

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 4

AMERICAN THEATRE: Feb. 19, 1776–Apr. 17, 1776

EUROPEAN THEATRE: Feb. 1, 1776–May 25, 1776

AMERICAN THEATRE: Apr. 18, 1776–May 8, 1776

Part 4 of 7

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week. I hope he will take six guns to fortify himself against the small tender he may fear. I am [&c.]

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 312-13.

31 Mar. (Sunday)

NARRATIVE OF LIEUTENANT JOHN STARKE, R.N.¹

[Quebec, January 1 – March 31]

This successful defeat of the Rebels,² while it animated and encouraged the besieged, pointed out the necessity of observing the utmost vigilance; and the duty was very hard and constant through out the winter and the Spring; for as the Snows fall frequently and heavily during that Season, a number of men were often employed, besides the guard, to clear the Great Guns from it, and so deep was it at times, that the Officers in going their rounds were frequently up to the middle of it; and were obliged to wear leg-gins and other contrivances to defend themselves against the severity of the cold.

The Prisoners who had been treated with a lenity which they ill deserved, attempted to corrupt the Sentinels appointed to guard them; but a discovery being made in time, their purpose was frustrated – They had fallen upon means of communicating their design to their companions the besiegers without, which was to break out of confinement in the night, open the gates of the Town, throw the beds and quoins of the guns into the ditch, and apprise their friends without by a signal of their success, who were to be ready to come in to their Assistance, and seize upon the Garrison –³

To such a degree of vigilance and alertness did the Officers perform their duty, that several of them did not venture to cast off[f] their cloaths or accoutrements for weeks together, but lay down with them on their backs, both night and day, that they might be prepared against any surprise – Others felt the severity of this constant and fatiguing duty, but it was particularly so to Lieutenant Starke, who had but a few Months before, returned from a Station of four years in the Warm climate of the East Indias.

1. "The case of Lieutenant John Starke of His Majestys Navy, together with a short sketch of the operations of the War in Canada, in which he was employed, during the years 1775, 1776 and 1777." NMM, Ms. 49/129.
2. The defeat of Montgomery and Arnold on December 31, 1775.
3. The attempted break-out was planned around March 26, 1776, but was discovered on March 31 – James Melvin, *A Journal of the Expedition to Quebec, in the Year 1775, under the Command of Colonel Benedict Arnold* (Philadelphia, 1864), 17. Other diaries of the expedition speak of the attempted escape, but Melvin was the only one to pin it down to definite dates.

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

March 1776	Remarks in Halifax Harbour
Friday 29th	AM the Comdr sent on Bd an Order to Moor. First and Middle parts Hard Gales and Squally wt Snow Latter little

- wind and fair Weather PM Empd as pr Occasion Anchord
Here Several Vessels with Inhabitants from Boston
- Saturday 30 AM Unmoord and Hove short on the Sm Br
First and Middle parts light Airs and fair Latter Mod
Breezes and Cloudy Weather PM Warpd in to Butten wharf
and Landed the Emegrants Provisions and Stores belonging
to them ² and Hauld in to the Streem Anchord Here His
Majestys Ship *Fowey* and *Diligent* Brig with the *Adventure*
store ship wt a Convoy from Boston having On Bd Part of
the Light Horse and Inhabitants
- Sunday 31 AM Weigh'd and towed up to the Dock Yard Came to wt
the B[t] B[r] Veerd to 1½ a Cable and Moord to one of the
tripping Barges Unbent the Sails
First part Moderate Breezes and fair Weather Middle and
Latter Fresh Gales & Cloudy wt some snow.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2. *Ibid.*, a party of the Royal Emigrant Regiment, with six months' provision had boarded the *Halifax* on March 28, intended for Boston.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN LANGDON AND GEORGE WENTWORTH ¹

Memo of An Agreement made, between John Langdon Esq, of the one part, & Geo. Wentworth, of the other part – Said Langdon, hath Agreed to hire of said Wentworth his Rope Walk, with all the Implements of said Walk for the Term of time he may want said Walk, for the Making of Cordage &c for the Ship he is now building,² for the Consideration of two dollars p day. to Commence on the day said Walk is Improv'd for said purpose, said Wentworth engages to keep such walk & Implements in good repair at his own expence, but in Case Larger Implements &c, shou'd be wanted than is Commonly used in the Walk, said Langdon engages to provide such at his own expence, and to be Return'd when the Walk is deliver'd up. – also said Langdon Agrees to hire said Wentworth, to Superintend [illegible] And to hire, a Fore Man & other People Acquainted [with the bu]siness to work in Said Walk, who are to be under his Direction in Consideration of which Service said Langdon Engages to pay him [illegible] Dollars pr day to Commence [blank] Said Wentworth on his part engages to Follow the Directions of said Langdon, and to Account with him for what Hemp, Cordage, or Cash that he may receive, for the paying of Men for Labour, or any other Charges that may Arrise, in Said Business, its also Agreed that Said Wentworth shall have power, to Hire, what Number of persons, he may want, and to Agree, with them for their Labour, & to pay them off weekly as their Necessitys may require, said Langdon Engages to Furnish Cash for the afore said purpose. Portsmt March [31] 1776

1. John and Woodbury Langdon Papers, NHHS.

2. Subsequently the Continental frigate *Raleigh*.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Remark's on bd the *Hope* Saturdy the 30th March 1776
 Beackers 1 [P.M.] Fresh Breezes and Squally with Drizzling Rain at 1½
 Isl N W Past Saw a Sail Standing to the Wt ward made Sail & Chaced
 4 Miles hir, Came up wt the Chace, Proved to be the *Betsy* Schooner
 from Virginia wt Inden Corn Bound to Selam, took Charge of
 hir, at 3 made Sail

Remark's on bd the *Hope* Sundy the 31st March 1776
 8 [A.M.] Saw Boston Light house SW Dist 8 Leags boraway
 for Do as Did the Prize Schooner. Came to in Nantasket Road
 wt the Sl Br in 5 fm as Did the Prize ² found laying here his
 Majesty's Ship *Renown* & *Dispatch* Schooner & two Transports.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The prize schooner, having arrived after the evacuation of Boston, was sent to Halifax for condemnation. Her master was Henry White, and the Vice Admiralty Register, N. S. Arch., records she "was going into some one Port or place in some one of his Majestys Colonies now in open Rebellion, to Trade."

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

March 1776 At Single Anchor in Nantasket Road
 Tuesday 26th Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr
 at 4 PM anchord with the small Bower & Veerd to 1½
 Cable, found riding here His M Ships *Chatham* (Rear
 [Vice] Adml Shuldham) with the *Centurion*, *Lively*, *Re-
 nown*; *Savage* Sloop with some arm'd Vessels and a num-
 ber of Transports – employd Watering –
 Wednesday 27 The Ships Company was put to 2/3ds allowance of all
 Species.
 Strong Gales & squally Wr employed as before, at 3 PM
 sailed hence H. M Ships *Chatham* *Centurion*, *Lively*,
Savage Sloop and a great number of Transports, in going
 out the *Centurion* ran foul of us and carried away our
 Fore Topgallant Mast Do Stay & Jibb Stay and tore the
 Jibb – unbent the Torn Sail & bent another
 Thursday 28th Carpenters empd making a new Fore top gallant Mast.
 Fresh breezes & cloudy at 3 PM shifted farther in at 5
 fird a Gun & made the Signal for all Masters of Merchant-
 men at 6 fird several Guns Shotted at the Whale Boats
 passing by –
 Friday 29th employed getting ready for Sea
 First part fresh Breezes & fair Wr, latter Moderate &
 Cloudy at 4 PM made the Signal to Weigh, Do weighd
 and came to Sail with the Convoy
 Saturday 30th 2 AM made the Signal to Tk Do TKd Ship at 6 Boston
 Light House West distance 2 leagues . . . Sailmakers repair-

ing the Fore Sail at Noon Tkd Ship – Convoy in Company
 Fresh Gales & hazey Wr with Snow, bore down to the
 Convoy occasionally,
 Sunday 31st fir'd the Fog signal from 2 to 4 AM Sail maker as before.
 Spoke the Sloop *Polly* was informed She was very leaky –
 at Noon the Convoy in Company. –
 Fresh Gales and Cloudy with rain.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

JOSEPH BELCHER TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Warren March 31st ¼ past 1. O'Clk

Sr Have this Instant received Advice by Express from Colo Jabez Champlin of Newport, that One Man of Warr is Arrived in the Harbor and that Twenty Seven sail of Vessells, Undoubtedly the Ministerial Troops, are seen within Seconet Point, am Desired to give you the Earliest Intelligence, Doubt not but you'l send Reinforcements as soon as possible. I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Belcher

P.S. I shall set out for Newport Immediately

Witness Henry Ward Secry

1. RIHS Mss., XII, 102.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

A Copy Providence March 31st 1776 5 oClock P.M.

Sir I am to inform your Excellency that I have this Moment an Express from Newport informing me that a Ship of War hath arrived in the Harbor of Newport, and that Twenty seven Ships undoubtedly having the ministerial Troops on Board are within Seconet Point. Upon this most alarming Occasion when we have not more than 400 Soldiers upon Rhode Island, and not above 700 or 800 more in the whole Colony besides the Militia not more than Half armed I must use the most pressing Instances with your Excellency to forward sufficient Succours to the Colony with all possible Dispatch. I am about issuing the necessary Orders for calling the whole Militia together and taking other proper Measures.

I am Your Excey's [&c.],
 Nich^s Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC.

"MANIFEST OF CARGO IMPORTED IN SLOOP *Unity* PAUL ALLEN MR
 FROM CURACAO" ¹

[Providence] March 1776

3080 lb Powder – in 117
 Quarter Casks
 129 Small Arms

68 Peices Checks
 50 Peices Stripted
 Holland

with Baganots	12 Peice[s] Holland
20 Baganots (more)	120 Peice[s] Brit[ain]es
60 Pistols –	102 Blankets
48 Cutlasses	20 Peices Rhomall
4 Swivels Guns	Handkerchiefs
19 lb Lead –	20 dozn Stript Ditto
11 m Flints	5 C Twine
57 Boalts Duck	13 Pefic[ies] Camblits
68 Bolts Oznabridges	92 Rheams Paper
42 Peices Bagging fit	66 [?] Rhubab
for Nansacks &c	30 [?] Jesuits Bark

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests, Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS ¹

March 1776	Latt 39.53
Thursday 28.	½ ps 12 [A.M.] Saw a Sail Wore Ship Out Rfs and Made Sail at 2 AM brot Too a Schooner from Philadelphia for Plymouth Laden with flour ² Sent a Petty Officer & 3 Men Onb her at 3 Wore Ship at 4 Do W[eathe]r A great Sea from the N W Took the Schooner in Tow Modt and Clear Wr. at 2 PM Tkd at 6 in 2d Rf TS Sounded 25 fm brown sand
Friday 29.	at 4 AM Wore ship at 8 Out all Rfs made more Sail 8 PM Wore Ship sounded from 32 to 20 fm black specks & fine sand at 10 In 2 Rfs TS
Saturday 30.	Rhode Island Light House NW 2 Leagues AM Wore ship at 5 Saw a Sail to the Estd gave Chace to Do & Cast off[f] the Tow fired a Number of Shot at the Chace at 7 Brot Too a sloop from Baltimore ³ sent a Petty Officer & 2 Men to take Charge of Her, and took her in Tow Snow & Rain PM Came too with the Bt Br in 16 fms in Rhode Island Harbor Veerd a whole Cable Anchord here our Prizes found lying here H M Ships <i>Rose Glasgow Swan</i> & <i>Bolton</i> Brig with some Transports & Tenders &c
Sunday 31.	AM Employed Sending the Stores on board the Ships that we brot from Boston Modt & Clear PM Sent the Rem[ainder] of the Stores on board the difft Ships. ⁴

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/629.

2. *New York Packet*, E. Pringle, master and owner, from Philadelphia, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. Probably the sloop *John*, William Chace, master, "found on a Trading Voyage with the Colonies now in Rebellion." Vice Admiralty Register, N.S. Arch.

4. The *Nautilus* also brought Vice Admiral Shulldham's orders for the *Swan* and *Bolton* to cruise in the track of any vessels bound for Boston, and for the *Glasgow* to proceed to New York and then southward with dispatches. See Shulldham to Stephens, March 8, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

March 1776 At a single Anchor at Rhode Island
 Friday 29 PM the Tenders sail'd on a Cruize
 Saturday 30 AM they came in again with a prize Sloop Rec'd fresh
 beef
 Mode & Cloudy PM arrived here his Majestys Ship *Nautilus* & two Prizes
 Sunday 31 AM Rec'd from the *Rose* 4 Casks of Pork
 Fresh Gales & Cloudy PM Rec'd from the *Rose* 50 barrs
 of Flour 1 Punchn of beef 1 Punchn of Rum & 1 hhd of
 Brandy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

NARRATIVE OF ANDREW ELLIOT ¹

[October 20, 1775-March 31] ²

Every thing again went on quietly in the Custom House line, (and the Collector was often employed to go on board the Governor's Ship with messages &ca) until December when General Lee and the Connecticut Troops took possession of the Town; ³ The Collector then obtained leave from the New York Congress to send his Family to New Jersey, and leaving his own house in the Country Lodged in Town and still continued doing his duty without interruption till March 1776, when he received from Captain Parker of His Majesty's Ship *Phoenix* a Copy of the Act of Parliament stoping all Trade with the revolted Colonies, and being the same day warned with others to assist at the Fortifications, he immediately applyed to Lord Sterling then Commanding at New York for Leave to join his family in New Jersey which was granted with a boat and Officer to see him off; The Collector to prevent suspicion of his carrying off Papers (which he could not have done as he was going amongst the Rebels) did not go to the Custom House, but with a Servant and a small open trunk went on board the boat for Amboy in New Jersey having previously directed his deputy to lock up all Papers and Books that were in the Custom House.

1. Andrew Elliot Papers, Box 1, folder 6, NYSL.

2. Dates fixed by day after delegation of the New York Congress called on Elliot (October 19, 1775) and the day the Act of Parliament restricting all trade was received in New York. Elliot specifies this as in March, it could have been no earlier than the 31st of that month, since Shuldhham, off Boston, did not receive it until March 24, 1776, by H.M.S. *Milford*.

3. Lee arrived in New York February 4, 1776; not in December, 1775.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

March 1776 C[ape] Henlopen NbW 22 Leagues
 Monday 25th At Noon exercised the Ships company at the upper
 Deck Guns, the *Maria* Tender in Company.²
 Fresh breezes the first part, middle and latter light airs
 and fair weather, Sounded every hour, at 6 in the after-

noon Cape Henlopen lighthouse WNW 4 miles, at 7 Run upon the Beach and at $\frac{1}{2}$ after backed her off without the least apparent damage, and at 8 Anchored in Old Hoar kill road in 5 fathoms, the light house SE $\frac{1}{2}$ S 1 Mile

Tuesday 26th

At 8 in the Morning Saw a Sail Standing up the Bay, sent the Boats Manned and Armed after her; Exercised great Guns and Small Arms, lost off the cables three Hamocks.

Ditto weather the Boats returned with a Small Pilot Boat Schooner, in Ballast, and nobody on board her;³ Armed her and put a Lieutenant ⁴ and Several Men into her, sent her and the *Maria* after two Small Sloops coming down the Bay, which they took and brought on board, one in Ballast, and the other with Groceries, which I distributed amongst the Ships company:

Wednesday 27th

the Pilot Boat Tender, commanding by Lt [George] Ball gave chase to a Sloop without the Capes, sent the *Maria* to Second her; at Noon Scutled and Sunk the Two Sloops alongside.⁵

The first part fresh gales and clear, latter moderate and hazy;

Thursday 28th

In the morning Saw Several Sail in the Offing, the Tenders out examining all Sails in Sight, exercised great Guns and Small Arms.

Moderate and cloudy weather, in the afternoon found the Mizzen topsail Yard was Sprung, Ordered the Carpenter to make a new one; On the appearance of Several Small Vessels heaving in Sight from Sea, weighed and gave Chace, at 6 Spoke a Sloop in Ballast from New England taken by the Pilotboat,⁶ at 7 brought too and was joined by the *Maria* Tender, and at 8 made Sail after a Rebel Sloop of 10 Guns, which had chaced the *Maria* ⁷ at 10 lost sight of the chase, and made Sail towards the Lighthouse and Sent the *Maria* and Cutter after a Sloop which had anchored within the Hen and Chickens

Friday 29th

at 2 in the Morning they returned with her, a Sloop in Ballast;⁸ At Noon Anchored and Exercised great Guns and Small arms. Found that the Pilot Boat Lieutenant Ball had drove on shore the preceding day, and was lost, with a quantity of Ordnance, Small Arms & ca⁹ First part moderate and cloudy, the latter hard gales with heavy rain and loud thunder; at 2 In the afternoon the *Maria* brought in a Small Sloop laden with Oats

for Philadelphia¹⁰ at 5 Made Sail after a Brig and a Sloop laying under Cape May

Saturday 30th at 2 in the morning being exceeding bad weather anchored in 6 fathoms, the Lighthouse SSet at 6 Observed the Two Sloops taken the preceding [day] on Shore off Lewes Town, Struck yards and Topmasts. Fresh Gales and very Squally weather the first and middle parts, latter moderate and fair, at 10 PM got up the Yards and Topmasts,

Sunday 31st at 6 in the morning weighed and made Sail after a Brig under Cape May, but being obliged to go round the overfalls, at 8 lost sight of her,¹¹ at 10 took the *Maria* in Tow, and Stood in for the Lighthouse. Moderate and cloudy weather at 2 in the afternoon Cape Henlopen WbN $\frac{1}{2}$ N distant 4 Leagues, at 7 cast off the *Maria*, at 9 Anchored in Hoar Killroad in 7 fathoms water, the Lighthouse SSet

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.
2. *Ibid.*, the *Maria* had joined Hamond on March 22, coming from Norfolk, and he "manned and armed" her.
3. The schooner had been a Cape Henlopen pilot boat which had been abandoned by its crew who rowed safely ashore.
4. The master's log of the *Roebuck* reads: "arnd the Schooner . . . Lieut Ball proceeded without the Capes to look out." PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.
5. The two sloops were described in Howe's Prize List of March 31, 1777, as "A Small Sloop nobody on board," in ballast, destroyed; *Polly*, William Bowen, master and owner, from Philadelphia to North Carolina with "9 lb. Shot, Iron & Groceries." PRO, Admiralty 1/487. Henry Fisher, writing from the Cape on April 1, further identifies the trio of sloops as "a Small Sloop then lying in the road, belonging to Egg-harbour in ballast . . . two other small sloops from Philadelphia, One to Synnepuxon the other to North Carolina," Papers CC (State Papers, 1775-91), 69, 113, NA.
6. The sloop *Dove*, T. Atkins, master, M. Denie, owner, from Plymouth for Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
7. This engagement was with the Continental sloop *Hornet*, William Stone, commander. See Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 32.
8. The sloop *Dolphin*, T. Burgess, master, J. Simpson, owner, from Dartmouth for Philadelphia, in ballast, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
9. See Henry Fisher to Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, April 1, 1776.
10. The sloop *Betsey*, C. Wey, master, W. Shepherd, owner from Chincoteague for Philadelphia, with oats and tobacco, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
11. The Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain John Barry, which, "on Sunday Morning went out - The Ship and Tender put out to Sea after the Brig but returned on Sunday evening into the road," Henry Fisher's letter, April 1, 1776.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY¹

[February 18, 1776 to March 31, 1776]

we then sailed together, and our Rendezvous was at the Island of Abico, [on arriving there, we proceeded directly to New Providence (one of the Bahama Isles)] The town & Fort surrendered to us with the Ships & Vessels in the harbour, without making any resistance we secured all the cannon,

powder, Morter shells &c, that was there, and left the Island on our return we had bad weather,]² and one night the *Fly* tender ran foul of us & carried away our Mast-head & Boom;³ in the morning we were almost a wreck, in this situation we did every thing in our power, and proceeded for the Coast of S.Carolina, where we were beating off & on for several days; we sent a boat on shore, but the bad weather preventing her returning or our staying on the Coast, we then proceeded to the Northward and about the 1st. April 1776 arrived off the Delaware, we sent a Boat on shore for a pilot, a little to the southward of the Capes; one came off, & gave us information that the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns was at anchor in the roads that he had a tender which cruised off & on, to stop the Americans.⁴ to avoid her we steerd over to Cape May; on our way we fell in with the tender, our Guns were housed; of course they could not distinguish what we were; she came close alongside of us, at which instant I was running out one of our Guns & had a match in my hand to fire at her when our Captain, ordered me not to fire as he had no inclination of shedding blood!!!⁵ when the tender immediately sheered off, by which means she escaped us,⁶ & our Captain was regarded by all on board as a Coward, indeed he had for several weeks before been constantly inclined to praying & to a religious turn; we went into the Delaware Bay by Cape May Channel, but from the foggy weather the pilot run us on shore on Egg Island Flats, where we had our rudder knocked off, the weather was very cold & our crew suffered much, all the officers except myself & the Captain were sick, and he dare not come upon Deck after what had happened the day before.

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.
2. The bracketed sentences are inaccurate, as the *Hornet* never reached the Bahamas with the fleet. Even later recollections and faulty memory cannot account for Barney's false claim to participation in the capture of New Providence.
3. The collision with the *Fly* occurred on February 21, 1776, just three days after the fleet sailed from the Delaware.
4. According to Henry Fisher at Lewes, the *Hornet* appeared near Indian River on March 29, 1776, "and sent on shore and got a Pilot," See Fisher to Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, April 1, 1776.
5. In the margin appears "note; the Match Staff." This apparently refers to an account that "... impelled by an irresistable impulse of indignation, he forgot for a moment the respect due to discipline, and threw the match stick at the head of his commanding officer - the latter managed to avoid the blow by a rapid movement within the door of the round-house, or poop-quarter-deck, into the frame of which the iron point of the match-stick entered and stuck fast!" Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 33.
6. This encounter, which was with the tender *Maria*, according to the journal of the *Roebuck* occurred on the afternoon or late evening of March 28. This would indicate that, if Henry Fisher's date is correct, the *Hornet* picked up the pilot after, rather than before, the meeting with the tender.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence*¹

[Baltimore]

Recd March 31st 1776 of Capt James Nicholson On Accot Ship *Defence*

Thirty Shills for the Use of two Horses & Myself Guarding William Jones a
Deserter from sd Ship from Harford Jail to this place [his]

£ 1.10.0

Wm X May
[mark]

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

ACCOUNT OF BRIG *Wicked Dick* [Wild Duck] ¹

[March 31, 1776] ²

The Brig *Wicked Dick*

To amount of Vessell and stores & Accot rendered £1703..4..2 stated

To sundry Stores deld here viz.

25 Canon Worms cost p	9..3..0	
1 Star Shot	0..3..0	
112 packs Grape Shot	14..0..0	
1 Iron ramrod	..4..0	
22 packs Langrige	5..4..0	
12 do Grape Shot	2..2..0	
32 Iron Bolts	4..1..-	
4 p Swivels	72..0..0	
97tc Shot	8..4..0	
260 Balls	14..0..0	
4 Cowhorns	80..0..0	
3 p of one Powder	105..0..0	
96 Cutlasses	66..0..0	
316 t Sheat Cad	21..2..0	
½ ps Duck used for T. Paulins	6..1..0	
25 tcs powder used in sealing } a 4/6	18..6..0	
	427..6..0	127..8..0

Vanbebbbers Commission 5 pCent

1830.12..2

91..3..7

1921.15..9

To Amount of Capt Chews Accot
disbursements

163..4..9

2085..0..6

deduct 10 pCent difference of Money

189.10.11

1895..9..7 Maryland.

To amt of Capt [James] Tibbetts }
Accot disbursments and
Wages as near as can be ascertained }

165..0..0

£2060..9..7

1. MdHS.

2. Approximate date.

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR GENERAL SIR HENRY CLINTON ¹

[February 27 to March 31, 1776]

From this day to the 9th of March, we were buffeted by violent Storms in Shoal Water. & on the Most dangerous Coast. The Frigate too in which I Sailed did not appear to be in very fit Condition for Combating so boisterous a Season. having been some time before (as I was Inform'd) thought in too bad Condition to be trusted on a voyage at that season even to Halifax for repair. The Tediousness of the Passage, however, gave me most anxiety, As Lord Dunmore had inform'd me, that the Regulators & Highlanders of North Carolina were Embodied & then on their March to Wilmington. & I had every reason to expect that the Fleet from Ireland must be by this time on the Coast. being now join'd by the *Syren*, Frigate, with Lord William Campbell on Board,² we had the Pleasure at last of Coming to an anchor within the Cape on the 12th without Loss or Accident. There was no sign however of the Irish Fleet, and to add to our Mortification Governor Martin³ Communicated to me, the Melancholy Tidings that the Kings Friends in the Back Country (whom he had invited to Arm in January in full Confiden[ce] of its arrival) had been attack'd by the rebels on the 27th of February, & after meeting with some loss were now totally dispers'd & many of them in Confinement. I found also from Lord W Campbells account of his Province, that the Loyalists there, overflowing with zeal & elated with some advantages they had gain'd over the rebels, had been equally precipitate in showing themselves [and] Consequently overpowered & disarm'd, & many imprisoned. All these Misfortunes were occasioned by the Extraordinary delay of the Armament from Corke, and our stock of Provisions so reduced, that if the Fleet had not arrived, the Consequence might have been most fatal.

These were but gloomy forebodings of my future Success. I had the Pleasure however to find that the Governors were not dispirited. th[ough] they had both been driven for shelter on board ships of War. I was therefore happy I had it in my power at least to give them an opportunity of stretching their Legs on Shore. by landing the few Men I had with me. (two light Companies)⁴

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

2. Lord William Campbell came on board the *Mercury* from the *Syren* on March 11, 1776, journal of the *Mercury*, PRO, Admiralty 51/600.

3. *Ibid.*, Governor Josiah Martin was saluted upon the arrival of the frigate in Cape Fear harbor on March 16, 1776.

4. *Ibid.*, as the Marines from the *Mercury* were sent ashore to exercise on March 29, 1776; it is likely that the light infantry landed about the same time.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. ARMED VESSEL *Cherokee* ¹

March 1776

Moored at Cockspur Savannah river

Saturday 30

The first and Latter parts fresh breezes and fair the middle part Light Airs Inclining to Calms at 2 pm sailed hence His Majestys Ship *Scarborough* in Company with the *Tamer*,



Sir Henry Clinton..



Sir Peter Parker.

Hinchinbrook, *Symmetry*, *Whitby* and all the outward bound merchantmen at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 weighed and came to Sail at 4 Ditto Anchored at Cockspur with the small bower in 3 fm at Low Water at 6 Do veered away and moored with the Bt Br to the ESE a whole Cable on the small bower and $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable on the Bt Br

Sunday 31st At 6 AM Died of his Wounds Mr James Nichols a Volunteer who was shot in his Head by the Rebels on Tybe Island the 26th [25] Inst Do recd from the *St John* Sloop our four Guns of 3 Pounds

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

March 1776 Tybey So 68° Wt 23 leagues

[Saturday] 30 fresh breezes & hazy at 1 PM got under weigh in Co with the *Scarborough*, *St Lawrence*, *Symmetry* & *Whitby* Transports with a Ship, Brig & Schooner Prizes,² at 3 got over the Barr at 5 the Light house Wt 10 Miles.

[Sunday] 31 At 9 AM hove too and Sounded 21 fm fresh Gales & Clear $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 made Sail at 2 PM parted Co with his Maj's Schooner *St Lawrence*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

2. Ship *Rittenhouse*, brig *Georgia Packet*, and schooner *Violenti*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

March 76 At a Single Anchor off the [Tybee] Light House.

Saturday 30th AM punished Josh De Lahoe with a dozen lashes for drunkenness took up the stream Anchor, Hoisted the Longboat in & lashed her, made the *tamer's* Signal for the Captain; lost in sounding the River a Hand lead & line, put on board the *Volante* Prize Schooner,² to Clear the Ship being very much Cumber'd, to carry to Boston under our Convoy & likewise to water her, [torn] Hhds, staves fifteen hundred & Sixty, five hundred & forty pieces of Heading, water Barrells Eighteen, Hhds eight full hoop'd with Eight Hundred & Sixty loose Hoops.

Fresh Breezes & Hazy wr at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 weighed & made sail, in Company His Majys Sloop *Tamer St Lawrence* Schooner, 2 Transports, 3 prizes and several Merchant Vessels, at 3 P M shortned said & brot too Mn Sl to the Mast, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 made sail, Tybee Light House WbS 5 Leags at 6 made the *St Lawrence's* Signal to keep astern of the fleet & a signal for the Convoy to keep together, the Convoy in Company

Sunday 31st Tybee S78° West distt 26 Leags

A M in Co as before, at 8 lay too & Hoisted the Cutter out, made the *Rittenhouse's*³ signal to speak her, $\frac{1}{2}$ past parted Co

the Merchant Vessels, made the *St Lawrence's* Signal for an officer, at noon the *Tamer*, *St Lawrence* *Whitby*, *Symetry* & 3 prizes in Company. –

First part Modte Breezes & Hazy wr Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Hazy at 1 P M made sail, the *St Lawrence* parted Co with us, at 6 the Convoy in Co made the *Tamer's* Signal to keep a stern of the Fleet, Handed the Mizn TS at 9 shortened sail for the fleet to keep up, in Co as above;

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *Ibid.*, the schooner *Violenti*, taken February 1, 1776.

3. The ship *Rittenhouse*, Ambrose Bartlett, master, from Lisbon for Philadelphia, taken December 28, 1775, by H.M. Sloop *Raven*, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO JOHN PAGE¹

[Extract]

My dear Sir, During the long Period that I have been absent from Virginia I have not had the pleasure [of] a Line from you, nor indeed from any one of my Friends in York, Williamsburg or Gloster. I am willing to impute this to Accident and the Interruption to Communication between this place and the Continent. That Interruption is now likely to be greater than ever, as we have had an authentic Copy of the Act of parliament prohibiting all Trade and Intercourse whatsoever with any of the united Colonies, and subjecting all vessels to forfeiture for a Breach thereof. God knows what infatuated Blindness prevails among a set of Men who seem to have resigned the important Interest of the British Nation, to the Calls of Ambition and the Considerations of Conquest. By this act all American property is to be considered in the same Light as that of an open and declared Enemy. Is not this enough to drive them to adopt the Character they impose upon them? I must acknowledge myself as blind as they are, if by such Measures they do not endanger the very Existence of the British Empire, which if once dismembered of so valuable a Branch as the American Colonies must soon dwindle: loose it's Importance in the political Scale of Europe & perhaps finally become a Province of some of those Powers which she scarcely considered as formidable Rivals whilst her united and Collected Strength remained. Every Friend to his Country and it's Constitution must survey with Horror the Approaching Scene of Bloodshed and Devastation – The once happy people of Gr: Britain and America instead of cooperating with each other for the mutual Interest of both Countries, are now about to imbue their hands in the Blood of those whom they once regarded as parents. Brethern and Friends – The Genius of Commerce is put to flight by the Din of Arms, and the rustic allarmed at the sound of the martial Trumpet quits his plough and brandishes the sword. . . . Are the people of this Island and the rest of the West Indies to be sacrificed to the Ambition of [illegible] Minister and a corrupt parliament? Or is this blood to be received as an expiatory offering for the Lives of a People over whom Councils or Conduct they have neither power nor Influence? . . . Hitherto,

the Hand of Providence has indulgently supplied us with a sufficiency for our subsistence – But at present there is not a morsal of Provisions to be sold in the whole Island except a few thousand Bushells of Wheat which were sent here in Consequence of the Scheme I mentioned, and which were prevented from being exported by an Act of the Legislature – The people, however, have no other Means of manufacturing it but by grinding in hand Mills, so that the expedient must be wretched on any other occasion – When that is consumed, as we have no prospect of any further supplies we must resign ourselves to our cruel Fate and perish in the Arms of each other. The Tortures of the Rack must be more tollerable than a scene of such universal Distress. May propitious heaven avert it! but I fear the deadly blow is inevitable. . . .

St: George Tucker

Bermuda March 31st. 1776

The Honourable John Page Esquire, One of the Members of the Council of safety for the Colony of Virginia.
via South Carolina.

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO THE CAPTAINS UNDER HIS COMMAND¹

(a Copy)
General }
No 13 }

Whereas I have received Information that sundry Vessels from the West India Islands, Laden with Gunpowder, and Military Stores for North America, pass under French Colours, and Papers, and have onboard them a Nominal French Master, pretending likewise to be bound to the Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, (on the Coast of Newfoundland) thinking to pass for French Vessels and to elude the Vigilance of our Cruizers, and thereby Cover the property of the Rebels.

You are hereby required and directed carefully to Examine all Vessels you may fall in with answering the foregoing description, and should you, on a strict and diligent search, (which is to be made with Decency and without insult) find such Lading of Gunpowder, and Military Stores on board them; You are to Seize them forthwith, and bring or send them to me to English harbour Antigua, to be proceeded against according to Law; for which this shall be your Order.

Given under my Hand at English
Harbour, Antigua the 31st March 1776.

To The Respective Captains
of His Majesty's Ships *Portland*, *Experiment*,
Argo, *Hind*, *Lynx*, and *Pomona*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

March 1776 Moored in Bridge or Carlisle Bay Barbadoes
Sunday 31st at 6 A M unmoored Ship, at 10 Broke the Small Bower Cable
and Came to Sail, found Our Cables Rubbed in Several places,
at Noon took a prize an English Brigg from Falmouth New
England Bound to Barbadoes. Sent the Gunner, a Petty offi-
cer and 8 Seamen to take her to Antigua, to be tried there in
a Court of Admiralty.²

- On the 25th of February last on my homeward bound passage from Point a P[e]tre on Grand Terre, about two leagues distant from Cape-Ann, I fell in with and was taken by the *Lively* sloop of war and carried into Boston,² the next day was put on board the *Renown*,—[Francis] Banks commander, as we came on board Capt. Banks ordered us, with what bun-

dles of cloaths, bedding &c. we had with us on the Quarter Deck, then called for, and ordered the 2d lieutenant, and master at arms, to search our beds, overhall all our bundles of cloaths, to see if there was any money amongst them, then turning to us said I will search you myself, and that well too you scoundrels, whilst they were opening and searching our bundles, agreeable to Capt. Banks's directions, they began their search upon us, under his immediate inspection, by stripping off our cloaths, and critically searching every place in the lining halled off our boots, searched our stockings, halled down our breeches about our legs searched their linings, and left no place unsearched where a farthing might be concealed, and continued the whole time breathing out slaughter and death upon us, for no crime, or supposed crime, unless our being born in America can be esteemed such, after getting through with this branch, of his inhumane and unnatural procedure and robbing me of fourteen Johannes, and Capt. Ephraim Little of about one hundred more, he called for and delivered us up to the Boatswain with an express injunction to take us on the Main Deck, and see to it that we were kept constantly at hard labour, adding; if we made the least difficulty about complying with this his commands, the boatswain, must inform him, and he would order us immediately flogg'd his commands in this matter were strictly complied with, we, I mean, all the masters of American vessels who have of late, unfortunately fell into their hands, were constantly kept at the hardest and most ignominious services on board and were from day to day loaded with curses and reproaches, from the principal officers, and that whilst there was constantly a ready compliance with his unrighteous and inhumane commands, and as though it were not a sufficient punishment, for having been born in America, and not found in arms, against our country to be reduced from comfortable circumstances, our families robbed, of all means of subsistence, and we pillaged of the last farthing, which might serve to supply our present necessary expences, or replace our cloathing which we were, in a great measure robbed; we were commanded and constantly insulted, without reply, by men far inferior to those formerly under our command, having the breath of Hell continually flaming about our ears, and this unequal to vent the malignity of their souls, informed us our torments were to be perpetual, by assuring us we should never again set our feet on American ground. Thus they continued tormenting us, till by these devices, and being constantly kept on short allowance, several of our people judged themselves excuseable, in yielding to their solicitations by entering on board an East Indiaman, with an assurance of being sent to that country, and there kept at hard service, during the remainder of our lives, being worn out by continual fatigue and constant reproaches, I grew sick of a life not worth enjoying. I resolved to attempt an escape at all hazards, and in the night between the 20th and 21st. of March last, finding the watch on deck asleep, I cut away a boat from along side, and got on shore on Point Shirley, and am influenced to publish this narrative, not only that the truth might appear, but at the earnest desire, and in consequence of an agreement

of a number of Ameri[can ship-]masters, who still labour under these distressing circumstances.

Sign'd Daniel Lunt

Newbury-Port, April 1st, 1776.

N.B. In consequence of an agreement with my brethren whilst under this more than Egyptian bondage, which ever of us should be fortunate enough to make his escape, was to have proceeded immediately to Head Quarters, and given General Washington an account of the matter, but by the many hardships I endured, whilst under the controul of these deserters from the infernal pit, I was so far reduced as to be by no means able to comply with this part of our agreement, and since I have got home I have been for the most part confined to my house, and not able to write, which may apologize for my neglecting this publication so long. Let not the friends of those now in their hands, fear more severity from this publications falling into the hands of our enemies, greater severity is impossible. Our friends in their hands, will find a sure assylum in death, which they will at any one day meet with pleasure. – Will not God revenge our righteous cause.

P.S. In justice to Capt. [Thomas] Bishop, commander of the *Lively*, I would inform the public, that I was treated with kindness and humanity all the time I was with him.

[Endorsed] in Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety. }
Newbury Port, April 19, 1776. }

Voted. That the several Printers on the Continent, be, and hereby are desired, to publish the foregoing narrative of Capt. Daniel Lunt's, and we do hereby certify, that the said Capt. Lunt was born and brought up amongst us, and is esteemed a man of truth, and we think full credit may be paid to the said narrative.

By order of the Committee,

Jonathan Titcomb, Chairman.

1. *Essex Journal*, April 19, 1776.

2. The sloop *Unity*, bound to Newburyport with a cargo of molasses and coffee, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

"A RETURN OF ARTILLERY & STORES IN BEVERLY & ON BOARD THE ARM'D
VESSELS" ¹

Number Guns	Size	Vessels Names	Commanders	Swivls	by whom Supply'd
6	4	<i>Hancock</i>	Commo [John] Manly	10	United Colos
2	2	<i>Lee</i>	Captn Watters	4	Do
2	4	<i>Warren</i>	Captn [William] Burke	-	Do
4	4	<i>Linch</i>	Capt [John] Ayres	6	Do
4	4	<i>Lee</i>	Capt. [Daniel] Waters	6	Collo Glover
2	4	<i>Warren</i>	Capt Burk	10	Do
2	4	<i>Franklin</i>	Capt [Samuel] Tucker	10	Do
4	2				
2	2	<i>Linch</i>	Capt Ayres	4	Do
3	4	Belonging to the Town together with 50 Shott for ditto 1 half Barrel of Powder & 40 Cartrages for 4 pounders 2 Half Barrels of Powder Taken Out of the Prizes Belonging to the Continent & Captures			
2	6				

William Bartlett Agent

Beverly 1 April 1776

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Head Quarters, Cambridge, April 1. 1776.

Sir: I have this moment received your favor of yesterday by Express, and shall take every necessary step to send you all the reinforcement I possibly can, and that without delay. General [Nathanael] Greene was to have march'd to day with five Regiments for Norwich, by way of Providence; I have ordered him to hasten his march. General [John] Sullivan with Six Regiments, set off last Friday Evening for Norwich; I have sent an Express after him, Ordering him to file off his Brigade for Providence. If the alarm should prove false, I must request the favor of you to send an Express to meet General Sullivan and order him to continue his route.

I am unacquainted with the Situation of Rhode Island and cannot tell how far it may be supported, but should think it advisable immediately to take the Stock from that and the neighbouring Islands, to prevent the Enemy from getting a supply of fresh provisions, which perhaps is their object. I make no doubt, you will take every necessary precaution to stop their progress, and you may depend upon being supported, as far as is in my power.

If it should be certain, that the Ministerial Army intend to effect a landing upon Rhode Island, I shall soon be with you; In the mean time I beg you will send me constant and particular Accounts of all occurrences, that you may think worth communicating. I am Sir etc.

P.S. upon second Consideration, I must request you at all events to send an Express immediately to Genl. Sullivan, whether the Alarm should prove true or false.²

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, 458-59.

2. *Ibid.*, 456-57, Washington notified Hancock of the Rhode Island alarm this date, and on April 4 informed him that the report proved false.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT.¹

[Watertown] Monday April 1st 1776

The Committee appointed to take into consideration a Letter from Tristram Dalton Esqr of Newbury Port,² and the Papers Accompanying the same, relative to the Brign *Unity* and her Cargo now lying in the West Indies, by reason of the death of Capt Michael Corbit, Master of said Brign in the Service of this Colony – [reported]

Resolved That Moses Gill, John Brown & Abraham Watson Esqrs be and they hereby are impowered and directed to employ some suitable person to proceed immediately to St. Thomass and dispose of said Brign & her Cargo in such manner as they shall think will be most for the Intrest of this Colony, and send or bring home the Neet proceeds of said Vessel and Cargo in Cash, or such Articles, as he shall think most advantageous to the Colony. –

Also Resolved, That there be allowed and paid out of the Public Treasury of this Colony unto Isaac Noyes, one of the Marriners belonging to the Brign *Unity*, the sum of Twenty Eight pounds, Two shillings & Eight pence, for his Wages, and the further sum of Two pounds five shillings for his Expences from York to this place and other Services in full to this date –

Resolved That there be paid to Mr Michael Hodge for the Use of the Committee of Correspondence &c. for Newbury Port, the sum of Nine hundred and fifty pounds, Eighteen shillings and Two pence, in full discharge of their Accounts Exhibited to this Court, for fitting out the Two Armed Vessels, called the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, and the Schooner *dilligent* Comanded by Capt Jeremiah Obrian, which was done by the Order of this Court. –

Further Resolved that the sum of Twenty One pounds four shillings & five pence be allowed and paid to Mr Michael Hodge for the Use of Jackson, Tracy & Tracy in full discharge of their Accot Exhibited to this Court for sundry Supplies which Capt Jeremiah Obrian received of the said Jackson, Tracy & Tracy for the Use of the Two abovesaid Armed Vessels, before the Committee of Correspondence for Newbury Port received the Order of Court –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 700, 702, 706.

