safety.

Voted That Capt Seth Harding be appointed and Directed forthwith to Report to Say Brook and advise and assist Capt [Uriah] Hayden and others In Draughting and Building the Colony Ship to be built at that Place in the best Manner and with the Greatest Expedition possible for the Service designed; said Harding to attend on said Service untill further Orders from this Committee or the General Assembly

A true Copy from the Minutes ² Test W^m Williams Clerk

1. NA, Record Group 45.
2. This order is summarized in the printed minutes, to read: "Saturday 27th January. Pass'd an Order for Cap. Harding to go to Saybrook and assist in forming the plan of the ship &c., as on paper itself, and copy sent by B. H. [Benjamin Huntington] Esqr." Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 226.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF NEW-YORK.

My Fellow-Citizens,

THIS City becomes more and more the scoff and wonder of America!—In the name of Heaven, what is become of your former magnanimity and spirit? Ye who in former times were among the foremost of the Colonies in asserting your rights, to you, I say, how long will you patiently bear insult and wrong? Are you so callous and dead to every sense of honour, as to disregard the taunts and scoffs of your brethren in the neighbouring Colonies? Are ye dwindled to such dastards and poltroons as to suffer yourselves to be insulted with impunity, especially when you have it in your power to prevent it? Will you continue in a state of supineness, and suffer an abandoned set of miscreants, to add insult to injury? No, the bare idea must harrow up your souls; your city, my friends has been brought into a state truly degrading to the name of Americans, and that too, before your eyes:—It is impossible that you can any longer fold your arms, and calmly see men, or rather devils, endeavour to carry you hood-winked to destruction!

It is those ruffians, I mean, who make it their constant business to collect every article of intelligence, and transmit it on board the men of war, by way of the *Intelligence office*, (i. e. the Dutcheß of Gordon.) What in the name of Heaven have we to do with the wretches on board that ship? It is true, that a person is on board who was once our Governor:—But has he not told us in plain terms, that had he stayed on shore, he would only execute those orders that were consistent with what he calls his bounden duty to the royal traitor of G. B.—, or in other words, that as soon as he has a fair opportunity, he will endeavour to cut our throats? And can you harbour the thought of suffering a parcel of fellows belonging to this city, to be constantly employed to effect your destruction? Is it not notorious, that from morning to night, there is a constant rendezvous of Januses on board this vessel? Believe me my friends, the Governor never meant any thing else by going on board that vessel, but to collect intelligence for our merciless enemies, which he has been but too successful in obtaining. What could he have meant by withdrawing from his government? Was any insult either offered or intended him? No, it was as I said before, to have a set of corrupt adherents to collect intelligence for the British murderers?—Rouse my friends and countrymen, rouse! Shew to the world, that you are still possessed of the same noble spirit by which ye were actuated in former times; that whoever injures you shall not fail to feel the full weight of your resentment.—Assemble together as soon as possible, go in a body to your Congress, intreat them to rout this den of ministerial blood-beagles—do yourselves justice my brethren:—Shoot the first Traitor, be he who, or what he may, that shall attempt to go to this nest of sycophants; this is not a season to be mealy-mouthed, or to mince matters; the times are precarious and perilous.

THE SENTINEL.

January 27, 1776.

DEPOSITION OF JOSEPH WOOLCOMBE ¹

City of New York ss:

Personally appeared before me David Mathews Esqr one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the City & County of New York Joseph Woolcombe late of Topsham in that part of Great Britain called England of full age and being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth & saith, That some time in the month of October last past he was Shipped as Chief Mate of the Ship called the *Blue Mountain Valley* under the Command of John Hamilton Dempster. That the said Ship was at that time engaged to proceed to Boston with a Cargo for the Use of the King's Troops, That the Cargo consisted of one hundred & twenty chaldron of Sea Coal, one hundred Butts of Porter, ten pipes of Sour Crout, between two and three hundred Sacks of Potatoes, Eighty live hogs, with a number of Sacks of Horse beans to feed the said Hogs, all which said Cargo was Ship'd by order of Government and at their risque for the Use of the King's Troops at Boston or any other Port in America where the said Troops might be Stationed accompanied with a Letter directed to the Commander in Chief of the said Troops in America. That this Deponent Judges that the said Vessell was about three hundred Tons burthen, That the Crew on board consisted of sixteen persons including the Officers and two boys, That the said Ship was armed with four three Pounders and had on board four half Barrells of Powder with Shot in proportion. That the said Ship sailed from London about the Latter end of October last past having Sealed orders on board which were not to be opened, untill they had got fifty leagues to the Westward of Cape Clear, That there sailed in company with them a number of other Transports laden with Provisions and other Stores for the Use of the Kings Troops in America, That when they arrived at the place appointed as aforesaid for opening the said Orders, the Deponent was present at opening of them and as near as he can recollect, They were in Substance as follows, to wit, That they were not to enter any Port of America not even Boston without first speaking with one of his Majesties Ship's of War and Conducted in or assured by her that it was a Port of Safety, That the Signals were to be attended to in order to discover their friends from Enemies, a List of which Signals both for day & night the said Captain had, which Signals were to be kept Secret and delivered up to the Commander in Chief on the said Ship's being discharged the Service, And this Deponent further saith, That at the time of their Sailing as aforesaid [t]heir whole Stock of Water consisted of about forty Puncheons, That the greater part of their hogs died before they had cleared the Channell, And the Chief part of the Remainder before they Struck Soundings on the Coast of America, That they Attempted to make a Northern Passage with the said Ship and after being out about six weeks and having met with much Stormy Weather and head winds during that time they Judged themselves to be on the Coast of America a little to the Northward of Boston but were not able to Strike Soundings and the Northwest Winds coming on to blow very Violent and very Constant prevented their getting nearer the Coast altho' they were about three weeks in Attempting it, That in one of these Gales the Upper Gudgeon Iron of their Rudder broke which occasioned the Middle one to work loose and under these Circumstances it was Judged

best to Stand away to the Southward in hopes of making the Coast in a more moderate Climate, That at this time they discovered they were very Short of Water occasioned by its being put into new Casks which were furnished by Government and had not been Seasoned, and were leaky. That they were thereupon put to an Allowance of two Quarts a day, and for a week before they made land they were at an Allowance of three pints a day,

That the first land they made since their Sailing from England as aforesaid was on thursday the eighteenth instant near Egg Harbour in the Province of New Jersey on which they Stood along shore for Sandy hook in hopes of meeting with Some of his Majesties Ships of War, That on the next day the wind came on so Violent from the Northwest, That it drove them off the Land, That the day after being Saturday the twentieth instant the wind coming favorable they made the Land again towards evening, and the next morning being in Sight of the light house on Sandy Hook, they fired three Guns for a Pilot, That about one of the Clock the same day one Dobbs a Pilot belonging to the Port of New York with four other persons whose names the Deponent understands are Robert Hogg, George Stewart, one Lewis and one Carr, all of the City of New York as the Deponent believes came on board the said Ship in a Skiff, That the said Dobbs immediately on coming on board asked the said Captain Dempster whether he had fired for a Pilot, to which the said Captain answered that he had not, That he only wanted to put a passenger on Shore and asked the said Dobbs what he would have for doing it who demanded a half Johannes which was agreed to by the said Captain, That the said Dobbs asked from whence the said Ship came and where she was bound and was answered by the said Captain, That she came from London and was bound to the northward without mentioning any Port in particular, That the said Captain asked the said Dobbs whether there were any men of War in the Port of New York and was informed by the said Dobbs that there were two.