2. Dalton's letter, addressed to Moses Gill, was presented to the House of Representatives on March 28. It was referred to Nathan Cushing and Major Cross, and the Council added Charles Chauncey to the committee.

JAMES OTIS TO THE KEEPER OF THE IPSWICH JAIL¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts By } The Major part of the Council –

To The Keeper of the Goal at Ipswich in the County of Essex –
Greeting You are hereby ordered & directed to receive into your Custody John Rich, who was Master of the Sloop *Success* & sent to the Genl. Court by the Comtee. of Safety of Majorbagaduce for supplying the Enemy in Boston with Provisions or necessarys for their Subsistance, the facts appearing by the deposition & papers attendg sd. Rich to be true – And you are him safely to keep until he shall give Bond with sufficient Surety to the Treasurer of this Colony – in the Sum of Two hundred pounds Conditioned, that he the said Rich will not supply our Enemies with any thing whatever or be anyways aiding & assisting thereto; and that he will not hold any Correspondence with them, nor have any connections with any person that shall be concerned with them and that he will be Accountable to the General Court in any breach of said Bond –

In the Name & by Order of the Council –

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] April 1st. 1776.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 287.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1776

Watertown, April 1:

We hear that the enemy left about 100 pieces of cannon at Castle William; but each of them either with a trunnion beat off, or spiked up.

Near or quite all the enemy's fleet lay below the Castle 'till Tuesday last, when a considerable part of them (said to be about one half) put to sea. The remainder (except 5 ships of war) sailed on Wednesday afternoon.

The general opinion is, that the enemy's fleet and army, lately fled from Boston, are bound for Halifax.

The man of war building at Portsmouth for the Continental service, will, it is said, be ready to launch in about a month.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ED[MUND] QUINCY ESQR TO COL
MIFFLIN DATED STOUGHTONHAM APRIL 1ST 1776”¹

A Captain & two Seamen that were taken by the Men of War deserted Fryday from the Fleet, they Say the first Division consisting of the *Foy* & *Nautullus* with 68 Transports sail'd for Halifax last Monday. the Second Division, Admiral Shulldham in the *Chatham* the *Centurion* and the *Lively* with 62 Transports sail'd Thursday, from all they could learn they were bound to the SoWard not half Mann'd and had been at short Allowance 14 Days – The *Renown* of 50 Guns, the *Senegal* of 28 & the *Hope* of 16 Guns mov'd from their station in King Road off the Light House for fear of our

fire Rafts, but its determined they shall put to Sea speedily – The *Niager* sail'd fryday with 6 Transports for Halifax, – had it not been for 6 Transports that came from Halifax with fresh provisions, kill'd aMonth ago, they could not have gone to Sea for some time unless forc'd by our Fire Rafts under the Command of Majr [Benjamin] Tupper, its said by a Vessel from London to the Fleet that 50 Sail of Merchantmen loaded was bound to Boston its to be hoped that Capt Manly will give some Account of them, – The whole Sail'd Mr Nutton says had not three Weeks provisions left, I hope the Philadelphia fleet will speak with those gone Southward – a large Morter 15½ Inch was fish'd up near Mr Row's Wharf where were also discovered at low Water a great Quantity of Shott Shells &c.

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, 9, NA.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Providence April 1th 1776.

I Yesterday wrote your Excellency that I had information by express from Newport that a large part of the Ministerial Fleet & Army were near that harbour, since which by the Intelligence I have further Received I am inclined to beleive that the fleet was not seen as was reported. The Alarm was given upon the following Occasion . . Three of the Soldiers being upon a rising Ground near the Town were positive they saw a Fleet within Seconet Point and counted distinctly Twenty one Sail. immediately upon this the Sheriff of the County of Newport dispatched an Express with the information. One of the Ensigns Also says that three large ships were seen off the Light house from Canonicut Yesterday at 11 oClock A.M. After having taken all the Measures that appeared necessary to collect a sufficient Force to oppose the Enemy I sent a person in whom I could confide to Newport who hath just returned and informs me that it seems to be the General Oppinion that no Fleet was descried; but that the persons were deceived by the weather which was very thick and foggy and hath so continued ever since. I think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency of this by my son who goes Express, and am with great Esteem and Respect, Sir [&c.]

Nicholas Cooke

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 585–86.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1776

Newport, April 1.

Last Wednesday the two brigs belonging to the ministerial fleet took a small sloop, a little to the eastward of this harbour; and the next day one of the brigs, a schooner and a small sloop tender, took two large sloops, one bound to Nantucket, loaded with provisions, &c. and the other to the West-Indies; and on Friday these cruisers took another sloop just without Seconet Rocks.¹

Last Saturday arrived here the *Nautilus* sloop of war from Boston, with a small tender, and a schooner taken on her passage.²

1. Shuldham's prize list for April 24, 1776, lists four sloops taken by the *Rose* and the vessels in her squadron, but gives no more information than their names and cargos: "*Sally*, Grain &c, *Greyhound*, *John*, *Snow Bird*, *Flour*." See journal of the *Rose*, March 21, 1776, for more information about *Sally*.
2. The *Nautilus* not only brought in the schooner *New York Packet*, E. Pringle, master and owner, from Philadelphia for Plymouth, but the sloop *John*, William Chace, master. See *Nautilus's* journal, March 28-31, 1776, under latter date.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON ¹

Dear Sir

Lebanon Ap'l 1st 1776.

On hearing that part of the Ministerial Fleet arriv'd at Newport Yesterday and the probability that some of them may Come and Lie before N London Harbour Gov'r Trumbull and Com'tee advise that you Send a Post directly to Capt. Francis at Saybrook to stop the Transports that are there untill further order and also advise that Capt. Francis Send out a Boat from Saybrook to Direct the Transports returning from N York to stop at Saybrook with those now there untill you have further directions. In haste from your affectionate Parent.

Jz. Huntington

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 34-35.

JOHN COTTON, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE ¹

Middletown Apl 1 - 1776

Sir, I Recd the Inclosed Directed to you and supposing it to Contain the peice of freight I made bould to Open it I Recd 49 bo[l]ts of Duck 29 Coils of Riging of Different sizes 2½ Cables with 5 hhds Oacan 7 Barrs of Jarman Steel and 448 Barrs Iron for which I have pd £4..16 Which you Must Charge to Capn [Josiah] Buck with 18 lb Riging a 9d I have Likewise Lett Mr Wallace in Mitchells Schooner have 25 lb of Spun yarn, if you Can Gett with you a Quantity of Old Canvas for parseling for the Ship I wold have you Doe So as we Shall Want a Quantity there is here a Sloops Main Sail Which I can have for 10£ if you Geet None With you Which is all Necessary from yr [&c.]

John Cotton Jun^r ²

1. Barnabas Deane Letters, ConnHS.
2. While Barnabas Deane was contractor for the frigate building in Connecticut, the actual builder was John Cotton, Jr. This vessel subsequently was named the *Trumbull*.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

New London April 1 A M 9 Clock

Honorable Sir This moment Mr Adam Babcock, came in (from Westerly this morning) and advises that he there saw an Order Issued by Colo [Joseph] Noyes to the several Militia Cpts under his Command (dated last night 12 Clock) to March imediately to Newport, haveing recd an Expres[s] from Colo Henry Babcock at Newport, dated yester[day] noon,

adviseing that 21 Ships had just arrived the[re] but did not say from whence they came – the l[etter] says the Ships are in the Offing; and the Express ad[ded] that four of the Ships were got abreast Newport, so[me] of the Fleet standing in on the East side the Islan[d] the others directly for the Harbor – This I thoug[ht] it my duty to advise Your Honor by Express [torn]

The two Plans of Fortifications that I shew'd yo[ur] Honor & left undesigned on your Desk, not supos[ing] they would be of any advantage to you, and as t[hey] perhaps may be of some advantage here, should [be] pleased to have them again when you please

I intended to have made a few observations on the Plan for the Neck – Namely that to finish the w[ork] as it now stands & described by the Picket line, as [it] is much more extensive then the other, & proposed [work] for 10 heavy Cannon (as in each Case) will be much m[ore] expensive than that proposed by the other Plan, and indeed to remove the Materials already used, to the [other] proposed work, will be 50 PCt less then to proc[eed] as the works are now began – If the Fort is to [be] inclosed the first Works will be vastly more expensive than necessary – it was ever my opinion to have the Front line East & West – Should in future days it be tho't necessary to make a Regular Fort, with Bastions, I conceive the Corners of the Plan are well calculated to be made into Bastions, & if the Fort should be tho't best to be a Square, it is only to extend the diameter N[o] & So so as to be equal to the E. & Wt – And if the Barr[acks] were sunk 6 feet under the Surface (as in the Grand B[arr]acks) The Parapat would Cover them from a Canon[ade] – And if the Fort should be made a Square, it w[ould] admit of a handsome Parade between the Barracks & Platform – I am Yr Honors [&c.]

G. Saltonstall

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 26a, 26b, ConnSL.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Lunae, 9 HO. A.M. April 1st, 1776.

A letter from Brigadier-General Heath, was received and read. He therein mentions that a sloop is arrived from Albany, with a number of women and children and baggage taken at St. John's, and sent here by Gen. Schuyler, on their way to New-Brunswick, that the captain was fearful of going to Brunswick lest his vessel might be detained by the ships of war on his return, and he requests the committee to take the management of obtaining a pass from Capt. Vandeput, for the sloop to go to Brunswick and return, which he doubts not will be readily granted, as it will obtain every convenience for the prisoners.²

Ordered, That a member wait on the General and inform him that there are boats here from Brunswick who will readily receive the prisoners and baggage and carry them to Brunswick, and that he request the General to order the prisoners and baggage to be sent by those boats.

Die Lunae, 4ho. P.M. April 1st 1776.

Simeon Deane, attended with a copy of an agreement, dated the 11th Jany. last, between Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin and others, a committee of secrecy of the Continental Congress, and Silas Deane and Barnabas Deane of the Colony of Connecticut, authorizing them to ship the produce of the United Colonies to proper ports in the foreign West Indies, and in Europe, to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, with an appointment thereon, dated the 21st of January, to Simeon Deane, to carry the said contract into execution.

Simeon Deane informed the Committee that he has had separate permits from Mr. Ray, and other gentlemen of this city, as a sub-committee of the general committee of the city, but that the whole exports in consequence of the agreement, do not much exceed half the sum permitted to be exported, and requested a farther permit for 230 barrels of flour.³

Ordered, That the general committee of the city of New-York, or the sub-committee of inspection and exportations, be at liberty to permit Simeon Deane on account of the said contract, to export from New-York to Connecticut, with design to be thence exported to some foreign port, 230 bbls. of flour, (on the usual terms or bonds on which he formerly exported,) in a sloop whereof John Reiley is master.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 395, 396.

2. See Heath to New York Committee of Safety, April 1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

3. "Permission is desired for two hundred and thirty barrels of Flour, to be shipped from this port for Connecticut River, on board Sloop, John Riley, Master, for account of the honourable Continental Congress, per order of Silas and Barnabas Deane, as per agreement to be now shown, which is not completed. Of this Simeon Deane can testify, and show his power of attorney for said Contract. The above flour consigned to Barnabas Deane. Simeon Deane New-York, April 1, 1776;" Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1422, printed from document later destroyed in the New York State Library fire.

CHARLES SMITH TO CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT, R.N.¹

Bridewell, [New York] Monday, April 1st, 1776.

Sir – I take the opportunity of doing myself the honour of acquainting you with my disagreeable situation, heving been close prisoner ever since I have been in York. I must do the New-England people justice under whose care I have been, that they behaved extremely well. Since their departure, the Yorkers took possession of the barracks, kept me much closer confined, and on Saturday afternoon gave me three days allowance that was due of pork and bread only, and conducted me safe in Bridewell since. I understand my allowance is to be five pence sterling per day, Bridewell allowance. I am beholden to the goodness of the jailer for my bed and blanket, or else I believe I might perish. I shall not, sir, trouble you will a detail of all my misfortunes, as they are in no wise pleasant, but take the liberty to subscribe myself, [&c.]

CS. Smith ²

P.S. King [Isaac] Sears, on my first arrival, called me rascal, and pushed me

on to jail with his sword. As to the sailors, I am sorry to inform you they are gone to Philadelphia, to go on board the privateers.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 183.

2. Smith, a mate of the *Asia*, was put on board the ship *Sally*, to convey her from New York to Boston and was driven ashore in a gale of wind at Montauk early in March. He and his crew and passengers were taken prisoners.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 1, 1776

Resolved, That Mr. [James] Mease, Commissary be directed to advance Captain [Bernard] Romans one month's pay for himself and the officers and men of his company, and also subsistence money to Albany.

Resolved, That Mr. M'Kean [Thomas McKean] and Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine be directed to examine the gaol [of Philadelphia] and particularly the apartments where [Moses] Kirkland, [Dr. John] Connolly, Smith [John F. D. Smyth] and [Allan] Cameron are confined, and report what is necessary to be done to have them safely and securely kept.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. M'Knight [James McKnight], and examine into his account, and the nature of his claim, and report thereon to Congress.²

The members chosen, Mr. R. [Robert] Morris, Mr. M'Kean [Thomas McKean], and Mr. [John] De Hart.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 243, 246.

2. McKnight was prize master of the sloop *Sally*, taken by the British sloop *General Gage*. He deliberately ran the prize ashore on the Jersey coast, and claimed his share in her cargo. For inventory of the *Sally's* cargo, and the former master's list of his private property, see next entry.

CLAIM OF JAMES MCKNIGHT, PRIZE MASTER OF SLOOP *Sally* ¹

To the Honble Continental Congress

To Wearing Apparel, Linen, a Watch &c	£25..0..0
Wages due to the time I was taken	4..0..0
Sundry Articles which I Carried as a venture	7..0..0
	<hr/>
	£36..0..0

The Sloop *Charming Sally* was cleared out from Domingo to New-found-land, as I saw the Clearance of her on board the Sloop *General Gage* – to which I could be Qualified if Called upon – The above is a Low Estimate of things belonging to me on board the sloop *Joseph*, Capt. Radden, when taken by the Sloop *Genl Gage* – on the 14th Feby 1776 –

signed: James McKnight ²

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 9, NA.

2. See Petition of Peter Simon, May 1, 1776.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR OUTFITTING THE CONTINENTAL BRIG
*Lexington*¹

1776 April 1 Stephen Hopkins Esqr for the Brig *Lexington*
To Joshua Humphreys

To Thos Thompson for	9 day[s]	@ 9/-	4..1..-
Joseph Bowers for	4½ do	do	2..0..6
Henry Rhile	4½ do	do	2..0..6
Joseph Fanning	2½ do	do	1..2..6
John patterson	2½ do	do	1..2..6
Jonathan Grice	2½ do	do	1..2..6
Reynold Wharton	4½ do	do	2..0..6
Charles Broadley	4½ do	do	2..0..6
Andr Smiley	2½ do	do	1..2..6
Wm Toy	4½ do	do	2..0..6
James Carr	9/ do	8/-	3.12..-
Rodger Herald	4½ do	@ 8/-	1.16..-
Apel Lee	4½ do	@ 7/-	1.11..6
Normond McLeod	4½ do	@ 6/6	1..9..3
113 feet 2 inch pine	@ 4d p		1.17..8
Joshua Humphreys Attendance			2..5..-
1 day 3 Stages	7/6		7..6
1 do 2 potts & Ladle	3/6		3..6
			<hr/> £31.15.11
1 Day John Mulloy			9..
	bill deliver'd		<hr/> £32..4.11

1. Wharton & Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts, 1773-1795, Joshua Humphreys Papers, HSP.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 1st April, 1776,

Resolved, That Nicholas Fitzsimmons be appointed 3rd Lieutenant to the Floating Battery.

Mr. [Angus] Macbean being brought before this Committee and charged with endeavouring to go on board one of the King's Ships in Delaware Bay, contrary to the direction of this Committee, upon application to them for that purpose, Upon hearing his defence, and fully examining and considering the same,

Resolved, That Mr. Macbean's proceeding down the River, on his said design, might have happen'd through a misapprehension of the Verbal answer given by this Board upon his said application, as only implying a refusal to grant him their authority for that purpose, from which he infer'd that he was at Liberty to attempt it, without such authority, if he could effect it; and altho' this Committee are of Opinion that his said Design was ill judged, and might have been attended with dangerous consequences, Yet it

does not appear that there is any ground to charge Mr. Macbean with any evil intentions, to the prejudice of this Country.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 531, 532.

PETITION OF WILLIAM DUNLAP TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Philadelphia, April 1st, 1776.

To the Honorable the Committee of Safety for the Province of Pennsylvania The Petition of William Dunlap Humbly Sheweth:

That your Petitioner hath been employed in the Command of a Vessel in the Merchant's Service on Lake Erie, and is well acquainted with the Navigation of that and the other Lakes. That going from Lake Ontario to New York, he was Stopped at Oswego by Guy Johnston, who carried him to Montreal where he was detained about five months.

That on the arrival of General Montgomery at Montreal, he was released, and by Permissions from the General and other officers, (which he begs leave herewith to lay before you) he proceeded to this City.

That he is desirous of entering into the service of America in such Employ as he shall be thought capable of, and therefore prays your Honorable Board will be pleased to make him such appointment as you shall see meet. And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, will ever pray.

William Dunlap.

1. Hazard. *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 593.

WILLIAM PRICE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honourable the Committee of Safety

The Petition of William Price of the City of Philadelphia Mariner last Warr Lieutenant of the Ship of Warr *Britania* Capn McPherson Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner deeply affected by the actual situation of this once happy and flourishing City and Province, and zealous to support the rights and liberties of the united American Colonies in general at the risque of his Life and Property, and deeply impressed with the shocking and piratical barbarities committed by some tenders belonging to the Men of Warr now cruizing on our coast, which in the opinion of your Petitioner might easily be prevented, and the entrance of this river be rendered more open and less dangerous to Vessels coming in and going out, He humbly proposes to this Honourable board the fitting out two good sailing sloops or schooners each to mount twelve six or four pounders with swivels and men in proportion whose destination shall be to cruize in the bay and along shore within and about the shoals, as far North as Egg harbour and as far South as the Capes of Virginia, by which means they will be sufficient to take and destroy separately whatever tenders they have or may fit out, and protect the Vessels going out or coming into this river, if this plan is approv[e]d of by your Honourable b[oa]rd your petitioner if agreeable is willing to undertake the

command of one of them, as he is capable of managing any Vessel of warr, and perswaded that those Vessels will be [e]ffectual against the Tenders, and in very little danger from the Men of Warr and frigates

And your petitioner will ever pray &c

Wi[llia]m Price

[Philadelphia April 1, 1776]²

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. The date is approximated. The British tenders first became active off the Delaware Capes in late March, 1776. The petition of Price may have been instrumental in the action of the Committee of Safety on April 2, 1776 to appoint a committee directed to seek a small vessel to fit out and cruise in Delaware bay against British tenders, *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 533.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Lewes April 1 1776.

On Monday evening last [March 25] a Man of War and her Tender came within the Pitch of our Cape and anchored – as you have been informed by last express – the Pilot Boat stationed near Lewes Creek's mouth did not discover the signal at the Light House, nor See the Ship that evening as it was near dark before she came to the Pitch of the Cape, And when the Alarm Guns were fired the People on Board the Boat, altho' they heard them very plain, imagined as they said that we were cleaning the Guns with a proof charge: Tuesday morning the Man of War's boat took My Pilot Boat, the wind being light and Northerly and Ebb Tide – but before they boarded her the hands in the Pilot Boat left her and Rowed on Shore at the Broad kill in their Skiff. – The same day the Man of War with their Tenders and Boats took a Small Sloop then laying in the Road belonging to Egg harbour in ballast the People of whom left her first in their Boat. they also took two other small sloops from Philadelphia One to Synnepuxon the other to North Carolina and on Wednesday sent them on shore in their own small Boats, Stripped and scuttled the afsd three Sloops and set them adrift, by these People we learned that it was Captain Hammond of the Kings Ship the *Roebuck* of forty four guns –

They made another Tender of the Pilot boat, sent her out took a New-England Sloop Bound to Philadelphia for Corn and that night laying to Near the Cape the hand at helm falling a Sleep let the Pilot Boat run on the Beach when the third Lieutenant their Pilot and two Sailors left her, went on the Cape and were taken on Thursday by our men. – We stripped the Pilot boat of every thing of value and found Ten Musquets and five Pistels which had been hove over the side where the boat lies – On Friday and Saturday they took nothing – On friday the Sloop *Hornet* appeared near Indian River and sent on shore and got a Pilot, but we have not seen her Since and the same evening the Brig [*Lexington*] Capt Barry came down under Cape May And on Sunday Morning went out – The Ship and Tender put out to Sea also after the Brig but returned on Sunday evening into the road² – We have been Day & Night on Guard both on the Cape and at Lewes and Pilot Town – The Several Companies of Militia from all Parts of

the County who live within twenty or five & twenty miles of Lewes came in as soon as they could be expected seemed all quite unanimous and hearty in the Cause determined to defend their Country. there has been near 1000 Men in at times the last Week so that we were obliged to discharge Many of them not having Occasion for half the Number. We prevailed on those lived at a distance to leave some of their Best of their Arms (for Numbers of them want Firelocks) which are not to be purchased,

On Saturday last Capt [Charles] Pope's Company of the Delaware Battalion of regular Soldiers came down from Kent all well equipped – How long the Ship intends to Stay here we cannot learn – If any thing Material should happen, I shall endeavour to let you know it. I am, Gentlemen [&c.]

Henry Fisher

To the Committee of Safety in Phila.
pr Mr Edwards

P S from what I Can Learn from the Prisoners that we have got you may dayly Expect Several Large ships, therefore, I hope, that you may be upon your Gaurd as, from what I Can Learn that they are to Come up your River – The Lieutenant & other Prisoners will be sent up to you to Morrow by land, or Else it shall Caust me A fall.

Henry Fisher

[Endorsements]

Lewistown April the 2, 1776

Four O Clock – To the Gentlemen that Keep the Stage Horses you are Required to let the bearer Mr Saml Edwards have them as he is one of the Stationed Pilots therefore Can Relate matters more Particular than I Can Write – H. F.

Cedar Creek April 2d 1776. 6 O Clock Thomas Evans.

Dover Tuesday 10 Minutes after Nine O Clock Arive Dispacht at 10 O Clock Apl 2d

Battle

Cantwell bridge Tuesday fifty two Minutes after one Dispached 10 Minutes after Two April 2d 1776 Math Delany

Wilmington Tuesday 38 minutes after 7 Oclock Arrived Express and Dispacht 55 Minutes after 7 Oclock April the 2d 1776 – Thos Kean

1. Papers CC (Pennsylvania State Papers), 69, I, 113–15, NA.

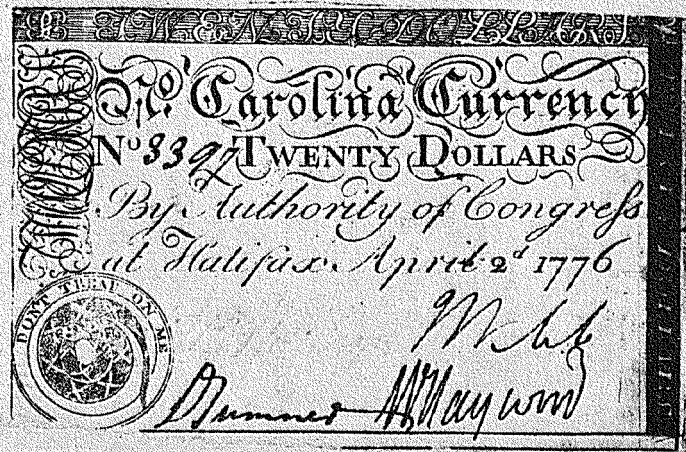
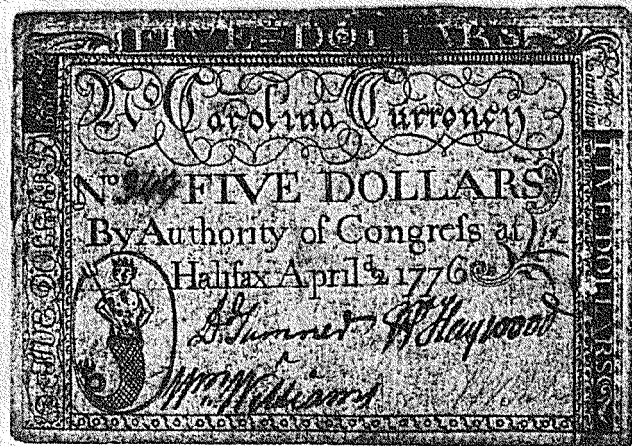
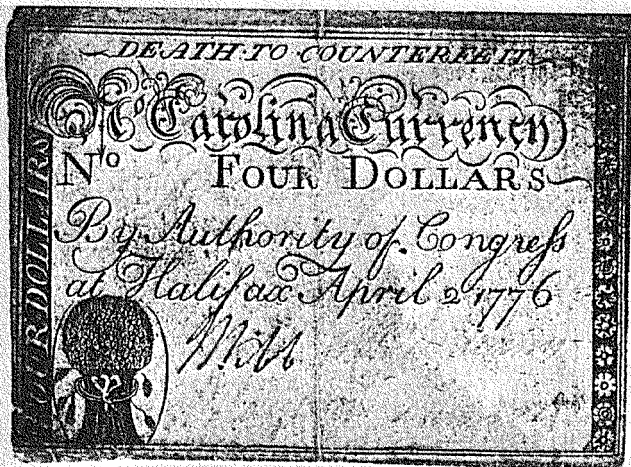
2. See journal of the *Roebuck*, March 25–31, 1776 and footnotes.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sirs

[Baltimore, April 1, 1776]

I have this day been call'd upon by our Committee to answer a Complaint that I Should have made against them, to you for takg the Schooner *Peggy*, & sending her for Plank for the Privateer – I'm Sorry you should so far misunderstand me as to put such a Construction on my words, as I did not mean any such thing I dare say Messrs Smith & Hall on reflection will recollect all that pass'd relative to that Vessell. viz.. That I immagined you



would not look upon our contract immediately binding, as She had been taken to Carry Plank on account of the Publick. Their answer was By no means. I have however got her again & Shall begin to load agreeable to our Contract in a few days

I am Gentn [&c.]

Hugh Young.

If you are writing to the Committee; I shall be much [pleased] by your Clearing up this matter as they Seem much [vexed] about it H Y

1. Red Book, XIII, 84, Md. Arch.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, 1st April, 1776.

Capt. Eliezar Callender is appointed to the command of the 2nd Cruiser to be employed in Rappahannock River, and Capt. [William] Green first mate. Celey Saunders is appointed Capt. to one Rowe Galley, to be employed in Rappahannock, and Wm. Saunders 1st Lieut. in same Galley.

James Markham is appointed Capt. of the 2nd Rowe Galley in s'd River.

The Comm'ee proceed to settle the wages of the several officers of the Navy and Marines, as follows: A commodore, 15s.; a captain, 8s. per day; first mate, 6s.; second mate, 4s.; boatswain, 3s., and a common sailor, 2s.; a captain of Marines, 6s.; a lieutenant, 4s.; a midshipman, 3s.; a marine, 1s.6d.; and that they ought to be engaged to continue in the service so long as may be judged necessary by the General Convention, Gen'l Assembly, or Comm'ee of Safety of this Colony, but not compelled to continue more than 2 years from the 10th of this month; to be subject to such regulations as shall be established for the navy by the s'd Convention or Assembly, and the sea officers to be upon half pay from the time of their several appointments 'til the respective vessels they are to serve on board of, are completely fitted for service, when their full pay is to commence; and the Marine Officer to be on half pay from the several appointments 'til the companies are reviewed, when the full pay is to commence, and the seamen and marines to be entitled to full wages from the time of their enlistment.

Ordered, a Letter be written to Mr. Meriw'r Smith to know whether his vessel is appraised and fitting for a cruiser acco. to former order, and if it is what progress is made therein, but if she is not begun to be fitted, that he be desired not to begin the repairing her, and in that case that Mann Page and Field. Lewis, Esqrs., be desired to purchase a proper vessel to be employed as the 2nd Cruiser in Rappahannock, and proceed to have her fitted up under the direction of Lieut. Wm. Green. (A Letter written accord'y.)

Colo. Lewis and Mr. Page are desired to send to Fort Cumberland for any cannon there belonging to this colony, also for one at Col. Cresops [Thomas Cresap] and empowered to purchase any other necessities which may be wanting for the vessels in Rappahannock river.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 146-48.

LIBEL AGAINST THE SHIP *America* ¹

[Cape Fear, April 1, 1776]

No Carolina ss. At a Court of Vice Admiralty held at Cape Fear in the said Province before his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esquire Surrogate of the said Court the first day of April 1776.

Francis Parry Esqr. Commander of his Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* now lying in Cape Fear River in the said Province on behalf of himself and the officers Seamen and others on board the said Sloop *Cruizer* Libells against the Ship *America* being a Vessell of the burthen of One hundred and thirty Tons or thereabouts, and against all the Owners and other parties concerned therein. For that the said Vessell was by the said Francis Parry found out and detected in a breach of the Acts of Trade, having on board three Hhds of foreign Rum as well as Sundry other Goods contrary to Law and also for that the said Ship *America* is become forfeited in Consequence of a late Act of Parliament made in the Second Session of the fourteenth Parliament of Great Britain and was taken since the first day of January last past Whereby the said Vessel or Ship called the *America* with all her Tackle, furniture, Boats and Apparel together with all her Cargo or Lading and every thing on board of her are become forfeited in Law.

Filed upon the Motion of Mr Macknight

W^m Campbell Register

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Experiment*, DATED ENGLISH HARBOUR, IN ANTIGUA, APRIL 1." ¹

We arrived here the 17th of January, after a long and tedious Passage. . . . We took three Prizes off the Western Islands, and sent them to England. . . . We took a rich Ship on the Coast of America, called the *Two Brothers*, from Rhode Island, laden with Flour and Spermaceti Candles. We sold her here for 6500 l The *Hawke* and *Viper* are put in here dismasted, being blown off the Coast of America, with twenty four Transports, with Stores and Provisions for the Troops at Boston, all dismasted. We are all now refitted, and shall sail again for Boston in a few Days, and hope to pick up some more Prizes.

1. *Public Advertiser*, London, June 7, 1776.

2 Apr.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday April 2, 1776

Whereas one John Rich who was Master of the Sloop *Success* and sent to this Court by the Comee of Safety of Majorbagaduce for supplying the Enemy in Boston some time past with Provisions or necessarys for their Subsistance, The facts appearing by the depositions & papers attending said

Rich to be true. Therefore Resolved that the said Rich be committed to some Goal in this Colony which the Council shall direct till the further order of this Court, upon failure of his giving Bond with Sureties agreeable to a former Resolve of this Court.

In Council Read and Concurred & thereupon

Ordered that the said Rich be sent to the Goal at Ipswich

The Committee of both Houses appointed to enquire of Monsieur Le Baron de Woldcke Chavelier del' Order de St Jean de Jerusalem & de Malta – relative to the design the Captain in whose Vessel he came, had of going into Boston &c. Report, that from the Account Le Baron gave of the matter there was reason to suppose the Frenchman designed to go into Boston with his Cargo, but upon his being heard in his own Justification, and evidence given by Capt Folgier who left the West Indies but a few days before him, the Comee were of Opinion that on the whole it was best to give him up his Papers & admit him to sell his Cargo – The Committee are further of Opinion that the Honble James Otis Esqr before whom Le Baron was Examined, and by whom he was forwarded to the Council, had great reason to suppose that the Master had formed a design of going into Boston, that his Honors Conduct herein merits applause, and that the account of the Expences he laid before the Committee of Accots for Examination & allowance [be paid] –

Petition of Caleb Green for and in behalf, of John Akin Joseph Russell, Henry Wait, John Barrow, Willm Taylor and Walter Wood – setting forth that the said John Akin as master of the Sloop *Greyhound*, and the sd Russell, Wait, Barrow, Taylor, & Wood, as mate & Marriners sailed some time in March last in the Colony Service for Philadelphia; that on the Twenty seventh or Twenty Eighth day of March being on their return from Philadelphia they were taken by One of the Tenders, belonging to the King of Great Britain, that One Wallace the Capt of the Tender is ready to Exchange the said Capt & Marriners for as many Prisoners being delivered to him, and he threatens unless a speedy exchange is made to send the said Master & Marri-ners to Great Britain. Wherefore your Petitioner for and in behalf of the Master & Marriners humbly prays that the Honle Court would order an Exchange of Prisoners, that thereby the said master & Marriners may not be put to any further hardship & damage. –

Resolved that Caleb Green the within Petitioner, be allowed to receive of the Prison Keeper of Taunton, Six persons who have been taken from the Navy under the command of One Capt Wallis ² now in Newport – The said Caleb giving his Bond to the Sheriff of the County of Bristol, to & for the use of this Colony in the Penal Sum of One hundred pounds, Condition'd that in Case he shall not exchange the Prisoners as aforesaid whom he shall receive for the above, John, Joseph, Henry, John, Taylor & Wood, he will return the Prisoners whom he shall receive for the above Persons to the Prison Keeper in sd Taunton within fourteen days from the time he shall receive sd Prisoners, and the keeper of said Prison is hereby directed to con-

form himself according to this Order, provided the said Caleb Green shall give Security as above directed. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 708, 709, 710–11.

2. Captain James Wallace, H.M.S. *Rose*. The capture of the *Greyhound* is recorded in Shulldham's prize list of April 24, 1776. It was probably made by Wallace's nephew in the tender *Hawke*.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO RICHARD FISHER¹

Memo

In Case of Separation by any unavoidable Accident you are to make the best of your way to Halifax in Nova Scotia
Rose 2d April 1776 [off Newport].

Ja^s Wallace

To Mr Richard Fisher Not to be Open'd But in Case
of Separation from the *Rose* then may be Open'd

[Cargo list]	flour	Beef	Pork	Spirit
	294	— 21	— 42	7.3.1

*Hannah*²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

2. The sloop *Hannah* had been taken in Narragansett Bay in late March by Wallace's squadron. The above memo was found on board when a dozen men from Mount Desert retook the sloop on its way to Halifax. See under April 15, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon Tuesday,] April 2d, 1776

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for three hundred and fifty pounds, in favour of Captain Uriah Hayden, to enable him to carry on the building of the Colony ship at Saybrook, and render his account when required. *The order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Ephm Bill for £ 350.*

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for two hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. Ephraim Bill, to enable him to promote the building and rigging the Colony ship at Saybrook, and render his account when required. *The order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Ephm Bill for £ 200.*

Voted, That Capt. Richard Dickinson of Saybrook be ordered to deliver up the several articles in his hands and custody that did belong to the brig *Minerva*, lately commanded by Capt. Giles Hall, to Capt. Ephraim Bill, taking his receipt for the same when delivered. *An order was given accordingly April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Bill*

Capt. Seth Harding, of the Colony brig *Defence*, was complained of to this Board for being guilty of intemperance, upon which he appeared, and the evidence on both sides were fully heard and considered by his Honor the Governor and this Council, but cannot find cause to remove him.

Voted, That Mr. James Tilly be desired to purchase two tons of flax for the use of the Colony ship, for cordage.

Voted, That Capt. John McCleave is appointed Captain of the row-gal-

ley *Whiting*, building in New Haven, and that he take the charge and command of her accordingly.

Voted, That Israel Bishop is appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley *Whiting*, now building in New Haven.

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table in favour of Mr. Job Winslow, for three hundred pounds, for the purpose of building the row-galley at East Hadam. *An order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Mr. Job Winslow for £ 300.*

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table, in favour of Capt. Jonathan Lester, for two hundred pounds for the purpose of building the row-galley at Norwich. *An order was drawn April 2d, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Lester for £ 200.*

Voted, That Capt. Josiah Burnham of Lyme is appointed Master of the brig *Defence*, under command of Capt. Harding.

1. Hadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 257-58.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE ¹

Lebanon April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Favour of Capt Jonathan Lester to Enable him to Carry on the Building the Row Galley in Norwich, ² and Render his Account when Required

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety ³

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, Row Galley Papers, 13a, ConnSL.

2. The galley *Shark*.

3. *Ibid.*, 14a, a similar order for £300 was drawn the same day in favor of Job Winslow, building the galley *Crane* at East Haddon, and another order in favor of Jonathan Lester was drawn April 9th for the *Shark*.

ORDERS ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE FOR BUILDING SHIP *Oliver Cromwell* ¹

Lebanon April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of three Hundred and fifty Pounds Lawful Money in favour of Capt Uriah Hayden of Say Brook to Enable him to Carry on the Building of the Colony Ship at Say Brook and Render his Account thereof.

Pr Order the Govr & Council of Safety

Attest Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

£350

April 2d 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Favour of Capt Ephraim Bill ² to Enable him to Promote

the Building and Rigging the Colony Ship at Haydens Yard in Say Brook and Render his Account when Required.

Pr Order the Govr & Council of Safety

£ 200

Attest Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 113-16, ConnSL.

2. Captain Bill supplied the rigging for the *Oliver Cromwell*.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany April 2d 1776

General [John] Thomas arrived here on Thursday [March 28], and will move in a very few Days – As the Season is so far advanced that it might be possible for the Enemy to reinforce Quebec before he could reach it, unless he goes by Water, we have both concluded that it will be most prudent to take as many Batteaus as may be necessary to convey the Troops, Baggage, Artillery and Stores down the Sorrel and St Lawrence: besides the Dispatch which this will give, it will relieve the Men from the almost insuperable Fatigue of a March of two hundred Miles, in roads that will be extremely deep, and also save the heavy Expence of the Land Transportation, nor can he do without a Number of Batteaus in the St Lawrence to bring provisions from Chamblé – For all this Service about seventy Batteaus may suffice, and we shall then have about an equal Number left in the Lakes: a Number much too small, under the Situation that our Affairs will in all probability soon be in, in Canada – . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 75-78, NA.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISK ¹

[New York] April 2d

9 P.M. A Large Ship arrived in the Harbour this Evening what she is I cant yet learn, she appears like a Ship of Warr, the *Asia* is here yet but both of them lay so far below the Town that they are out of Gun Shot and give us no Trouble as yet; the *Phoenix* is still at the Hook. The Town is almost deserted by the Inhabitants so that there is a great Plenty of empty Houses into which the Officers & Soldiers are put; I am myself with my Field Officers, & Billy (for I could not get him back again unless I absolutely commanded it) ² genteely provided for; when I shall be dismist I cant tell but it is generally supposed that it will be within a Week; but this is very uncertain for if the Ministerial Fleet should come this Way I suppose we must be kept here untill a Trial of Strength is made; Two or three Delegates from Congress are here on their Way to Canada together with a Prussian General who is going to serve there; ³ . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL. Continuation of letter of the previous day.

2. His son.

3. The Commissioners for Canada, Samuel Chase, Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll of Carrollton were accompanied by the Baron Frederick Wilhelm de Woedtke.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Martis, A.M.

April 2d, 1776.

The Honourable Hugh Wallace, being requested by some of the inhabitants to go on board the ships of war in this harbour, to use his influence with the commanders relative to their vessels seized by the ships of war;

Ordered, That the Honourable Hugh Wallace, be and he is hereby permitted to go on board His Majesty's ships of war in this harbour.

Ordered, That the port master be permitted to take with him on board the Governor's ship, for the use of the said ship, one box candles, one spar for a main yard, two galls. lamp oil, 56 lb. rosin, two galls. paint oil, 3 kegs lampblack, 1 cat block, 1 keg sugar, 2 kegs bread, 1 pr. slings, one small case of wine, one small box clothes and 1 box books for Mr. Barrow, six qrs beef for the *Phoenix*, 8 qrs beef and 1 mutton for the *Asia*, 1 qr. veal and 1 of pork for the Governor.

A draft of a letter to the Provincial Congress of New-Jersey requesting them to recommend sending speedy supplies to this market, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – As the ships of war in our harbour are daily committing acts of piracy and depredation on vessels and property of the inhabitants of the United Colonies, we apprehend orders will soon issue for stopping all farther supplies to them. As such an event will also stop the intercourse by water between your colony and us, we think it advisable that you immediately recommend to all persons supplying this Colony with any kind of necessaries to be as speedy as possible in sending their articles to this market, especially hay and fuel, as a great number of horses are daily expected from the eastward.

We are, sir, [&c.]

By order.

To Saml. Tucker, Esqr.

President of the Provincial Congress, New Jersey

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

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 396, 397.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF OFFICERS AND CREW OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus* ¹

No 43 Know all men by these presents That We who have hereunto Set our hand, and Seals, being the officers, mariners and others or the Major Part of them now belonging to his Majestys Sloop *Nautilus* Have constituted and appointed Alexander Brymer Esqr to be our true and Lawfull attorney and Agent for us and in our Names and room to Solicit, Transact, Sell and take care of all our concern and Interest in the sloop *John & Cargo*, and Cargo Saved from the Schooner *Hannah*, also the sloop *Hampden* and Furniture thereof. Giving and hereby granting to our said attorney and agent our full Power and authority in the Premises for

Inventorying condemning and Selling the said Prize the Cargos and apparel and Furniture thereof and for receiving the money arising therefrom and any other money whatsoever to which we are or Shall be Intitled as aforesaid and afterwards to make Distribution of the Neet Proceeds thereof to us or to Persons having Lawfull authority from us.