And the Deponent further saith, That no other Conversation passed between the said Captain Dempster and the said Dobbs that the Deponent knows of, he the Deponent having been present the whole time that the said Dobbs was on board which was only a few minutes, And the Deponent further saith, That it had been agreed between the said Captain and this Deponent before the said Dobbs came on board: That the Deponent should be sent up to New York (in case there were any of the Kings Ships of War there) in order to get some Intelligence or directions from them how the said Captain Dempster was to proceed with the said Ship, and whether he could be furnished with a Pilot or Convoy, and it was further agreed, That in Case the Deponent should not return in twenty four hours from the time of his leaving the said Ship, That the Captain in such Case was to put to Sea again concluding that the Deponent was taken prisoner, That the Deponent left the said Ship about one of the Clock on Sunday last in the said Skiff together with the said Dobbs and the other four persons herein before named having with him three Letters from the said Captain to his friends in England and one from George Townsend to his brother there, which said Letters the Deponent was to deliver on board one of the said Ships

of War to be forwarded, That on their Passage up to the City of New York from the said Ship the Deponent asked the said Dobbs whether he could not put him on board the *Asia* Ship of War, to which the said Dobbs answered, That he would not do it for an hundred pounds further saying, Do you think I'll betray my Country, That they arrived at the City of New York about six of the Clock in the Evening of the same day, and landed at the White hall Slip, when the said Dobbs asked the Deponent if he would go into a Publick house and as they were cold they would get some Punch, That the Deponent went with the said Dobbs into a Publick house near the said Ship and had been in but a few minutes when the Deponent was Seized by a number of armed men the Letters aforesaid taken from him and his Pockets searched after which the Deponent and the said Dobbs were carried up to the Upper Barracks and Confined under a Guard,

That the next day the Deponent was Conducted before a number of Persons not exceeding six or seven who said they were a Committee of Safety, two of which said Persons the Deponent knew, the one by the name of [John Morin] Scott and the other by the name of [Alexander] McDougall, That they asked the Deponent some General Questions relative to the said Ship and her lading, That the Deponent was kept under Guard untill Tuesday last in the Evening when he was discharged and the Letters aforesaid returned to him opened. That the next day he went on board of his Majesties Ship of War the *Asia* where he now remains as he has heard and believes it to be true, That the said Ship in which the Deponent arrived at Sandy hook as aforesaid is seized by some persons belonging to the Colony of New Jersey and carried into some port in that Province, That the Deponent has delivered the Letters aforesaid to the Governor of New York, And the Deponent further saith, That he has been once before in this Port which is about a twelve month since, That he then came here from London in a Ship called the *Brittania* and was here about three months and then Sailed for London again in the same Ship, And further saith not

Jo^s Woolcombe

Sworn this 27th day of January 1776
Before me D Mathews

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1107, Part I, 367-70.

LORD STIRLING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Elizabeth Town Jany 27: 1776

My Letter to you of the 24th from on Board of the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, off Amboy I hope you received. the Next day we got her into the Sound near Blazeing Star, where she Grounded, but by lightening her, we got of[f] again Yesterday Morning, and brought her up to Elizabeth point where she now lies, under the Care of Capt [William] Rogers is [*sic*] whose Charge for the Use of the Continent Congress I have put her and is Guarded by a detachment of my Regiment, I thought it most prudent to Unbend her Sails and to have her unladen as soon as possible, and have given directions to have the

Cargoe & Stores brought into this town as soon as possible Capt Rogers who was recommended to me by the N York Committee of Safety, has been very Alert and Steady throughout this Whole Affair, is well worthy of the Confidence they placed in him.² I would Now give a More particular relation of this transaction, But the Cold & fategue I have been exposed to for the last fortnight has almost got the better of me, it is with difficulty I can set up to write this. I shall enclose a Copy of the Manifest & Bill of Lading of the Cargoe of this Ship, a Strange Cargoe! and twenty odd Similar ones Sailed about the Same time! the Capt is Brother to George Dempster Esqr a Valuable friend to North America in the House Commons, he is a Sensible Genteel Young Man, all his property, about £ 100. Sterling is on Board, a trifle also belongs to the Mates; I must beg it as a favour of the Congress to order me to restore it to them, for they have all behaved Extreemly Well, and were very Usefull to us in Working the Ship; and the Sailors are now assisting the Soldiers in Unladeing her. I have great reason to believe that more of these Ships will Come on this Coast & try to get into New York, four or Six small Vessels kept ready and in good Weather to Run between Sandy Hook & Egg Harbour might pick them up, and prevent their receiving any assistance from Capt [Hyde] Parker [Jr.].