The said Alexander Brymer first to deduct all his expences and Charges in & about the Premisses, and for the care Pains and trouble to be allowed what is Customary to Agents on the like Occassion In Witness whereof we have hereunto Set our hands and seals on Board his Majesty's sloop *Nautilus* off New York the Second day of April one thousand seven hundred and seventy six & in the seventeenth year of our sovereign Lord George the third King of great Britain France and Ireland &c

Jn^o Collins Captain

Jn^o P. Rackford Leut

G Hire Master

W Cosway Gunnr

Jam^s Johnson Carptr

[blank] Pilot

George Keppel Mids

H Forbet Surgeon

Jam^s Hardy Mate

Jn^o McKinley Mids

Joseph Taber Qr Master

Thomas Red Qr Mastr

Thomas Harris Sail maker

John Young Sur Mate

[Signed by thirty-five other mariners and marines]

[Endorsed]

City of New York ss

Be is remembered that on the seventh day of December 1777, Personally came and appeared before me David Mathews Esqr Major of the City of New York George Hire and Robert Pearson and made Oath on the Holy Evangelist, That they were present & saw the several Persons whose Names are affixed to the foregoing Power of attorney Sign Seal and deliver the same as their Voluntary act and Deed -

D Mathews

[Second endorsement] Received and Registered 19th February 1778.

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776-1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N. S. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 2, 1776

The committee appointed to prepare the form of a commission, and instructions to commanders of private ships of war, brought in the same, which were read.

The commission, being agreed to, is as follows:

Commission

The delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, &c. to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye, that we have granted, and, by these presents, do grant license and authority to [blank] mariner, commander of the [blank] called [blank] of the burthen of [blank] tons, or thereabouts, belonging to [blank] of [blank] in the colony of [blank] mount-

ing [blank] carriage guns, and navigated by [blank] men, to fit out and set forth the said [blank] in a warlike manner, and by and with the said [blank] and the crew thereof, by force of arms, to attack, seize and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, on the high seas, or between high water and low water marks, and to bring the same to some convenient ports in the said colonies, in order that the courts which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes, civil and maritime, may proceed, in due form, to condemn the said captures, if they be adjudged lawful prize; the said [blank] having given bond, with sufficient sureties, that nothing be done by the said [blank] or any of the officers, mariners, or company thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the usages and customs of nations, and the instructions, a copy of which is herewith delivered to him. And we will and require all our officers whatsoever to give succour and assistance to the said [blank] in the premises. This commission shall continue in force until the Congress shall issue orders to the contrary.

By order of the Congress

Attest

President.

The Congress then took into consideration the draught of instructions; and, after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That it be recommitted, and that it be an instruction to the committee, to fill up the blanks in said instructions as they shall think best.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 247-48.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dr Sir

Philadelphia April 2d 1776

Considering it will soon be if it is not already Necessary to appoint Commanders for the Continental Frigates, and sensible how much depends on having the best in the different Colonies as well on Acct of their Courage & experience, as on their Abilities Skill & Judgment in Maritime Affairs, I take Liberty to Nominate those in Connecticut who I am confident deserve the preference to any in That Colony being well acquainted with the Gentlemen, who have followed the Sea for the last Fifteen years, and I do it the rather as I know that the Gentlemen Delegates from the Colony are not so immediately acquainted with them – as I nominate without any Sollicitation I do it disinterestedly – Captn John Deshon of New London, is an experienced Seaman, a Man of Temper, firmness, who carries good Command and is well beloved by Seamen as well as higher Orders of People in the Colony – Capt Ebr Whiting of Norwich, served if I mistake not, as a Major in the Land Forces of Rhode Island last Warr (then young) since which he has been Master of a Vessel, & much approved of, he is possessed of a Military Genius, I may almost say hereditarily, as Govr Hopkins well knows, his Reputation for Courage, as well as skill & ability in Naval Operations is good, as well as his Family & Connections which might be of service in procuring Seamen &c – Capt Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford is a Young Gen-

tleman of abt 28 Yrs of Age, a very able, experienced & judicious Seaman, of good Genius, good Education, & has much resolution, address & at the same Time Oeconomy in dispatching the Business he undertakes, as any Man I was ever acquainted with in my Life, and is as highly esteemed in the Colony as any Man of his Age, in whatever Rank the others May be Capt Wm Griswoud of Wethersfield has had long experience at Sea & commanded a Shipp of 20 Gunns In the Turk[e]y or Levant Trade to which Command he raised himself by service, having Neither [Posit]ion or Money to assist him, supposing he had made sufficient to Live on, he returned a few years since to his Native spot in Wethersfd he is abt 40 Years of Age & very Active & I believe from some late unfortunate incidents in Trade would be willing to be employed – Capt Jno Cotton of Middletown has followed the Sea from his infancy (as I may say) has sailed in Mr [John] Alsops employ who knows him well, & I refer to him for his Character, he has served formerly as an inferior Officer in the Navy, & last Warr in a privataer – Captn Saml Chew of N Haven I have heard a good Character of, I know him to be a very active Man, and that he has had a good Opperty for Experience – Capt Seth Hardin[g] & Capt Robert Niles both of Norwich I should have mentioned particularly but I have heard they were in the Colony employ – I have Mentioned those most like to answer the expectations of the public, in that Colony, as Captains or Commanders of any one of the Frigates. I have neither Interest in or Connection with one, more than another, I have a right therefore to say that I am confident, that if either Whiting, or Wadsworth, are appointed they will answer the expectation of the public – give me leave to suggest as No Time ought to be lost it would be well to submit the recommendation of inferior Officers to Gentlemen of Character in the Colony – I directed my Brother, who superintends the Building of the shipp in Connecticut ² to submit all his Accts & proceedgs to a Commee at Middletown, these were Messrs Richd Alsop, Philip Mortimer, Titus Hosmer, G. Phillips & Co[m]fort Sage – I can only say, should any such Measure be adopted, you may Rely on the Recommendation of these Gentlemen who are persons of first Character, & who will not disappoint you – whereas attending to Casual Lettrs of Recommendns will I apprehend be liable at least to be very prejudicial to the Cause & perhaps have the disagreeable effect of disgusting the people when the Men are to be raised ³ – I trust I shall be excused my Freedom, when you recollect, that a Naval Armament, has from the first been my favorite Object I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Silas Deane

1. FDRL.

2. Barnabas Deane, superintendent for building the Continental frigate in Connecticut, subsequently to be named the *Trumbull*.

3. Robert Morris was a member of the Marine Committee and consequently a logical person to be addressed by Deane on the subject of appointment of naval officers.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Phila 2d April 1776

... We shall be obliged to you if you will cause Affidavits to be made and transmitted to us of the Time of the Capture & Recapture of Hudson's Ship that we may get the Salvage, the Quantum of which depends on the Time she was in possession of the Tender, ascertained and paid. we are desired to let the Claim which we made of Salvage rest till the Event of another Effort was known. we hope the Ship is now out of the Bay.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

My Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 2d April 1776.

Your favor of the 19th March I rec'd yesterday. I heartily rejoice at the arrival of the two powder vessels, but you don't tell me where they are from, what news they bring, what is become of the other vessels &c. What think you of the retreat of the Barbarians from Boston – it will be a pretty story to tell their master. What's the general opinion with you of the notable commissioners that are coming over. I hope either Col. Bartlett, or you will be here to receive their Low Mightnesses. Some people here (I mean out of doors) are for shutting them up the moment they land: however, I hope they will be treated with civility and sent back with a flea in the ear, for I cannot possibly think they are commissioned for any good, nor can I yet realize their coming.

There is a forty gun ship now laying at the Capes: ² the brig *Lexington* went down before we heard of her being there. We have now a ship fitting out that will go down in a few days: ³ these vessels were intended to clear the coast of the tenders that are so troublesome.

Admiral Hopkins was at New Providence the 4th inst where he finds a great number of cannon, say 200 and a large quantity of ball, but they had sent off all their powder except 16 barrels: he'll take all the military Stores.

The North Carolina people have taken 1800 stand of arms from the rebels there and found a chest of money in a stable, said to contain £ 15,000 Sterg. I hope Hopkins will give a good account of Dunmore, [Lord William] Campbell, or [Josiah] Martin, or all of them before he returns.

I hope you'll be able to get your anchors at Boston – don't know where the guns will come from, but suppose from Providence where they are casting cannon with Success – just heard of the arrival of a considerable quantity of duck at Rhode Island: the ships building there, and at Newbury are supplied, so I imagine you may be supplied from thence – there is about 4½ tons powder lately arrived at Rhode Island and about the same quantity in Virginia, – the mills going on briskly so I hope we shall be well supplied with that article – Several large quantities which were expected, it's to be feared have fallen into the enemy's hands.

Tell Dr Brackett to write to me and let me know how the politics of

Portsmouth stand: can they yet reconcile themselves to that illustrious stranger that was so much feared.⁴ *Common Sense* has made all the Southern Colonies his friend, and I hope the Northern Colonies will soon open their arms to receive him. It's my opinion under the rose that the salvation of America depends on him – more of that hereafter

Your assured friend &c
W^m Whipple.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 105–06, LC.
2. The 44 gun ship *Roebuck*.
3. The Continental ship *Reprisal*.
4. Independence.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 2nd April, 1776.

Upon application of John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, for a sum of Money for the payment of the Wages of the Officers & Men employed in the Naval Armaments of this Province, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Michael Hillegas, Esq'r, in favour of said Nesbitt, for two thousand pounds.

At a Special Meeting this Evening.

Resolved, That Mr. Nixon, Mr. Mease & Mr. Roberdeau, be desired to look out for a small Vessel, proper to fit out as a cruiser in the Bay of Delaware against the Ministerial armed Tenders now obstructing the Commerce of this Province, and that they make Report of their proceedings as soon as possible to this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 533, 534.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Tuesday April 2. 1776

at 6 A M Made Sail Sat B T:S:

at 8 saw the Land Baring W.N.W.

- 12 Dist about 4 miles Which is Cape [blurred] ² Cloudy Thick Weather Lattd. Obs 38. 55 No

[P.M.] Thick heazy Weather Came on Bord the pilot got out the gib Boom & Sat the filingen gibb Eag Island Bars N N W Dist 2 miles at 1 P M ankered aBrest of Reidy island

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.
2. Probably Cape May.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee on Monday [sic]

2 April 1776

Application being made by Mr Hugh Young for Liberty to load his Schooner *Peggy* with the Produce of the Province the same was granted, in consequence of an Order of the Honl Council of Safety –

The Committee having recieved Directions from the Council of Safety to suspend all further Proceedings relative to the Schooner *Resolution*, Orders are given to Messrs Robt Purviance, David Stewart, & George Woolsey, to desist from the same, untill further Orders – ²

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

2. The Council of Safety on March 8, had ordered the *Resolution* to be fitted out as a tender for the Maryland ship *Defence*.

WILLIAM LUX, BALTIMORE COMMITTEE, TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 2 April 1776.

The Bearer Jno Henderson came from Point Comfort in an Oyster Boat & another Vessell with Corn and having no Permit from any Committee in Virginia we have detained his Boat agreeable to your Order, until he produces one; He thinks it necessary to make application to your Honorable Board for a Release and has desired a line from our Committee to inform you of his situation.

P Order of the Committee I am Gentn [&c.]

Will^m Lux Depy Chm

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

RECEIPT RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Apl 2d 1776 of Capt James Nicholson On Accot Ship *Defence* four pounds ten Shills for one Months Advance to John Cookson as sail-Maker of sd Ship which I promise to refund provided sd Cookson Should leave the Ship before the Expiration One Month

£ 4.10.0

William Jacob

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence* Papers, MdHS.

JOHN DALTON TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

[Extract]

Alexandria April 2. 1776

We find it difficult the fitting out the Cruising Vessels here. the scarcity of sail Duck & proper sized Cannon plague us much in getting – indeed am apprehensive we shall not be able, to procure light Duck for the small sails and must endeavour to make up the defecency from old sails rather than none –

The two Row Gallies goes on very well and will Soon be built, though am Apprehensive of being at a loss for heavy Cannon. Our Choice would be One 18 poundr the other 24. –

Collo [George] Mason and myself in particular and the Community at large, thought ourselves highly Obliged by the kind indulgence of your Committee of Safety, in lending us Ten barrels powder, it happened Just

As we had got it down, One Ton came from Phila for us, that we immediately returned it in the same order. I am with regard Sir [&c.]

John Dalton.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

GEORGE MASON TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Virginia Gunston Hall April 2d 1776. –

... Large Ventures have been lately made for military Stores; for which Purpose we are now loading a Ship for Europe, with Tobo at Alexandria; her Cargoe is all on float, & I hope to have her under sailing orders in a few Days . . . I have in Conjunction with Mr [John] Dalton, the Charge of providing & equipg arm'd Vessels for the Protection of this River. The thing is new to Me but I must endeavour to improve by Experience. I am much obliged to the Board for joining Mr Dalton with Me: He is a steady diligent Man, & without such Assistance I cou'd not have undertaken it. We are building two Row-Gallies, which are in considerable forwardness; & have purchased three Sloops for Cruisers, two of them, being only from forty to fifty Tons Burthen, are to mount 8 Carriage Guns each, 3 & 4 pounders, they are not yet fitted up, & we are exceedingly puzzled to get Cannon for them; the other, the *American Congress*, is a fine stout Vessel, of about 110 Tons Burthen, & has such an easy draught of Water, as will enable her to run into most of the Creeks, or small Harbours, if she meets with a Vessel of superior Force: She mounts 14 Carriage Guns 6 & 4 pounders; tho' we have thoughts of mounting two 9 Pounders upon her main Beam, if we find her able, as we think She is, to bear them: her Guns are mounted, & are to be tryed to-morrow. We have twenty Bars of Powder, & about a Ton of Shot ready; more is making; Swivels we have not yet been able to procure, but She may make a tollerable Shift without, 'til they can be furnish'd; we have got some small Arms, & are taking every Method to increase them, & hope to be fully supplied in about a week more, her Company of Marines is raised, & have been for some time exercised to the Use of the great Guns; her Compliment of Marines & Sea-men, is to be 96 Men. We are exerting our selves to the utmost, & hope to have her on her Station in less than a Fortnight, & that the other Vessels will quickly follow her, and be able to protect the Inhabitants of this River from the piratical Attempts of all the Enemies Cutters Tendérs & small Craft. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

LORD DUNMORE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 2

Ship *Dunmore* in Elizabeth River Virginia,

Duplicate

2d April 1776.

My Lord The Packet not yet being Sailed on account of the Wind, and Lieutenant Ordd [John Orde], of his Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*, having brought in two small Vessels, one of which is from St Nicola Mole, bound to Philadelphia, in which were three French Men, two of the three were

Officers in the French Army, one of them Monsieur de la Bussiere, says his only reason for wishing to go to Philadelphia was on Account of his health, which may be true; He had however about him the letters No 1, to Mr Hancock, and his discharge No 2. The other Officer acknowledged to me, his Intention was to go into the Service of the Rebels, of which were it requisite the inclosed (No 3) is a very Sufficient proof as it is wrote by his own hand. The other was Supercargo in the Vessel, and had a large Quantity of Molasses and Coffee on board. I have sent the three by the Packet for your Lordship to dispose of as you shall think proper. I beg leave to inform your Lordship, that either two or three Vessels (one of which was a French one, and navigated by French Men) loaded with Powder had Sailed, a Short time before the Schooner left the Mole; all bound to Philadelphia; but I make no doubt Captain Hamond who is now in the River Delaware, will give a good Account of them; Sure I am he won't fail for want of Zeal. I am [&c.] Dunmore

[Endorsed] No Inclosures recd with this Duplicate

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 769-72.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

April 1776 Oak Island the Entrance of Cape Fear River NEBE
4 Leags

Monday 1 at 10 AM spoke his Majs Sloop *Falcon*
Fresh breezes and Clear the first part Latter strong Gales with
thunder & Lightning
at 1 P M fired a gun & md the Signl for a pilot
at 2 Do Came on Bd a pilot at 1/2 past 2 P M Cross'd C Fear
barr in 2 1/2 fm at 3 Do Came too in 5 fm water Fort
Johns[t]on No 1/2 a mile found here his Majs Ship *Syren*
Mercury & cruizer sloop with several mercht men at 5 weigh'd
and came to sail up the River at 6 Came too off brunswick
with the best Br in 4 1/2 fm & Veer'd to 1/4 cable the Church
W B S a mile found Ridding here his Maj Sloop *Scorpion* and
3 transports

Tuesday 2 at 5 AM weigh'd and came to Sail Running down the River at
8 Came too in 5 fm water Fort Johnstone N 1/2 Wt 1/2 mile
Deep water point NE 1/2 N

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday the 2d Day of April. 1776

A Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers
or Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those
who shall harbour or conceal them was read a First Time

Resolved That the Bill be read a Second Time

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 25, 26.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY, OF GEORGIA, TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF THIS COLONY [SOUTH CAROLINA] DATED APRIL 2, 1776."¹

Finding that the Houses on Great Tybee Island afforded comfortable Shelter for the King's Officers and Tory Refugees, we resolved to send a Detachment of Men there, to destroy them, and to rout the Tories and others who were there, although, from the Situation of the Islands, and the Creek which leads to the Back of it, and others which surround it, the Attempt would be attended with the most imminent Danger. Accordingly, Col. [Archibald] Bullock, with a Party of Men, composed of Detachments from Capt. Baker's Riflemen, Capt. Bryan's Light Infantry, Capt. Martin's Volunteers, Capt. Cuthbert's Fusileers, and a Company of Creek Indians, went down upon the Island, killed two Marines, one Tory who would not surrender, and took one Marine and several Tories Prisoners; burnt all the Houses except one, in which was a sick Woman and several Children, and returned safe. In doing this they were exceedingly exposed on the Beach to the Fire of the *Cherokee* and an armed Sloop, which incessantly fired Ball and Grape Shot during the whole Time of the Attack. Upon this Occasion, our Officers and Men seemed animated with that Zeal and Courage which always appear conspicuous among People contending for their Liberty. We have since learned that a Difference among the Officers of the Ships of War to the Mode of Attack, protracted their Determination till it was too late to attempt it.

1. *South Carolina and American General Gazette*, April 10 to April 17, 1776.

3 Apr.

Nova-Scotia Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

Halifax, April 3

The first division of the Fleet and Transports from Boston (containing chiefly the Inhabitants,&c.) arrived here yesterday, after a passage of only six days, and the second division (containing the Troops) arrived this day, after a passage of only four days. They have little or no provisions, nor can this place supply them with any; neither are there conveniences on shore for this unexpected body of people.

It is fortunate for the King's Troops that the Provincials did not attack this place last summer, which they certainly intended; but General [Jedediah] Preble, who was to have commanded the expedition, and had actually embarked on thousand five hundred New-England Troops in a large number of Marblehead Schooners for that purpose, hearing that the small-pox was very prevalent here at that time, the scheme was laid aside. The New England people are incredibly afraid of the small-pox.¹

1. A highly exaggerated account of a proposed invasion which Washington refused to approve. There was no embarkation of any troops for Nova Scotia.

PETITION OF CHARLES CHAUNCEY TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honble the Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay
the Petition of Chas Chauncey Humbly shews —

That your Petitioner being convinced that the Inhabitants in the County of York, must in a short time be reduced to great difficulty by reason of the scarcity of salt, and having been requested by many of sd Inhabitants to send a Vessel after that Article Your Petitioner prays your Honors to grant Him a Permit for the Brigt called the *Hope* Joseph Adams Master to proceed to Tortuga, or some other Foreign Port with a load of Lumber, or hard money sufficient to procure a load of salt, & return to Piscataway — and Your respectful Petitioner as in duty bound prays &c

Chas Chauncey

Watertown April 3d 1776 —

[Endorsed] In Council April 3d 1776 Read & ordered that the Prayer of the above Petition be granted, & that a Permit be made out accordingly —

Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 286, NA Photocopy.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday April 3d 1776

The Committee of both Houses appointed to lay before this Court a Sketch of the Harbour of Boston, and examine and report particularly the number of Passages there are for Ships into the same &c. have attended the business assigned them; and report the Sketch of the Harbour of Boston herewith, and the following Answers to the Questions proposed in our Commission. —

“How many Passages are there for Ships into the harbour of Boston, and what distance are they from the Capital.”

Strictly speaking there are but three — The northermost between pulling Point and the North End of Deer Island a narrow and very crooked Channel, running on the back of Apple Island: seldom used, except by Fishing Vessels and light Coasters; this Passage is about Four miles from Boston. The next is the Ship Channel, which leads from the Light House through the Narrows, and enters the harbour between the East head of Long Island and the South point of Deer Island (here the Passage in at Brawd Sound unites with this) and is about five miles from Boston. The other leads from the light House, South of Georges Island thro’ Nantasket Road, and runs between Rainsfords Island and Long Island, and enters the Harbour between the West Head of Long Island, and the East Head of the Moon, so called, this is about the same distance from Boston.

“What is the depth of the Water in, and the Width of the Channel at each Passage, the heighth of the Land adjoining, and the distance therefrom to the Opposite side of the Channel. —”

As the Northern Passage is not navigable for the smaller Ships of War, the Committee made no further observations relative to it. — The next is the

Ship Channel, which leads thro' the Narrows (here the Water is about Five Fathoms deep at low Water, width of the channel uncertain, perhaps Fifty Rods, the adjoining lands low) and Enters the Harbour between Long Island, and Deer Island as aforesaid, the width of the Channel at the Entrance about Three quarters of a Mile, the adjoining land on the South Side of the Channel – viz, Long Island, is about Ninety feet high, and little more than three Quarters of a mile to the opposite side of the Channel, depth of Water from Six to Fourteen fathom. The other passage viz – between long Island & the Moon, so called width of the channel about Eighty Rods, depth of the Water Thirteen Feet, the adjoining Land – viz – The Moon ninety four feet high, distance therefrom to the opposite side of the Channel, Three Eighth's of a mile. –

Whether it is necessary to the best good of the Colony & its Capital, that all the Passages to the Town of Boston should be continued open, and what are the advantages and what are the disadvantages which will result from stopping either – and which if any ought to be stopped –

Your Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary to the best good of the Colony or the Capital thereof, that all the Passages thereto should be kept open, for if the Passage at the Narrows only is Stopped, or the depth of Water reduced, there will be sufficient Passages left open for all Merchant Ships – As at it hath been affirmed by Persons skilled in Military and maritime affairs, that a Fleet of Ships with a leading Gale of Wind, and Flood Tide, pass with so great Velocity as to run little or no Hazard in passing by a Strong Fortification, as was experienced at Quebec in the Course of the last war – If so it seems to be as necessary to reduce the depth of Water in the Narrows, as it is to Fortify the Island, or any other Places; because it is there only that Capital Ships of War can pass, and therefore there, above all other places as it is easiest Effected, their Efforts to enter the Harbour should be effectually obstructed. –

“Where can Fortifications be erected most easily to resist the Enemy in their attempts to enter the harbour aforesaid – [”]

On the East Head of Long Island, and on the Island called the Moon, on the east head thereof, and on the East Head of Pettick's Island, with necessary redoubts –

Can a communication be kept up between said Posts and the Main in case of a Seige, and are they commanded by any neighbouring hills – ”

Redoubts & Block Houses on the eminences of Long Island, one of which is the only neighbouring Hill that commands the East Head thereof with proper covered ways from One to the other, will secure a retreat to the moon, which communicates with Squantum Neck at low water almost dry Shod. The Post on the East Head of the Moon, so called, is not commanded by any Neighbouring Hill. Petick's Island is so near the town of Hull that a safe retreat to it is covered by the Guns of the Proposed Fort thereon; besides they may retreat the Length of the Island to the Town of Braintree, this Point is commanded only by a Hill on the same Island, and a Garrison there may be supplied with Water, and a retreat be secured from it by some redoubts &c. –

"Whether at all times these Posts can be supplied with water –"

No doubt but they may, as there appears to be springs of Fresh Water on all those islands. –

Your Committee beg leave further to suggest, that in case it should be thought proper to reduce the depth of Water in the Channel at the narrows, and Erect a Fortification on the East Head of Long Island, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Enemy to remove the Obstruction in the Narrows, as it is open to the Fire from such Fortification – That if the Narrows are stopped the capital Ships can have no safe Harbour above the Light House, below it they can't ride, save that to the Westward of George's Island, called Nantaskett Road, which may at all times be commanded by a Battery on the East Head of Pettick's Island. –

That the passage in by the way of Broad Sound so called is very difficult navigation but that there is, as your Committee are informed, four fathom of Water; it is possible that Vessels between the size of frigates & what are called Capital Ships, altho' they never have attempted; yet in case the Narrows should be stopped, may in future attempt to pass to the Capital that way, therefore as the Channel is very narrow between what is called the middle Ground and Castle Island, whether it would not be best to reduce the depth of Water there also –

That besides those Posts abovementioned, there are many others which may be fortified with small expence, and will promote the General design of securing the Harbour aforesaid, and the Neighbouring Towns.

Benjn Lincoln, per Order

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives – Read, & Majr [Joseph] Hawley Mr [James] Sullivan, Mr Nichols, Mr [Samuel] Phillips and Colo [Azor] Orne, with such as the Honble Board shall join, be a Committee to consider the same, and the Sketch of the Harbour of Boston accompanying, and report what places they apprehend are proper to fortify without delay –

In Council Read and Concurred and John Whetcomb, Benjamin Lincoln, Joseph Palmer and Moses Gill Esqrs, are joined –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 714–17.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Watertown] April 3, 1776.

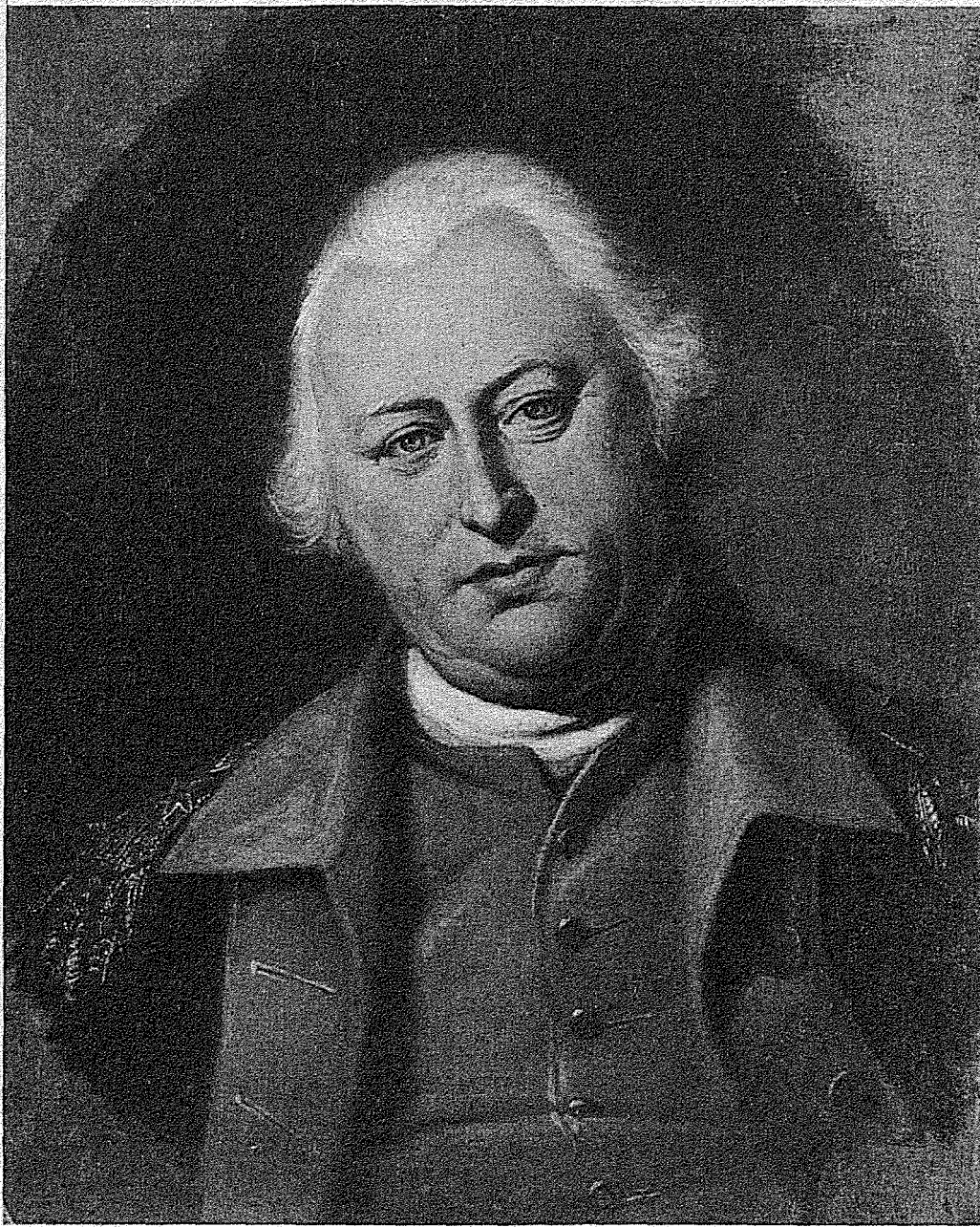
No news since I wrote the above,² only that the [British] fleet have steered eastward, and one of the Tory sloops is ashore on Cape Cod with a large quantity of English goods, and Black Jolly Allen and some other Tories.³ We have had a false alarm from Newport. I recollect nothing else . . . Your ships I fear will, when done, wait for men. It will take time to enlist them.⁴

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 219–20.

2. This is a postscript to a letter begun March 30, 1776.

3. See petition of Selectmen of Provincetown, April 3, 1776.

4. Warren may have been referring to the whole program for building thirteen frigates, or he may have meant only the two under construction at Newburyport.



General Benjamin Lincoln.

MAJOR JOSEPH WARD TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Boston 3 April 1776 –

Sir As the Ships of War now building in this and the other Colonies for Continental Service will want Commanders, who will I conclude be appointed by Congress, I beg leave to mention to you a Capt [Gustavus] Fellows, late of Boston, who was bred to the Sea and is recommended as a very good Man for a Command[er] and I have been desired to mention him to you. He appears to me to be a Man of activity & Spirit, a clear head & an enterprizing genius; he is about forty years old, has used the London trade, West Indies &c. been many years Master of a Ship and successful in his Business. Perhaps you may know him much better than I do. I have nothing in view but the public Service, and never will recommend a Man from any other motive.

I have just been informed that the Congress have given leave to the American Ships of War to make prizes of all British Vessels. I take this to be a leading step to Independency, anything short of which is trifling (in my humble opinion) and unworthy of America.

I beg leave to propose a Question for your deep consideration, viz, If the Americans unite in an independent Commonwealth, offer a free trade to all Nations except Britain & her dependences, & make an American Law That no Person or Persons belonging to Britain or to her dependences shall be permitted to have any trade or intercourse with America, until Britain has made satisfaction for the injuries & losses sustained by this War – would she not be finally obliged to comply with this just requisition? –

I conceive that Britain cannot support her superiority over her natural Enemies, at Sea, without a large share of the American commerce, which she ever will have so long as a harmony subsists between the two Countries, if we are a separate State – and when Britain is convinced, (and time will do it) that her sovereignty & glory on the Seas greatly depends (if not her very being as a Kingdom) on a friendly intercourse with America, she will she must comply with our righteous demands for reparation. –

As a Soldier, I ought to ask pardon for offering my rude sentiments on politicks to a Senator of America – but you will excuse me for turning my thoughts a few moments from the din of Arms to something more civil. I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Ward ²

P.S. Five Regiments & one Company of the Train of Artillery are to remain here until further orders to fortify the Town & Harbour; all the other remaining Regiments & Companies are to march tomorrow.

Genl Ward is of the opinion that a larger force ought to have been left here, as so great a part of the Army was raised in this Colony. There are now of the Massachusetts eleven Regiments, near a Regiment of the Train, besides Companies of Artificers, &c &c, on their march to assist the other Colonies, with the best Arms, Field pieces &c that have been collected from the several parts of this Colony since the commencement of the

War – besides four Regts are gone to Canada. however I trust we shall be able, by the Smiles of Heaven upon our Arms, to defend our Colony with what is left; and if we should it will reflect honor upon the Massachusetts her sending so formidable an Army to support the United Colonies – and stretching out a powerful Arm to defend her distant Brethren. It will make us respectable among our Sister Colonies, and through the World; and altho' some are very uneasy on account of so large a part of our force being sent out of the Colony, yet for the sake of the many & great advantages which may result from it, I am willi[n]g to risque defending the Colony with the force we have now.

There are yet remaining in Nantasket Road two of the Enemy's Ships of War, and two or three Transports; we are meditating a plan for their removal.

J W

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. Nephew of and aide-de-camp to Major General Artemas Ward.

PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF PROVINCETOWN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honorable Counsell & Honorable House of Representatives Now
Sitting at water Town!

the petition of the Select men of province Town in Behalf of Said Town
Humbly Sheweth

That on the 28th of march Last a Sloop appering Near the Shore on the Back of Said Town & To be in Distress on going on Bord found her to Be from Boston with 5 men on bord & 25 women & Children in the most mis-[e]rable Condition: It Seams they ware Bound for halafax But Having Neither Seemen or water on Bord they was unable To proceed Their intended Voige & as we have Reason To Beleve them To Be Some of Those Virmin which has Ben So Dstructive To the peace & good order of the Colony we Commenicate their Names to your Honors, Viz Robard Cambell peter Harris patrick treet Dannil wissel & the same Jolly Allin: Late of Boston.² Said Sloops Cargo Consists of House hold goods wairing apparral & Casks of Delph & Glass ware

And we humbly pray your honors to give Such Directions as you Shall Think proper with the peopel Vesail & goods Now in our hands And in Duty Bound Shall Ever pray

Nehemiah Nickerson Stephen Atwood Solomon Cook

Province Town April 3th 1776

The Names of the persons that Arived at this place on bord the Sloop
Sally 28 March 1776

Robert Campbell Master

Peter Harris

Patrick Crout

Danl Wisel wife & Child

Jolley Allen wife and his Seven Children

Sally Bradford Servt maid
 Lilla Coppenger Beloning to mr allens Family
 Mrs Ellener Barrey & her five Children
 Mrs Nancy Crowfoot & Child
 Mrs Joulana James & her Son Jon
 Mrs Dolle Stone
 Mary Barnet
 Elesebeth Wanslow

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 317, 318.

2. "Watertown, April 8, Last Friday se'nnight Capt. Jolly Allen, late a ship-keeper in Boston (with some other tories besides women and children) in a sloop, ran ashore on the back of Cape Cod; thinking he had got into the Harbour of Halifax. This is a valuable prize, being laden with prize goods and some cash," *Boston Gazette*, April 8, 1776.

BILL OF JAMES RICE FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT BRIG
*Defence*¹

The Colony of Connecticut To James Rice		Dr
1776	To Sundrys Supply'd the Brige. <i>Defence</i> (Viz)	
Febry	To 6 wooden Bowls	£ 0..5..3
	" 3 lb Brimstone a 6d $\frac{1}{3}$ & 5 lb Flour 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	1..10 $\frac{1}{2}$
24th	" 1 Load Wood 7/. & 1 side Leather 11/11	18..11
26	" 1 Side Leather	12..10
	" Cowtails for the Stink potts	1..6
28	" 1 Erthen plater 10d 12 lb Brimstone a 6d 5/	5..10
March 1st	" 6 lb Brimstone	2..6
2nd	" 12 Scains Marlin 7d	7..-
	" 1092 foot pine Boards 60/	3..5..6
4th	" 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Leather	1..13..2
	" James Pecks Journey to Stratford	18..2
	" Cash paid for Cutting a load wood	1..-
7th	" Cash paid freight of riging from Newyork as p bill	5..-
9th	" ditto to Peter Heburn as p bill	6..4..6
13	" 194 foot Boards	11..8
15	" 20 lb Leather 1/3	1..5..-
	" Cash paid George King as p bill	1..3..-
20	" ditto to Peter Bontivore	7..10..-
	" ditto to Asa Fuller for freight from Mid- dletown	2..12..-
	" 393 yds Tom Cloath a 1/6	29..9..6
22nd	" 4 Bar[rels] Tarr 20/	4..-..-
	" 173 foot Barge oars 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.16..1 $\frac{1}{4}$
	" 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Oakum 4d	13..10
	" 6 lb Ten penny Nails 10d	5..-
April	" 23 yds Tow Cloath 1/8	1..18..4
	" 6 lb of 10d Nails 5/ 1 lb of 6d ditto	5..11

3rd	" 8 Gimblets 2/ Lengthing the G[i]mblets 2/6	4..6
	" 1 Speaking Trumpet (Bought at New London)	4..6
	" 11½ dozen knives & Forks ditto	7..-
	" Jede[dial]h Cook for Carting	4..6
	" William Peck for filling water	6..-
	To Enos Graves for Carting	5..3
	To Cash paid for making the Colours	1..5..-
	To [9]0 foot Timber a 14/	1..11..6
	To Cash paid Mr Phipps	5..-
	To Cash Supply'd 7 people their Expences from N London	3..2..8
	To 1 Load kness [sic]	2..12..-
	" 1 days Labour	3..-
	Carried over	£77..3..3¾
	Brought over	£77..3..3¾
	To Cash paid a Messenger to Fairfield to Lt [Ebenezer] Bartram	15..-
	To my own Expences 3 times to Lebanon	2..-..-
		£79..18..3¾

[New Haven, April 3, 1776] ²

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 59, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, according to the summary of the *Defence* accounts, the bill was rendered "Feb-Apr," which would establish it as the final date shown.

JONATHAN FITCH TO OLIVER ELLSWORTH ¹

Sir The Govr & Council of Safety appointed me to Supply the Brig *Defiance* [sic] with Provision & I have Spent on her about £500 – I Shall be obliged to you if you would Draw an order on the Treasurer for That Sum & give it to Mr Davenport and you will much oblige your Humble Servant

Jonth Fitch ²

[New Haven] April 3d 1776

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 60a, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, in the summary of the *Defence* accounts is an item reading: "April Jonathan Fitch has spent about £500 for provisions and wishes an order on the treasury."

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

April 3d, 1776.

Ordered, That Mr. Jno Murray be permitted to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, (with the port-master) and to return, he having been duly sworn that he will not convey any intelligence relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony.

The Committee were informed the brigantine *Elizabeth*, John Palmer

master, is ready to sail, and that a certificate is requested as protection for her in case she should meet with any of the Colony cruisers. Thereupon a certificate was given in the words following, to wit:

It is hereby certified that the brigantine *Elizabeth*, Capt. John Palmer master, is laden on Continental account, at the port of New-York, by permission and direction of the Continental Congress. The said brigantine and master are hereby recommended to the favour, aid and protection of all friends to American liberty; and all friends to these Colonies are requested to protect her in her voyage or in port.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 397, 398.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P.M.

April 3d, 1776.

Mr. John Murray attending with a letter from Fen. Heath to this Committee,² wherein he informs the Committee that Mr. Murray had applied to him for his approbation of the permit granted to Mr. Murray this morning, to go on board the Governor's ship; that by the said permit it appears that Mr. Murray is restricted only relative to the fortifications, and that he, the General, cannot consistent with his duty, consent to his going on board, unless under greater restrictions.²

Thereupon a permission was given to Mr. Murray, in the words following, to wit:

John Murray, of this city, merchant, attending, requested permission to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, wherein Govr. Tryon resides, (with the port master,) and to return.

Thereupon the said Jno Murray was solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he will not communicate any information or intelligence whatever, to any person or persons on board any of the ships of war, the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, the packet, or any other vessel in this Colony under the care or direction of, or in connection with, any person on board either of the vessels above mentioned, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony, nor carry on board or deliver to any person belonging to any of the said ships or vessels any papers or writings relative thereto; and that he will not communicate any intelligence of any kind, or enter into any conversation on any subject whatever, with any person on board of either of the said vessels, but what relates to his own private business.

Ordered, That the said John Murray be, and he is hereby permitted to go on board the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, (with the port-master) and to return.

Michael Conner of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, agent for the owners of the brigantine *Mary*, bound from St. Christopher's to Cork, in Ireland, laden with rum, lately seized and now detained by Captain Parker

of His Majesty's ship *Phoenix*,³ applied to the Committee for a permission to go on board of the said ship *Phoenix*, to demand the said brigantine and cargo.

Thereupon the said Michael Conner was duly and solemnly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he will not communicate any information or intelligence whatever to any person or persons on board of any of the ships of war, the ship *Dutchess of Gordon*, the packet, or any other vessel in this Colony, relative to the fortifications erecting for the defence of this city and Colony, nor carry on board or deliver to any person belonging to any of said ships or vessels any papers or writings relative thereto; and that he will not communicate any intelligence of any kind or enter into any conversation on any subject whatever, with any person on board of either of said vessels but what relates to his own private business.

Ordered, That the said Michael Conner be permitted and he is hereby permitted to go on board of the ship *Phoenix*, (with the port master,) and to return.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 398.

2. See Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

3. The *Mary* was seized March 20, 1776, and had on board a cargo of 172 hogsheads of rum, Shulldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

City of New York 3rd April 1776

Colo Mifflin arrived in this City on yesterday with his Lady, The Delegates from Con[gress] going for Canada Sailed in the afternoon with a fair Wind — I have in this City by the Return of Yesterday 5210 Men, Exclusive of the City Militia we are Fortifying the City as fast as Possible — Gover Tryon having Begun to Throw up a work on a Small Island in the Harbour about a half m[ile] from the *Asia* man of war, I Determined to Drive him from Every part of Terre Firma Major Dettart [*sic* William De Hart] of the New Jersey Battalion offerd with Two Hundred men of that Regt to Dislodge them, Accordingly about Twelve o'Clock last Night they Embarked on Board Several Boats and a little after One Landed on the Island, the Men were all on Board the Ships, but near forty Women & Children were in an House on the Island they fired all the Buildings saving a Cottage in which they left the Destressed women & Children, They defac'd the works, and brought off the Intrenching Tool it is said near One Hundred Recruits from long Island have Joyned Tryon, But whether this [be] Certain or not I cannot tell, my best [regards to] my worthy Friends Messr [John and Samuel] Adams, [Robert Treat] Paine & [Elbridge] Gerry, and Believe me with the greatest respect to be [&c.]

W Heath

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 157, 5, NA.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

New York, April 3.

Yesterday afternoon five battalions of the Continental troops were reviewed by his Excellency General Heath, on the Green near the Liberty Pole; they made a very martial appearance, being excellently well armed, and all of them young healthy men. They went thro' their exercise with surprising activity.

Last night a number of our troops went and set fire to all the buildings on Bedlow's Island, where the men of war was intrenching and fortifying it for an asylum for the Tory refugees, burnt and brought off all their intrenching tools with a large number of white shirts and great coats,&c. likewise an abundance of poultry of all sorts; The *Asia* fired on our people, but not one man either killed or wounded.

Last night a barge full of men, supposed to be from the man of war, landed to endeavour to set fire to the Air Furnace, but they were timely discovered before much damage was done. (Keep a good look out for the rogues.)

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

April 1776

Moor'd off Bedlows Island

Wednesdy 3 A M at 1 the Rebels set on Fire the Hospitals on Bedlows Island, Fir'd at them one 9 & one 18 pdr ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

2. "April 2d. - Major D'Hart [William De Hart], of the Jersey troops, with 200 men, about midnight, made a descent on a small island in the harbour, which the British had begun to fortify; burnt a building or two, took two muskets, some entrenching tools, and came off. The *Asia* fired several cannon, but did no harm." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 37.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 3rd April, 1776.

Resolved, That the Letter receiv'd from Henry Fisher of Lewes, be immediately sent to the Delegates of this Province, to be laid before the Congress, and the said Delegates be requested to represent it as the sense of this Committee, that if two or more fast sailing vessels of small draft of Water were properly equipt, they might protect the Trade of this & the Neighboring colonies in the Bay of Delaware, now infested with Tenders and small armed Vessels of the Enemy, and secure the supplies of Military stores expected from abroad; to apply to the Congress to take speedy measures for that purpose, and also to suggest the propriety of ordering back to this Port the several outward bound Vessels now lying in the River, and employing the Seamen in this service, until the Trade of the Bay is more secure.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 534.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, April 3, 1776

A petition from P. Moore, in behalf of the owners of the sloops *Congress* and *Chance*, privateers, for 400 lb. of powder was presented and read:

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to sell them the quantity. ²

A letter from H[enry] Fisher, of Lewistown; to the committee of safety of Pensylvania, together with a resolve of said committee, being laid before Congress was read: ³

Resolved, That the commander of the batallion raised in Delaware government, be directed to send two companies of said batallion to Lewistown, there to remain in the service of the continent till farther orders.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be directed and empowered to fit out, with all expedition, two armed cutters, for the service of the continent.

Resolved, That Blank commissions for private ships of war and letters of marque and reprisal, signed by the president, be sent to the general assemblies, conventions, and councils or committees of safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the persons intending to fit out such private ships of war, for making captures of British vessels and cargoes, who shall apply for the same, and execute the bonds which shall be sent with the said commissions, which bonds shall be returned to the Congress.

Resolved, That every person intending to set forth and fit out a private ship or vessel of war, and applying for a commission or letters of marque and reprisal for that purpose, shall produce a writing subscribed by him, containing the name and tonnage or burthen of the ship or vessel, the number of her guns, with their weight of metal, the name and place of residence of the owner or owners, the names of the commander and other officers, the number of the crew, and the quantity of provisions and warlike stores; which writing shall be delivered to the secretary of Congress, or to the clerk of the house of representatives, convention, or council, or committee of safety of the colony in which the ship or vessel shall be, to be transmitted to the said secretary, and shall be registered by him; and that the commander of the ship or vessel, before the commission or letters of marque and reprisal may be granted, shall, together with sufficient sureties, seal and deliver a bond, in the penalty of five thousand dollars, if the vessel be of one hundred tons or under, or ten thousand dollars, if of a greater burthen, payable to the president of the Congress, in trust for the use of the United Colonies, with condition in the form following, to wit:

The condition of this obligation is such, That if the above-bounden [blank] who is Commander of the [blank], called [blank], belonging to [blank], of [blank], in the colony of [blank], mounting [blank] carriage Guns, and navigated by [blank] Men, and who

IN CONGRESS,

APRIL 3, 1776.

RESOLVED, That blank Commissions for private Ships of War, and Letters of Marque and Reprisal, signed by the President, be sent to the General Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, to be by them filled up and delivered to the Persons intending to fit out such private Ships of War for making Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, who shall apply for the same, and execute the Bonds which shall be sent with the said Commissions, which Bonds shall be returned to the Congress.

By Order of Congress,

 PRESIDENT.

hath applied for a Commission, or Letters of Marque and Reprisal, to arm, equip, and set forth to Sea, the said [blank] as a private Ship of War, and to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, shall not exceed or transgress the Powers and Authorities which shall be contained in the said Commission, but shall, in all Things, observe and conduct himself, and govern his Crew, by and according to the same, and certain Instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other Instructions as may hereafter be given to him; and shall make Reparation for all Damages sustained by any Misconduct or unwarrantable Proceedings of Himself, or the Officers or Crew of the said [blank], then this Obligation shall be void, or else remain in Force;

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Which bond shall be lodged with the said secretary of Congress.

The committee to whom the instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, were recommitted, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Instructions to the commanders of private ships or vessels of war, which shall have commissions or letters of marque and reprisal, authorizing them to make captures of British vessels and cargoes.

1. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, on the high seas, or between high water and low water mark, except ships and vessels bringing persons who intend to settle and reside in the United Colonies; or bringing arms, ammunition, or war-like stores, to the said colonies, for the use of such inhabitants thereof as are friends to the American cause, which you shall suffer to pass unmolested, the commanders thereof permitting a peaceable search, and giving satisfactory information of the contents of the ladings, and destinations of the voyages.

2. You may, by force of arms, attack, subdue, and take all ships and other vessels whatsoever, carrying soldiers, arms, gunpowder, ammunition, provisions, or any other contraband goods, to any of the British armies or ships of war employed against these colonies.

3. You shall bring such ships and vessels, as you shall take, with their guns, rigging, tackle, apparel, furniture, and ladings, to some convenient port or ports of the United Colonies, that proceedings may thereupon be had, in due form, before the courts, which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine causes civil and maritime.

4. You, or one of your chief officers, shall bring or send the master and pilot; and one or more principal person or persons of the company of every ship or vessel by you taken, as soon after the capture as may be, to the judge or judges of such court as aforesaid, to be

examined upon oath, and make answer to the interrogatories which may be propounded, touching the interest or property of the ship or vessel, and her lading; and, at the same time, you shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the judge or judges, all passes, sea-briefs, charter-parties, bills of lading, cockets, letters, and other documents and writings found on board, proving the said papers, by the affidavit of yourself, or of some other person present at the capture, to be produced as they were received, without fraud, addition, subduction or embezzlement.

5. You shall keep and preserve every ship or vessel, and cargo, by you taken, until they shall, by a sentence of a court properly authorized, be adjudged lawful prizes; not selling, spoiling, wasting, or diminishing the same, or breaking the bulk thereof, nor suffering any such thing to be done.

6. If you, or any of your officers or crew, shall, in cold blood, kill or maim, or by torture or otherwise, cruelly, inhumanly, and, contrary to common usage, and the practice of civilized nations in war, treat any person or persons surprized in the ship or vessel you shall take, the offender shall be severely punished.

7. You shall by all convenient opportunities, send to Congress written accounts of the captures you shall make, with the number and names of the captives, copies of your journal from time to time, and intelligence of what may occur or be discovered concerning the designs of the enemy, and the destination, motions, and operations of their fleets and armies.

8. One-third, at least, of your whole company shall be landsmen.

9. You shall not ransom any prisoners or captives, but shall dispose of them in such manner, as the Congress, or, if that be not sitting, in the colony whither they shall be brought, as the general assembly, convention, or council, or committee of safety, of such colony shall direct.

10. You shall observe all such further instructions as Congress shall hereafter give in the premises, when you shall have notice thereof.

11. If you shall do any thing contrary to these instructions, or to others hereafter to be given, or willingly suffer such thing to be done, you shall not only forfeit your commission, and be liable to an action for breach of the condition of your bond, but be responsible to the party grieved for damages sustained by such malversation.⁴

1. Ford., ed., *JCC*, IV, 250–54.

2. Commissions for the *Congress* and the *Chance* were issued April 11, 1776. The owners were Joseph Dean and Philip Moore & Company. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 1776–1783), 196, III, 40, and II, 92, NA. They were the earliest vessels commissioned under the instructions of April 3, 1776.

3. Henry Fisher's letter of April 1, 1776.

4. The instructions were printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776. They were printed in quantities, signed, "By Order of Congress, John Hancock President," and distributed along with the bond form, similarly signed; Emmet Autograph Collection, 1240

and 517, NYPL. Another copy, found on board a prize by Vice Admiral Clark Gayton, at Jamaica, is in PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOHN HANCOCK TO ANY OFFICER COMMANDING TROOPS ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia April 3d. 1776

I have it in Command from Congress to direct that you, upon the Application of Silas Deane, Esqr you furnish him with a Guard of twenty Men under a proper officer to proceed with him to the Capes, from thence to be returned. — You will therefore comply with this Requisition, immediately on his Application.² I am, Sir, [&c.]

J.H. Prt.

To the officer commanding the Continental Troops or the officer commanding where this Letter shall be produced. —

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, II, 94.

2. Guard was provided by Lieutenant James R. Reid of Captain Thomas Church's company, Colonel Anthony Wayne's Fourth Pennsylvania Battalion.

ROBERT MORRIS TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN ¹

Philada April 3d. 1776

Gentn. We have received your letter of the 20th Ult. directed to the late Chairman of this Committee & are well pleased to learn thereby, that the Sloop you first dispatched to the West Indias in Consequence of your Contract with the Continent, was returned and has brought in 193 Bolts of Russia Duck, 43 ps Russian Sheeting, one pair of Swivell Guns, 14 Small Arms, 12 Cwt of Powder & 30 lb Ball, all which we hope you have long since got Safe Landed, and you will please to keep the Same in your Possession untill, the Marine Committee shall determine how the same are to be disposed of, when You will receive directions from them or us. We desire you will furnish us with Invoices & bills of Loading for the Cargoes you export on Account of the Continent, Acct Sales when you receive them, also Invoices of the return Cargoes & the Acct Current with those that transact the bussiness aboard that we may in due time have the whole transactions regularly before us. We have not yet heard of the arrival of the Rich Jews Brig. which you mention, but if Such a one Sailed we hope She may Soon appear. We thank you for the Account of the arrival of Arms & Ammunition which we Suppose is on Private Account as you do not say they are for the Public.

Linens have been ordered from different parts in Virtue of other Contracts & we have no orders from Congress to Import Hemp therefore you had best Confine your Importations to the Articles you Contracted for, unless you find a surplus of Money arise abroad on the Sale of Your Cargoes & in that case you may encrease the quantity of Goods or order such Supplies in Arms & Ammunition. We are Sirs [&c.]

By order of the Secret Committee

Robt Morris, Chair Man

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Gentlemen

Baltimore 3 April 1776

We duly received your favor of the 26 Ulto As the Schooner *Resolution* is now ready and has 20 Men Shipt Capt Nicolson thinks it expedient to carry her down with him as far as Annapolis as he will then be able to Judge of her Sailing, and will inform you and you can then determine whether to continue her, or order her back. We have stopt all further Ex-pence on her, until your further determination.

The Schooner *Ninety two* was stopt in consequence of Mr Carrolls order to Capt Nicolson to sink such Vessells as was necessary to obstruct the Passage to Balto Town, every Vessel in the Harbor was taken and so many sunk as nearly to Compleat it, there now only wants 3 to finish it, of which this Schooner is allotted to be one because the Water being 26 feet deep it requires large Vessells, and if she is taken away all that is yet done will be of no avail in case of an Attack, We therefore leave it to you to determine; And your Orders shall be instantly obeyed. The Boom is beginning to be fixt, and we expect in 8 days may be compleated, when she may be discharged. As to the Schooner *Peggy* this Committee were not informd of any Order from you to load her, neither did they ever employ her or know of her going for Plank, and consequently disclaim the Transaction altogether. We never did presume to Counteract any order of yours, and hope the above will Satisfy you that we have acted right

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

RECEIPTS RELATING TO THE MARYLAND SHIP Defence ¹

[Baltimore]

Recd Apl 3d 1776 of Capt James Nicholson on Accot Ship Defence - Forty shills advance Money to Robert McDonald as a Marine Which I promise to refund provided the sd McDonald Shou'd leave the Ship before the expiration of one Month from the date hereof

£2.0.0

James Phillips

1. Account Book, Ship Defence Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, 3rd April, 1776.

The Comm'ee being informed by Capt. Arthur Smith, on oath, that William Goodrich has lately attempted, with the assistance of 2 armed cutters from Lord Dunmore's Fleet, to take the Slaves and Stock off his father's (John Goodrich) plantation in the County of Isle of Wight, and has actually taken two negroes -

Ordered, that the Comm'ees of the counties of Isle Wight and Nansemond do severally cause the slaves on the said plantations of the s'd Goodrich, in their respective counties, to be secured, and the stock of all

kinds to be sold at public auction, and an inventory thereof ret'd to this comm'ee.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 151.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 3d Day of April.

Colonel Pinckney according to Order presented a Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases And the same was received and read a First Time

Resolved That the Bill be read a Second Time

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 31, 33-34.

South Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1776

Charlestown, April 3.

On Friday the 22d ult. Capt. [Joseph] Turpin, in the Provincial armed Brigantine *Comet*, of 16 Guns, retook the Sloop *Hetty*, of this Port, which Capt. Tollemache seized off this Bar in December last. Her Name was changed to the *General Clinton*; she had some Cohorns and Swivels, with twelve Men on board, and served as a Tender to the *Falcon* Man of War. A hard Gale separated Capt. Turpin from his Prize; the former arrived here on Sunday se'nnight, and the latter with Capt. [Simon] Tufts, on Saturday last.

We hear that the Brigantine *Georgia Packet*, Captain [George] Bunner, from Philadelphia for Savannah, with a Cargo of Flour, &c. has been taken by the Men of War at Cockspur; ¹ and a Sloop from this Port for New-York,² and another from Georgetown for Salem has been taken by those on the North Carolina Station.³

We hear from Savannah, that a party, in which were some Indians, lately went to Tybee Island, where they took thirteen Negroes and some other Prisoners, and killed three or four Marines.

1. The *Georgia Packet*, laden with flour, bread, beer and rum, was taken by H.M.S. *Raven*, off Savannah bar, on March 12, 1776, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. *Ibid.*, the sloop *Hope*, Andrew Brown, master, with rice and indigo, taken March 10, 1776, by H.M.S. *Mercury*.

3. *Ibid.*, May 23, 1776, the sloop *Adventure*, Francis Boardman, master, with rice, indigo and skins, taken March 8, 1776, by H.M.S. *Falcon*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

April 1776

Tybee S55° Wt distt 126 Leags

Wednesdy 3d at 3 A M made the signl & Tkd at 5 saw a sail to the Noward let all the reefs out, Got Top Gallt yards up & set the sails, set the driver & gave Chace to a Sloop, at 10 fir'd

2 Guns shotted & brot her too, lay'd the Mizn TS to the Mast and hoisted the Cutter out, sent a petty officer & 5 men on board to take charge of her, she came from Turks Island loaded with salt;² the Convoy in Co³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Speedwell*. See following entry.

3. The convoy consisted of H.M. Sloop *Tamar*, H.M. Schooner *St. Lawrence*, two transports, three prizes and several merchant vessels, bound from the Savannah river for Rhode Island.

ORDER OF CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY, R.N., TO
CAPTAIN JOHN LIGHTENSTONE ¹

By Captain Andrew Barkley of
His Majesty's Ship *Scarboro*:

You are hereby required & directed to take upon you the Charge and Command of the *Speedwell* Sloop, loaded with Salt, taken by His Majys Ship under my command. You are to secure the hold and prevent Embezzlement as much as possible — You are to sail in Company with His Majesty's Ship under my Command to Boston, if you shou'd by any accident whatever part Company with me and the other Kings Ships I wou'd recommend for you to push for Rhode Island & put yourself under the direction of the Senior Officer of His Majys: Ships that may be there. — You will obey the printed Instructions you will herewith receive & in Sailing keep as near the *Scarborough* as possibly you can. — Given under my hand on board the *Scarborough* at sea this 3d April 1776

And^w Barkley

[In the margin] When I want to speak with you I will hoist a White pendant at the Starboard Mizen Topsail Yard Arm. —

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Chatham*, CAPTAIN JOHN RAYNOR ¹

April Cape Sambro No37° Et Dce 19 leags
Tuesday 2 at 4 AM made the Signal & Wore at 6 set the fore & Mizen topsails Sounded 66 fms Sand & Shells, out all reefs the Topsails & got Top Gallant Yards out. Calm The *Argo* transport fell on Board of us & carried away our Driver Boom — Little Wind & fair Wr at 1 PM Saw the Land from the Mast Head bearing North at 3 Made the Signal for all Cruizers to Join the Fleet Halifax light House NBW dce 3 leagues at 5 [P.]M HM Ship *Cerberus* Joined the fleet & saluted with 13 Guns ret'd 11. at 7 Came too . . . with the Best Br in 10 fm water — found riding here HM Ships *Orpheus* (with Commodore Arbuthnots broad Pendt on board) *Fowey*, *Kingsfisher*, *Adventure* Store Ship *Diligent* Brig & *Halifax* Schooner with a number of transports

Wednesday 3 AM at 6 the Garrison Saluted us with 17 Guns, ret'd 15 as did the *Orpheus* with 15 ret'd 13. Came in and Anchored here HM Ship *Centurion* Lively & Tryal Schooner with the remainder of the fleet.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/192.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

(No 4)

English Harbour Antigua 3d April 1776

Sir The inclosed Papers marked No 1, 2, 3 are Copies of some intercepted Letters, and Intelligence brought me; which I requested may be Communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, as also those marked No 4 and 5, being Copy of a Letter, I thought necessary to write to the Compté De Nosier, Governor of Martinique, in consequence of the aforesaid Intelligence, and his answer thereto – I sent Captain Robert Keeler in the *Lynx* Sloop with my Dispatch to Martinique on the above occasion, that he might be enabled at his arrival in England, to give their Lordships a more particular and circumstantial Account of the manner in which the Americans carry on their Trade, at the French Islands; – to Him I therefore refer, and am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

4 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Magdalen*, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH NUNN ¹

April 1776

In the Culdisac [Quebec]

Thursday 4 AM sent the People of the Schooner off Guard to Clear the Schooners Decks from Snow &c and also to repair the Riggings being damaged by the Rebels Shot from their Battery &c.
P M all the People off Garrison duty employ abt the Riggings &c ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4252.

2. This is the resumption of the journal which was discontinued December 8, 1775, when the *Magdalen* was laid up and the crew sent ashore in the defense of Quebec.

COST OF POWDER VOYAGE OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOONER *Success* ¹

Dr	The Schooner <i>Success</i> and Cargo –	Cr
1776	To Cash, paid off Portledge bill	£37..15...0
March	To Cash paid John Seawar[d] for going round to return Schooner at Newbury Port p receipt	4..16...3
	To Cash paid Natha Tracey Esqr for hire of Schooner three Months and a half as p Charter party Agreement 255½ dollars a 6/	76..13...0

Aprill	To Cash paid Jeremiah Libbey for guarding Powder to Camb[r]idge and Horse hire as p Bill and rec[t]	}	7...6...0
	To Cash paid Major Gains as Ex- press to Cambridge to give Information of the arrival of Powder as p rec[t]		4...4...0
	To Cash paid Samuel Hall for trucking Powder to Magazine p rec[t]	}	12...-
	To Cash paid Benjamin Bigelow for Transporting powder to Cambr[i]dge		16...9...6
	To Cash paid Wm McIntyre for one of the Gunns	}	10...-
	To Cash paid Jos. Ayres for trans- porting powder to Cambr[i]dge		8..10...6
	To Cash paid Capt Kinsman Peverly acct Current	}	51..15..16
	To Cash paid Thos Thompson & Supply Clap for a Negro sold at St Lucia		56...0...0
	To 6,250 weight of Powder sent to the Camp by Order of General Washington a 3/6	}	1093..15...0
	To Cash paid Tobias Walther for one of the Guards p rec[t]		1..12...6
	To Cash paid Christopher Goodwin for going round to return Schooner	}	8...9
	To Cash paid James Hunt for ditto		10...0
			<u>£ 1212..12...3</u>
	Commis for receiving delivg & husbanding the Vessell a 2½ p rec[t]		68...0...9
			<u>£ 1280..13...0</u>
		Money	<u>£ 1428.18...9</u>

1776 By 6,250 Weight of Powder being receivd }
 Aprill from St Lucia for her Cargo - a 3/6 } £ 1093.15..0
 [Portsmouth, April 4, 1776] ²

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

2. The date is approximated. One of the items indicates that Washington ordered the powder sent to Cambridge, and that the commander in chief was still in Cambridge on April 4, 1776.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

April 1776 Cape Ann NNE 6 or 7 Leagus
 Wednesday 3 Light Airs with Rain, gave Chace fir'd 8 Shot at the Chace proved to be a pirate Schooner from Cape Ann Harbr, where she got in, Haul'd our Wind in 1st & 2d Reef T Sails.
 First part Fresh Breezs & foggy with Rain latter hard Gales and Clouds at 6 PM Close Reeft Topsails
 Thursday 4 5 am Saw a Sail in the S W gave Chace at 7 Carried away the Mizn Topsl Yard in the Slings got up the Spritsl Yard in lieu at 9 the Starbd Topsl Sheet broke, knotted him again fir'd a Shot at the Chace proved to be the *Crawford* Brig from St Christophers

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

CAPTAIN ALLEN HALLET'S ACCOUNT WITH ELIAS HASKET DERBY FOR
 VOYAGE OF SCHOONER *Nancy* TO THE MOLE ¹

Dr	Elias Hasket Derby Esqr in an account	
1776	To 126 HHd Molasses Contg 13662	
April	Galls a 10s P Gall & Cask 21/ Liv	9477
4	To 8 HHd & 9 Barl Sugar Contg 12569	
	Nt a 36/Liv Pr C. as Pr Invoice	4524..16
	To 4 HHd Do Contg 6418 lb Nt	
	a 33/Liv Pr C. as Pr Invoice	2117..12
	To 3 Casks Coffee Contg 1877 lb Nt a 9 Sous	844..13
	To 3 Casks for Do a 16/10	49..10
	To Sundry Dry Goods Amout as Pr Invoice	2343..15
	french Livers	19357...6
	To Commissions a 21½ Pr Ct	483...9
	To the Loss of Light money 85/	85...-
	To my Bill of Disbursments	664...9
	To 2 lb Grean Tea a 30/	60...-
	french Livers	20650...4
	Errors Exceptd	
	Pr Allen Hallett	
	Current With Allen Hallett ²	Cr

1776	By Cash Brought from Salem 50	
April	Joannases a 66/ Livers	Livers 3300...-
4	By Cash Recd of Mr John Dupey at the mole By order of Capt Silsbee	17487...1

By 9 molasses Cask Brought from Salem
a 9/ Livers

189

french, Livers

20970...1

20650...4

325...17

1. Derby Family Manuscripts, Commercial Papers 1737-1783, EI.

2. See Derby to Hallet, February 23, 1776, for Hallets sailing orders.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

[Extract]

[Cambridge, April 4, 1776]

The Work upon Beacon hill should be repaired, and in my opinion be made strong, as it commands Fort hill; & all lower Works and would endanger the loss of them if it should be possessed by the [En]emy - No time sho[u]ld be lost in fixing with the General Court, or Council upon proper Signals for alarming the Country upon the appearance of a Fleet. - for the purpose of ga[in]ing [as] much time as possible I think the alarm ought to be given from Cape Ann, or Marblehead & forwarded by (agreed) Signals to Bos[to]n & thence [i]nto the Country - this Matter sho[uld] not be delayed. -

All Captures made by the Continental Armed Vessels are to be immediately libelled [against] in the Court of Admiralty of the district where carried to [all officers, soldie]rs & M[e]n of Wars Men are considered as Prisoners. - The Former to be sent & confined [to some] Town upon their Paroles - the others sent to [such Goals] as the [General] Ct shall direct - No Condemn'd property to be sold till the day of Sale is three times Advertised in the Papers with an enumeratn of the Ca[r]go of Boston [or] Cambridge Watertown or Worcester & a speciall report thereof [made] to you that if any thing is wanted [by the Commiss]ary or Qr Masters department [they may be] notified thereof. -

The Vessels which were left in Boston by the Enemy, some with, & some without Cargos, & which I am told various claims are laid to must not be delivered up unless the Person claiming will give some surety to abide the determination of Congress respecting them. - In that case, an [ex]act Inventory to be taken in order to ascertain the value. - The Wheat left by the King's Troops is to be attended to that no hurt comes to it - it ought either to be sold, or converted into Flour for the use of the Army - the Qr Master & Comy may be consulted on this head.

The Flat bottomd Boats, Whale Boats and floating Batteries are to be continued in the Care of Capt Sylvanus Drew. They must be hawl'd into a convenient place of Safety, and proper Care taken to prevent their being destroy'd, or suffering damage from the Heat [of] the Weather - Their oars, paddles &c. are to be put in[to] some safe Store -

All Officers and Seamen taken in Transport Vessells employ[ed] in the Enemy's Service, are to be released on Condition they give a very Strict parole, not to act against the American Colonies during the present Contest -

I. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, April 4, 1776.

I thank you for your friendly congratulations on the retreat of the king's troops from Boston. It was really a flight; their embarkation was so precipitate; their loading so confused, (after making greater havoc of the king's stores than Dunbar did upon Braddock's defeat, which made so much noise,) ² that it took them eleven days to fit their transports, adjust the loads of them, and take in water from the islands in Nantasket Road after they had fallen down there. The coast is now clear of them, except the *Renown*, (a 50 gun ship,) and one or two frigates, which remain here for the protection of such transports as shall be bound to this port.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 474-75.

2. Colonel Thomas Dunbar succeeded to the command after Braddock's death and destroyed great quantities of stores before retreating towards the east.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

Aprile 1776

Remark's &c in Nantasket Road

Thursdy 4th

AM Let go the Best Br Anchor, Struck yards & Topmast got the Topsl. yards fore and aft in the Tops got the Spreet sail yard in & got Down the T Gallt Mast, our Prize Schooner Drove on Shore ² as Did a Prize Sloop hoisted the Boats out to give Assistance and Sent a Hawsor on Board the Schooner.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

2. The schooner *Betsey*, for Salem with Indian corn from Virginia, taken March 30, 1776.OWNERS' BOND OF THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Hannah* ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That we Charles Wolfe Stephen Smith, Frank Anthony DeWolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham all of Bristol in the County of Bristol and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchants are held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esquire General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Five 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 Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Charles De Wolfe Stephen Smith, Frank Anthony De Wolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham have equipped the Sloop *Hannah* burthened about Thirty Tons whereof Timothy Ingraham is Master and have obtained Permission of the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of the said Colony for him the said Timothy Ingraham to proceed with the said Sloop and her Cargo to the Island of Santa Croix to purchase Powder and other Military Stores &c. Now therefore the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Timothy Ingraham shall well and truly lay out the whole Proceeds of the Cargo on board the said Sloop in Gun

Powder, Salt Petre, Sulphur, Duck, or Arms, and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies in America, the Danger of the Sea and of the Enemy only excepted and also further excepting that in Case the said Timothy Ingraham shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of his Cargo in the Articles above mentioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out and bring back the remainder in Paper Ozenbriggs, Tincklenburgh, Lead, Flints, Twine, German Steele, Cotton Linnen or Woolen Cloths, Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall also lodge a true Account or Manifest of his Cargo in the Office of the Secretary of the said Colony within three Days after the Return of said Sloop: and further shall not during said Voyage proceed or go to any of the English Islands in the West Indies, or to any Port or Place contrary to the Continental Association (the Danger of the Sea and Seizure by an Enemy always excepted) then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Charles D'Wolfe

Sealed and Delivered } William Corlis
in the Presence of } William Mumford

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

2. "April 4th. In the Sloop *Hannah* Timothy Ingraham Master for Santa Croix 24 Casks Rice, 30 bbls Flour and 3 M Hoops. Owned by Charles De Wolfe, Stephen Smith, Mark Anthony De Wolfe, Josiah Finney and Isaac Gorham all of Bristol." Nicholas Brown Papers, BUL.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL ¹

Sir –

Lebanon 4th April 1776 – 2 oClo PM

I have your favour of the Morning before me – Your Company to be Augmented to ninty men, was intended had no misinformation been received – the Addition of One Company from your Regiment, and another from Colo [Samuel] Coit's for the Service at Mamacock and Winthrop's point will not forward those works with more expedition than is desirable – The failure of the plan for Minute Men renders the detachment now ordered necessary for the Security of the Harbour and Defence of the Town of New London – I have not Authority to counteract the Order of the Governor and Council, and think it not best to call them together On the Occasion – Although I approve of your Zeal for the Colony's Interest, and of your useful hints for avoiding Expences – You will please to go on to execute the Orders you have received – How soon the Enemy may enter that harbour, make An Attack, & Attempt to Land or burn the Town is uncertain – Readiness to receive them is the best preventive remedy – I hope the Works will be forwarded with prudence, diligence and Attention – and that We shall Obtain a Loan of Cannon from New York to be planted on them –

I have desired Gov [Matthew] Griswold to come through New London on Monday next, that he may be able to inform of every circumstance needful to be attended to – The Council meet next Tuesday – I Received from

Govr Cooke a Letter of the 2nd instant at evening informing of the Mistake concerning the Fleet – I have nothing material that is news.

I have enclosed the two Maps you left on my Table.

I am, with great Truth and Regard Sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 23b. ConnSL.

COLONEL GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

[Extract]

New London April 4, 1776
eight o'clock A.M.

The various Accots from Newport since tuesday noon, made it probable the Accot of a Fleets being arrived there was premature, and last evening the Post came in from thence, & confirmed the matter that no Fleet had been there, as your Honor was informed by Express from Govr Cooke. the Post tells me two men made Oath before Colo [Henry] Babcock they saw a Fleet, which I conclude was the Foundation of Govr Cookes Inteligence. enclosed you have the Newport Paper, by which youl see that no Ship but the *Nautilus* (of 16 Guns) had arrived there, and the Accot of the Fleet was only Report.

Matters relative to sd Fleet being thus situated, thought it my duty to send this express to your Honor for further Orders.

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 23a, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

Thursday April 4 [1776] Latitude In 40..26 Longitude In 71..56

at 9 AM, made Long Iland Bear NNW, about 6, Leagues At Meridian made Montock Point Bearing N B W, and Block Iland ENE 4 Leagues, the Sloop In Company

Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather, At 2 PM, Wore Ship, and Stood off to Southd At 3 Do Came up with the Fleet & Spoke the Comodore & *Columbus*, who had taken, a Schooner, tender,² belonging to Capt Wallace's Fleet

At 4 Do Stood in to the North'd, we being order'd to look after the tenders,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The schooner *Hawke*, tender to H.M.S. *Rose*.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

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

April 4th, 1776.

Ordered, That the port master be, and he is hereby permitted to take with him on board the *Asia* and *Phoenix* ships of war, the Governor's ship and the packet, the following articles, vizt: 1,300 lb beef, for the *Asia*. 1,000 lb beef for the *Phoenix*; with 18s. worth vegetables. Two qrs beef 1 doz. dishes; 2 doz. plates; 1 doz. spoons; 2 mugs; 2 barls. ale, for the

packet. One tierce of peas; 6 barls beer; 2 qrs; beef, for the Governor's ship.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 399, 400.

JOSEPH THROCKMORTON TO AZARIAH DUNHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK¹

Mr. Dunham Sr.

Shrewsbury April the 4th. 1776

I Understand You are one of the Delegates for this Province and one of the Committee of Safety – and Your being acquainted with our Scituation of Inlets, Bays, and Rivers Runing Up In our County occasions Us to be a frontier and In Continual Danger – as to the Bay Between Middletown and New York if a fleet Comes in and finding New York So Strongly fortified and Garrison'd. It must be more than Probable that Such a Body of Troops will not ly in Sight of Such an Inhabited Defenceless Country and want the Necessary Refreshments and Supplies they may so Easily obtain – and as to our Strength to Defend Ourselves it is Much Weaken'd by Listing of Men for the Continental Service, and this Last Supply of Men and arms if not Soon Recall'd or other ways Supplied May Render Us Incapable of Defending our Selves from becoming an Easy prey to any Invaders which at this time Very much Dispirits the Inhabitants of this County to be Left In So Defenceless a Condition – as to arms we were very Indifferently provided before any went out, but the sending of fifty Jersey Muskets to supply part of Colnl [William] Maxwell's Battalion and the Late Draft has Took a Considerable part of our best Arms – and as there Are Gentlemen In Your House of Committe of Safety who I hope are Not Unacquainted with our Scituation; what I have wrote is only by way of Reminding You – that as You have Granted the Supplies they have Required, You will Request as Speedy a Return of our Troops as possible, but Submit to your wisdom and Likewise of that body which You are a part – Dr Sr our former friendship I hope will not be forgot In the worst of Times, and beg you will Excuse the Incorrectness In the above – from Your Humble Servt

Jos: Throckmorton

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 4, 1776

The committee, to whom the memorial from James M'Knight . . . were referred brought in their report, which was read: And thereupon,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection and observation of the county of Burlington, be requested to make sale of the sloop *Sally*, whereof the said James M'Knight was prize master, and which was lately run ashore by him, within the said county, together with her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and the cargo on board, at public auction; and after deducting the charges of securing and selling the same, to divide the surplus into two parts,

and pay one moiety thereof to the said James M'Knight for salvage, and retain the other moiety thereof for the owner or owners.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 255, 256.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

Philada April 4th 1776

Sir Your letters of the 14th Ulto directed to the late Saml Ward Esqr are now before me & have been read to the Secret Committee by whose order I now Answer them. We are sorry for the loss of the Brigt Cap [Josiah] Shackford, but as things now stand we must expect many More losses of the same kind & think ourselves happy if a sufficient number does but return to keep the Continent supplied with Arms, Ammunition & necessary Cloathing.

We rejoice however to find by your Second letter that Cap Peverly was returned with 6 to 7000 lb of Powder, Which you were lodging in the Magazine. Shou'd the General give any orders for this Powder or any part of it, you will transmit us A Copy of his order & the receipt of those you deliver it to, in Virtue of such orders and observe the same Method with any other parcels you may receive on Continental Account. Shou'd the Genl not give any orders the Powder must remain for the future orders of this Committee. We also desire to be furnished in due time with the Invoices of the outward & homeward Cargoes and with all the Accounts & Documents relative to the Contracts. this is mentioned at present only to remind you that such will be wanted when the transactions are wound up.

You will find before this gets to hand, that the Congress have met your Wishes and granted Licenses for Privateering on our Enemys but they have stopped rather short of the Mark, by not including West India Property. We shall be glad to hear of the Success of the other Vessells you have dispatched & are to dispatch to fullfill the Contract & thanking you for the other intelligence contained in Your letters I remain Sir [&c.]

By order of the Committee.

Rob^t Morris, Chair Man

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

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 4th A'l, 1776.

Upon application of Capt: [Nathaniel] Falconer for some arms & ammunition for the use of the pilot Boat station'd at Bombay Hook, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver 5 Muskets, 10 Rounds of Powder & Ball, & 8 Swivel shot.

Resolved, That the officers of the armed Boats be instructed not to suffer any Pilot Boat or Pilot (except those employed by this Committee, to navigate from Chester to this City) to pass down the River, below the Chevaux de Frize, without producing a permit in writing from this Board or the Commodore.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 535.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 4, 1776." ¹

Yesterday arrived a schooner from Guadaloup, with about 7 tons of powder.

We have also two pilot boats from St. Eustatia, with goods. – This day came up the *Wasp* schooner, Captain Hallock, one of our fleet, who had been at [New] Providence, and taken off all the King's stores there, and will be very soon among us. – Capt. Barry in an armed schooner ² from this port, has sent in a sloop from St. Croix. ³

1. *New York Journal*, April 11, 1776.

2. The Continental brig *Lexington*.

3. The St. Croix sloop was released upon order of the Marine Committee as not a good prize.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks On Thursday the 4 of April 1776

at 6AM Wade & Sailed from Chastear to philp hill at 10 am Came two Brast of the Town clear Wathear. a frash Brezes at W N W at 2 pm Hald to the Whorf & cleard the Vasal for Heving Down Sant 14 Sick peopel On Shoar:–

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

Gloucester Pt. Thursday [April 4]
10 O'clock A.M.

We got as far as here last evening just as the Tide was spent and this morning made an attempt to proceed but the Wind blew so heavy, direct against Us, that we were obliged to return. This moment a Schooner of Eight Gunns, which I take to be one of the Continental Fleet fitted from Maryland, pass'd Us, ² on which I have sent my Servant with this to learn what intelligence she brings . . . We shall go from hence, the next Tide, if the Wind Moderates, & must expect some delay, at least for some Hours in procuring our Guard, & their provisions, which after all will not be so effectual as this Schooner, for I conceive that as Capt. [John] Barry has got out & will Cruize from Sandy Hook to the Capes of Virginia, No small Vessels of war, will keep the Coast, and if you prevent their lying in the Eastern or Cape May Channel, your Navigation will be in a great Measure Free.

1. *The Confidential Correspondence of Robert Morris*, Stan V. Henkel Catalogue, No. 1183 (Philadelphia, 1917).

2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dr Sir, –

Phila 4 April 1776.

I recd your note at the State House, and on coming down here find your Conjecture about the Schooner is right; she is one that Colo [Benjamin] Harrison fitted out in Maryland ² but I cannot find the Captain; other People tell me she is leaky & sickly; however I will have her fitted quick as

possible and sent down with particular orders to attend you if she gets down in time.

This however is uncertain, and you must determine for yourself whether to wait for her or proceed without. You know how hard it will be to get the People on bd again, but all the dispatch that is possible shall be made. I am [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, 1, 131-32.
2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, 4th April, 1776.

Resolved, That the Comm'ee of Northampton county be empowered to build or purchase and fit out for the protection of their Coast two such small-armed vessels as they have recommended.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 152.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Thursday the 4th Day of April 1776

Ordered That Captain Roger Smith do wait on Hugh Rutledge and Joshua Ward Esquires to acquaint the former of his having been elected Judge of the Admiralty and the latter of his being chosen an Assistant Judge and to inquire of them respectively if they are willing to qualify for those Offices

Captain Roger Smith reported That he had according to Order waited on Mr Hugh Rutledge and Mr Joshua Ward with the Message he had in Charge And that Mr Rutledge declared his Willingness to qualify for the Office to which he had been chosen but Mr Ward said it would be inconvenient for him to accept the Place for an Assistant Judge and therefore he declined that Honour

Ordered That the Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Deser-tion of the Soldiers or Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Pun-ishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them be carried to the Legis-lative Council by Mr William Skirving and Mr [Isaac] MacPherson

Mr Skirving reported That he and Mr MacPherson had according to Order delivered the Bill they had in Charge to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 34, 36-37.

5 Apr.

PETITION OF JOHN MOODIE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

To the Honorable Councell & to the Honorable House of Represen[tat]ives in Generall Court Assembled At Wattertown the 5d day of April Anno Domini 1776

The Pettition of John Moodie of Boston Mariner Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner sailed From Boston in August Last for Anoplas Royal In Novescotia and Sould his Cargo Their For Cattel Hay Wood Butter and Fish and Sundries – And Was tacken By Capt Masirey² of Sealem and Carried In their.³

Your Pettitioner is Now hear in Destress with a Wife and Two Children Just out of the Small pox and Nothing to Support them Prayes Your Honors Would please to order that He may Have His own Wages and Adventure allowed to Him For His Familes Support and that your Honors would Take His Destressed Condition into your searios Consideration And order that Something may Be allowed For the mentaining of Him and his much Destresed Famelie and Your Pettitioner as in alw[ays] Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray &c

John Moodie

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 393.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 108, Richard Masury, commanding the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Dolphin*.

3. The schooner *Fisher*, fifty tons burden, libeled in Admiralty Court for trial at Ipswich, March 21, 1776.

JAMES OTIS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

Message from the Board proposing to raise 1000 Men to fortify Boston Harbour.

Gentn of the House of Representatives –

As a considerable number of our Enemies Ships continue to parade in Boston Harbour and the Bay so as to obstruct all such assistance in Wood Fish & other provisions as the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston might otherwise receive by Water; which also prevents such a survey of such Harbour as the Court Intended previous to their taking any determinate measures relative to their erecting the most effectual Fortifications for its defence; it is therefore earnestly recommended to your immediate consideration whr 1000 men might not be employed to the best advantage, (provided on the partial survey already made) by taking Post at the same Instant, at Long Island, Petticks Island, & at Nantaskett they being furnished with suitable cannon, ammunion, Tents or Barracks, Provisions, Boats &c; such men (if not to be spared from the Continental Troops now under the direction of the General Court) to be raised and embodied immediately, upon the same pay as those raised for the defence of the Sea Coasts, with such further encouragement as may be tho't proper, for every armed Vessel of our Enemies taken or destroyed by them –

In the name & by Order of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] April 5th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 232, 632–33.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Friday April 5th 1776

The Committee of both Houses, to whom the foregoing Petition² was

Committed; have considered the same, and are of Opinion that William Sever & Thomas Durfee Esqrs Two of the Committee – “for Building & Equipping sundry Armed Vessels” have leave to rig the Two Vessels they are now building into Brigantines, instead of Sloops as was first intended. Brigantines being of more General Service, and best answering their intended Use – your Committee are also of an opinion that it will be expedient for William Sever and Thomas Durfee Esqrs part of the Committee aforesaid, to receive from Richard Devens Esqr the Commissary General of this Colony, Thirty Six Bolts of Duck which will be necessary for the furnishing said Brigantines with Sails –

Moses Gill pr Order

Read and accepted and thereupon

Resolved. That the said William Sever and Thomas Durfee Esqrs accordingly rig the Two Vessels they are now building into Brigantines instead of Sloops – and that they receive from Richard Devens Esqr the Commissary General of this Colony Thirty Six Bolts of Duck wherewith to furnish sd Brigantines with Sails.