Major [William] DeHart returned Yesterday from Long Island with the detachment of my Regiment, and has brought me four Colours of Long Island Militia; the Arms they took, they have delivered up to Col: [Nathaniel] Heard. I shall enclose a Copy of Major DeHarts Report to me. I am [&c.]

Stirling.

The Honble John Hancock Esqr

[Enclosure]

		Ship <i>Blue Mountain Valley</i>	
		Manifest of her Cargo –	
		Shipp'd in London (at Different Times)	
		as Follows	
1775		26 Coals	Chalds – 25
Septemr		28 ditto	14
		“ ditto	14
		“ ditto	19
		29 ditto	14
		“ ditto	21
		Total	107
			Butts
Octor 2d		30 Bdles Hoops	
3		Porter, Mark'd Calvert	70
4		ditto ditto	30
		Total	100
6.		Empty Puncheons	18
9.		Beans	Baggs 225
“		Potatoes	Sacks 156

10th	Sour Crouts	Casks	10
"	Live Hoggs		80
11	Empty Puncheons		17
13	Compleated Ships Sea Stores and Proceeded on the Voyage to America —		
	Sundry Stores of the Ship Vizt		
	Masts, Sails, Rigging, Cables,		
	Anchors & ca		
	Quantity Uncertain		

[Endorsed] Copy from the Mates Book

Stirling.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 388–92, NA.
2. Statement, undated, of Captain William Rogers: "Capt Rogors tuck the Ship *Blew Mouton Valey* in the year 1776 Jany. She was Caried into Elizebeth town point. he was was [*sic*] promisd one 100 Guines by Lord Sterling for being the first that boarded her — her Cargo was Sold & he Recivd Nothing ther from the Agent Sued the purchaser of the Ship for the 100 Gunes — and Never Refunded the Same to Capt. Rogars altho he obtained it." CL.

LORD STIRLING TO CAPTAIN WILLIAM ROGERS ¹

Sir,

Elizabeth Town Jany 27th 1776

I do now deliver into your Custody and charge, and you are hereby Authorized and directed in behalf and on account of the Continental Congress to take charge of the ship *Blue Mountain Valley* lately commanded by Captain John Hamilton Dempster, and now lying at or near Elizabeth Town point in New Jersey with all her Cargoe and Stores, and the same to preserve & Secure in the best Manner you can untill further order from the Continental Congress, their General or Commander in chief in this province for the time being.

And you are in the most exact way in your power to see that the said Captain Dempsters private property on board said Ship and that of each of his Officers and Men be Secured and preserved until such further Order as aforesaid. I shall in the meantime, send on board and in the Neighbourhood of said Ship post such Guards as I find Necessary to preserve her from any Attempts that may be made on her. —

In behalf of the Continental Congress of the United Colonies in America. —
Stirling.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 162, II, 404, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, January 27, 1776

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the case of Mr. Jugé,

Resolved, That Monsr Jugé be permitted to export the produce or manufactures of the province of Maryland (horned cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry excepted) to any port or place whatsoever, (except to Great Britain, Ireland, British isles, and British West Indies, and for the supply of the British army or

navy in America) to the amount of the canvas imported by him into said province: the said value to be ascertained by the committee of inspection and observation for the county of Baltimore:

Resolved, nevertheless, that the indulgence, in this instance, ought not to be drawn into example, the same being granted to Monsr Jugé on account of the peculiar circumstances of his case; and that the said Monsr Jugé be enjoined, by the aforesaid committee of Baltimore, to avoid, if possible, all British ships of war and armed cutters on his voyage.

Resolved, That a committee of 3 be appointed, to take into consideration the matter of the inlisting of apprentices and persons in debt, report thereon to Congress

The members chosen, Mr. [Thomas] M'Kean, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 94–98.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday 27 January – Letters from Gen. Washington Ld Stirling and others, my Lord has taken a Transport at Sandy Hook ² and 2 more Vessels are taken by one of the Massachusetts armed Ships ³ . . . the Matter of inlisting Apprentices and small Debtors was committed to [Thomas] McKean, [Robert Treat] Paine & myself – A Petn was read & committed, from Kepple [Henry Kepple] & [John] Steinmetz prayg Recompence for a Ship & Cargo carried into Boston to the Value of £5000 & upwards – Mr Juge of Maryland permitted to export Produce from that Colony in Return for Canvass imported

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. The transport *Blue Mountain Valley*.
3. The prizes were the *Friends* and *Sukey*. See Jonathan Jackson to the Massachusetts Council, January 16, 1776, and the *Essex Journal*, Newburyport, January 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety

Philad'a, 27th Jan'y, 1776.

Doct'r [John] Smith brought to this City and confined by order of [the Continental] Congress, as a person inimical to the Liberties of America, was this day brought before this Board, and being examined, and found, from his own confession, to have acted an unfriendly part in the present dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies, was remanded to Gaol, & there to remain 'till the further orders of this Board or the Congress.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 469.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL NAVAL COMMITTEE ¹

Gent.

[Reedy Island, Delaware Bay] Jany 27.1776.

The River holds still froze so much that the Pilots will not undertake to carry us from here But perhaps we may Sail b[e]fore the things can come for the

small Sloop² by Water think it will be best to Send some of the most Necessary things by Land such as some of the Swivel Guns Some Musquet Ball some old Canvas & six 20 feet Oars. I am with Respect [&c.]

1. Hopkins Papers, II, 41, RIHS.

2. The *Fly*; purchase of "a small vessel as a tender for the fleet" was authorized by Congress on January 16, 1776. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 60.

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

[Baltimore]

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Thirty Six Shillings for boarding Alexr Cummings three Weeks

£ 1.16

William Gittings

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Thirty Nine Shillings & Six pence being the Balance due for boarding William Porter & William Shoan eighteen days each

£ 1 . . 19 . . 6

John Lee

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Nine pounds five Shillings in part pay of Casks made for Ship *Defence*

£ 9 . . 5-

John Morison

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Captain James Nicholson Two pounds four Shillings & five pence [L.] for boarding William Matthews, William Judge & Sam: Murphy each Seven days & Richd Cockey five days

£ 2 . . 4 . . [5½]

her
Ann X Simmons
mark

Recd 27th Jany 1776 of Capt James Nicholson Three Shillings for three Brooms for the use of the Ship *Defence*

£ 0.3-

John Cattel

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ACCOMACK [VIRGINIA], JANUARY 27."¹

I have to acquaint you that last Monday [January 22] a new cedar built rig, inward bound from the West-Indies, loaden with 3000 bushels of salt, belonging to Mr. Christian, of Northampton county, Eastern shore, was chased into Cherry-stone harbour by a sloop tender; the Captain seeing that he could not escape the tender, ran the brig ashore, and took to his boat and gained the shore; the tender boarded her and was two days endeavouring to get her off, but proving unsuccessful, they set her on fire and burned her. The brig was not within musket shot of the shore, else the men stationed on that coast might have prevented their boarding her. -

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, February 12, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1776

Williamsburg, Jan. 27.