The Committee appointed to consider what is proper to be done relative to a Sloop having on board Jolly Allen & Others, said to be cast ashore at Province Town on Cape Cod: take leave to report as their opinion. That a Committee be appointed to repair to said Province Town forthwith, and there take such measures as may be needful to prevent the Persons who were on board said Sloop from making their Escape or from communicating the infection of the Small Pox, to any of the Inhabitants – The said Committee likewise to take the most effectual measures for the securing the said Sloop with all the Cargo & Effects on board, and in case any part thereof has been taken out & distributed: that they collect the whole thereof and cause the same to be deposited in such manner as that it may be forthcoming at the Order of this Court, takg as particular an Inventory thereof as they conveniently can – The said Committee to be authorized to require the Aid of the Sea Coast Men stationed there, or of any Others as they may think proper for the fully accomplishing this business. –

Benjn Greenleaf pr Order

In Council Read & accepted and Ordered that Joseph Pearce Palmer Esqr with such as the Honbl House shall join, be a Committee for the purpose mentioned in the above report –

In the House of Representatives Read & Concurred & Major [Joseph] Demick and Colo [Elisha] Cobb are joined. –

Resolved that the Commisary General, be & he is hereby directed to deliver to the Honble Richard Derby junr Esq and Mr Josiah Batcheldor junr or either of their Orders, Thirty Two Bolts of Duck, to be applied for the Use of Two Armed Vessels wch they are to Build & Equip for the Service of this Colony.

1. Mass. Arch., vol 34, 721, 722, 723, 727.

2. The subject of the petition was that which the General Court agreed to in this resolution.

ROBERT T. CAMPBELL, MASTER OF THE SLOOP *Sally*, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

Trucke the 5th April 1776

May it Please The Honorable Court

I beg Leave to inform your Honours I have a Sloop on Shore at Cape Cod Put there in distress having 30 Souls on board and not one Drop of Water –

it was with the utmost Dificulty I got Clear of the fleet without the Los of the Sloop as my intention was to Part them & to put into some Port to Repair and to Proceed to the Province of New York

I beg Such directions as may inable me to dispose of the Passingers and Sécure my Property – Should it be Sugested that I may be a Enemy to my Country I Can Produce Proper Testimonies if Required I have Not acted any Part in favour of the ministerial Troops but my intention is by the means of the Sloop to be usefull to my Country and Provide for my family

I Should have been glad to had it in my Power to make my self beter Known but Cant at Present as I am illy able to hold a Pen having frooze my fingers for want of help on board

I beg Leave to Subscribe my Self a friend

Rob^t Campbell

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 319. See Provincetown Selectmen to the General Court, April 3, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

[April 1776] At 6 AM Spoke the Comodore who had Just, taken a brig
Friday 5 tender belonging to Capt Wallises [James Wallace] Fleet ²
Latter part Moderate & Clear
Moderate Breezes & Clear Weather, At 5 PM, the *Providence*
Join'd the fleet At 6 Do Saw a Brig & Sloop to the North'd
who, we gave chace too, The *Columbus* Brought the Brig &
the *Cabot*, the Sloop both from New York, put Men on
board, and Detain'd them, they being Bound to London,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. H.M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*, Lieutenant Edward Sneyd, commanding. An account of the *Bolton*'s capture was given later by a boatswain's mate, who, in turn imparted it to Sneyd's servant. It reads: "On the 5th day of April the *Bolton* Brigg commanded by Lieut. Edward Sneyd was taken by a rebel Fleet consisting of nine sail under the command of one Hopkins. . . . Mr Sneyd fought them with undaunted bravery and great conduct, and even after he was surrounded by their whole Fleet, he gave them two broadsides and two shells before he struck;" Sneyd Papers, Keele Hall, University College of North Staffordshire, *Mariner's Mirror*, vol. 44, 1956. Hereafter cited as "Sneyd Papers," *Mariner's Mirror*.

PRISONERS TAKEN IN H.M. BOMB BRIG *Bolton* ¹

April 5th 1776

Cuffe a Negroe Man belongg to Mr Belcher
Pompey ditto belongg to Mr Crook
Sharper ditto belongg to Mr Clark

Dick	ditto	belongg to Mr Brindley
Dragoon	ditto	
Surrinam	ditto	belongg to Mr Wanton ²
Newport	ditto	

1. Hopkins Papers, No. 20, RIHS.

2. Wanton's three slaves and the one belonging to Mr. Brindley (or Brickly) were carried on the muster roll of the *Andrew Doria*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl [17]76 Block Island N 31° East distce 70 Leags.
 Friday 5th at 5 AM Got up Top Gallt yards & set the sails, gave Chace to a Sloop in the Et Qr at 11 fired two 9 Pounders shotted & brot her too; hoisted the Cutter out & sent a petty officer & men on board to take Charge of her.² double reef'd the TPs hoisted the Boat in & made sail down to the Convoy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Greyhound*, Increase Pote, master and owner, from Virginia for Casco Bay, with Indian corn and tobacco. She was ordered for Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. ¹

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
 Friday 5th Modt and fair PM . . . sent in by our Tender the Sloop *Betsy* from Dominique.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. Sloop *Betsey*, Christopher Bradley, master, Richard Westcott owner, laden with molasses and sugar and sunk by the captors, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract] Philadelphia 5th April 1776

We have at last heard of Admiral ² Hopkins. The *Wasp* arrived here the day before yesterday leaky. She parted from him about a fortnight ago off Bermuda where he had been cruising some time, to intercept the transports from the West Indies. He has been at New Providence and taken from thence between 90 and 100 cannon, from 18 to 42 pounders, a large quantity of shot and one ton powder. It's supposed he is gone to Rhode Island – if so you'll hear of him before I shall . . . The Marine Committee begin to talk of the officers for the new frigates; those for the ship you are building must be taken from there; send me a list of those you think of – will [Thomas] Thompson take the command. I think Follet would make a good officer – there are many good men that I cannot recollect. I hope we shall have such as will do honor to the Service; there must be three Lieutenants – I have mentioned Agents in the Committee; They agree its necessary there should be one in every seaport – I expect to advise you by

the next post of their appointment. Hopkins has brought off the Govr and Lt Govr of Providence and an officer belonging to Pensacola.³

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 107, LC.
2. Whipple gives him a courtesy title; he was never appointed admiral, but commander in chief of the fleet.
3. A Mr. Cabbage.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Lewisto[w]n [Lewes] April the 5 1776

Gentlemen Last night at 10 O Clock I recd your Letter Dated April 3. Pst Express with a Letter from Capt Faulker [Nathaniel Falconer] with a Signal for Capt [John] Barry – which I shall take great Care shall be Answd – We have a Guard of 30 men at the Lighthouse to Protect the Signal – Capt Matken has been this Morning sent on shore in a Small boat with four other men by whom I Learn that they have got a Pilot James Jones and from all that I Can Collect As soon as there fleet Arrives they Design up your River – we have this Morning sent off[f] Lieutenant [George] Ball to Dover – and I Desire that you would send Down for him and have him Secur'd as he is Very Active on board and his being here so Long has got more intilgence than I could wish. – the Ship now comeing to sail and from all appearance is goeing out on a Cruise as she has Done several times – Pray send me Some Powder for signals guns at the false Cape to Alarm your Vessels standing in, as we keep up a Guard there night and Day of 24 men – some of whom are Pilots – I am with Due Respect [&c.]

Henry Fisher

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, IX, 5, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 5th April 1776.

Commissions issued to John Nicholson appointed first Lieutenant of the Ship *Defence* in the Room of John Thomas Boucher who resigned; Also to Aquila Johns appointed second Lieutenant and to John Bonnell Master of said Ship.

1. Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch. Minutes this date also include a pay table for naval officers. Ranks are given, but the column for the pay rate is blank.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Extract]

No. 109

[Annapolis] April 5 1776

To the Deputies of Maryland in Congress

We shall . . . have the affidavits made out you desire for ascertaining the Time Hudsons Ship was in Possession of the Tenders. She left Patapsco River ten or twelve Days ago, and as we have heard Nothing of her since, we hope she is out of the Bay by this Time –

PS Saturday Mornng April 6 We are Sorry to Inform you that We have this Instant Received Intelligence that Hudsons Ship was Taken Last Wednesday morning [April 3] by two Tenders belonging to the *Otter*. We are apprehensive that we have Likewise Lost one of our Provincial Vessels –

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY PERMIT TO WILLIAM LOGAN ¹

[Annapolis] April 5, 1776 –

permit the Bearer hereof William Logan to pass with his Vessell and a Cargoe of Goods to Hobb's Hole in the Colony of Virginia – he having taken the Customary Oath that he will not carry any Letters or Communicate Intelligence directly or indirectly to any person or persons Inimical to America.

1. Naval & Maritime Papers, Md. Arch.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg, April 5, 1776.

... If you could be spared from the Congress, your presence might inspire vigour and wisdom. Their economy is of a piece with their wisdom and valour; to save money, we have no carriages to our guns; to save money, we have no blankets for our men, who are, from want of this essential, dying by dozens at Suffolk. Had I gun carriages, I could flatter myself with almost a certainty of driving the pirates, and shutting them out for ever from the harbour of Norfolk. I have, however, ordered them to be made with all possible expedition, and then shall attempt this capital stroke. My command from the circumstances of the country being intersected by navigable waters, and the enemy being supplied with canvass to fly to any spot they choose, is disagreeable. I may make a very shabby figure, without any real demerits of my own. I know not where to turn, or where to fix myself. ... I can only act from surmises, and I may surmise wrong; but I must venture, and take my measures accordingly. I am apt to think that Williamsburg and York will be their object; the possession of the first is not only most temptingly advantageous, from its command of the two rivers and a most abundant country, but its being a capital, the possession would give an air of dignity and decided superiority to their arms, which, in a slave country, is of the utmost importance. Your dominion over the blacks is founded on opinion; if this opinion fails, your authority is lost. On this principle I am drawing down some battalions, and shall, when I can provide intrenching tools, work for the security of these places.

1. Lee, *Lee Memoir*, II, 215–16.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, 5th April, 1776.

[A warrant] to Capt. Lilly for £30 upon acc't for defraying expenses of fitting Brig *Liberty*.



CHARLES LEE, Esq.

Major General of the CONTINENTAL ARMY in AMERICA.

Portrait with full dress uniform, 1778.

It appearing from the Report of Capt. Co[c]ke and other Information that Hutching's Packett is not sufficient for an armed cutter for James River, this Comm'ee decline taking her, and it is Ordered that 2 vessels be provided for the s'd River – one to carry 2 six-pounders and 6 four-pounders and the other 6 four-pounders, and that Max. Calvert's Schooner be one of them if the comm'ee approve her after the appraisement, provided if she can, in the opinion of Capt. Richard Barron, be conveyed up James River with safety; that both these vessels be fitted out at the most convenient and safe place up James or Appomattox River under the direction of Capt. James Cocke and Isaac Younghusband, who are respectively to command the same, and are empowered to purchase every article necessary for such vessels, to recommend proper officers to this board, and engage proper seamen.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 153.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1776

Williamsburg, April 5.

Since the defeat of major Grant and commodore Barclay, they have begun to plunder the gentlemens plantations in their neighbourhood; and from Arthur Middleton Esqr's on the [South] Carolina shore, they had carried off 65 slaves.

Sir James Wright, their governor, with his two daughters, has retired on board the *Scarborough*, thereby abdicating his government, and leaving behind him an estate valued to at least 80,000 l. sterling.

Charlestown, in South Carolina, is defended by upwards of 130 pieces of cannon, from 26 to 9 pounders, mounted on 13 forts, batteries and bastions, at the entrance into the harbour, and round the bay; with five continental battalions, and 13 complete uniforme[d] minute companies belonging to the town. They have likewise fitted out three armed vessels; one of them a ship mounting 24 guns, called the *Prosper*, the Hon. William Henry Drayton, esq; commander; the brig *Comet*, of 16 guns, capt. [Joseph] Turpin; and the schooner *Defence*, captain Tufts, of 12 guns. The two latter, well manned and fitted, were lying ready to join the continental fleet, off Sullivan's island. – Their Provincial Congress, at their last meeting, have prepared such a form of government as they judge will best conduce to the happiness of the people, and effectually secure good order in the province; and the estate and effects of John Stuart, esq; superintendent of Indian affairs, has been secured by their order, he having been found guilty of spiriting up the Indians against us, with other high crimes and misdemeanors.

On the 23d of last month, there were lying off Fort Johnston, and Brunswick, in Cape Fear river, the *Scorpion* of 24 guns, with governour Martin on board, the *Raven* of eighteen guns, the *Cruiser* sloop of 10 guns, three or four small armed vessels, a few transports with 400 land forces, and some prizes, making in the whole 20 odd sail of vessels; and more troops were hourly expected, with general Clinton, who it was said was then on the coast. The ships of war and transports, now in the river, have on board a

vast quantity of warlike stores and military apparatus, which were to have been put into the hands of the insurgents. – Capt. Collett, in the *General Gage* armed vessel (some time commander of fort Johnston, and well known to be a pert audacious little scoundrel) has lately committed divers acts of piracy and robbery. Amongst others, he set fire to the elegant house of col. Dry, formerly one of his majesty's council, and collector of the customs for the port of Brunswick, for no other crime than his being a friend to his country; destroying therein all the valuable furniture, liquors, &c. The house of William Hooper, esq; one of the continental delegates, about three miles below Wilmington, likewise shared the same fate, with two pilot houses near Fort Johnston. – The town of Brunswick is totally deserted, and the enemy frequently land in small parties, to pillage and carry off negroes; but had the misfortune, in one of their excursions to lose eight of their gang. Mr. Quince had 18 slaves lately stolen from him. – The principal inhabitants have left Wilmington, and retired into the country; and it is now occupied by the provincial troops, who are making the necessary dispositions to defend it, by throwing up intrenchments along the river, both in and below the town. The brave col. [Richard] Caswell was on his march there, with his victorious little army; and troops were coming in daily from all quarters, so that it was expected at least 5000 men would rendezvous there in a very short time.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Friday the 5th day of April 1776

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Resolved That the Bill do pass and that the Title be an Act for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour or conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Ordered That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence And that Captain [Isaac] Harlston and Mr [Aaron] Loocock do carry the same.

A Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases was read a Second Time

Ordered That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 38, 40–42.

6 Apr.

ISAAC SMITH, SR. TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Mr. Adams

Salem Aprill the 6 1776

I wrote you a post or two Ago, of being informd Mr. Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] had wrote his brother to procure a Cargo or two of fish, to ship to Europe and had Applied to me for some I have by me, but as I have sundry Vessells of my Own lying by should be glad to have them imployed, and iff the Congress wants to purchase I would let them have mine and would see to the loading of her and to follow there directions. Suppose I may have from 10 to 1200 Q[uintals] of good fish and a friend of mine 6 or 700 more, probable Enough to make up two fishing schooner Cargo's. I should be Oblidged to you to write me Answer by the retarn of this post iff you may not have done itt. Your Compliance will Oblidge Your fre. and hume. servt.,

Isaac Smith

Ps Commodore Manleys fleet has taken a brigantine bound to Halifax on board of which is Bill Jackson and all his Effects and itt's said she has a large quantity of the Stolen goods ²—and there is on board likewise One Greenbrush [Crean Brush], receiver general of the stolen goods and has distinguisht himself in that way by demanding People's propaty from them. Itts said he came from [New] Y[ork] and itt's said those Carpenters and runagarders from that way has behaved worse than any Others. A sloop in on shore at the Cape, beleive nothing very Valuable on board but itt Appears they (the inhabitants) went away in a most dismal Cituation, not having even Water sufficient and crowded and some sick with the small pox.³

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 372–73.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, Peter Ramsey, master, taken April 2, 1776, and carried into Portsmouth.

3. A group of Tories, headed by Jolly Allen, who intended for New York but went ashore on Cape Cod and were captured.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWICH MERCHANT ¹

Sr

Camb[ridg]le Apr. 6th 1776

Since I wrote, We have Certain intelligence of Capt Manly's taking a Prize worth about £ 25000 Sterling belonging to a number of tories which were taken Allso Amoung which is Wm Jackson the grand tory of all — it was Supposed they were bound to Halifax ² — in haste yr &c

Jos Williams

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 6, 1776

a Bill for amending an Act pas't in November last, intituled an Act for

Encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels, &c. having passed the House of Representatives to be Engrossed

In Council. Read a Second time and passed a Concurrence to be Engrossed. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

DIARY OF JOHN ROWE ¹

[Boston] Apr. 6. —

Capt. Manly is come to town, and brings the account of his taking Crean Brush, Wm. Jackson, and seventy other passengers in a brigg bound with the fleet. This vessell, tis said, has twenty five thousand pound sterling on board in English goods and other merchandise; among the prisoners is a serjeant and 12 men of the King's troops.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, X, 98.

NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO JOSEPH OTIS ¹

Hond Sir

Barnstable April 6. 1776

having an opportunity to Let you know we are well as usual embrace same — as to news Prince Gorham is arrived from St Eustatia in Solomon Davis's Vessel with dry Goods, Geneva, & india [tea] Our Committee take no Notice of it altho she saild in Jany, if no notice is taken by the Court Quere whether one man has not as good [a] right as another to break through the resolves of Congress, that I leave for others to determine — hope the Court will consider of it and put a stop to the disorderly Spirit prevailing or there will be no end to the growing strength of the Tories in this County — The passengers in Gorham say that their is a number of Transports coming from the West indies blown off last fall bound to Boston hope Manly & his fleet may come across them this please to communicate — have seen Esqr Greenough who tells me that Hutchinson told him that the Commissioners coming here to treat was with a design to divide us not with any view to settle matters, as the Ministry had no other tho[ugh]t but to Divide & conquer, he supposed Greenough a suitable person to trust with this secret — hope if they Come they will have no Countenance from the Congress.

A vessel from Holland to Statia says 8000 Scotch, 8000 Irish, 9000 english Troops are destind to do the mighty Deeds in america next Campaign — that English goods are plenty in St Eustatia — May we be kept from the machinations of Lord North &c is the prayers of &c

Copy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 376.

ACCOUNT BOOK OF WILLIAM SEVER¹

Kingston 6th April 1776

Colony Dr. for Brig. *Independence*1..1..18 Refin'd Iron d[elivere]d Job Drew of mines² 3..7...8

11¼ lb Twine Col Waters a 2/8 1..10...-

1..0..25 Bar Iron a 40/ Lazz. Goodwin 20...8..11

12 bbs lampblack a 2 Do 1...4..- 21..12..11

1. Sever Account Book, 262. Courtesy of Captain and Mrs. Noel Sever O'Reilly, Glenview, Illinois.

2. Meaning from his own foundry.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD¹

Mr Ward Sr

Providence April 6th 1776

Their being a number of Masters Mates & Seamen belonging to this Coloney who are now Detained prisoners onbord Wallaces Fleet having Lately bin tacon with Severil of our Vess[e]lls & Cargoes as they was Coming in to this Coloney, I now Inclose you Genl Washingtons order for Twelve of the prisoners Now in Boston Jail which You'l please to Send me by the Barrer Majer [Edward] Spaulding, If You think more Aid is Nessessary then he has with him in order to bring them Safe to this place You'l please to Advise Accordingly & he will procure them.

I am Sr [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

[P.S.] As the within Majr Spaulding Can Not go Immediately, the Barrer Capt [William] Barton goes in his Roomè, therefore You'l please to Dd the prisoners within Mentioned to him -

1. Greene Papers, MassHS.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Rhode Island Head Quarters 6th April 1776

Sir There are now Seven Square Rigd Vessels Standing in for Newport must beg you would immediately order one thousand men to our assistance [&c.]

Henry Babcock

P.S. we have a little Sport with Capn Wallace this morning & have fired thro & thro him

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 316.GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO CAPTAIN SETH HARDING¹

Lebanon 6th April 1776

Sir Yours p Lt Smedley is before me - My Council of Safety will be with me next Tuesday - at which Time shall lay your Letter before them - and the Necessary Orders concerning Powder other things shall be given the inlistment of Men from the Continental Army doth not lye with me -

General Washington is coming forward – his Orders may be necessary – Your orders to go to Convey the Soldiers &c must be deferred to Meeting of Govr & Council.– You'l use all possible dispatch to fit the Brig *Defence* for Sea –

I am Sir &c.

Jonth Trumbull

1. Seth Harding Papers, MHA.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

[April 1776]

Saturday 6th At 1 AM Saw two Sail, to the ESE, we made the Signal for the Comodore to Bear, down with the rest of the Fleet, At 2 Do the *Cabot*, came a long side of the Chace she prov'd to be the *Glasgow* Capt Howe, upon which the *Cabot* gave her a Broad side, and she return'd two, fold, which oblig'd the *Cabot* to sheer off and had like to have been foul of us, which oblig'd us to tack, to get Clear, the Comodore came up next, and Discharg'd several Broad side and received as many which did Considerable Damage in his hull & Rikken, which oblig'd him to sheer off, The *Glasgow*, then made all the sail she possible could, for Newport, & made a running fight for 7 Glases we receiv'd several shott in the hull & riggen, one upon the Quarter, through the Netting and stove the arm Chest, upon the Quarter Deck and wounded our Drumer in the Legg At 6 Do the Comodore made the Signal for giveing over Chase, she being two nigh Wallace to follow her, At 7 Tack'd to the Southward, At Meridian was Join'd by the Fleet, the Schooner we had taken, had taken the tender, belonging to the *Glasgow* ²
Light Breezes & Clear Weather, At 2 PM Tkd to Southd & Westward At 6 PM Block Iland Bore E 3/4 S Distance 3 Leagues and Montock Point S W B W, 4 or 5 Leagues, the Middle & latter foggy Weather with rain.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. It is interesting to note the comments of John Trevett, lieutenant of Marines on board the *Columbus*, and Charles Bulkeley, a midshipman on board the *Alfred*, about this engagement. Trevett wrote: "Nothing material happened until we made Long Island, when we took what was called a 'Bum Brig' and an armed schooner, and let the ship *Glasgow* run away from us," Trevett's Journal, NHS. Charles Bulkeley in his narrative stated: "off Block Island took a tender belonging to the Ship *Rose* and a Bomb Brig and towards morning fell in with the *Glascio* Man of War and engaged her and recd a shott through the Main Mast and one of our tiller blocks being shott away we came into the wind and the enemy then stood to the eastward," NLCHS.

JOURNAL OF JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

In the night of the 9th [*sic* 1 A.M. of the 6th] of April, on the return of the squadron from the Providence expedition, the American arms by sea were first tried in an action with the *Glasgow*, a British frigate of 24 guns, off Block Island. Both the *Alfred* and *Columbus* mounted two batteries.

The *Alfred* mounted 30, the *Columbus* 28 guns. The first battery was so near the water as to be fit for nothing except in a harbour or a very smooth sea. The sea was at the time perfectly smooth. Mr. Jones was stationed between decks to command the *Alfred's* first battery, which was well served whenever the guns could be brought to bear on the enemy, as appears by the official letter of the commander in chief giving an account of that action. Mr. Jones therefore did his duty; and as he had no direction whatever, either of the general disposition of the squadron, or the sails and helm of the *Alfred*, he can stand charged with no part of the disgrace of that night*

*[Marginal note] It is for the commander in chief and the captains, to answer for the escape of the *Glasgow*.

1. Sands, *Life and Correspondence of John Paul Jones*, 36, 37.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*; CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE¹

April 1776	Standing out of the Harbour [of Newport]
Friday 5	AM got up topmts & Yards at noon weigh'd & came to sail in Compy the <i>Rose</i> & Squadron— Light Airs & fair at 3 the light house WNW ½ a mile at 5 the squadron bore away into the harbour
Saturday 6	at 3 AM saw 8 strange sail to windward Do TKd, stood for them & prepar'd for action they prov'd to be the Rebell fleet consisting of 2 Ships, 2 Briggs & a sloop, at ½ past 3 one of the Briggs attempted to lay us on board the two ships one a head & the other a stern began the action by Raking us, we immediately fired & Continued a very hot action till ½ past 4 when we bore away & made Sail & continued a very hot running fire, but the Enemys Ships frequently Yaw'd & rak'd us at 6 they hal'd Close by the Wind at ½ pt 7 they TKd & stood to the L SW Do fired several Guns to alarm the fleet at Rhode Island we had one marine kill'd & one wounded all the lower masts disabled & most of the standing & runng rigging shot away at 11 Came too in Rhode Island spoke the <i>Rose</i> & Squadron working out in pursuit of the Rebels, the Rebels fleet consisted of one ship of 30 Guns one of 22 one brigg of 16, one of 14 & a Sloop of 10 Guns the Adml hoisted Dutch Colours & the other Strip'd. Fresh breezes & hazey with Rain PM the People Empd repairing the Rigging & bending new Sails

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

"REMARKS ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Glasgow* SATURDAY
THE 6TH DAY OF APRIL 1776."¹

Copy

At two A M. Block Island then bearing N.W. abought eight Leagues, discovered a Fleet on the Weather beam, consisting of seven or eight Sail;

tacked and stood towards them, and soon perceived them to be, two, or three large Ships, and other Square Rigged Vessels; Turned all hands to Quarters, and hauled up the Mainsail, and kept standing on to the N.W. with a light breeze, and smooth Water. The Fleet then coming down before it. At half past two a Brig much like the *Bolton*, but larger, came within hail, and seemed to hesitate about giving any answers, but still kept standing towards us, And on being asked what other Ships were in Company with her, they answered "the *Columbus* and *Alfred*, a two and twenty Gun frigate." And almost immediately, a hand Granadoe was thrown out of her top. We exchanged our Broadships, she then shot ahead, and lay on our bow, to make room for a large Ship, with a top light, to come on our Broadside, and another Ship ran under our Stern, Raked us as she passed, and then luft up, on our Lee beam, whilst a Brig took her Station, on our Larboard Quarter, and a Sloop kept altering her Station occasionally. At this time the Clerk having the care of the dispatches for the So Ward to destroy, if the Ship should be boarded, or in danger of being taken, hove the bag overboard with a Shot in it. At four the Station of every Vessel was altered, as the two Ships had dropt on each quarter, and a Brig kept a Stern, giving a continual fire. Bore away, and made Sail for Rhode Island, with the whole fleet within Musket shot, on our Quarters and Stern. Got two Stern chase Guns out of the Cabin, and kept giving, and receiving a very warm fire. At day light perceived the Rebel fleet to consist of two Ships, two Brigs, and a Sloop, and a large Ship, and Snow, that kept to Windward, as soon as the Action began. At half past six, the Fleet hauled their Wind, and at Seven tacked, and stood to the S.S.W. — Employed, reeving, knotting, and Splicing, and the Carpenters making fishes for the Masts. At half past seven, made a Signal, and fired several Guns occasionally to alarm the Fleet at Rhode Island Harbour. The *Rose*, *Swan*, and *Nautilus*, then being working out. N.B. We had one Man killed, and three Wounded by the Musketry from the Enemy.

Signed Tyring^m Howe ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. This seems to have been a special report prepared by Howe for Vice Admiral Molyneux Shuldham who enclosed it in his letter of April 19 to the Admiralty.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE ¹

April 1776

Friday 5

At Single Anch[or] in Rhode Islan[d] Harbour
AM Sway'd up Yds & T.Masts at ½ past 11 Weigh'd and came to Sail as did the Squadn Steering out of the Harbour. First and latter part fresh Breezes and Clear Mid little Wind PM at 3 bore away for the Harbour Parted Company H M Ship *Glasgow* at 5 came too Off the So End of Gold Island 17 fm as did the Squadn Recd fresh Beef.

Saturdy 6

AM at ½ past 5 the Rebels fird a Number of 18 pound shot at us, & Struck the Hull, one stove the Cutter, & 1 through the foremast—Fir'd 26—9 prs at them Weigh'd and came to Sail, at 8 Anchd off the No end of Gold Isld, at 10 Weigh'd

and came to Sail as did the Squadn Turning down the River at 11 came in HM Ship *Glasgow*, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 she fell in with the Rebel Squadn of 5 Sail and Engag'd for Some Hours, left in the Harbour Do

Fresh Gales and Cloudy turning out of the Harbour bore in [sic] the Transport and 3 prize Sloops saw 2 Sail in SW, at 4 PM the Light House NBE 3 Leagues & Point Juda [Judith] WBN2N at 8 Point Juda SWBW 2 Miles lost sight of the *Fortune* T[ende]r and 4 prizes In 2d Reefs at 12 Tac'd 3 Sail in Sight.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Swan*, CAPTAIN JAMES AYSCOUGH ¹

April 1776

At Single Anchor off Gold Island

Saty 6

AM light Winds and Clear at 7 Weigh & run up of[f] the No end of the Island it Bearing SWBS Came too in 11 fms with the Small Bower Dist of[f] Shore 1 Mile at 9 Weighd and came to sail in Company ² as before and turnd down the River

PM fresh Breezes and Clear turning out of Rhode Island Harbour saild in to the Harbour H M S *Glasgow* much Shatterd in [h]er Riggins & Sails & her Mast Much Damaged, 5 sail of the Rebbels armed Vessels Engaged her 7 Glasses & Beat them off at 6 in Compny with H M S *Rose Nautilus* 3 tenders & 4 Prizes R.I. WSW 5 Leags tkd Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

2. H.M.S. *Rose* and H.M. Sloop *Nautilus* and several tenders.

PURCHASES BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM MERCIER FOR THE NEW YORK ARMED VESSELS ¹

Capt Willm. Mercier		Bot. of Sharpe Curtenius	
2 pr Swivels	a £6	£	12...0...0
6 Cwt Langrage	a 10/		3...0...0
1 Caboos			14...0...0
2 Potts	a 8/		16...0
1 Spitt & Racks			10...0
		£	30..14...0
1776 Ditto		Bot of Peter T. Curtenius	
April 6 6 Blunderbusses	a 40/	£	12...0...0
3 Muskets	a 50/		7..10...0
		£	19..10...0

1. NYSL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. ¹

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.
 Saturday 6th at 4 AM the *Hannah* Sloop from St Lucia ² [was sent in]
 PM Ancor'd here in his Majestys Sloop *Savage*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. The sloop *Hannah*, Isaac Buck, master, James Howell, owner, with a cargo of molasses and brandy. She was sent to Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 6, 1776

~~Resolved, That the resolution respecting the sloop Sally, passed on Thursday last, be reconsidered, and that it be recommitted to the same committee.~~

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole; and the same being twice read, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except staves and empty casks, other than shaken or knocked down casks for molasses, may be exported from the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of Great Britain, to any parts of the world which are not under the dominion of the said King; provided, that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knocked down molasses casks, than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with Molasses.

Resolved, That any goods, wares, and merchandise, except such as are of the growth, production, or manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, and except East India Tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world to the thirteen United Colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the said King; liable, however, to all such duties and impositions as now are, or may hereafter be laid by any of the said colonies.

Resolved, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these United Colonies, or their respective legislatures.

Resolved, That no slaves be imported into any of the thirteen United Colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions in the several colonies, to appoint proper officers, at convenient places in their respective colonies, to take bonds, in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the Congress, or assemblies, or conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith; and that the obligor shall, within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officers a certificate, under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants, residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the

same was there unladed, and take manifests upon oath, of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with: And that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective assemblies or conventions: Provided always, that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved, That all goods, wares and merchandise, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great Britain or Ireland, into any of these United Colonies, contrary to the regulations established by Congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of, agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several assemblies or conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs, in the colony where the seizure shall be made.

Ordered, That the above resolutions be published.²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 257-61.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 10, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 6th A'l, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. [John] Rice & Mr. A. Donaldson, be desired immediately to construct two Chevaux de Frize, for the purpose of stopping the passage between the Chevaux de Frize now sunk, and that they be made in such form that they may float, when proper loaded for sinking.

Resolved, That Capt. Jno Hazlewood be empowered to nominate some discreet and judicious person to assist some other person to be appointed by the Capt. of Mr. Vernon's Brig't, to appraise & Value the said Brig, & the Committee of Fire Rafts are hereby authorized to take the said Vessel at the Valuation of the said appraisers, & to fit her for a fire Vessel, for the defence of our River.

Upon application of Colo. Roberdeau, for a quantity of shot for the use of two privateers fitting out of this Port, By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to deliver Mr. Philip Moore three hundred pounds of different sized shot, taking a Receipt for the same.

Resolved, That Charles Lawrence be appointed Captain to one tier of Fire Rafts.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 535, 536.

GEORGE CLYMER TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] 6 April 1776

Sir The committee [of Safety] requests you would solicit the honble. Congress to spare to this Province Ten or fifteen of the largest Cannon that

have been taken at the Island of [New] Providence As we apprehend they will be wanted for the protection of this City before a Supply can be otherwise obtain'd ² . . .

We also send a Letter received by Express from Henry Fisher that the Congress may take such order for bringing up Lt.[George] Ball as they shall judge fit.³

1. *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 8.
2. News of the cannon taken at New Providence had been brought by the Continental schooner *Wasp* arriving April 4, 1776.
3. See Henry Fisher's letter of April 5, 1776.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Philadelphia, April 6.

Tomorrow, at twelve o'clock in the forenoon, the experiment will be tried upon the Alarm Guns, which are placed upon the Delaware, betwixt this city and the capes, of which the Committee of Safety thinks proper to inform the public, to prevent any confusion.

We hear that on Monday last [April 1], the sloop *Endeavor*, Job Trip master, being on her passage from Dartmouth to this place, to the northward of Egg Harbour, was chased and come up with by a tender carrying four carriage guns, ten swivels, and thirty-five men, fitting out by the *Phoenix*, and commanded by one Butler, a midshipman. The tender was not content with firing a broadside at Capt. Trip's vessel, after she had hauled down her sails, but went along side, after using much scurrilous language, ordered another broadside to be fired, by which Captain Trip received a ball in the thigh, which broke and much shattered it; the mate also had a ball went through one thigh, and lodged in the other. An officer afterwards came on board, and told Capt. Trip, that Butler (the Captain of the tender) out of his clemency, had consented to give him his boat, on condition he would make the best of his way on shore, which Capt. Trip represented as impossible, for himself and his mate both being wounded, they could neither stand nor sit. They then gave them the three hands belonging to the sloop, who, after much difficulty, reached the shore. The Captain and Mate were both dangerously ill, having been thirty-six hours without any dressing to their wounds. The tenders's people, after plundering the sloop, scuttled, and set her on fire.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 6th

. . . near 2, Set out for Kinsington, in order to assist with a Number of fellow citizens in geting the lower deck beams on board the frigate building by messrs Eysers ² I persum there came not short of 100. who Stayed till they were all put on board (in which was included 3 parts of the Light Infantry of 1st Batalion who came in warlike array). came away Just at dark.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.
2. The frigate later to be named *Washington*.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 6." ¹

Four new privateers, from 16 to 28 guns each, are just fitted out here; they are compleatly manned, and will in a few days sail on a cruize to intercept the transports expected to arrive in America from England. Yesterday two sloops from Curacoa, laden with powder and warlike stores, arrived safe in this port, and proceeded immediately to land their cargoes. They were chased on their passage by an English frigate, which was once so near one of them, that she fired a bow-chace gun at her, and killed a negroe man who was at the helm, but the wind dying away, and dark night coming on, the sloops altered their course, when the King's ship lost sight of them.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 8 to June 11, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*] Cruising at the mouth of the Delaware
[Saturday] April 6

Saw several small Vessels and a Brig under Cape May shore, but on Account of the Shoals could not get near them.

Took a small Sloop from North Carolina laden with Pitch Tar & Turpentine, which the Rebels are in great want of. The Tenders took out the Turpentine and destroyed the Vessel.²

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck* and Ships under Captain Hamond's command . . . *Sally*, Seymour Hood, Master, E. Batcheler, Owner; from Ocnisock [Ocracoke] North Carolina, to Philadelphia; with Tar and Turpentine, destroyed off Cape Hinlopen," *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO WILLIAM LUX ¹

Sir I have communicated your Letter to the eighth Battallion who are much pleased that there Conduct on the late Alarm occasioned by the *Otter* has met with the Approbation of so truly respectable a Body as the Committee of Baltimore County.

That Battallion Sir esteem it but their Duty to march to the Assistance of any part of this Province when attacked or in Danger of it – But they march with greater Alacrity to your Assistance from the pleasing Memory of former Connections and a Sense of the Value and Importance of Baltimore Town to the Province in General.

You may from the known and firm Attachment of the Battallion to the Cause of Liberty rest assured that You will most certainly receive their Succour to repell all hostile Attempts on it I am Sir [&c.]

Joppa April 6th 1776 –

Benjamin Rumsey

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

MONEY RECEIVED BY CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON FOR OUTFITTING THE
MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

1775		[Baltimore, April 6, 1776]	
Decr 22d	By Cash recd from Mr John Smith on Acct Lux & Bowly ²	£	100...0...0
30th	By do from Messrs Lux & Bowley		175...0...0
Jany 6. 1776	By do from do by Capt Boucher ³		101...0...0
13th	By do from pr Capt. [Aquila] Johns ⁴		200...0...0
17th	By do from Do		161...0...0
18th	By do from Do		46...0...0
20th	By do from do pr Capt Jno T. Boucher		200...0...0
22d	By do from do pr Capt Johns		70...0...0
27th	By do from do pr Capt Bocher		20...0...0
29th	By do from pr Do		80...10...0
Feby 3d	By do of do pr Lieut John Nicholson ⁵		140...0...0
	By do of do pr Lieut Boucher		60...0...0
12th	By do from do pr Jams R. Morris ⁶		115...0...0
13th	By Cash of Do pr Do		103...10...0
15th	By Do of Do pr Mr [George] Turnbull ⁷		50...0...0
16th	By Do of Do By Jams R. Morris		100...0...0
20th	By Do of Do pr Mr. Turnbull		50...0...0
23d	By Do of Do pr Jas R. Morris		52...10...0
26th	By Do of do pr do		104...15...0
March 2d	By do of do pr Mr Jas Smith		100...0...0
5th	By do of do pr Jams R Morris		54...0...0
7th	By do of do pr Do		51...0...0
11th	By do of do pr Do		153...16...3
13th	By do of Do Do.		117...10...0
18	By do of do pr Capt Johns		80...10...0
22d	By do of do pr do		20...-...-
23d	By do of do pr Jas R. Morris		30...-...-
30th	By do of do pr Mr Turnbull		50...0...0
Apl 1st	By do of do pr Mr Jas Smith		30...0...0
2d	By do of do pr Mr Turnbull		20...0...0
			£ 2816...1...3

1776		[Page 2]	
Feby 27	By Cash recd of Messrs Lux & Bowly	£	85...12...0
March 20	By do do do		210...-...-
22	By do do do		38...8...9
April 3	By do do do		40...-...-
	By do in Specie do do		28...5...-
Charged to Mr J.R. Morris on the Books but must be Chargd to Capt Nicholson	By do recd of Treasury by Ordre Convention		50...-...-
	By Cash pd Thos Elliott by Messrs Lux & Bowley		97...2...4

[April] 6	By Garrett Brown to Credit Messrs	
	Lux & Bowly	76...3...9
	By Cash recd of Messrs Lux & Bowly	
	by G. Turnbull	23...-...-
		2816...1...3
		<hr/>
		£ 3464..13...1

1. Account Book, Ship *Defence*, Clerk's copy, MdHS.
2. Agents for the *Defence*.
3. First Lieutenant of the *Defence*.
4. Second Lieutenant.
5. Third Lieutenant.
6. Purser.
7. Captain's Clerk.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

Williams burg, April the 6th 1776

Dr Sir I know not to whom I can address this most important Note with so much Propriety and assurance of Success as to yourself – the Crisis will not admit of Ceremony and Procrastination, I shall therefore irregularly address you in the Language and with the Spirit of one bold determined free Citizen to another, and conjure you as you value the Liberties and Rights of the Community, of which you are a Member, not to lose a Moment, and in my Name (if my Name is of Consequence enough) to direct the commanding Officer of your Troops at Annapolis immediately to Seize the Person of Governor Eden – the Sin and Blame be on my Head – I will answer for all to the Congress – the justice & Necessity of the measure will be best explained by the Pacquet transmitted to you by the Committee of Safety from this Place God Almighty give us Wisdom and vigor in this Hour of Tryal – adieu

Dr Sir [&c.]

Charles Lee

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 6th April, 1776.

The Committee being informed that a vessel formerly allowed to be purchased by Robert Donald, for the purpose of conveying passengers to Great Britain, is about to proceed on her voyage, the s'd Donald declaring upon oath that the said vessel is two thirds his property, the other third the property of a Gent. in Glasgow. This Comm'ee are of opinion, that since the passing of the Act of Parliament for Confiscating American property, and the order of Congress relating thereto, the said vessel ought not to depart this Colony, and it is ordered that Theo. Bland, John Banister and Arch'd Cary or any 2, make enquiry what British property either in Bullion or otherwise may be on board the s'd vessel, and make report to this Board.

[A warrant] to Bartholomew Gall for £12 for use of himself and 4

sailors, also for 1 soldier escaped from the Navy, to support them on their way to Philadelphia.

Mr. Robert Donald having offered his vessel, the Brig. *Hope*, to this Comm'ee for £650, the price she cost and the Expenses he has been at in refitting her, The Comm'ee agree to take her to be employed as a Cruizer for James River, provided Capt. James Cocke shall approve her and she can be delivered to him in some safe place up Appomattox River and a proportion of her value for such part thereof as shall appear to be British property, to be deducted out of the above-stated value 'til the further order of this Comm'ee. And it is ordered that Capt. James Cocke be empowered to examine such prov's on board the said vessel and take such part thereof for the use of the Navy in that River as may suit their purpose at a reasonable price.