An express arrived here on Tuesday [January 23] with advices, that last Sunday morning near a hundred of the enemy landed at Norfolk, from the men of war, under a heavy firing of cannon, which continued when the express came away. They had set three houses on fire, but were soon forced to retire; the loss they sustained was then uncertain. Three of our men were killed by cannon shot, two of whom, it is said, belonged to Capt. Bleuford's [Abraham Buford's] company of minute-men.

On Wednesday evening last six waggons arrived here from Philadelphia, loaded with arms and ammunition.

One Wootten, in a canoe from Hampton, a few days ago, was chased by a tender as far as Sowel's Point. The old man hauled his canoe on shore, and ran into the woods, but was pursued by some men from the tender; they were soon discovered by our guard stationed there, who fired upon them, and the consequence of their attempt to catch one was, that they lost *three*, killed upon the spot.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1776¹

Williamsburg, Saturday, Jan. 27.

By capt. [John] Green, just arrived from Norfolk, we learn that the day after the late cannonading, from the *Liverpool* and *Otter*, two sailors were taken prisoners a little below the new distillery, in search of water (of which the fleet is greatly in want), who informed, that a number of men were wounded in the fray at the Town Point wharf, and carried off in the boats. And capt. Green tells us, that the enemy appear solicitous to conceal their dead and wounded, as their *brother savages*, the Indians, who have always been remarkable for that piece of *finesse*.

1. The masthead listed this issue of the *Virginia Gazette* as being published on Friday, January 26, but it was a day late in reaching its subscribers and was partially datelined January 27.

VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Committee of Safety Virga Jan 27. 1776

Gentn As we are so closely connected by inclination as well as interest and our situation strongly points out the propriety of attending to the operations which may be necessary for our mutual defence, We are desirous of establishing & keeping up a constant intimate correspondence with you – We think it proper to inform you that we have resolved to build for the protection of Potomac River two row gallies one of them to carry one 24 pounder, the other a twelve pounder & both swivels – also three vessels carrying one of them four six pounders & some four pounders the other two vessels four pounders & swivels. We do not conceive this adequate to the importance of that great river, but as we have three other rivers to which we must extend the like care, and as your province is equally interested in the Safety of Potomac river we could not doubt but it would be the wish of your

body to participate in its protection. Our determination on this head is yet subject to alteration and we shall chearfully consult & advise with you on this or any other subject conducive to the Interest of both & to our mutual defence. We are [&c.]

John Tabb.
Tho^s Walker

John Page V.P.
Dudley Digges.
P. Carrington. J^s Mercer.

1. Letters to Council of Safety, Md. Arch.

THADY TURNEY TO RICHARD BUTTON ¹

Sir

Portohomack January 27th 1776.

I am sorry I've not the pleasure of delivering Mrs Buttons Commands personally, as she is a Lady I would go any length to serve, however I give your Letters to Captain Burke, whom is a Gentleman I would confide in, and am sure will deliver them safe to you. I should be the bearer only for some dispute happened between one of the passengers and I, therefore hindred me of that pleasure of being acquainted with you, tho am of opinion will be in Antigua soon. The Fleet is under Commodore [William] Stone ² and is to take care of them till he sees them outside the Capes. the breezes is beginning to stir up, and must remain Sir [&c.]

Thady Turney.

To Richd Button Esqr St John's Antigua.

[Endorsed] (a Copy) Jam^s Young ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.
2. Captain William Stone, of the Continental sloop *Hornet*, who had orders to escort a number of merchant vessels out of Chesapeake Bay before joining the Continental fleet in Delaware Bay, Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
3. An intercepted letter. Copy bears the signature of Vice Admiral James Young, commanding the British squadron in the Leeward Islands.