The Comm'ee having rec'd Information that vessels loaded with prov's frequently pass down the Rivers – Resolved, that no vessels be permitted to pass without a permit from the Commanding Officer of the forces or a County Comm'ee, and the officers at the different stations upon the Rivers are required to enforce this Resolution.

The comm'ee approve of taking Mr. Archer's vessel to be employed as a cruizer in York River at a reasonable price, to be apprazed by Edw'd Champion Travis, Esq're, the elder, who is to examine her state and condition and make report.

In the Evening – 6 o'clock.

Capt. James Barron appeared and laid before the Comm'ee a packette which he had intercepted, from his Majesty's Secretary of State to Governor Eden of Maryland, containing Letters of Instruction and Advice, which were read and considered. Whereupon this Comm'ee are of opinion that copies thereof be immediately forwarded with all possible dispatch to the District Comm'ee of Newbern, North Carolina, and the Council of Safety of Baltimore and Annapolis.

Ordered, a Letter to be written to the Council of Safety for Edenton District, inclosing the above copies, intimating the situation and strength of Lord Dunmore's Fleet, now here, and the advantage and conveniency of erecting a Battery at the mouth of Norfolk River to keep off ships of war and render a secure harbour for the Continental Fleet, should they incline to come here.

Ord., a Letter to be written to the Council of Safety of Maryland and Baltimore, inclosing copies of the s'd Dispatches, requesting they would forward copies to Congress, and intimating that a certain Alexander Ross was the person charged with those Dispatches, who went to s'd Dunmore after being denied a permit by this Comm'ee without our knowledge, and recommending the seizure of him as a suspicious person and unfriendly to the American cause.

W. CABELL TO EDMUND WILCOX ¹

Dear Sir,

Wmsburg April 6th 1776.

I recd your's of Yesterday, & herewith Inclose you a Certificate from the Committee of safety that your having attended Colo [Richard] Corbin on board Lord Dunmores ship was by their permission.² I should have sent you a [copy] of their Letter to Colo [William] Grayson had th[ere been] an Entry made of it, tho' expect the [Certifi]cate will answer the same end. I re[turned] home the seventh day of March at which time I had not heard a Syllable of your having been on board the *Dunmore* [torn] untill I saw Wm Penn at this place some short time ago, who Informed me of it, & also that the people in Amherst were much displeased – I shall set off on my way home on saturday next & will do you the Justice to inform the people the truth of the Case which I expect will remove their prejudices if any such there be. I do not know that there has been any business in the County which did particularly require your presence, & had that been the Case your Indisposition is a very sufficient excuse. We have Certain Intelligence that the Ministerial Troops have evacuated Boston without having destroyed any part thereof, & that General Washington is Now in possession of it. The Congress have taken all our Battalions on the Continental Establishment. I wish you better health & am Dear Sir [&c.]

W: Cabell

1. Hubbard Papers, UNCL.

2. *Ibid.*, "I do hereby certifie that Mr Edmund Wilcox went on Board Ld Dunmores Ship as a Companion to Col. Corbin by the Permission of the Committee of Safety – John Page V.P. Wmsburg April the 6th 1776."DIXON AND HUNTER's *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1776

Williamsburg, April 6.

The *Duke of Cumberland* Packet arrived a few days ago, from Fal-mouth, with government despatches for Lord Dunmore. It is said she left England the 23d of January, and bring advice, that Lord Cornwallis sailed about the same time, with a number of transports, under convoy of twelve frigates, the place of their destination uncertain. The packet was at South Carolina, but found that Lord William Campbell had left the province, and joined Governor Martin at Cape Fear. Some Gentlemen from below say, that soon after the arrival of this vessel they published a paper which was called a declaration of war against the colonies, and received it with loud acclamations.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Otter*, CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE ¹

April 1776

At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia

Friday 5

Little wind & fair. At 1½ past 6 AM saw a party of Rebels firing on a Canoe from Portsmouth. Carried out a Warp to the *Hinchinbrook*, & brought our Guns to bear. Fired 4 six Pounders at them.

Came in the *Samuel & Lilley* Tenders with a Ship Prize.² Employed on the Rigging. Recd a Jack from the *Liverpool*.
 Saturday 6 Do W^r employed as before. At 4 A.M. sailed the *Hinchinbrook* Tender. At 10 came in the *Batchelor* Sloop a Prize (taken by the *Fincastle*)³ from Martinico with Powder & Arms. Sailed his Majesty's Ship *Liverpool* from Hampton Road.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

2. This was Hudson's ship. See postscript this date of letter from Maryland Council of Safety to Maryland delegates in Congress.

3. The *Fincastle* was the *Otter's* tender, but no mention is made of the prize in Howe's Prize List of March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Liverpool*, CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW¹

April 1776 In Hampton Road, Virginia.
 Friday 5 AM clear'd Hawse arrd a large Ship taken by the Two Governmt Tendrs
 modr and cloudy
 PM sent the marines on shore and a party of seamen under the Command of the 1st Lieut there being an alarm given that the Intrenchments were attack'd by the Rebels Do they returned the alarm being false –
 Saturday 6 Sail'd our Tender the *Liverpool* – arm'd schooner with the 1st Lieut and 20 men onbd weigh'd and came to sail and run down the River—at noon, abreast of sowel's Point.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN¹

On board the *Palliser* Transport
 Cape Fear River
 the 6th April 1776

Govr Martin

In answer to Your Excellency's Letter of the 2d instant desiring "my advice and opinion on the expediency of hiring into His Majestys service a Ship for the accomodation of such People as are obliged to forsake the shore for the safety of their persons: And also of your hiring a Vessel for your own accomodation at the charge of Government if you should continue much longer afloat" – I can only say that as far as my opinion & advice may be concerned those measures seem to me to be necessary for the good of His Majestys Service, and I make no doubt but upon Your Excellencys representation to the Kings Ministers in the proper departments of Government that it will appear so to them and consequently meet with their approbation. I am &c.

H C.

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS PARKIN¹Cape Fear River
6th April 1776Thos Parkin Esqr
Dy Commissary Genl

If the Vessel which brought the Cargo of Rum & osnabrugs should return to Virginia you may take that opportunity of informing the Merchants from whom that Cargo was purchased that if they are disposed to send another Cargo on their own account I will engage to take the Rum at 3 Shillings a Gallon, and the Osnabr[i]gs at one Shilling a Yard, paying the freight to this place – and you may at the same time give orders for a Quantity of Claret & Madeira, which I find is much wanted by the Officers.

I am &c
H Clinton M:G:

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.
2. *Ibid.*, this date Clinton also requested Parkin to purchase the flour "Cargo on board the *General Gage's* prize," and on April 15, to secure a "Quantity of Cyder" from the prize.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Saturday the 6th of April 1776 PM

Upon Motion

Ordered That a Message be sent to the President requesting that His Excellency will give Orders that proper Measures may be taken by sinking Cheveaux de Frize and other ways to obstruct the Bar of the Inlet to Stono.

Resolved That this House will make Provision for the Expence attending the sinking such Cheveaux de Frize and making such other Obstructions on the Bar of the Inlet to Stono as His Excellency the President shall order to be made

Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honourable the Legislative Council for their Concurrence and to His Excellency for his Assent

Ordered That Mr Speaker do sign the same

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 42, 48, 49.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT¹

April 1776

Basse Herre [Terre] Road, St Christophers

Saturday 6

at 3 AM Clear'd her at 5 made the signal wth One 12 Pr Unmoor'd & hove into ½ a Cable on the Bt Bower ¼ past 8 fir'd One 12 Pr as a Signal & weigh'd at 9 came to sail, at Noon in Sight 21 sail. Read the Articles of War &c. to the Ships Compy. The 1st & middle parts Modte & fair, latter Fresh Gales & squally wth rain. PM at 4 pass'd by Eustatia,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

"LIST OF TRANSPORT AND VICTUALING VESSELS BOUND TO BOSTON IN AMERICA WHICH WERE BY STRESS OF WEATHER FORCED TO THE ISLAND OF ANTIGUA BEING NOW REFITTED AND READY TO PROCEED ON THEIR VOYAGE ARE ORDERED UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *Experiment* CAPTAIN ALEXR SCOTT WHO CONVOYS THEM TO THE PLACE OF THEIR DESTINATION."¹

Vessels Name	Masters Name	Lading
<i>Argo.</i>	Thomas Grieve	Three Companies of the 46 Regiment
<i>Brownshall.</i>	John Austin	Naval Stores
<i>Killingsworth.</i>	Thos Powditch	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Oil, Oatmeal, Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Resolution</i>	John Sime	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Pork, Oatmeal, Oil Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Manner's</i>	John Parkin	Bread, Flour, Butter, Beef, Pease, Oil, Oatmeal, Raisins and Vinegar
<i>Felicity</i>	John Breen	Porter Coals, Sour Krout
<i>Patty</i>	Fras Stanfell	Flour, Pease, and Oats
<i>Generous Friend</i>	Thomas Williams	Porter, Coal, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Prince Rupert</i>	George Dear.	Porter, Coal, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Britannia</i>	Wm Butterwick	Porter, Coals, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Winford</i>	Laz: James.	Coals
<i>Liberty.</i>	Thomas Lowden	Porter, Coals, Sout Krout, Beans and a few Hogs
<i>Nanny.</i>	Saml Mayne.	Coals
		Jam ^s Young. ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. The list is undated, but the journal of the *Experiment* for April 6, 1776 refers to "21 sail" under convoy at St. Christophers, so the thirteen listed above were probably joined at that port by seven more vessels requiring convoy. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

7 Apr. (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA¹

Sunday, April 7th, -

The schooner *Dragon* arrives from Barrington, etc., with about 6 tons of hay, and a few potatoes. John Coffin, the master, reports that he saw 4 privateers there, Manley, commander of one of them. They left Barrington last Thursday, and stood out to sea, the wind to the N.N.E.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 117.

WINTHROP SARGENT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Glouster Apr 7 1776

Sir The Bayer of this has under his Gard a Number of Prisoners & Toreys taken by Comodor Manley & Capt Wartors [Daniel Waters] the Prise is Sent to Portsmouth ² I mack know dout you have had Account of before this Reaches your Excellence thar nams you have Below thare is two Women & Sum Children Left hear which is not Abel to Travel Should be glad your Excellence would Send me Answer to what I Roat you Last about Capt Wattss Goods ³ and what I am to dow whith the Prisoners for I have Thirtey hear now upon Expences

I Remm [&c.]

Winthrop Sargent, Agent

P S Sence I rote the above Capt [Samuel] Tucker heve Carr[ied] the Prisoners to Marvelhead ware thay well be sent to head Quartr will not Carrey the women & Children for fear of the Small Pox so I am forc to porvide for them hear Should be glad of your Order in Regard to the above - Yr &ca W S -

Kalep Whitten Bad Man

John H[i]ll

Arther Spencer

Calep Whitten ju

Joseph [Whit?]ten

John Whitten

William King

Dueke Barters

John Burre

Wm McKensey

James Youling

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, Peter Ramsey, master.3. Master of the ship *Stakesby*."EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED APRIL 7, 1776." ¹

I can't omit informing you, that the Captains Manly and Waters have lately take a brig, 15 leagues off Cape Ann eastward, richly loaded with English goods and other merchandize.² - On board were one [Crean] Brush, formerly of New-York, but lately a most bitter refugee in Boston, and William Jackson, the noted importer, who had of his own property in said brig to the value of £24,000 sterling. - A serjeant and 12 soldiers were likewise in her. - She made resistance, but being the least able to defend herself of any that went off with the fleet, she was obliged to yield, tho' in sight of two of the King's ships.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.2. The brig *Elizabeth*.JOSEPH WARD TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER ¹

Head Quarters Boston 7 April 1776

Sir In consequence of the information General Ward has received from you respecting the Continental Privateers, you are directed to furnish those Privateers as many men out of your Regiment as may be necessary to man



John Glover.

them for a Cruise of a month (if you can do it and have men left sufficient to guard the Stores & Vessels at Beverly) unless General Washington should order otherwise before the month is out. The Captains of the Privateers are to follow such instructions as they have heretofore received from General Washington.

By order of General Ward I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Ward A.D.C.

1. General Ward's Orderly Book, ChHS. Typescript.

CALEB GREENE TO BENJAMIN LINCOLN ¹

B. Lincoln Esqr

Dartmouth, 4 mo 7. 1776.

I (or rather we Friends to the unhappy) must still interrupt thee with our importunities for further assistance – for One of our men yet remains a Prisoner on board Wallace's ship that is one of the Six which I petition'd for Last week, as I could not get but five prisoners at Taunton, and could not have more than Man for man, therefore I must beg thy assistance in dispatching the business the bearer Charles Arnold is upon, which is to get an order of Council on the nearest prison where there are Prisoners for One to exchange for the aforesaid person (the bearer's Brother) Wallace is going for Halifax or is certainly going to leave Newport these Two or three days when the Unhappy man will be sent away I say he is unhappy as he fares very hard, for as our Capt Akin says, he is not allow'd any more than ¼ pt Pork & 1 pt Flour per diem, and as he was the Mate to Capt Akin he did not expect to Cast Lott with the hands. By forwarding the bearer in this will oblige him, as well as thy Obliged Friend

Caleb Greene

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 351.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

Remark's &c Sunday [April] 7

latter foggy Weather with rain none of the Fleet in sight, but the *Cabot*

Thick foggy Weather, at 1 PM, came to In 6 fathom water a Breast of New London Light house, In Company with several of the Fleet At 4 P M the fogg Began to Clear then hove up & run in for the Harbour At 6 Came to within the Light house, The Comodore *Columbus* & *Providence* not in sight, At 10 A.M. [*sic* P.M.] the Comodore & *Columbus*, came to off the Light house.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL ¹

New London April 7th 1776

Sunday Evening

Dear Sir This moment Arived in this Port a Small Sloop wich Admiral

Hopkins dispatch'd from Block Island, with Orders to have Lights putt in the Lt House, as he Intends to come into this Port with his whole Fleet. their is three Sail now in Sight — the Capt of the Sloop Informs us that the Continental Fleet saild from Phila for New Providence and arived their Safe, Landed, and took all the Cannon shott & Shells out of the fort Amo to Sixty 24 pounders & about two Thousand wt of Powder, also the Governour and a Number of the Greatest Torys, and then Saild for N Port and on Fry-day last they [f]ell in with the *Glassgow* Ship a Bomb Brigg & three small Tenders. the Brigg & Tenders we have taken, the *Glassgow* after Receiving a Broadside from Admiral Hopkins & from one of our Briggs, thought best to make a Run of it and push't off[f] for N Port, and their was only one of our Briggs that Could keep up with her, who suffer'd much & was oblig'd to leave her, and this Moment by a Gentleman by Land fron N Port says, that as soon as the Inhabitants att New Port was Inform'd of the Engagement, they brot down Severall Eighteen pounders, to the Shore and fir'd on Wallis & Ascough, who were Lying att Anchor, in N Port, att the same time the *Glasgow* appeard in Sight firing Signal Guns, when Wallis & Ascough Joind the *Glasgow* and all Stood out to Sea, & I hope they will not fall in with our transports, who are now Just on Sailing for N York — and when Admiral Hopkins comes on Shore, will write you what further shall transpire — the barer is Skipper on Board the *Macaroni*, and if he has not a Long Passage will deliver you a Salmon, wich Imagine will not come amiss to New England Men, Notwithstanding the Almighty Denies them to Dutchmen — if Convenient you'l Oblige me with the Needfull by the barer — I am Dr Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

To Joseph Trumbull Esqr Commissary General att New York

I. Joseph Trumbull Papers, ConnHS.

BURNETT MILLER TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Easthampton, April 7th, 1776.

Gent. — An opportunity presenting, we embrace it to acquaint you that our guard at Montauk, about sunset yesterday, saw a number of vessels to the southward of Block island, and this morning being foggy, saw nothing of them until about nine o'clock. The fog cleared off in part, when they saw thirteen vessels between Fisher's island and Gardiner's island, but could not tell what sort of vessels they were, by reason of thick air. We saw this afternoon about eight or nine vessels all together, off against this town, standing to the eastward, but the fog came on, and saw no more of them. They have fired single cannon by spells all this afternoon from both quarters, and suppose they fired in order to keep the vessels together, the fog being very thick. We are gent. [&c.]

By order of the Committee of Easthampton.

Burnet Miller, Chairman.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Head-Quarters New York April 7th. 1776

I arrived here on Wednesday Evening last, haveing his Excellency General Washington's Orders to take the Command of the Forces in this City, and to Erect such Works as I should think Necessary for its defence – in which we are now busily employed, after geting the Works in such forwardness as [torn] be prudent to leave, I propose immediately to take possession of Govenors Island which I think a very Important Post, should the Enemy arrive here and get Post there it will not be possible to save the City, nor could we dislodge them without great loss.

The inclosed Letter I Recd by Express from Fort Constitution last Evening, which I should have immediately forwarded on to You had the Contents been such as requir'd it, but as the Fleet have not arrived, (which was the Supposition of the Gentleman who wrote it) I tho't it needless to forward it on by express ²

Fryday Arrived at the Narrows a small Ship of 18 or 20 Guns,³ sent her Boat immediately on Board the *Dutchess of Gordon*, soon after which the Govr in the *Dutchess* sail'd, where bound we know not.

This morning she sent her Boat to the watering place, for Water, the day before I had Detach'd three Companies of the Rifle Battalion to Staten-Island with orders to Scour the Shores, a Midshipman and ten Sailors were in her she was fired upon and lost two Men, the Rifle Men took the rest Prisoners and hall'd up the Boat, the Ship immediately began a heavy fire, & slightly Wounded one Man, since which the Ship has fell down below the narrows. As Hostilities are now Commenced In this Province I have tho't fit to order no more Provision to be sent the Men of War.

Inclosed is an Extract of a letter Recd by the Post, the contents of which I thought necessary to acquaint You with ⁴ I am Sir [&c.]

Israel Putnam

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 159, I, 3, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, 5–7, Commissioners for Canada to Putnam, April 5, 1776.

3. H.M. Sloop *Savage*.

4. Extract of Edmund Quincy's letter to Thomas Mifflin, April 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR. ¹

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Sunday 7th

A M the *Savage* Sloop Weigh'd & Run up to the Watering Place at Straten Island, & Sent our Boats Watering under cover of her Guns, at 10 a Body of Rebels suddenly came down [and] Fired upon the People empd filling water, which obliged them to desist, their approach was so Sudden, that three of our People, could not make their Escape; or was there possibility of getting off 27 Water Casks, which were ashore. Joseph Mitchell Seaman of the *Phoenix* & a Man belonging to the *Savage* were wounded in coming off, our Longboat being at a Grapnel, near

the Shore; we were obliged to cut, which occasion'd the Loss of a Grapnel and Rope. Anchor'd here the *Dutchess of Gordon*.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

2. The *Dutchess of Gordon* was the floating home of Governor William Tryon of New York. General William Heath records: "7th. — A barge from one of the ships going near Staten Island, was fired upon by the Americans: two men were killed, the barge and 8 men taken. The British cannonaded the shore for some time, and one American was wounded." Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 37.

PETITION OF JOHN McFATRICH TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

To The Honourable Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania
The Petition of John McFatrigh, A
Mariner humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner having served A Regular Apprenticeship at Sea out of this port in the Employ of Messrs Carsan Barclay & Mitchell and for some time since has been Commander of A Ship in the same Employ Likewise in the Employ of Mr David Beveridge, in which last service he had the misfortune of Loosing the greatest part of his property by the unskillfullness of the Pilots Sinking his Vessell on the Chevaux de frize in this river.²

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays your Board to appoint him Lewtenant of the Floating Battery now Building, in which station he hopes to acquit himself with Integrity, and, merit the approbation of this Country. And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

[Philadelphia, April 7, 1776]³

[Endorsed] We the Subscribers from many years Experience know the Petitioner to be an Honnest, Sober, Carefull man, and well Qualified for A Marine Employment

Sam^l Carsan
Tho^s Barclay
Da Beveridge

Paul Cox
William Davis

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.

2. Caesar Rodney to Thomas Rodney, November 27, 1775: "While poor David Beverige was at Lewis his Brigg came in loaded with Sugars, Molasses and Coffee. She has since run upon the Chevaux De Frise and immediately sunk in five-fathom-water, — no part insured . . ." See Volume 2, 1163.

3. Date suggested by the fact that the following day the Committee of Safety appointed McFatrigh Second Lieutenant of the *Arnold* Battery.

JOHN JAY TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Philadelphia, April 7, 1776.

Gentlemen — The Congress having been informed of a very extraordinary oath, ordered by Gov. Tryon to be administered to passengers in the late packet, whereby they bound themselves not disclose any thing relative to American affairs except to the Ministry have appointed a committec, (of which I am one) to ascertain this fact.

I must therefore request of you, gentlemen, to appoint proper persons to examine into this matter, and if possible ascertain the truth of the report, by affidavits taken before the mayor or one of the judges of the supreme court. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, [&c.]

John Jay.

To the Honble. the Committee of Safety for the Colony of New York

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 115.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' BILL FOR REPAIRS TO THE CONTINENTAL SCHOONER
*Wasp*¹

April [1776]

7	Stephen Hopkins Esqr	for the Schooner <i>Wasp</i>	
To	Thomas Thompson	1 day @ 9/	9..-
	Wm Woodcock	1 do do	9..-
	John Marshall	2 do do	18..-
	James McNeil	2½ do do	1..2..6
	Nicholas Brahs	1½ do do	13..6
	John Cotton	1 do do	9..-
	Henry Rhile	1 do do	9..-
	Reynolds Wharton	½ do do	4..6
	Rodger Herald	½ do 8/	4..-
	1 Stage 3 day	@ 2/6	7..6
	2 Potts 1 day	3/6	3..6
	Joshua Humphreys Attendance		1.10..-
	2 5/8 Augres		4..-
	Nathan Terry	1 day 7/6	7..6
	bill deliver'd		£ 7.11..0

1. Wharton & Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts, 1773-1795, Joshua Humphreys Papers, HSP.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK¹

Remarks on Sunday the 7 April 1776 [Philadelphia]

Thick hazy Weather with rain moved the Vessel for the *Hornet* to come in to heav down -²

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. "A double share of labor of course fell upon our high-spirited and active friend, but he was able to sustain it all, and at length brought the *Hornet* safely to Philadelphia. Her captain abandoned her immediately, and never afterwards ventured on board an armed vessel." Barney, ed., *Life of Joshua Barney*, 33.

COLONEL JOHN HASLET TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

[Dover, April 7, 1776]²

Sir I am honoured with your Letter of 3d Apr. and beg Leave to inform you, that being well acquainted with the Defenceless Situation of the County of Sussex, on the first Intelligence of the *Roebuck's* being in the Road of

Lewes, two Companies of the Battalion under my Command were directed to do Duty there, where they still continue.

The Commanding Officer at Lewes has sent up to Head-Quarters the third Lieut³ of the Man of War & three Sailors, who were put on Board the Alarm Pilot there, by them taken, & fitted put for a Tender. On Wednesday 27th Ult. Cruising to the Southward of the Cape, they sent all their Men on Board a Plymouth Sloop they had made Prize of except the Lt. and three others. about four o'Clock next morning the Helmsman falling Asleep, Providence steerd the Boat ashore, and they were soon after taken. The Lt. inform us that the *Roebuck* left England last September bound to Halifax where she wintered Commanded by Captain Hammond, she carries 44 18 & 9 Pounders mounted & can mount ten More. I propose to keep them officer and Men here under Guard till the Congress is pleased to direct in what Manner they shall be disposed of. I am sir [&c.]

John Haslet Col.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 29, NA.
2. As this letter was read in Congress on April 9, 1776, it is likely that it was written two days before.
3. Lieutenant George Ball.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND¹

[*Roebuck* Delaware Bay, Sunday 7 April]

Saw a small Schooner vessel at day break that came as far as the Light House and upon discovering the Ship, immediately made off to the Southwd. I sent the Tender & two Armd Boats after her, who drove her ashore about a league from Cape Henlopen where a large Party of Men immediately assembled and kept a constant Fire upon the Tender & Boats, so that they were not able to bring her off.²

Sent the Barge after a schooner under Cape May, which on account of a strong breeze of wind springing up they could not overtake.

Saw a sail at 1 P M in the offing which I immediately gave chase to, which proved to be our Tender the *Lord Howe* from Virginia who brought me intelligence of the Philadelphia Squadron having been at [New] Providence & St Augustine and that they were certainly on their return to Philadelphia. Lieut [William] Grant of the *St John* Schooner who escaped from them at Providence, and brought off all the Powder gives the follg acct of their Force

2 Ships of 32 Guns
2 Brigs of 16 Guns
& 3 Sloops of 10 Guns

Upon receipt of this Intelligence I took care to place my Ship in the best Manner I could to intercept them, by cruizing all day within sight of the Light House, and lying close to it in the Night.

1. Hamond, No. 4, VHS.
2. The schooner *Farmer*, Nehemiah Field, master, which had been dispatched to St. Eustatius by

the Sussex County, Delaware, Council of Safety. In the *Delaware Archives* (Wilmington, 1912), II, 944, is Field's account with the Council:

To making a voyage from Port Lewis to St. Eustatia in the Schooner <i>Farmer</i> for arms, etc. (if to be had) pr agreement	
£120:0:0. [The other items are:]	
To 36 dutch Wt of Powder a $\frac{3}{4}$ per	6: 0: 0
To cash paid for sundries in St. Eustatia, pr bills amtg to 1416:1:1 dutch money, equal to	425:16:10
To $\frac{2}{3}$ of a bbl Pork 66/8 – 1 bbl bread 35/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases Gin used on the beach when the schooner ran on shore	7:17:11
To cash paid Peter Marsh, David Hazard, & Wm. Bignall for crating, storage, etc. of the cargo	7:10: 0
To cash paid John Maul for work & provisions launching the schooner	3: 9: 6
	<hr/> £570:14: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE ¹

In sight of the Capes of Virginia, April 7, 1776.
Gentlemen, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that at one P.M. this day I fell in with the sloop *Edward*, belonging to the *Liverpool* frigate. She engaged us near two glasses. They killed two of our men, and wounded two more. We shattered her in a terrible manner, as you will see. We killed and wounded several of her crew. I shall give you a particular account of the powder and arms taken out of her, as well as my proceedings in general. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that all our people behaved with much courage. I am gentlemen [&c.]

John Barry.

To the Honorable John Hancock Esq; or any of the Marine Committee.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776. "A letter from General Putnam, at New York, of the 7, with sundry papers enclosed, ~~also a letter from Captain Barry~~ was presented to Congress, and read," Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 270. The deletion was made by the Secretary of Congress in editing the Journal for publication.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT ¹

April 76 Moord in St Augustine harbour East Florida
Monday 1 Moderate and Fair Wr At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 [A.M.] arrived an Express in Town from St Maries with an Information that a Rebel Armament had come there from Savannah with an intention to take by force of arms a Schooner Laden for the West Indies – Recd at 11 (AM) a letter from Governor Tonym, Requesting me to go in pursuit of them Fired 1 Gun pr Signal for a pilot Employed getting ready for Sea Recd 1 Hogshd Rum –
Fresh Breezes and clear Wr At 5 PM Weighed and came to Sail Received on board 1 Captain 1 Lieut & 50 soldiers belonging to the 14 & 16 Regiments to go to Saint Maries River to intercept the Rebels –

- Tuesday 2 Fresh gales and Fair Wr Hoisted the boats in At 1½ past 7
Weighed and came to sail – Read the Articles of War &c –
Punishd Saml O Kiff with 12 lashes for drunkenness and dis-
obedient to Command Set the Studding sail
- Wednesday 3 At 10 (AM) Lookout house S W B S distance 3 Leagues –
In St Maries River
Fresh breezes and cloudy Wr Orderd the Master on board
Wrights Sloop to go up the River to bring down some Rice
Sent the Cutter Mann'd and arm'd in pursuite of a Small Sloop
full of men Supposd from Georgia Fired 2 3 pounders as pr
Signal to Our boat to return
- Thursday 4 Came down the River Captain Mowbrays Sloop Loaded Recd
from Mr John Jollie 2 Hhdds of Rice –
Do Weather with Thunder and Lightning the people Em-
ployed making Musket Cartridges Fired 1 Gun as p Signal
for our boats to Come on board – Sent a Reinforcement of
Men and Amunition to the Snow at St Simonds River with 1
more Swivel –
- Friday 5 Keep the Schooners Company under Arms all Night
Fresh Gales and Squally Wr with Thunder Lightning and
rain Came down the River with the before mentioned Sloop
the Master with 43 Barrels Rice taken from the Rebels halld
the prize Sloop alongside of the other and took on board the
Rice ²
- Saturday 6 Arrived here the pilot boat from the Snow who informd us
they had taken the Snow by force of Arms ³ –
Fresh breezes and Squally Wr The people Employed filling
Water Received on board some Wood Loosed Sails to dry
Cleared hause ordered the soldiers with an officer and some
seamen in the pilot boat up the So River to secure a quantity
of Rice the property of one Miller a Notorious Rebel
- Sunday 7 saw a Schooner coming Inland Sent the Cutter mann'd and
arm'd to Speak her Cutter returnd with the Master Fired
a way to make a Signal for our boat People Employed mak-
ing musket and pistol Cartridges Received on board a
prisoner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. The sloop *Betsey* identified in subsequent journal entries.

3. The snow *Christy* also identified in the same manner.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

(No 5)

English harbour, Antigua 7th April 1776.

Sir, I must again beg leave to renew my Application to their Lordships to send out some Ships to reinforce the Squadron under my Command, as with the few now here, it is impossible for me to carry on the Kings Service in the manner I could wish, or effectually to put a stop to the Trade which the

Americans carry on to the French, Dutch and Danish Islands; and prevent the returns being made to them in Warlike Stores, for notwithstanding the Assurances given me by the French Governors to the contrary, I am well convinced by other authentic Information, it is done openly. – The Powder goes by small Quantities at a time, in such like Vessels as Virginia Pilot Boats, that steal out in the night, and by fast Sailing escape our Cruizers. I have caused different Ports at the French and Dutch Islands to be as strictly Watched as the small number of Ships I have can do it, but there are so many places they can go to, and from, that it is impossible for me to Guard them all: The Squadron is now reduced to four Ships, one of which is the *Hawke* Sloop, which I mean to detain in the room of the *Lynx*, whose Guns I have given her for that purpose, 'tho am sorry to find She is in very little better Condition than the *Lynx*: She came out of England (exclusive of her accident) very badly repaired, and will take some time before she will be fit for Sea. The *Hind* is gone to St Augustine, with the three Companies of the 60th Regiment, and I do not expect her back these Two Months at soonest. The *Portland* (which I have sent to Cruize at Sea, as much as the others), the *Argo* and the *Pomona*, are now fourteen Months foul; as soon as the *Hawk* is ready for Sea, I purpose trying to heave down the *Argo*, but am told by the Master Shipwright, and his Assistant, that it is very doubtful whether she will bear it; She came out of England so badly repaired, that at times her Deck has been almost shifted, and a Number of her Knees are broke. The other two Ships must clean when they can be spared.

The Prizes taken by the King's Ships under my Command, have been of great Service to these Islands by bringing in Supplys of Provisions to them, that were destined to other places (none can now be Shipped from America, to the English Islands, the Runners must therefore all be intended for the French, Dutch and Danish Islands), and had the Squadron employed in these Seas, consisted of a sufficient number of Ships, they would certainly have taken much greater number of American Vessels and thereby have prevented considerable Supply of Gunpowder being sent to the Rebels; which Article they pay for in Provisions &c at the enormous price of a Dollar pr pound. – The French Governors complain about our Ships Cruizing off their Ports, and taking Supplies of Provisions &c coming to them; however I flatter myself, their Lordships will be of opinion that the strong necessity of the present times, makes this step absolutely necessary: The French have at present three Frigates of Thirty six Guns in these Seas, and between four & five Thousand Troops at the Islands Guadalupe, and Martinica.

I must also observe to their Lordships that there are great numbers of the disaffected Americans, in all the French, Dutch and Danish Islands, and even in our own Islands, from whence they can easily get away to the others; and it is believed here, they have on foot a design to Arm and fitt out Vessels from the Foreign Islands, (where they can readily be supplied with what Stores are wanting for that purpose,) and Cruize for our Trade in these Seas; which were they to do, would greatly distress the English Islands: The Planters and Traders here, are very apprehensive of this, and talk of ap-

plying to me for Convoy to their homeward bound Ships: this I am sure at present I cannot comply with, 'tho they assert they have intelligence from America, that Ships of Force are arming there, which are said to be intended to intercept the homeward bound West-India Ships both from these Islands and Jamaica (an account of this Intelligence I intend sending Rear Admiral Gayton by the first Packet that goes from hence to Jamaica,) as there may be some cause for their Fears. I hope their Lordships will take the matter into Consideration; and should they not from better Intelligence discover their apprehensions to be wholly groundless; I flatter myself they will think it proper and necessary to send me out a strong reinforcement. There are at present no Vessels to be got here, that I could Arm so as to make them of any considerable Force, or otherwise would do it as I am confident the advantage would be very great to His Majesty's Service. The *Sandwich* a small Brigantine Tender I purchased some time ago for the use of the Squadron (of which I acquainted their Lordships pr Letter the 9th Decemr 1775) I have put four small Guns and some Swivells with about Twenty five Men into her; as she goes sometimes amongst the Islands, and She has taken three Prizes.

Zeal for His Majesty's Service, and an earnest desire to execute the trust reposed in me with Credit and Reputation, induces me to be so very pressing for a Reinforcement of Ships, and I have no doubt their Lordships will receive this dispatch with indulgence and approbation. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young

[Endorsed] Rd 30 May

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL [JAMES] YOUNG AT BARBADOES AND THE LEEWARD ISLANDS THE 7TH APRIL 1776." ¹

Ships.	Commanders.	Where Stationed &c.
<i>Portland</i>	Capt. T. Dumaresq.	In English Harbour Antigua, victualing for Sea.
<i>Argo.</i>	Wm Garnier	On a Cruize, Her Orders as p last Account.
<i>Hind.</i>	Heny Bryne.	Saild 22d March 1776 from St Vincents, to St Augustine with three Companies of the 60 Regiment. Her Orders as pr last Account
<i>Lynx.</i>	Robert Keeler.	Ready to Sail for England Express.
<i>Pomona.</i>	Wm Young.	In English Harbour Antigua return'd from a Cruise the 6th April 1776.
<i>Experiment.</i>	Alexr Scott.	Sailed the 31st March 1776 from St Johns-road Antigua for Boston in

America to Convoy the Navy and Victualing Transports

Hawke. Robert P. Cooper. English Harbour fitting for Sea.
Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

8 Apr.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM GOFORTH TO JOHN JAY ¹

[Extract]

Three Rivers in Canada April the 8th 1776

Upon a Supposition that Quebec Should not be taken before the arrival of the Ships of War I should on that Score be much concernd for our little Army and for the Poor Canadians who have taken part with the United Colonies for in my Opinion there would be great Danger of the Communication being Cut off[?] between the Southern Colonies and this in Consequence of which our little neglected Army must fall in to the hands of our inveterate Enemies and the poor Canadians and if So the Poor Canadians must by a Natural Consequence fall a Victim to Ministerial Vengeance of which they are greatly affraid. But upon the Supposition that Quebec Should be taken (which I would rather Choose to beleive) I hope you will not then Conclude that all is over and that this Country is then fully Secured. I well know that Quebec is Generally looked upon to be a place of Such Strength as to make it a Barrier Sufficient to prevent any Vessells passing by it but it Should be rememberd that it has been passed by Vessells of war and may be again. And Should one Single twenty-Gun Ship Get up the River it would be in the power of the Commander to destroy the Towns of three Rivers and Montreal together with most of the vilages on both sides the River Saint Laurant for one hundred and Eighty miles. On the one hand the Towns and Vilages must be destroyed or on the other the People must [be] Subject to any Contributions Either of men or Money that might be Calld for not a Single Battery being Erected for the defence of any [of] the Towns or Vilages. At Montreal a Battery might in my Opinion be Constructed for its own defence The Channel Before the Town of three Rivers puts down on both Sides of the River but at Cape Magdline about one League and a half below this the[y] Unite and Channel Sets Close in with the North Shore where a Battery might be So Constructed as to prevent any thing perhaps from Passing. But the best place in the River is at Richleiu Rappids about 45 miles below this place there the Tide never Sets up at most only Swells the Channel is narrow and near the Shore and is so difficult that they must have a good Pilot and day light or a very Clear night to pass it and what would make that place more advantegeous is that the Rapids Sets down So Strong that it requires a Breese from 6 to 8 Knotts to Stem the Current if a Battery was well Constructed at this place of about 20 peices of heavy Cannon and put under the Command of a good Officer and men Sufficient to defend the works I allow it would answer Every

purpose for all places above it and my opinion be a greater Security to the upper parts of the Country than Quebec. . . . I am [&c.]

William Goforth Captn in the first Batalion
of the New York Force ²

1. Jay Papers, CUL.

2. *Ibid.*, Goforth had been given command of the post at Three Rivers on February 2, 1776, by General David Wooster.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Monday April 8th 1776

Whereas an order passed this Court that Caleb Green have liberty to receive Six persons out of Taunton Goal taken from the Navy under the command of Capt Wallace at Newport, in order to redeem the same number of Men, lately taken by him on their passage from Philadelphia to Dartmouth, and as there was but five in said Goal, for which five he hath received five men taken on their Passage aforesaid. One yet remains on board Wallace – it is therefore

Resolved that Charles Arnold be allowed to receive of the Prison keeper in Concord one man (a Sailor if may be) giving his Bond to the Sheriff of the County of Middlesex or the keeper of said Goal for the Use of this Colony in the penal Sum of Fifty pounds, conditioned that in case he shall not Exchange the Prisoner whom he shall receive from Concord Goal for One Joseph Russell now on board the said Wallace, he will return the Prisoner to the said Prison keeper in Concord within fourteen days from the time he shall receive him the said Prisoner, & the keeper of said Prison is hereby directed to conform himself accordingly to this Order provided the said Arnold shall give security as above directed –

Resolved that the Committee of Truro be directed to pay John Kenny so much of his Account Petitioned for, as shall be thought just by said Committee, out of the money found on Board the *Friendship*, ² and Lodge there Account with the Judge of Admiralty of Plymouth for allowance –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 733, 735, 736–37.

2. The *Friendship*, British transport, was cast away to the southward of Cape Cod on March 1, 1776.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1776

Newport, April 8.

Last Tuesday as two freight boats were coming from Updike's Newtown, in this colony, to this town, with wood, cider, butter, eggs and towcloth, the ships of war stopped them, and took out 17 barrels of cider, and all the butter and eggs, and some potatoes, which tis said they paid for, and detained two passengers (who were bringing some of those articles to market) several hours, on board the ships. The Tories here, ever ready at inventing excuses for every piece of treachery, or breach of faith our enemies are guilty of, say the ships did not break the truce with this town, because the two passengers belonged to Connecticut!!

Last Wednesday night 3 Negroes, from this town, went on board the men of war lying in our road. 'Tis supposed that all the Negroes fled on board those ships will be sold in the West Indies in a very short time.

Last Friday the ministerial fleet went a little without the mouth of our harbour, and in the evening they all returned and anchored between Gould-Island and Coddington's Point, except the *Glasgow* of 24 guns, a small tender, which kept out all night. — As soon as it was light the next morning, a party of the troops stationed on this island got two of their 18 pounders upon the point, and played so well upon those worse than Algerine rovers, that they hulled the *Rose* 2 or 3 times, the *Nautilus* once or twice, and sent one shot through and through one of the armed tenders, upon which Capt. Wallace, of the *Rose*, sent off a boat to cut away the bouy of his anchor, then slipped his cable, and made off as fast as possible, and the rest of his fleet followed in the utmost hurry and confusion, having fired about 15 cannon upon our people without the least effect, though they stood in considerable numbers as open as they could well be, without the least breast-work or other shelter. —

For several hours before, and during the above engagement, a vast number of cannon were heard from the S.E. and about sunrise, 8 or 10 sail of ships, brigs, &c. were seen a little to the eastward of Block-Island, and indeed the flashes of the cannon were seen by some people about day break. These things caused much speculation; but in a few hours the mystery was somewhat cleared up, for away came the poor *Glasgow*, under all the sail she could set, yelping from the mouths of her cannon (like a broken leg'd dog) in token of her being sadly wounded: — And tho' she settled away, and handed the most of her sails, just before she came into the harbour, it was plainly perceived by the holes in those she had standing, and by the hanging of her yards, that she had been treated in a very rough manner. — The other vessels, seen off, stood up the western sound; and by very authentic intelligence, received on Saturday evening, we are fully convinced they were 12 sail of the Continental Navy, very deeply laden with cannon, mortars, cannon-shot, bombs, and other warlike stores, from the West-Indies; so that it is probable their precious cargoes were the sole cause of Mrs. *Glasgow's* making her escape; her tender 'tis supposed was taken; as also the bomb brig, and a schooner¹ which had been out near a week in search of prey.

As soon as the *Glasgow* got in, the *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, the *Nautilus*, Capt. [John] Collins, the *Swan*, Capt. [James] Ayscough, with several tenders and pirated prizes, stood out to sea, leaving the *Glasgow*, a large snow, and two small sloops, at anchor about three-quarters of a mile from Brenton's Point. — The ensuing night, a party of troops carried one 18 pounder, one 9, one 6, and two 4 pounders on said point; and early yesterday morning saluted the *Glasgow* with such warmth that she slipped her cable, and pushed up the river without firing a gun, under all the sail she could make, and the others followed with great precipitation. By the terrible cracking on board the *Glasgow*, the noise and confusion among her men, 'tis thought the cannon did good execution. — The wind shifted to the northward about noon,

Yesterday in the forenoon, as a company of American regulars were getting up the cables and anchor which the *Glasgow* had a little before left in her great fright, a large prize sloop came in, which Wallace had carried out with him the day before; and it being a very thick air, and she expecting to find the *Glasgow* lying where she was let, got close in with the boat before they discovered her, when the boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her in here. She had on board 7 men and one woman. This sloop was loaded with flour, &c. and was, when taken by the pirates, bound from Virginia to Providence.

Last week 9 men deserted from the ministerial navy, on this station, and brought off 3 boats.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Nautilus*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLLINS ¹

Friday 5. A M up yds & Topmt Recd Onboard some Water Weighd the small Br Loosd Sails to Air Mod. and Fair Wr at 1 P M Wd and Came to Sail in Coy with the *Rose*, *Glasgow* & *Swan*, Several Tenders &c at 4 Bore away at 5 Came too wt the B.B. in 17 fm Water Veerd $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, also anchn [as did] all the Convoy and *Rose* & *Swan*.

Sunday 7 A M Read the Articles of War &c—
Mod & hazey with much fogg at 1 P M Wore ship and made
Sail

Monday 8. At 5 A M saw a large Ship to Leeward Sounded Occasionally
A M Several sail in Sight bore away after them Brot Too
& Joyned the *Glasgow* also the *Rose* made the Signal for all
Captains Wore and made sail Recd fresh beef the above
in Company
Fresh breezes w[ith] thick foggy Wr at 4 P M close Rft the
TSails parted Coy with the Above.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Glasgow*, CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE ¹

- April 1776 At a single Anchor off Rhode Island
 Sunday 7 at 5 AM the Rebels open'd a battery on Brentons Point & finding that every shot struck the Ship Cut the best br Cable & made sail up Cananicutt Passage at 8 Came too off Hopes Isld at noon weigh'd & came to Sail in Compy the Tender & 2 Sloops down the Naraganset Passage –
 Modt & hazey at 4 Point Judith W b N & Block Island S W $\frac{1}{2}$ S 6 Lgs
 Monday 8 at 8 AM join'd Compy with the *Rose* & Squadron at 11 bore away
 Fresh breezes & hazey working to windward under Block Island. at 6 PM Block Island N E 2 Leags at 8 Close Reef'd the topsls ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Glasgow*, in company with the *Rose*, *Swan*, transports, and tenders were en route to Halifax, where they arrived the afternoon of April 18. On the afternoon of May 13 the *Glasgow* sailed for England.JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

- April 1776 Montack Point No 54° Et 30 Leagues
 [Monday] 8 A M the *Scarbourough* fired a Gun which we repeated . . . lost sight of the *writtenhouse* Ship, the *Ravens* prize one Schooner & one Sloop.
 P.M. Lost sight of the *Scarbourough*.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

N London April 8. 1776

P.M. 2 Clock.

May it please Your Excelency

Commodore Hopkins with the Fleet & Prizes, came this morning into this Harbour, and waiting on him, aboard the *Alfred*, he desired me to write Your Excelency, & ask the favour that he might enlist out of Your Troops, 150 or 200 Seamen, and if not that number of Seamen to be had, compleat the number with Landsmen, To Man The Fleet; as he is badly Maned, and more than 50 Invalids --

As to the Number of Ships in the Fleet, & Prises, & the late Engagement, I must beg leave to refer Your Excellency to the bearer Mr James Price, who has been on board the Comodore & can Viva Voce, give you a fuller Accot than I can now write --

The Comodore has brought his Excellency Montford Browne Esqr Govr of New Providence, Thomas Erwin Esqr a Gentleman of the Council for South Carolina, & Receiver of the Kings quit Rents [James] Bavage Esqr

Secretary of New Providence & 1/2 pay Officer, who are on their Parole of Honour on Shore & about 70 Prisoners – I am Yr Excellencys [&c.]

G Saltonstall

[E]nclosed You have Inventory of Stores taken at New Providence ²

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. A list will be found as an enclosure to Hopkins' letter of the same date to Trumbull.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Ship *Alfred* [at New London] April 8th 1776

Honoured Sir Inclosed you have an Inventory of Stores taken out of two Forts at New Providence – have also the Governor, a Counsellor who is a half pay Officer & the Surveyor General of the Customs for North America onboard – I shall be glad of your directions how to dispose of them as they are Gentlemen that I think ought to be well treated as Prisoners – I have likewise Seventy odd Prisoners taken out of the Bomb Brig, the Schooner & the *Glasgows* Tenders which shall be glad of your directions respecting them –

If you should see Genl Washington shall be glad to get Permission to Enlist some of his Soldiers as I am very short handed – I have a number of heavy Cannon taken out of the Forts if you should have Occasion for any of them you will please to give directions accordingly – I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E. H.

[Enclosure]

Inventory of Stores &c taken at Fort Nassau – March 3 1776

71 Cannon from 9 to 32 Pounders

15 Mortars from 4 to 11 Inches – diamr & Beds for do

5337 Shells

9831 Round Shott & 165 Chain & dbleheadd ditto

140 hand Grenadoes

816 Fuzees or false Fires

99 Spunges Rammers & Worms

46 Copper Ladles

407 Copper Hoops & 5 Copper Powder Measures

220 Iron Trucks for Carriages

3 Bells

24 Casks Powder

A Quantity of Match Rope not Weigh'd

2 Old dble Blocks with brass Sheafs

1 Old Scale Beam – 1 old Hammer & a [illegible] Trumpet

3 Tann'd Hides

2 Boxes Tallow Candles

4 Barrels Flour, 4 ditto Bread 4 ditto Beef

Part of a Cask Spirit

1 Sun Dial & 1 English Flag

Stores &c taken at Fort Montague March 3 1776

17 Cannon from 9 to ~~24~~ 36 Pounders
 1240 Round Shott
 121 Shells
 81 Iron Trucks for Carriages
 22 Copper Hoops – 2 Copper Powder Measures
 1 Worm, 1 Ladle
 Some old Iron, Copper & Lead not Weigh'd

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

“INVENTORY OF WARLIKE STORES FOUND ON BOARD THE BRIGG *Bolton* EDWD SNEID MASTER VIZT”¹

6 three pound Cannon wth Carriages Gunn tackles Britchings, &c
 8 Rope S[p]unges & Rammers
 Two Ladles 1 Wormer 2 Wooden Spunges 1 Crow barr
 [New London, April 8, 1776]²

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. The date is approximated. It will be noted that Shaw's report of the warlike stores, differs from that of Hopkins of April 8 to the Continental Congress.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

[Off New London] Monday 8 [April]

at 8 A M, hove up Beat in a Brest of the town in Company with
 all the Fleet

Moderate & Cloudy Receiv'd orders to go out on a Cruse, Sent all
 the sick men on Shore to the Hospital & gott men from the *Columbus*
 & *Providence*, At 5 P M Hove up with Light Breezes from the South'd
 & Beat down abrest of the Light house & came too, it being foggy & the tide
 a Flood.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

LIST OF THE PEOPLE ON BOARD THE *Andrew Doria* FROM FEBRUARY 1776¹

[New London, April 8]²

Mens Names.	Turn'd over or Dead	Sick in the Hospitl
Nicholas Biddle Comr.	1	
James Josiah 1 Lieutt.	2	
Elijah Warner 2d Do.	3	
John McDougale 3d Do.	4	
Benjamin Dun Master	5	
William Moran 1st Mate	6	
John Dent 2d Do	7	Sick
John Margeson 3 Do	–	Sick
Dennis Leary Midshipm	8	Do
Willm Reynolds Do	–	Do

Evan Bevan	Do	9	Do
Willm Lamb	Do	10	Do
Thoms Kerr Doctr		-	Do
Michl Jennings Mate		11	
John Young Clerk		12	
Elias Rohl Steward		13	
Alexandr McKenzie		14	
William Darby		Turn Over	
John Nowland		15	Sick
Willm Kennedy		16	
Willm Henderson		17	Sick
David Edmanson		18	
Willm Green		19	
Willm Johnson		20	
John Mackee		1	
Bartholomy Moore		2	Sick
George Swenney		3	
Alexandr Livingstone		4	
Robert Kennedy		Dead	
Edward Kirck		5	
Jacob Cook		6	
Thomas Johnston		-	Sick
John Christian		7	Do
Michl Smith		8	
Michl Bready		9	
Saml Dobbins		10	
James Swan		-	Sick
John Farrell		-	Sick
Willm Steward		-	Do
Jeremiah Twoohig		-	Do
George McAdams		11	
John Lee			
Edward Barrett			
Nichls Cooney		12	
John Green			Sick
James Duffin			Sick
John McCoy		13	
James Anguish		14	
James Evans		15	
Thomas Warren		16	
Peter Miller		17	
William Adams			Sick
David Ignew			Do
James Heath		18	
William Wilding		19	Do
William Miller			
Saml Smith		20	

Barnett Garland	1	
James McGuire	2	Sick
William Hughes	3	
George McKane	4	
George Kelly		Sick
John Moize	5	
John Chisnell	6	
James Willson		
James Crosby	7	
John Swenney		Sick
Joseph Sheels		Sick
Timothy Ohara		
Willm West		Sick
Joseph Elding	8	Do
John Pattin	9	
Jeremh Mahany	10	
John Dennis		Sick
List Continued		

Mens Names	Turnd over or Dead	Sick in the Hospital
[Isaac] Kraigg 1 Lieut ³	1	
——— Turner Serjant ⁴	Dead	
Robert Hunter Do		Sick
John Garrigues		Do
Willm Steward		Do
James Moulsworth	2	Do
Charls Parker	Runaway	
Simon Harwood		Do
Isac Dewes	3	
Patrick Kenny	4	
Andw Scott	5	
Henry Jarett	6	
Saml Johnston		Sick
David Clark	7	
John Irazie	8	
Archibald Nellson	9	
Richd Owens		Sick
Patrick Crafford		Do
Andw Campbell		Do
John Campbell		Do
John Broomfield	Dead	
Thoms Wattson	11	
Robt Anderson		Sick
Willm Haselip	12	Do
James Campbell		Do

Fracis Dowie	13	
John McNeal		Do
Robt Kearns	14	
James Kite		Do
Benjn Tate	15	
Timothy Ohara		Do
Willm Skilling		Do
Henry Frazer		Sick
James Williams	16	
Edmund Lee	17	Do
Saml Harvey		Do
John Ponsett	18	
Cornelius Griner		Do
Willm Lock	19	
Men in all		110
Sick	49	
Dead	3	
Run away	1	
Turn'd over	<u>1</u>	
	54	<u>54</u>
		56
Remaining Prisoners		
the two Officers	2	
4 Privater	4	
Negroes	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
		66

N.B. those 3 Men that are on Board the Scooner
is here counted

The Prisoners I have not mentioned

Prisoners	
Willm Willson	Pilot
Jasper Chamberlain	2d
Peter Doomous	1
Henry Emour	2
James Brown	3
Negroes -	
Surrinam	4
Richd Brihly	5
Dragoon	6
Richd Bayard	7

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, Edward Biddle Estate, HSP.
2. The date is established from the *Andrew Doria* Journal for this day, which states that the sick were landed. The roll does not show the men borrowed from the *Columbus* and *Providence*.
3. Isaac Craig, first lieutenant of Marines.
4. Thomas Vernon Turner who died at sea on April 3, 1776.

ROUND ROBIN OF THE CREW OF THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* ¹[New London, April 8, 1776] ²

To the Honble Esek Hopkins Esqr

The Humble Petition of the Company of they Sailors and Marines on Board the Brigg *Cabot*, Most humbly Sheweth –

That your Petitioners having served faithfully on Board the said Brig in Defence of America Since her departure from Philadelphia; and her first Cruise being now Out; They humbly hope that your Honr (According to the Usual Custom observed in Board Vessels of War) will advance them Some Money as They are much in want of Necessaries which they Cannot proceed On another Cruise without. – They Humbly hope that your Honour will pardon this Liberty, and impute it to the real necessity which they Now labour under for the want of Cash, to procure them what's necessary for their Health & preservation; and your petitioners as in Duty Bound will ever Pray –

Please to turn over where you'll [see] they Subscribers Names are set down –

[Signatures in the Round Robin]

[Outer circle, reading clockwise]

Pa[torn]

John J[torn]

Thoma[torn]

James Ch[torn]

Christian Gosner

Thomas Forker

his
William X Osburn
Mark

John Stirlin

Peter Cashinbury

Mathew M[']Fee

his
Andrw X Magee
mark

his
James X McSorly
mark

Thos Derby

his
Michel X Shield
mark

Abl Jons

Robet Mill[s]

James Hall

Joseph Way[n]

Benjamin Ford

his
James X Black
mark

his
Richard X Sweeny
Mark

his
Thomas X Clark
Mark

Robt Halladay
Charles Harve[y]

his
Jacob X po[illegible]
mark

Jacob Maag
Joseph Ravencroft
Thos Goldthwaite
John Harman
John Hall
George McKenny
Thos David
Thomas Yad[ley]

his
James X Wilkeson
mark

John Coates
Anthony Dwyer
James Bowman
Rudolph Edi[na]

[Inner circle – clockwise]

his
Joseph X Antonio
Mark

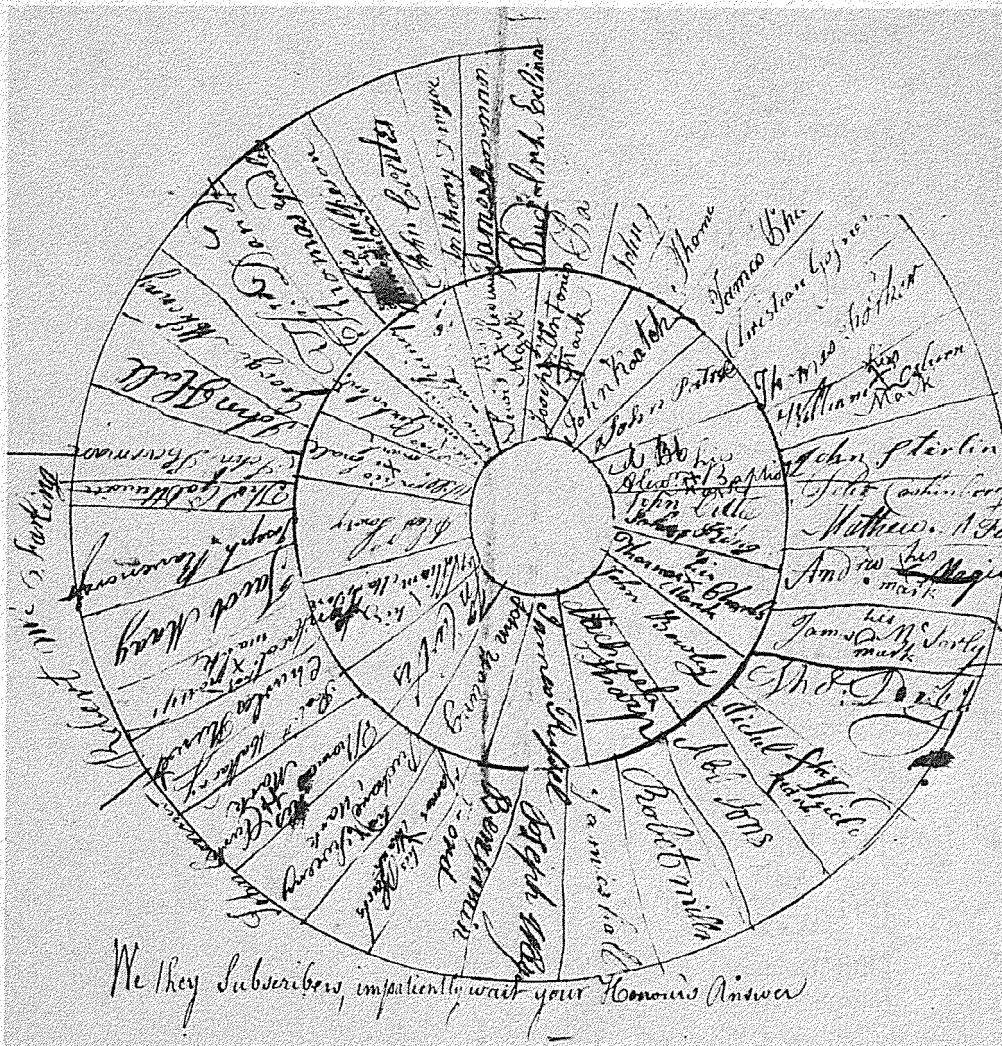
John Roatch
John Patr[ick]

his
Alexr X Baptist
mark

John Little
John King

his
Thomas X Charles
mark

John Bowles
Michael Thayr



Round robin, crew of Continental brig Cabot.

James Russel

John Young

Jno Curtis

his

William X York
mark

Alexr Lowry

his

Willm X Small
mark

his

Thos X Clerk Senr
mark

his

Chris X Reiney
mark

his

Lewis X Reding
mark

[Around perimeter of outer circle]

John Conner

Robert McFarling

[Across bottom]

We they Subscribers, impatiently wait your Honour's Answer

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. As the cruise ended at New London on April 8, 1776, that date has been assigned to this undated document.

"A LEAST OF THE PRESENORS ON BORD THE SCHOONER &c" ¹[New London, April 8, 1776] ²

Laut Edward Sneyd Capt

John Dawson Mastt

Richd Tillage Midss

Edward Wattmore Midss

David Wardtrope Surgent

Wm Page Clarck

Mathew Mawrey Pilott

John Coggin Boatswain ³

Richd Markie Corp

Wm Breed Gunner

Mareens

Francs Shilles

Jms Graves

Samuell [George]

Jms [Hews]

Jam Marks

Thomas Crain

Jms Rieed

Jams Buesell

Jams Cooke

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is based upon the arrival at New London. Lieutenant Sneyd was taken in H.M. Brig *Bolton*.3. "We were carried into New London Harbour, and every man put in irons, because we would not inlist with the Rebels; they allowed us only four ounces of Bread per day and four ounces of Pork to last us two days. We defyed all they could do and were determined by the example and encouragement of our commander, Mr. S[neyd] (who in no respect fared better than the rest) to die by our colours rather than purchase life by ingloriously deserting them." This is the boatswain's account, as related later to Lieutenant Sneyd's sailor servant on board the *Bolton*. "Sneyd Papers," *Mariner's Mirror*, XLIV.

COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Hond Sir

[Norwich] 3 oClock Monday [April 8]

Mr [Christopher] Leffingwell is very sorry he has not the Pleasure of waiting on You in Company with General Washington

the General will take Bed at Col: J[abe]z Huntingtons I have told the General I expected you down – it will much gratify him & all of us if you can do us the Pleasure of your Company – the General intends for New London Tomorrow where he expects to meet Admiral Hopkins – we will sup late or Breakfast late if you conclude to come – I wish Brothers wou'd attend You –

Yours most affectionately

Jed Huntington

1. Conn. Arch., Trumbull Papers, V, 24a, ConnSL.

JOHN COTTON, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE, WETHERSFIELD ¹

Sir/ I fear that you will think me Extravagant in Calling for So much Money butt it is Certain it is Wanted this Way as the timber and Drawing is Mainly with Us, I have sent George Bull the Bearer on purposs as I Cannot attend in Waiting on You My Self as We are about to Rjase if you Intend to Send any Dry Goods this Way I wish you Would wat till I See you again, if you Can Convenantly Send two or three Blls pork to Chatham it will be a favor as they are all poor and their provisions is all Most Exausted – I hope you will Dispatc'h the Bearer as soon as You Can as this Day Begins a New – Since I Saw you I have Got five good Carpenters and Engaged twenty four More in Two Weeks from this Time in your Service –

Yr Compliyanc with the above will Oblige [&c.]

Apl 8th 1776 [Chatham, Connecticut]

John Cotton Jun^r

[Endorsed] Recd 8th April 1776 Seven Hundred & Twenty Dollars for Capt Jno Cotton from Bas Deane Recd pr George Bull

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

THOMAS WICKES TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Huntington, April 8, 1776.

Gentlemen We have just received intelligence that there has a fleet of 30 sail of square rigged vessels been seen off between Gray Neck and Eden's Neck, and we thought it best to send you the earliest intelligence. We shall watch their motion, and as soon as we can discover their intention, we shall send further intelligence. We are mustering our militia, and shall do the best in our power. We are, gentlemen [&c.]

Thos. Wickes, Chairman.

P.S. About seven o'clock in the evening we received the intelligence.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76 Block Island N 58° East distt 37 Leags
 Monday 8th at 6 [A.M.] saw a Schooner to the Soward; Gave Chace &
 brot her too, hove too & Hoisted the boat out, sent a petty
 Officer & seven men on board to take Charge of her;² double
 reef'd the fore & Mn TPs made the *Tamers* Signal to Chace
 to the SW; hoisted the Cutter in & made sail
 Fresh Breezes & Hazy with a very thick fogg at 1½ past
 2 P M fired a Gun & made the *Tamers* Signal to leave off[f]
 Chace

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The schooner *John & Joseph*, Daniel Deshon, master, Nathaniel Shaw, Jr. of New London owner, from Hispaniola with 1578 pounds of gunpowder, 10,202 gallons of molasses, 13,545 pounds of coffee, and other articles. The items of the cargo are taken from the account of sales in Shaw account book, No. 38, YUL.

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM ¹

St. George's Square. New York. April 8th 1776.

Hond Sir The Takeing Possession of and Fortifying Governors Island, The Elevation of which, I apprehend to be not more than three Degrees above the Surface of the Water, And at the same Time accessable on two or three sides to the Largest Ships – And on all Sides to Armed Vessels, Is a Manoeuvre which (with Humble Submission) I Think requires the Greatest Attention and Precaution in its Execution, and More so Since it has been the Opinion of the Best Engineers that it Cannot be made Tenable, This I am not fully Convinced of, but think it may Possibly be done after some Previous Steps are Taken – vizt Mounting Some Pieces of Cannon on Long Island to flank & defend the South side of Governors Island, and prevent Sloops or Tenders Running in on that Side – And to Keep Open the Communication which should for ever be done by the Construction of Batteries to Defend the Pass, Whether the Communication be over a Bridge or Ferry – And as I feel myself accountable for my Conduct both as it respects the Cause in which I am engaged and the Lives which are Interested in the Opinion that I may give, I think it to be my Duty to Declare it as my Opinion (which I also observed in Council) that a Battery on Long Island should be previously opened without which I cannot Consent to the Manoeuvre Propos'd and do Declare it in Explicit Terms. – I am with great Esteem [&c.]

W. Heath –

1. Heath Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO MARY SILLIMAN ¹

[Extract]

New York April 8th, 1776

... Last Evening I spent Part of the Evening wth General Heath and he told me that a Letter was Yesterday received in Town from Boston which

informs that 62 of Genl How's Fleet were gone to Halifax; and that 62 More of them were coming some Where this Way. we have no news of the Appearance of any of them here as yet; Yesterday we had a heavy Fire of Cannon & small Arms for a considerable Part of the Day down at Staten Island which lies down 9 Miles below & in Sight of the City which happened in this Manner, the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon* which lay about 3 Miles below the City (near the *Asia*) with Governour Tryon on Board, went down Yesterday Morning to the Watering Place which is at Staten Island, where 3 Companies of our Rifle Men are stationed to prevent the Ships getting fresh Water; and the *Dutchess* sent her Barge on Shore to get Water with 12 Men in her; as soon as they reached the Shore our Rifle Men fired upon them, & killed 3 & took the Barge and the other 9 Men Prisoners; on which a heavy Fire ensued from the Cannon on Board the Ship and they killed one Rifle Man; on which General Putnam immediately went down there to put Things in proper Order, from whence he is not yet returned & we are not sure that we have every particular Right, nor shall we be untill Genl Putnam arrives which will be this Day, the Ship however is gone down below out of Sight; Genl Heath says that a small Sloop of Warr arrived here on Saturday which went away Yesterday with the *Dutchess*, and Genl Putnam suspected That she was an Advice Boat from that Part of the Fleet that comes this Way, and that they were not far off, and that Governour Tryon in the Ship was now gone out to acquaint them with the Situation of Things in this City; this is Conjecture only, but it is very probable to be so; but We are in good Order to give them a fiery Welcome altho we have yet a great Deal of Work to do to finish the Batteries compleat and I doubt not but that by the Blessing of Heaven it is in our Power to prevent their getting any Footing here we have in the City & close by it between 7 & 8 Thousand Men now, besides the City Militia which is 4,000 more & when the other Regts now on their March arrive, we shall be about 12, beside the City Militia; General Putnam is returned and says that our People took but 8 Prisoners & killed only two, there being only 10 in the Boat in the whole and that we lost None only one was wounded, the Rest of the Account is right; ²

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

2. However, the barge was from the *Savage*, not the *Dutchess of Gordon*.

GENERAL ORDERS NEW YORK ¹

Head-Quarters, New-York, April, 8th 1776.

The General, informs the inhabitants, that it is become absolutely necessary, that all communication, between the ministerial fleet and shore, should be immediately stopped,—for that purpose, has given positive orders, that the ships should no longer be furnished with provisions: Any inhabitant, or others, who shall be taken, that have been on board, or near any of the ships, or going on board, will be considered as enemies, and treated accordingly.

HEAD-QUARTERS, NEW-YORK, April, 8th 1776.

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All boats, are to sail from Beekman's-
slip; Capt. James Alner is appointed In-
spector, and will give permits for oyster-
men: It is expected and ordered, that
none attempt going without a pass.

Israel Putnam,
Major General in the continental
Army, and Commander in chief
of the Forces in New-York.

All boats, are to sail from Beekman's-slip; Capt. James Alner is appointed Inspector, and will give permits for oystermen: It is expected and ordered, that none attempt going without a pass.

Israel Putnam,

Major General in the continental Army,
and Commander in chief of the Forces in New-York.

1. NYHS

ANDREW ELLIOT TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON ¹

(Copy)

Secret Intelligence

New York 8th April 1776.

Since I left Your Excellency on Sunday Night last, I have done my Endeavour to discover anything that might be hurtfull to His Majesty's Arms – There is no alterations in those Batteries I gave Your Excellency an account of – but now they are in the greatest hurry to get the Ambrazures finished on the Lower Battery under Fort George and has already placed 4-32 Pounders – and what more they intend mounting there I cannot as yet inform you – They have also this morning mounted on the Hill by Black Sam's House 2-32 Pounders. & last Night 2000 Men got on the Governor's Island, where they have begun an Entrenchment, and another on Red Point facing the Harbour – I am afraid when those two Battery's are finished they will do Damage to the Shipping – if there can be no method of putting a stop to them – they have got no Guns over that I can hear of – Permit me to say from the little Experience I have of Gunnery, that a Ship or a Sloop to get in behind the Governor's Island, might take both the Battery on the Island & that on Red Bank, as my opinion is, no Shot could reach there from any Battery they have erected

The Riffle Men are all over on Staten Island, except Thirty; by the best accounts I can get there is about 1100, of the Jersey men, likewise on Staten Island, or at Amboy The Number gone from hence, to the above places, may be about 1800 Men – I cannot learn that more then Four Companies are over on Long Island.

I am made to understand from undoubted authority that they have lodged in the New Hospital 252 half Barrels of Gun Powder – and now they are employed in making Travelling Carriages for Nine & Twelve Pounders – and this day I was called upon, to know if I could give them the dimensions for a Nine & Twelve Pounder Travelling Carriage, but directly told them I could not as I was no Artificer, & that part of the Artillery was entirely unknown to me, so got clear of them – There are Orders given out in print by Mr Putman [Israel Putnam] this Morning for all Communication be cut off from this day between the Men of War, & the Town, and that they shall have no more Provision – no Boat is to leave the Town, but from Beekman's Slip – and then must have a pass from one of their Captains appointed for that purpose, – So God help us in our distress – But still such

Friends to Government as are left in Town keeps us good Spirits – I shall Conclude 'till another Opportunity And am. &c. &c. &c.

1. Andrew Elliot Papers, Letter Book B, NYSL.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED APRIL 8.”¹

Yesterday the *Viper's* boat² went ashore on Staten-island, to get water. A party of riflemen, who were posted there, attacked her, and took all hands prisoners; some say eight, others fourteen. The man of war fired, which the riflemen returned. They were at it all day – The man of war was obliged to cut her cables and run. – It is said she fell down with sails furled, and when the men went up to loose them, the riflemen popped them off – I can't get at particulars – Our people have since taken up the anchor, and eighty fathom of cable.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 9, 1776.

2. The *Savage*; not the *Viper*.

CAPTAIN HUGH STEPHENSON TO MAJOR GENERAL ISRAEL PUTNAM¹

Statin Island April 8th, 1776 –

May it Please your Honor. –

Yesterday about Ten o'Clock in the forenoon the Ship *Savage* & the *James* pilate Boat came up the sound under cover of a thick fogg to the Watering place o[n] this Island, – each Sent a Boat with Eleven men to take in Water of which I Receiv'd Intelligence & prepar'd to attack them, – they recd Information of our approach & a signal Gun was fired for their retreat which they endeavoured to effect under cover of a Brisk and almost constant fire from the *savage*, but being Closely persued were Oblig'd to leave behind them one standard, one Musket, one Boat, Twenty seven Iron bound Barrels, one Cable, Anchor and Buoy, one speaking Trumpet one Iron pot & two watch Coats – Ten men were taken prisoners in the Boat, & in the Water Attempting to make their escape (one of whom is wounded) One man being shot fell into the Water and two others fell on Board of which we are Confident; many were Wounded but as I cannot inform you with certainty You'll please refer to four deserters who came ashore last night from the *Ph[o]enix* for better Information. Two Boys belonging to New-York who went on board the *black-Joke* Saturday & were tow'd in their Canoe by the *James* to the Watering place, Yesterday morning & Landed are suspected to be the persons who gave the ships Crew notice that the Rifle Men were approaching and are therefore made prisoners, they inform that Messrs: Weatherhead & Wallace of New-York frequently go on Board the *Ph[o]enix* from Long Island, – I have undertaken to send Darbey Doyl as a prisoner for Selling provisions to and holding Correspondence with the Enemy. – I have the pleasure to Inform Yr Honor that the Officers and Soldiers under my Command behav'd (in the late little Skirmish) with a spirit and Conduct becoming Advocates for Liberty. I am to Acknowledge myself Oblig'd to Capt [Moses] Rawlings his Officers and men for the Assistance they pre-

par'd to lend us, by Crossing the river in the most expeditious Manner. a list of the prisoners will be delivered by Lieut [Samuel] Finley "to whom" I beg leave to refer Your Honor for farther particulars, –

I have the pleasure to Subscribe myself [&c.]

Hugh Stephenson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY ¹

Sir

Philada April 8th 1776

We received your Letter by Mr Scott ² and approve of your Conduct in Sending in the St Croix Sloop. altho She does not prove to be aprize, yet as the circumstances attending her appeared Suspicious you did right.

Shoud this be delivered to you by Capt [William] Hallock at or about cape May he will also put on board your Lieutt of Marines and some men, If he does not see you he will land them at Cape May, and as Lieut Scott takes A Copy of it to Egg harbour, you will by this means learn that you will have either to take them off[f] from the Cape or him from Egg harbour. We wish Capt Hallack may fall in with you before he parts with Mr Deane on board the Sloop *Betsey* Capt John Tucker and in that case, We desire that you will take that Sloop under your Convoy and see her Two, three or four days Run off[f] the Coast, until you and Mr Deane Shall think her out of danger of the Enemies Tenders and Cutters. Wishing you Success

Rob^t Morris
Richard Henry Lee
Joseph Hewes

We are your friends
John Hancock.
Step. Hopkins
W^m Whipple

John Alsop

1. Commodore John Barry Papers, NYHS.

2. Robert Scott, "discharged 19th Sept. 1776", A List of the Commisioned Officers who served in the Navy of the United States in the late War, March 18, 1794, Papers CC, Misc. Naval, NA.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir, –

Phila. April 8th 1776.

The express delivered me yours of yesterday this morning, and I do not wonder you shou'd be uneasy in your present situation; be assured I have done every thing in my power to hurry the outfits of the Sloop & Schooner, ² but they came in such wrecks and have so much to be done to them that it has not been possible to get either of them away yet. The Schooner I believe will go down tomorrow morning for the sole purpose of Convoying you, & she must come directly back to finish her outfit, get men, &c.; but you may depend she shall be sent off tomorrow sometime, & the Captain shall have orders to obey you in all things untill you get safe out to Sea. In my oppinion this Easterly Wind is favourable for your design, and I hope it may last with thick weather untill you pass them; no time shou'd be lost af-

ter the Schooner gets down to you, but work down the Cape May Channell quick as possible, and I think after you get one days sail from the Coast you have not much to fear. I will write you more by the Schooner & am very sincerely [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 132.
2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and Continental schooner *Wasp*.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir, —

Phila. April 8th 1776.

I wrote you a few lines this morning by the return of your Express to whom I paid 40s. — in full of all demands for his Journey; since his departure I procured a meeting of the Marine Committee and orders to send down the Schooner ² soon as possible; therefore I hope you will receive this from Capt Hallock who is order'd to Consult with you the best & safest method of getting out to Sea, and to follow such orders as you may give him from time to time untill your departure; when he is to return.

He has a letter for Capt Barry, & shou'd you be lucky enough to fall in with him he is directed to see you three or four days run off the Coast untill you & he may think the dangers of Tenders & Cutters is over. If you don't find Barry at the Capes you had best take the letter from Hallock, as you may fall in with Barry afterwards. I have ordered the Brige *Polly*, Capt. [William] McFadden, to embrace this Convoy and go down in Comp'y with you, and most sincerely do I hope both of you may get clear; the 2d bills for £ 1200 stg are on bd her, and her Cargo Cost near £ 3000 Curr'y; therefore you'll have an Eye to her security as well as your own.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 133.
2. The Continental schooner *Wasp*, William Hallock, commander.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 8th April, 1776.

Resolved, That John McFatridge be appointed Second Lieutenant to the floating Battery.

Resolved, That the Officers & Non-Commission'd Officers on board the floating Battery, have the same Wages with those of the same rank on Board the Provincial Ship of War.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 536.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO ANGUS MACBEAN ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia] 8th April, 1776.

Mr. James Maule, Pilot, applying to this Board for liberty to go down with your Ship, the Committee are of Opinion that it is unsafe at present to

Suffer any Pilot to go down the River, and therefore cannot grant the Permission.

Whenever it can be done with Safety you will have Notice, and 'till then it is hoped you will not undertake to engage any Pilot upon that Service.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 731.

LIEUTENANT JOHN WEBB TO ALEXANDER WILCOCKS ¹

[Fort Island] Sunday Night, 10 O'Clock,

Sir: —

8th April, 1776.

This afternoon, at 4 o'Clock, I Rec'd a letter from Capt'n John Hamblton, desiring my Emmedeate attendance, with my Evidences, to atten a Corte of Inquiry in Regard to Capt'n [Alexander] Henderson and my self. I Emmedeately Repair'd to the Island, with the greatest part of the Lieut's in the fleet then down, and mensioned the Improperity of the day, Itts being the Sabeth, and Likewise Late. However, the Corte being Called with Great difficulty, I gott Liberty for an Equal number of Lieut's to sett on the said Corte, they Having appointed three, the Rest all Capt'ns. On proseiding to Buisness, itt wass Conducted not with the property that I have seen Shuch Corts, my Evedances not a Quarter part being heard, and them Intemedated with feir of the officers that must Command them hereafter. Minnuts was takeing of shuch matters as was servisable only to those Gentle'n as wants to tyrenise over the Lieut's in General. I, theirfore, Begg the favour that you'l pleas to Represent the affair to the Committy, that I may have a Hearing By them, or sum three or four that they may pleas to appoint, as I think myself Greatly abused and not able to attend heir, being much afflicted with the rumetis. I am, Sir [&c.]

John Webb.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 596.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN HENRY BELLEW,
H.M.S. *Liverpool* ¹

Roebuck in the River Delawar the 8th April 1776 —

Dear sir I had the favour of your letter of the 29th March by the *Lord Howe* Tender who joined me the 6th instant, she had been so long absent that I was under a great apprehension for her safety: especially as I have seen two Rebel Privateers off the mouth of this River since I have been here, which on account of the Shoals and Tides I was not able to get at; both of which are an overmatch for such a miserable Vessel as she is. The one is a Brig carrying 18 four pounders and the other is a Bermuda Sloop of 10 four pounders, ² and are fitted out with the intention of clearing the Coast of our Tenders.

I have the greatest reason to believe the Philadelphia Fleet are upon their return home, which makes me wish exceedingly for another Ship to be with me in order to make the intercepting them the more certain: Yet as I

am equally desirous to keep the little footing we have in Virginia secure, I cannot (I think) with any degree of propriety desire you to come round to me until another Ship or Sloop shall arrive, which may be left for the protection of the Fleet &ca in Elizabth River: which I trust must happen very soon, either from Ships expected under the command of Sir Peter Parker, or from the Admiral to the Northward from whom I am in hourly expectation of hearing.

Having thought it necessary in my present situation to strengthen my Ships company by every means in my power, and at the Same time thinking it unsafe to trust my people & ammunition any longer in a vessel that can neither Sail, or is properly equipt for War; I have dismantled my Tender the *Lord Howe* and have Sent her round to Norfolk to be laid up; but if you can find me any vessel that has the character of being a good Sailor and can be made to mount 10 Guns I should be glad you would send her round to me with the people who navigate the *Lord Howe* to Virginia and the *Maria* Sloop who accompanies her.

I have sent Mr Mason the Purser round with the Sloop in order to settle the business of the Ship, and shall be obliged to you for any assistance that you can give him.

I am obliged to you for the account of the Act of Parliament, which I had before received from Philadelphia. I believe the officers & Seamen of his Majesty's Ships did not stand in need of any particular incitement to do their best in crushing this most unnatural rebellion; but since this great mark of the Nation's generosity towards them, they must feel a desire of acting still more spiritedly from the additional motive of gratitude, as in my opinion it is much more than they had any right to expect.

I have taken 6 or 7 small Vessels, but as none of them had Cargoes of much value, I rather chose to destroy them than weaken my Ships company by Sending men on board to Navigate them, but am sorry at the same time to tell you that I have lost my third Lieutenant who with three Seamen are now Prisoners with the Rebels. I sent him in a pilot Boat in quest of a Sloop that appeared in Sight, which he took and manned, and in returning to the Ship (in the night) he by some unfortunate accident or mistake run aground upon the beach at high water; ³ I wish of all things to have one of those flats at Norfolk fitted as a floating Battery. I have written to Lord Dunmore on this head, and I should be glad you would give his Lordship every assistance about it that you possibly can.

I am not quite easy at your trusting the River entirely to the *Otter*, especially as I understd Captain Squire has again weakened his Sloop by fitting out a Second Tender, when in my judgment he has already many more men that he ought to Suffer to be out of his Ship on board the *Fincastle*; but as he has not Sent me any account about his Ship, I am in hopes he has by some means or other encreased his numbers; therefore suspend all opinion about it until I hear from him.

I have according to your desire Sent Lightbody round to You, who you

will find to be very well acquainted with the Coast and at Least the mouth of the River Delaware. I am &c

A.S.Hamond

P.S. Instead of Lightbody I have sent you the Pilot Chambers.

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, *Roebuck*, 1775-1778, UVL.

2. The Continental brig *Lexington* and the Continental sloop *Hornet*.

3. Lieutenant George Ball.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Monday 8 April 1776.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Mr Joseph Middleton thirty seven Pounds ten Shillings in Part Payment for his furnishing a Pilot Boat for the Purpose of gaining and communicating Intelligence.

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

JOSHUA BEALL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentln

Bladensburgh 8th April 1776

Yours of the 29th Ult. I received Yesterday I have Examined the powder according to your request & find there are 26 bbls of Corse powder including one that was broke on bord the vessell four Barrell & 20 kegs of fine powder, though there seems to be something of a mixture throughout the whole I am Gentn [&c.]

Jos: Beall

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Caroline, April 8, 1776

Dear Sir – On Friday last, General [Charles] Lee arrived safe in Williamsburg, in a very rainy day, and much fatigued; we considered him as a valuable acquisition, and esteem it a favour in Congress to spare him to this department, where, most people here think, the gentry who found Boston too hot for them, will come, and be joined by the much talked of powerful force from Europe. However, I am not of that opinion, and think they either mean a descent upon some other part of New England they like better, or, perhaps, by dividing our army, may purpose to return to Boston with greater advantage, or else to go to Halifax, and wait for the season to go up to Quebec. General Lee thinks if they come here, they will certainly make Williamsburg their object, and on that supposition is going to entrench it. I hear since I came away, he has ordered all the battalions from their stations to that place, which has made the people in town very happy, but I fear will be very alarming to other parts, particularly the Northern Neck, who were before uneasy, on the appearance of tenders in Potomac and Rapahannoc . . . I have seen your resolves about reprisals. Is it considered as a law we are now to execute by granting commissions? or must we wait for a confirmation by our convention?

1. Lee, *Lee Memoir*, II, 192.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, 8th April, 1776.

A Report of the persons appointed to appraise Mr. Maxamilian Calvert's Schooner was ret'd. Whereupon it is ordered that a Letter be written to Mr. Calvert requesting to know whether he will accept the appraised price.

A warrant to Capt. James Baron for £20. 5. 0 for 2 swivel Guns and a Top Sail for Capt. Calvert's Row Galley, and als' for paper.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 157. The Minute Book is missing for the period April 10 to April 28, inclusive.

LORD DUNMORE TO GOVERNOR SIR RALPH PAYNE¹

On Board the Ship *Dunmore* in Eliza
River Virginia 8th April 1776.

Sir

The Army and Navy here being much in want of Salt Provisions, I find it necessary to send the Brig *Rebecca*, John Brown Master to procure some from Antigua. must therefore beg you will give the Master your Advice and assistance in procuring it as quickly as possible.