LORD DUNMORE TO RICHARD CORBIN ¹

Copy of a letter from the Earl of Dunmore to the Honble Richard Corbin Esqr dated on board the Ship *Dunmore* in Virginia 27th January 1776. —

Sir Notwithstanding the many crule and false invectives thrown out against me, as an Enemy to this Colony; Conscious to myself however of my firm attachment to this Country in General, and this Colony in particular; I am well convinced, tho' the present Rulers may have thought it requisite, in support of their late adopted Measures, to represent me in the very opposite light, to what they were pleased to do, but a few months before, yet there is not one amongst them, that ever viewed my conduct with an impartial Eye, but is sensible that every transaction of my Administration, proceeded from a heart that never yet entertained a thought which was not meant for the real happiness, and well being of this Colony; this ever having been my first object, the very moment I received my dispatches last year, I called the Assembly to lay before them the Resolves of the House of Parliament, not doubting then, but they would have been received by every well wisher to His Country with Transports of Joy; now having received His Majesty's most Gracious Speech, I catch at with the greatest pleasure, the

last sentence it contains, wherein He says, "It may be also proper to Authorize persons so Commissioned to restore such Province, or Colony, so returning to it's Allegiance to the free exercise of it's Trade and Commerce and to the same protection and Security as if such Province or Colony had never revolted.[""] I say I catch with the greatest avidity at this generous, this humane, this truly Noble Sentiment, again to offer every exertion of my poor Abilities, to procure by any means that shall be thought most advisable, an Honourable Permanent, Speedy and happy Reconciliation, between this Colony, and it's Parent State; I wish to God they may reflect ere they draw upon them the wrath of that powerfull, tho' Mercifull People, and by that means involve this once most happy Land, in all the horrors of a most destructive Civil War, wherein, were they as Successfull as the most sanguine amongst them could wish, could only end in their inevitable destruction; What then have they to hope for, and what have they not to fear, by a persiverance in this most ruinous, and Unnatural contest. – Should the Rulers of the People prove as well disposed to return to their duty, as I know the bulk of the Colony are, they will embrace the favourable opportunity that now offers; but should they be so infatuated as to mean totally to throw off all Allegiance to the best of Sovereigns, and connection with the State that has fostered them with the utmost Paternal care, their Memories will be handed down to the latest Posterity, as most undutifull, and ungratefull.

Sir, a thorough Conviction of your warm attachment to this your Native land, and your Admiration of that truely excellent Constitution, and Government, under which you have so long and happily lived, as well as your love for our most Benign Sovereign, induces me to trouble you with the above tender of my Services to this Colony, and I beg you will assure, whomsoever you shall think proper to lay this before, of my willingness to undergo any fatigue, or difficulty for the accomplishment of it's happiness; I have now only to entreat that my sincere endeavours to Effect a reconciliation between this and the Parent State may be enforced by every exertion of your best Advice, and Assistance, and that both may succeed is the ardent wish of Sir [&c.]

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353.

MINUTES OF THE WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Saturday Jany 27th [1776]

The Governor having Summoned his Majesty's Council to attend him on board the *Scorpion* Sloop of War, and several of his Majesty's Council being in this Town on their way to attend on the Governor agreeable to Said Summons

Resolved that this Committee are bound by a Resolve of the Provincial Council to prevent any persons from waiting on Governor [Josiah] Martin; and particularly at this present time, this Committee cannot consistant with the safety of the Country permit his Majesty's Council to attend the Governor; and the Chairman is Ordered to write respectively to each of the Council who may be in Town & acquaint them with this Resolve –

A Letter from Capt: [Francis] Parry, commander of the *Cruizer*, to captain Bachelder, informing him he wd give him leave to pass wth his Vessel provided he brought down the provisions demanded from Mr Campbell –² thereupon Re-

solved that the requisition of Capt: Parry is an insult to this Committee & for the future if any provisions are Suffer'd to go down to the Man of War, they shall be sent down in Small boats as usual –

1. Secretary of State Papers (Committees of Safety 1774–1776), NCDAH.
2. Samuel Campbell, provisioner for the British navy.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

Janry 1766 Moor'd in Cape Fear No. Carolina
 Friday 26 Watering Loos'd Sails to Dry.
 Mod Breezs Empd Watering
 Saturdy 27 at 9 AM Alarm'd by the Waterers hailing the ship sent and brought
 them off
 at 11 Fir'd 15 Round & 11 Grape Shot at the Rebels in the Fort ²
 Burnt or Taken by the Rebels 6 Hhds & 4 Barls Powder

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.
2. Fort Johnston.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety,
 [Charleston] Saturday, Jan. 27th, 1776.

Read a letter from Capt. Wm. Pindar, of this date.

Ordered, That Capt. Pindar have leave to depart with his vessel, in ballast – going over Charles-Town bar, and first paying all the expences of his vessels' having been brought back from Stono.

The Hon. Capt. Drayton acquainted the board, that he had taken on board the ship *Prosper*, a chest which was said to contain a certain quantity of money belonging to John Ellis, who had attempted to depart the colony without leave, in Capt. Pindar's vessel, and desired instructions how to dispose of the same.

Ordered, That the said chest be deposited in the colony treasury, until the further determination of this board.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 225–27.

STEPHEN FULLER TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

To the Right Honourable the Lord George Germaine, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State

The humble Memorial of Stephen Fuller Esqr Agent for the Island of Jamaica.

My Lord, Your Memorialist begs leave to put your Lordship in mind of the smallness of the Squadron upon the Jamaica Station, which consists of only

	Guns
The <i>Antelope</i> of	50
<i>Maidstone</i> of	28
<i>Squirrel</i> of	20
<i>Ferret</i> of	14
<i>Diligence</i> of	10

The *Seaford* of 20 Guns having left the Station a long time since, and no other Ship sent out in her room. Some of our Merchant Ships will be ready to sail from Jamaica by the latter end of March, and it will be very unsafe for them to sail without Convoy, which the present Squadron can by no means afford them, consistent with the safety of the Island; which looks up to your Lordship for its protection, and for such a reinforcement of the Squadron, as will enable it to give convoys thro' the Gulph & the Windward passage into latitudes of security from the American Privateers. Totally relying upon your Lordship's effectual attention to this important object, I have the honour to be [&c.]

Stephen Fuller

[Jamaica] 27th Jany 1776 –

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part I.

28 Jan. (Sunday)

“AN ACCOUNT OF THE PEOPLES NAMES THAT HAVE STOOD CENTERY AND LABOURED ON BOARD THE SLOOP [*Betsey*] TAKEN BY CAPT MANLY”¹

John Poter [Porter] ²	for 8 days & 8 Nights
Jonathan Larkcum [Larkum]	5½ days – 5 Nights
John Potter [Porter]	2 days & 2 Nights
Hennery Larkcum [Larkum]	1 day & 1 Night

The Above was before I Came on Board —

Sence is as follows –

Saml Stone [Storie]	4 days & 4 Nights
John Potter [Porter]	4 days & 4 Nights
Joseph Ober	4 days & 4 Nights
Jonathn Larkcum [Larkum]	4 days & 4 Nights
	Rich ^d James

Beverly Jany 28th – 1776

1. Bartlett Papers, No. 5747, BHS.

2. The corrected names are taken from receipts in another account.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO CAPTAIN JOHN MANLEY¹

Cambridge 28th Jany 1776

The *Hancock* Armed Schooner

I received your agreeable Letter of the 26th instant giving an account of your haveing taken & Carried into Plymouth two of the Enemys transports. Your Conduct in engaging the eight gun Schooner, with so few hands as you went out with, your attention in Securing your prizes, & your general good behavior since you first engaged in the Service, Merits Mine, & your Countrys thanks.

You may be assured that every attention will be paid to any reasonable request of yours, & that you shall have the Comand of a Stronger vessel of War, but as it will take up Some time before Such a one Can be fitted out, my desire is, that you Continue in the *Hancock*, until the end [of the] Cruize. When that is out you will Come to Head qrs & we will Confer together in the subject of the