As the Rebels seem determined to prosecute this unnatural War with unwearied dilligence, and have already fitted out some and are still fitting out more Privateers, to protect their illicit Trade, it is therefore become necessary for Government to employ Tenders to Cruize against them, and as there are many Vessels here which would Answer that purpose were we supplied with Ordnance, I would therefore intreat you to purchase or procure by any other means you shall think proper Guns &ca according to the inclosed list, or as near it as you can, and you will much oblige

Sir [&c.]

Dunmore.

[Enclosure]

A List of Ordnance wanted for His Majesty's Service in the Colony of Virginia by His Excellency the Earl of Dunmore. Guns. Brass if they can be had, if not Iron.

12.....	9	Pounders	} If the numbers cannot be had according to this list. Vizt if 12 - 9 Pounders cannot be had, let the Number be made up with Sixes and so on.
12.....	6	Do	
12.....	4	Do	
12.....	3	Do	
12.....	2	Do	

20 or 30 Swivels. 20 or 30 Blunderbusses. - 1 Dozen Drums & 1 Dozen fifes.
5 Rheams, Cannon, Cartridge paper, and 20 lb Matches.

It is requisite that a very large proportion of Ball, of the different Sizes should be sent, especially of the smaller Sort which are now become

very scarce. If hand Grenadoes are to be got, they would be of great service here.

Virginia 8th April 1776.

Dunmore.

[Endorsed] (A true Copy)

Jam^s Young.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Payne was governor of the Leeward Islands.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

April 1776.

Oak Island N Wt 5 or 6 Leagues.

Sunday 7

at 8 am saw a Sail in the N E Qr gave Chase 1/2 past 9 spoke a Schooner from Hispaniola bound to So Carolina took her in tow.

Cape Fear Et 5 Miles

Monday 8.

at 5 A M Came too with the Small Br in 6 1/2 fathm water fird 6 Six pounders as Signals for a pilot at 9 Came off a pilot took the Officer and men out of the Schooner & sent her into Cape Fear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Monday April 8th 1776.

Mr Harnett [Cornelius Hartnett] presented the Petition of Joseph Wood and Partners, praying an order to dispose of the Effects of His Excellency Josiah Martin Esquire, within this province, to reimburse the loss they have sustained by the Capture and detention of the Sloop *Joseph*, and the Cargo on Board of the same or such other relief as this Congress in their Wisdom shall think fit

Resolved That Mr Harnett, Mr Allen Jones Mr Thomas Persons and Mr Thomas Jones be a Committee to take under Consideration the said Petition and make report to this Congress

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Monday the 8th Day of April. 1776

Message to His Excellency the President

May it please your Excellency

This House thinking it necessary That Obstructions should be laid on the Bar of the Inlet to Stono have come to a Resolution to make Provision for the Expence of that Service which they request you will give Orders to have executed

Colonel [Charles] Pinckney according to Order presented an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Sea Forces in the Service of this Colony And the same was received and read a First Time

Ordered That the Ordinance be read a Second Time

An Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Naval Forces of this Colony was read a Second Time

Resolved That the Ordinance do pass

Ordered That it be sent to the Legislative Council

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 49, 51, 52.

9 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April [1776] Sambro Light NNE $1\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 or 7 Ls.

Tuesday 9 at 6 AM Saw a Sail to Windward Gave Chace at 8 came up with the Chace found her to be a Sloop from Plymo bound to broad Bay. took her men out & Sent a Petty officer & Men onbd her Sounded 55 fam –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

JONATHAN GLOVER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Marblehead April 9th 1776

May it Please your Honours

The Committee of Correspondence have this day Received from Captt Samuel Tucker Commander of one of the Continentall Armed Vessells, Twenty two Persons, Who where in the Brigint[in]e Lately taken by Captt John Manly, from Boston Bound to Hallifax, Among whom are four Soldiers with their wives and Children, one Caleb Wheaton (who from his own Accounts has heretofore Been Esteemed Inimicall to his Country) with his three Sons, and a Number of others who in the Course of their Examination, have Not Been Able to Acquitt themselves to their Country, (in our Esteem) for the Particulars of which we Beg Leave to Refer you to the worthy Bearer Azor Orne Esqr one of the Committee who attended the Examination, the Committee have Made Comfortable Provision for the Entertainment of the above persons, and desire your Honors direction what further Steps they Shall take with them, and are with Respect your Honors [&c.]

Jonathan Glover, Chair Man

[Endorsed] In Council April 10th 1776 Read & committed to Joseph Palmer Esqr with such as the Honl House shall join, to consider & report thereon sent down for Concurrence Perez Morton D Secry
In the House of Representatives April. 11. 1776 – Read & concurrd & Coll. Coffin & Mr Hobart are joined. J Warren Spkr

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 334. Glover was Continental agent at Marblehead.

JOSEPH NYE TO NATHANIEL FREEMAN ¹

Sir

Sandwich April 9. 1776

A vessell is arrived at Barnstable In a Short passage from the

Westindies three Masters of Vessells who were taken there came passengers who inform us that the Islands swarm with the Enemys Armed Vessells that more than Half the American Vessells that have Sailed Since the Middle of Febry are taken amongst which are two Large Ships Laden with Flour from Philadelph[ia] fitted out by the Congress, one had on board 280 barrells, if this Intelligence has not before Arived I thought it might be of use to be known. We are likewise told by these passengers that Said Vessell has brought a large quantity of tea I wish the sence of the Court was Made Publick concerning this Matter if there is a Resolve of Congress against emporting this Article it ought to be adhered to or Rescinded this affair I fancy will make much Noise if worked out of Sight. Excuse haste I remain [&c.]

Joseph Nye

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 377.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE ¹

April 1776 Point Juda SWBW 2 Miles
 Sunday 7 AM at 4 lost sight of the *Swan*, Tack'd.
 First and latter part light Breezes and hazy, Mid fresh Breezes
 P M at 1 In Co H M Sloop *Nautilus* and *Charlotte* T[ende]r
 11. Sound'd 30 fm at 12 - 3 Sail in Sight.
 Monday 8 At 8 AM Joined Co. *Glascow*, *Swan*, and *Fortune* Tender
 Augusta Tr Transport and 2 prize Sloops
 Fresh Breezes and hazy at 4 PM the SW end of Block Island
 SSE 3 or 4 Miles.
 Tuesday 9 at 8 AM 9 Sail in Sight, fresh Gales and hazy
 parted Compy the *Nautilus* took the People out of the *Mary*
 Sloop and sat her on fire.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

2. *Ibid.*, there is no further identification of the *Mary*. H.M.S. *Rose* and her squadron proceeded without further incident to Halifax arriving April 18, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 9th, 1776.

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table, in favor of Capt. Jonathan Lester, for one hundred pounds, for the purpose of building the row-galley at Norwich. *An order was drawn April 9th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Lester for £100.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 259.

ORDER ON THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE ¹

Lebanon April 9th 1776

Draw on the Colony Treasurer for the Sum of Seven Hundred Pounds in Favour of Messers Isaac Sears William Greenough Michael Todd and

James Rice Committee for fitting out the Brig *Defence* and Building and fitting the Row Galley *Whiting* and for them to Render Account

By Order of the Govr & Council of Safety

Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

To the Committee of Pay Table Hartford

£700. –

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 61a, ConnSL.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Gentlemen

When I put to Sea the 17th Febry from Cape Henlopen we had many Sick, and four of the Vessels had a large number onboard with the Small Pox The *Hornet* & *Wasp* join'd me two days before the Wind came at N E which made it unsafe to lye there – the Wind after he got out came on to blow hard – I did not think we were in a Condition to keep on a Cold Coast and appointed our Rendezvous at Abacco one of the Bahama Islands – The second night we lost the *Hornet* & *Fly* –

I arrived at the Rendezvous in order to wait for the Fleet fourteen days agreeable to Orders – I then formed an Expedition against New Providence which I put in Execution the 3rd March by landing two hundred Marines under the Command of Captn [Samuel] Nicholas, and 50 Sailors under the Command of Lieutt [Thomas] Weaver, of the *Cabot* who was well acquainted there – The same day they took Possession of a small Fort of Seventeen Pieces Cannon without any Opposition save five Guns which were fired at them without doing any damage – I received that Evening an Account that they had two hundred and odd Men in the Main Fort all Inhabitants – I then caused a Manifesto to be published the Purport of which was (that the Inhabitants and their Property should be safe if they did not oppose me in taking possession of the Fort and Kings Stores) which had the desired effect for the Inhabitants left the Fort almost alone – Captn Nicholas sent by my Orders to the Governor for the Keys of the Fort which was delivered and the Troops march'd directly in where we found the several Warlike Stores agreeable to the Inventory inclosed, but the Governor sent 150 barrels Powder off in a Small Sloop the night before – I have all the Stores onboard the Fleet and a large Sloop that I found there which I have promis'd the owner to send back and pay him hire for – The *Fly* joind us at [New] Providence and gave an Account that he got foul of the *Hornet* and carried away her Boom and head of her Mast and I hear since she has got into some port of South Carolina – I have taken the Governor Montfort Browne, the Lieutt Governor who is a half pay Officer and Mr Thomas Erwin who is a Counsellor & Collector of his Majestys Quit Rents in South Carolina and it appears by the Court Callendar that he is also Inspector General of his Majestys Customs for North America –

Since he came out, we have lost Company with the *Wasp* –

The 4th Instant we fell in with the East End of Long Island and took the Schooner commanded by Young Wallace of Six Carriage Guns & eight

Swivels & the 5th took the Bomb Brig [*Bolton*] of eight guns and two Howitzers & 48 hands – well found with all sorts of Stores, Arms, Powder, &c – the 6th in the Morning we fell in with the *Glascow* and her Tender and engaged her near three hours – We lost six men killed and as many Wounded – The *Cabot* four Men killed and Seven Wounded the Captain is among the latter – the *Columbus* had one Man lost his Arm. We receiv'd considerable damage in our Ship but the greatest was in having our Wheel Rope & blocks shot away which gave the *Glascow* time to make Sail I did not think proper to follow as it would have brought on an Action with the whole of their Fleet and as I had upwards of thirty of our best Seamen on-board the Prizes, and some that were onboard had got too much Liquor out of the Prizes to be fit for Duty thought it most prudent to give over Chace and secure our Prizes – & got nothing but the *Glascow's* Tender and arrived here the 7th with all the Fleet – Amongst the dead are Mr Sinclair Seymour Master of the *Cabot* a good officer. Lieutt [James Hood] Wilson of the *Cabot* & Lieut [John] Fitzpatrick of the *Alfred*. The Officers all behaved well onboard the *Alfred*, but too much Praise cannot be given to the Officers of the *Cabot* who gave and Sustain'd the whole Fire for some considerable time within pistol Shot –

I expect to leave this place in three or four days & as General Washington is expected here every minute if he will give me leave to inlist some of his Men, shall be able to get away soon –

I hear that since the Action the Fleet is gone from Newport but whether they intend to return again I cannot tell but if I can get the Fleet well Manned shall be able to give a more Intelligent account I have now on board 80 Pieces of heavy Sail Duck which I purchased at New Providence and have drawn Bills on the Treasurer for I am [&c.]

Esek Hopkins

Ship *Alfred* New London Harbour April 9th 1776

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 33-35, NA. A letter book copy, minus the last three paragraphs is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS, and a deleted version, dated April 9, 1776, was published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776, "by Order of Congress." Hopkins wrote a similar report on April 8 to Governor Nicholas Cooke in which he noted: "if you should want any of the Stores [taken at New Providence] shall be glad to know the Sorts." Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

"ACCOMPT OF SUNDRY STORES AND FURNITURE OF THE BRIGANTINE *Marry Ann* [*sic Lilly Ann*]. NOW CALL'D THE *Defence*"¹

Blocks those fit for Use after repair sent on Board as spare Mainsail For stay sail & For Topsail. for spare sails now on Board one steering and one Top Gallt sail being New and made Larger and now in Use all the running rigging. now on Board and one old Cable for Junk the other 2 in Service

the Long Boat Carried with Brige to N London

the yards and Topmast not fit for Service Cut up for to Lay a platform in the Hold.

part of the Sails Us'd for Parceling the rig[g]in[g] and part for the Same Use

in the New Galley and now Remains part of Two sails on hand – proper for the Ships rigging
 2 Anchors Sent to Norwalk by order of Comittee of Safety Remains on hand in New Haven
 Lower Shrouds & stays & part of Topmas[t] rig[gin]g part being used for the row Galley
 the 2 masts with the windless Remain here
 Sundry[s] stores &c from the Brigantine *Minerva*
 3 steering sails and 1 TopGt Sail alter'd and in Use in the *Defence*
 all the other articles according to Inventory D[e]l[ivere]d to Capt [Seth] Harding some for Use others to be Left at N London Except Nine white Oak hhds Left here
 the Guns on Board the *Defence* are 4 Six Pounders and ten 4 pounders which Came from New York And 2 4 pounders which C[a]me from N London
 the Guns left here by the B. *Minerva* are 1 of 6 pound and 9 of 4 pound
 Taken for the Use of the row Galley from the Ships Duck while at N Haven
 12 Bolts of No 4 Contg 477½ yds
 And Sent in the place thereof 6 Bolts No 1 Contg 245½ yds one Bolt No 2 Cg 41 yds. Also a Quantity of Match Stuff left here.
 [New Haven, April 9, 1776] ²

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 54, ConnSL.

2. The date is approximated. From the text it is evident that the *Defence* had gone to New London before the account was prepared, and Captain Harding was definitely in New London on April 13, 1776.

COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO MARY SILLIMAN ¹

[Extract]

[New York] Tuesday Morning 9th April

. . . last Evening Draughts were made from a Number of Regiments here mine among the Rest to the Amount of 1,000 Men with these and a proper Numbers of Officers, Genl Putnam at Candle lighting embarked on Board of a Number of Vessels with a large Number of intrenching Tools and went directly on The Island a little below the City called Nutten Island where they have been intrenching all Night and are now at Work and have got a good Breast Work there raised which will cover them from the Fire of the Ships and it is directly in the Way of the Ships comeing up to the Town the *Asia* has fallen down out of Gun Shot from this Place, and it deprives the Ships of the only Watering Place they have here without going down toward the Hook. I am now at 10 o'clock and the other Brigade is not here yet dont know my Love whether I shall see You before next Week. I am [&c.]

G Selleck Silliman

1. Silliman Papers, YUL. Continuation of April 8 letter.

STATE OF THE FORTIFICATIONS AT NEW YORK ¹

Nature of Guns. Pounders					Total	Where placed on the different Batteries.	The Form of the Batteries.
32	18	12	6				
2	"	4	"	6		Behind the Governors House near the old Church, facing the North River	} E Half Moon
				6		Above Black Sams Hill on Greenwich road facing the North River	
				6		Behind Mr Harris's Brew house by the Forge facing Do Do	} E Cock Pitt
				3		In broad way facing the Fort	
							E across the street
4	"	"	"	4		On the Dock opposite the Albany Pier, facing the East river	} E Square
				6		At the Ship Yards, facing Do	
						By the Jews burying ground, behind the Ship Yards	} E In Squares
				8		Mr Byards Hill near the Bowery road	
						Round the New Hospital, by the New road	} S Breast Works
	"	"	4	4		Behind Mr Waltons House at Horns Hook facing the East River	
4	2	2	"	8		On the Height, So of Long Island Ferry, facing the East River	} E Angular
				6		Fort George	
							E

57

[April 9, 1776] ²

The above where the Letter E stands are Batteries with Guns mounted as stands in the Columns. The Letter S is Breast Works for small Arms only. That Breast work on the Hill by the Jews Burying Ground will contain near 400 Men, it is made in an Angular form, with a large Trench all round; The Entrance into it on the back part facing Mr John's House on the Hill going to Corleys Hook. The Breast work round the New Hospital is in Squares with a Trench all round, 10 feet wide at the Top, and at Bottom one foot and half, this Breast Work will contain about 300 Men, and as they intend to Line the Hospital with Men to Fire over the Breast Works I know not how many Men it will contain.

There is one thing I shall remark that their Embrazures are so narrow and confined, that should any Ship pass, there is no one Gun can bear more

than once to do any Damage to any Ship. That Battery on Long Island is so narrow and confined that it will not contain about 300 Men.

I need not give the Names of the Streets in the Town that is Blockaded, as every Street facing both North and East Rivers has wooden Trunks made across 10 feet thick filled with Earth, in Order to intercept any Troops that may attempt landing. I cannot see any Cover for the Rear, only Mr Byards Hill, it will contain near 300 Men, One Gun points across to Greenwich and one over Mr Delancy's House, Two directly up the Road to Kings Bridge, and four Guns over the Town, but I never saw any Works worse Plan'd on such a Spot of Advantageous Ground. The numbers placed in the Total Columns has not yet their Guns placed, but are to mount the Number as above Mark'd. In the Total Column, the half moon Battery on Black Sams Hill will contain about 400 Men; This Battery is Open on the Side next to the New Hospital as the Hospital Covers it.

The Cock Pitt Battery behind Mr Harris's Brew House will contain about 250 Men. The Battery behind the Governor's House, it may contain about 200 Men or more. The Battery at the Ship Yard may contain 500 Men; they have began a Redoubt about a quarter of a Mile behind the Battery on Long Island, which appears to be pretty large, but as they have not done any work at it for this two Days, I imagine they are going to alter the Plan of it. As to Fort George, they have pulled down all the Square, fronting Broadway and the Embrazures on the Ramports not finished I shall leave that 'til another opportunity.

[Endorsed] State of the Fortifications at New York &ca

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosure No. 1 in Shuldham to Philip Stephens, May 20, 1776.
2. This letter, while undated, was written to Captain Hyde Parker, Jr., who forwarded it to Shuldham on April 29, 1776 and the date is established by the writer's subsequent letter of April 17, which reads: "Since my last of April 9th."

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Phoenix*, CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR.¹

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Tuesday 9th AM got the Flag staffs down, & Top Galt Masts up empd
Reeving the Rigging & workt up Junk
Light Airs and Cloudy Wr these 24 Hours. P M Clear'd
Hause M[en] empd occasionally, Fired a Nine Pound Shott
at a Party of Rebels on shore, & one to bring too a Sloop²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. Sloop *Sukey*, from Black Point for New York, with oysters, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 9, 1776

A letter from Colonel Haslet, of the Delaware batallion, was also read and referred to the Committee on Prisoners.²

The Congress took into consideration the report of the Committee on Prisoners: Whereupon,

Resolved, That Captain Duncan Campbell be permitted to reside with his wife and family in the city of Burlington, in the western division of New Jersey.³

Resolved, That a list of the prisoners of war in each colony be made out and transmitted to the house of assembly, convention, council, or committee of safety of such colonies, respectively, and that they be authorized and requested to cause a strict observance of the terms on which such prisoners have been enlarged, and also to take especial care that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; and also, that the allowance to each prisoner be punctually paid by the president of the convention, or of the council or committee of safety of the colony in which he resides; and where there are no conventions, by the speakers of assembly; which said presidents or speakers are hereby authorised, from time to time, to draw for the sums advanced in pursuance of this resolution, upon the president of Congress.

Lord Stirling having, agreeable to the order of Congress of the 19 of March last, appointed persons to value the boat of Michael Kearney, Junr and transmitted the valuation by them made, amounting to £290 York currency – 725 dollars:

Ordered, That the same be paid to said Michael Kearney.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 263–66.

2. See Haslet's undated letter placed under approximate date, April 7, 1776.

3. Campbell, in charge of a recruiting party for the British army, was taken prisoner in October, 1775 when the transport *Rebecca & Frances*, en route from Boston to New York, was cast away on Brigantine Beach in New Jersey.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

I am now at the 9th, & yesterday wrote a note to Mr [John] Jay desiring him to furnish you with news and to send his letter to me; as yet it is not come; however there is little news to inform you of. The troops keep filing off from Boston for New York, where Man of Warr & some People on shore have had a little firing; I don't mean at the City, but in some part of that Bay our People took their Boats Crew prisoners, wounded some men & obliged the Ship to Slip her Cable & anchor, which our Folks have since weighed and got; the report is that two or three Men of Warr are arrived at the Hook, so we may expect the Campaign will open in that quarter before long. Nothing new from the Southward by the last Post.

I have just heard that Capt Barry was at Cape May last Friday [April 5] & Convoyed out some New England Men; I hope you'll meet him. We find difficulty to get Men to go down in the Schooner ² as they have a notion they will catch the distemper she brought in with her; but we must get the better of this oppinion, and perhaps I may write to you again if any delay happens which however I will endeavour to prevent being most truly [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

P.S. If you cou'd clear of Cape May in the night it might do well.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1886*, I, 133–40. Continuation of letter of April 8, 1776.

2. The Continental schooner *Wasph*.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Tuesday the 9 of April 1776 [Philadelphia]

Thick Rane Wather Employ Sating up the Srouds & Banding of Sails at
4 p m Came on Bord the pilet & Dropt Down the Rever

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT LEWES, DATED
APRIL 9, 1776." ¹

On Sunday the seventh of April an express came from the light-house guard to Lewes, with intelligence that Captain [Nehemiah] Field, who commanded a schooner ² sent by the Council of that county to St. Eustatia for powder, had just arrived, and demanded assistance to unload her. I gave orders for the troops to march as soon as boats could be had to ferry them across the creek, which the inhabitants procured with amazing despatch. We then marched with the utmost expedition to reinforce our guard, which had taken post by the schooner to assist in discharging her cargo, mostly coarse linens; she then lay seven or eight miles to the southward of our Cape; at the time of our arrival, the tender, making sail, bore down upon the schooner, on observing this the men immediately ran her on shore. Our troops were outgone by the tender, though they marched at the rate of seven miles per hour, just before our arrival the tender gave our guard a broadside with swivels and musquetry, which they returned. On our junction a constant fire was kept up for some time, till we perceived the distance too great. We then left off firing, and unloaded the schooner, though several hundred shots were fired at us, to prevent it. Our people picked up many of their balls rolling in the sand. The tender despatched one of the barges to the ship for assistance, who made sail immediately, but was soon obliged to come to an anchor for fear of running on the Hen and Chickens. About the time the ship turned the cape the tender anchored within musket shot of the schooner, and kept up a continual fire with her swivels. We had by this time got two swivels in the schooner loaded with grape shot, and a constant fire for two hours was kept up on both sides. We undoubtedly wounded their men, for we perceived some to fall, and others ran to their assistance; they made several efforts to purchase their anchor, which we prevented by our fire, but at last they succeeded; fortunately however one of our swivel shot cut their halyards, and down came their mainsail, which obliged them to anchor once more. At last the wind shifting, they had a boat to tow them off; we then turned our fire on the boat, when two men were seen to fall; the barge returning from the ship joined to tow them out. Our men escaped unhurt. The militia officers, at Lewes, acted with a spirit which does honor to their county.³

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

2. The schooner *Farmer*.

3. The commander of the troops at Lewes was Captain Charles Pope of the Delaware Continental Battalion.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM LUX ¹

No 110

Sir Be pleased to send us immediately in Captain Nicholson's small Tender all the spare Blankets, and two third Parts of the Linens imported in the *Wild-Dick* [*sic Wild Duck*] Captain Tibbitt – shew this to Captain Nicholson and he will in Consequence of it dispatch his Tender with them.

[Annapolis] 9th April 1776.

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

LORD DUNMORE TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

[Extract]

On Board the Ship *Dunmore*, in

(A Copy)

Elizabeth River in Virginia April 9th 1776.

Sir Salt Provisions growing Scarce and no fresh to be had, obliges me to send the Brig *Rebecca*, John Brown Master, to Antigua for a Supply, for his Majesty's Land and Sea forces here: shall therefore be much obliged to you if you will give the Master your Advice how he may be Supplied in the most expeditious manner, and not to permit him to remain longer in the Island than is absolutely necessary.

Not being certain that you Still commanded His Majesty's Fleet in the West Indies, I some time ago recommended in general, a Young Gentleman of the name of Goodrich to the Admiral or Commanding Officer of his Majesty's Ships in the West Indies, but learning now from a Small Schooner that arrived here Yesterday from Antigua, that you are Still on that Station, I take the liberty of troubling you with a few lines to inform you that Bartlet Goodrich is the third Son of Mr John Goodrich, who has Six other Sons, and that the Father and the whole family have Sustained a loss of several thousand Pounds, from the Warm Attachment and Zeal, they have manifested by the very active part they have taken in endeavouring to bring their Countrymen in this Colony, to a proper Sense of their duty, and are now perpetually employed in rendering every Service in their power to His Majesty's Servants here. I think it but justice To this well disposed family, to give you this information, that any Vessels of theirs Trading to or from the Islands, may receive that Protection and Assistance, that their Loyalty and Services to their Sovereign entitled them to, from every Servant of the Crown. I am Sir [&c.]

Dunmore.

¹ 1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

April 1776

Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River N Carolina.

Saturday 6

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy with Rain

AM Fir'd 4 Six pounders at the Rebels Emp'd Occasionally.

PM Fir'd 4 Six Pounders at the Rebels

Sunday 7

PM Fir'd 6 Six Pounders & 3 Hand granadoes at the Rebels.

Mondy 8 Punish'd Thos Doyle Seamn with 12 Lashes for Neglect of Duty
 PM Fir'd 4 Hand granadoes at the Rebels.
 Tuesdy 9 PM Fir'd 8 Six pounders with Round & 6 with Round & Grape at the Rebels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Tuesday the 9th Day of April. 1776

A petition of Henry Aitken late Master of the Ship *Port Henderson* was presented and read

Ordered That the said Petition be referred to the following Committee viz Mr [Gideon] Dupont Mr Roger Smith and Mr. [Philotheos] Chiffelle

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of the Ships and other Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West-Florida to establish the Trial by Jury in the Court of Admiralty in Cases of Capture and for the other Purposes therein mentioned read a Second Time in that House Also an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Sea Forces in the Service of this Colony read Twice in the Legislative Council

The Ordinance being then read a Third Time in this House

Ordered That the same do pass

Ordered That Mr [Thomas] Middleton and Mr [William] Bull do carry the said Ordinance to the Legislative Council

A Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of the Ships and other Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West Florida to establish the Trial by jury in the Court of Admiralty in Cases of Capture and for the other Purposes therein mentioned was read a Third Time

Resolved That the Bill do pass and that the Title be, An Act [&c.]

Ordered That Mr. Bull and Mr. [Francis] Salvador do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence

5 OClock P M

Mr Speaker reported That this House with the Legislative Council having attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber and presented to him the following Ordinance and Bills he had been pleased to give his Assent to them viz

An Act for the more effectual Prevention of the Desertion of the Soldiers and Sailors in the Service of this Colony and for the Punishment of those who shall harbour and conceal them or who shall purchase receive or conceal the Arms Cloaths or Accoutrements of Deserters

Ordered That the latter Act be forthwith printed and made public

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 53, 56–58.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in Wood Bridge Bay Dominica
 Tuesday 9th At 7 AM Seized as Prize in the Offing a Schooner from
 Georgia, New England [sic] for Dominica, Named the *Dolphin*.

1. PRO. Admiralty 51/19.

10 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

April 1776 Remarks &c in Quebec
 Tuesday 9th At 1 pm came in a deserter from the rebels recd orders
 to be under Arms every morning at 2 oClock & continue
 so till day light
 Wednesday 10 am the rebels fired some shot into Town we return'd Do
 got Intelligence by the above deserter that the rebels had
 made a Fire Ship with intent to burn the Shipping in the
 Coudesac –
 Fresh Gales with rain pm mounted a 9 pounder onboard
 the *Fell* & cleared the platforms on the Kings wharf the
 rebels firing as before & we Returning Do

1. PRO. Admiralty 51/466.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 62.

Halifax April 10th 1776

Mr Lord I have the Honor to receive your Lordships Circular letter of the 10th November last informing me, that His Majesty had been graciously pleas'd to appoint your Lordship his Principal Secretary of State, for such business as relates to His Majesty's Colonies, and I take this opportunity of Congratulating your Lordship, upon your Appointment to so Important an Office.

I shall by every opportunity, communicate to your Lordship every material circumstance relative to the Affairs of this Colony, and of every Intelligence that may be necessary to be known, in this Critical Conjunction of Affairs in America.

On the 30th March arrivd Fifty Sail of Transports in this Harbour having on board Those Inhabitants of Boston, who have remaind Steady in their duty and Allegiance to the Crown and agreeable to the directions I have receivd from Lord Dartmouth to support such as may necessarily require it, shall take particular Care that His Majesty's Instructions, for their support, be carried into Execution with Prudence and Oeconomy.

On the first Instant arrivd the Transports, with His Majestys Troops from Boston, which Post they evacuated the 17th of last Month: The Provision Vessels sent them last Winter, by the great severity of the Weather,

were drove to the West Indies, from whence they are daily expected: which Circumstance has left the Army and Fleet with not more than one Months Allowance for both; We are taking every method to secure all the Provision this Province can by any means furnish, and to prevent Extortion – I have with the Advice of Council settled the prices of such kind of Provision they will stand in greatest need of, and I thought it necessary that the Generals then in Town should be present at this Council, and they highly approvd of the Measure.

I have also receivd your Lordships Circular letter of the 23d of December last; inclosing an Act of Parliament, relative to Captures made in America and shall give every Aid & Assistance in my power, to carry it into Execution.

The Measures His Majesty has taken to bring about a Reconciliation between the Rebellious Colonys and Great Britain, I hope will have its desirable effect, and am of Opinion that so benevolent a proposition will have its due weight and Influence.

I have in my last letter to Lord Dartmouth No 61, Duplicate of which I have the honor to inclose your Lordship, given an account of my attention in raising the Regiment Orderd to be raisd here for the defence of this Province, which has in a great measure been impeded by the Liberties Granted by the General to the two other Regiments, the Royal Fensibles & the Emigrants, to Recruit and raise Men within the Limits of this Province: however I have Neglected no means to Levy them, having sent Recruiting Officers into every part of it, as also to Newfoundland, and hope to hear of their success in a Short time. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Fran^s Legge

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52, DAC Photocopy.

GRIFFIN BARNEY AND JOHN CHAFFEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the honble the Members of the General Court now Setting at Watertown –

We the subscribers Two of the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Dartmouth do Certifie that William Haydon master of the Sloop *Friendship* from Hispaniola hath landed out of said Sloop in Bedford in Dartmouth, Three hundred & ninety seven pounds of Gunpowder, which is dispos'd off in the following manner vizt – Two hundred ninety nine & a half pounds purchas'd by the Committee at providence the remainder ninety seven & a half pounds is deposited in the hands of Messrs Leonard Jarvis & Lemuel Williams Merchants in said Dartmouth for the Defence of that place –

Griffin Barney } Subcommittee for the
John Chaffee } Town of Dartmouth

Bedford 10th April 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 291.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

In the House of Representatives April 10, 1776

The Comtee to whom was referred the Consideration of a letter from Joseph Nye Esqr to Colo Freeman and Another letter to The Honble Colo [Joseph] Otis having attended that Service report that they find that a Certain Solomon Davis has fitted out a Vessell for the West Indies and imported into this Colony a quantity of India Tea and English goods Contrary to the resolves of the Continental Congress ² We are therefore of opinion That the said Solomon Davis & Prince Gorham be ordered to attend this Court to answer for their Conduct aforesaid.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 375.

2. On April 11 the General Court ordered the tea and English goods seized. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 745.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Gentlemen

Boston 10 April 1776.

I would propose to the honourable Board the fixing upon proper Signals for alarming the Country if an Enemy Fleet should appear. Perhaps it might be proper that an Alarm should be given from Cape Ann or Marblehead and forwarded by Signals to Boston and into the Country; but as you are the best Judges of this Matter you will determine accordingly. The sooner this matter is determined and the method for alarming the Country fixed upon the greater will the public Safety be. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Artemas Ward

[Endorsed] In Council April 11th 1776

Read & sent down Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 410.

CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Rose, at Sea the 10th April 1776

Sir, I am Honoured with your Orders and Letter by the *Nautilus* of the 20th 22d & 23d Ultio for sending His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* to the Southward, and the *Bolton* and *Swan* to Cruize on each side of St George's Bank, agreeable thereto, I immediately gave them their Orders, but still desired them not to sepearate, 'till we had all got out of the Port, and executed a piece of Service I had in View – The *Bolton* Brig, and the Armed Schooner belonging to us, was desired to Cruize off Block Island 'till joined by us – The 5th Instant we got under way, and Turned out of the Port, but being apprehensive, some of our Sternmost Vessels would not be able to get out, Bore up, and Anchored again with the Squadron, except His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, who stood on, and about 3 O'Clock the next Morning (AM) fell in with the Enemy's Squadron, Commanded by Hopkins (Inclosed is Captain [Tyringham] Howe's Account of that Affair) ² at 8, ditto she returned, firing of Guns – Got under way turned out of the Port, and desired

the *Glasgow* to follow as soon as possible – Cruized about Block Island three or four days, Miss'd the *Bolton* and Schooner; from which imagine they have fell into the hands of the Enemy. – The *Glasgow* having received so much damage in her Mast, and having thrown her Dispatches Overboard, thought it proper to send the *Nautilus* in her Stead, with what information I could give to His Majesty's Ships at York and Virginia. . . I am [&c.]

Jas Wallace

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See Captain Howe's reports and journal of the *Glasgow*, April 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety

[Lebanon] April 10th, 1776

Gave an order on Nathl Shaw junr, to deliver to Capt. Seth Harding eight of the swivel guns, and fifteen hundred pounds of powder, and four hundred swivel shot, in part of what he, the said Shaw, has provided for the Colony, and take receipt accordingly. *Order delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

Gave an Order to Col. Jonath. Fitch to deliver to Capt. Seth Harding of the brig *Defence* one hundred of the six-pound shot in his hands that belong to this Colony, and take receipt. *Order delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

N.B. Mr. Ebenezer Bartram's commission as a lieutenant of the brig *Defence* bears date the 3d day of March, 1776.

Mr. Samuel Smedley's commission as second lieutenant on board the brig *Defence* bears date the 10th day of March, 1776.

Mr. Joseph Squire's commission as lieutenant of marines of the brig *Defence* bears date the 10th of April, 1776.

Voted, That Mr. Samuel Smedly is promoted to be Second Lieutenant of the brig *Defence*.

Voted, That Mr. Joseph Squire be and he is hereby appointed Lieutenant of Marines on board the brig *Defence*.

Voted, That orders be given to Capt. Harding to proceed up sound with the brig *Defence* as far as Stamford, if need be, to inlist men on board said brig and to take in some shot at N.Haven, and return with all convenient speed to N.London. *Orders delivered to Capt. Bartram April 10th, 1776.*

Voted to draw on the Pay-Table for two hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. Seth Harding, for the use of the brig *Defence*, and to render his account. *Order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Bartram.*

Voted, That the men to be inlisted on board the row-galley *Whiting* shall be inlisted to be held in service until the first day of December, 1776, unless discharged sooner by proper authority.

Voted To draw an order on the Pay-Table, in favour of Wm. Greenough and the rest of the committee for fitting out the brig *Defence* and building the row-galley *Whiting*, for the sum of seven hundred pounds, and to render his account. *Order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice*

Voted to draw on the Committee of Pay-Table for four hundred pounds, in favour of Col. Jonth Fitch as a commissary to furnish the brig *Defence* with provisions &c., and to render his account. *An order was drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice.*

Pass'd an account in favour of Danl Lyman, Esqr, on which this Board allow the sum of nine pounds two shillings and two pence, for supporting Capt. Harding. *An order drawn April 10th, 1776, and delivered to Capt. Rice.*

Voted, That Capt. James Rice of New Haven is joined with Capt. Isaac Sears, William Greenough and Michael Todd, as a committee for fitting out the brig *Defence* and building the row-valley *Whiting*.

Voted, That Capt. Hezekiah Bissell and Mr. Jonathan Trumbull, junr be appointed a committee to repair to N. London and consult with Commodore Hopkins about what measures to take in disposing of the continental prisoners in his custody, and also to apply to the commodore for some cannon of different sizes to mount the forts at N. London and Groton for the present, consulting with the commanding officers and engineers in those forts about the number and sizes of the cannon wanted; also for cannon suitable and sufficient for three row-galleys.

Voted, That the committee for taking care of the prisoners at Salisbury may, at their discretion, remove the prisoners in Salisbury to any other place in Litchfield county, as they shall judge most convenient.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 259-61.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE CAPTAIN OF MARINES [SAMUEL NICHOLAS], ON BOARD THE SHIP *Alfred*, DATED AT NEW-LONDON, APRIL 10, 1776." ¹

Before this comes to hand, I make no doubt you will have heard of our arrival in this port, and of our engagement with the *Glasgow* man-of-war; but as I intend giving you an account of our cruise, must beg your patience for a while respecting that matter. The 17th of February, left Cape-Henlopen, and after a very pleasant passage of fifteen days, came to anchor off the Island of Abaca, about seventeen leagues distance from New-Providence, where we brought to several small vessels belonging to Providence, which gave the Commodore an opportunity of inquiring into the state of the Island, as to its defence; and found it very well supplied with warlike stores, and an object worthy of our attention, as it was not sufficiently manned to give us opposition. The vessels we then had in our possession were detained as transports, to carry the Marines over to Providence. We embarked, and made sail on Saturday evening, March 2, and on Sunday, at two o'clock, landed all our men (two hundred and seventy in number) under my command at the east end of the Island, at a place called New-Guinea. The inhabitants were very much alarmed at our appearance, and supposed us to be Spaniards, but were soon undeceived after our landing. Just as I had formed the men, I received a message from the Governour, desiring to know what our intentions were. I sent him for answer, to take possession of all the warlike stores on the Island belonging to the

Crown, but had no design of touching the property or hurting the persons of any of the inhabitants, unless in our defence. As soon as the messenger was gone, I marched forward to take possession of Fort Montague, a fortification built of stone, about half way between our landing place and the town. As we approached the fort, (within about a mile, having a deep cove to go round, with a prodigious thicket on one side and the water on the other, entirely open to their view,) they fired three twelve-pound shot, which made us halt, and consult what was best to be done; we then thought it more prudent to send a flag to let them know what our designs were in coming there. We soon received an answer, letting us know that it was by the Governour's orders that they fired. They spiked up the cannon and abandoned the fort, and retired to the fort within the town. I then marched and took possession of it, in which were found seventeen pieces of cannon, (thirty-two, eighteen, and twelve pounders,) and not much damaged; they were spiked with nails and spikes, which are easily taken out. I thought it necessary to stay all night, and refresh my men, who were fatigued, being on board the small vessels, not having a convenience either to sleep or cook in. The next morning by daylight we marched forward to the town, to take possession of the Governour's house, which stands on an eminence, with two four-pounders, which commands the garrison and town. On our march I met an express from the Governour, to the same purport as the first. I sent him the same answer as before. The messenger then told me I might march into the town, and if I thought proper, into the fort, without interruption; on which I marched into town. I then drafted a guard, and went up to the Governour's, and demanded the keys of the fort, which were given to me immediately, and then took possession of Fort Nassau. In it there were forty cannon mounted, and well located for our reception, with round, langridge, and canister shot. All this was accomplished without firing a single shot from our side. We found in this fort a great quantity of shot and shells, with fifteen brass mortars; but the grand article, powder, the Governour sent off the night before, viz: one hundred and fifty casks. Immediately after we were in the fort, I sent for the Governour, and made him prisoner until the Commodore arrived, which was soon after. We remained at Providence till we got all the stores on board the fleet, and then took our departure, the 17th of March. We have brought with us from Providence the Governour, his Secretary, and one Mr. Irving, Receiver-General of his Majesty's Customs, who belongs to South-Carolina.

On the 4th instant, we made the east end of Long-Island, and discovered the *Columbus* (who had parted with us the night before) to windward, with a schooner of six guns, one of Captain Wallace's tenders, which she had taken that morning.² We made Block-Island in the afternoon, when the Commodore ordered the brig to stand in for Rhode-Island, to see if any more of the fleet were out, and join us the next morning; which was accordingly done, but without seeing any vessel except a New-York sloop, which Captain Biddle brought to the fleet, and after her papers were examined, she was released. At daylight we discovered a brigantine to leeward: we made



Captain Samuel Nicholas, Continental Marine Corps.

sail, and soon came up with her, and after a few shots, took her. She proved to be a bomb brigantine belonging to Wallace's fleet, mounting eight guns and two howitzers, commanded by one Snead [Edward Sneyd], a Lieutenant in the Navy³ We continued to cruise all day within sight of Block-Island, and in the evening took a brigantine and sloop from New-York; and have brought them into port with us, not being satisfied as to their clearances. At sunset we were twelve sail in all, and had a very pleasant evening. At twelve o'clock went to bed, and at half past one was awakened by the cry of "all hands to quarters." We were soon ready for action; the main body of my company, with my First Lieutenant, was placed in the barge on the main-deck, and remaining part, with my Second Lieutenant and myself, on the quarter-deck. We soon discovered a large ship standing directly for us. The *Cabot* was foremost of the fleet, our ship close after, not more than one hundred yards behind, but to windward withal. When the brigantine came close up, she was hailed by the ship, which we then learned was the *Glasgow* man-of-war; the brigantine immediately fired a broadside, and instantly received a return of twofold, which, owing to the weight of metal, damaged her so much in her hull and rigging, as obliged her to retire for a while to refit. Our ship then came up, (not having it in our power to fire a shot before without hurting the brigantine,) and engaged her side by side for three glasses, as hot as possibly could be on both sides. The first broadside she fired, my Second Lieutenant fell dead close by my side; he was shot by a musket-ball through the head. In him I have lost a worthy officer, sincere friend and companion, that was beloved by all the ship's company.⁴ Unfortunately for us, our tiller-rope and main-brace were shot away soon after the firing began, which caused the ship to broach to, and gave the enemy an opportunity of raking fore and aft. The battle continued till daylight, at which time the *Glasgow* made all the sail she could crowd, and stood in for Newport; and our rigging was so much hurt, that we could not make sail in time to come up with her again. At sunrise, the Commodore made the signal to give over the chase, he not thinking it prudent to risk our prizes near the land, lest the whole fleet should come out of the harbour. The *Glasgow* continued firing signal guns the whole day after.

In the action I lost three of my people out of twelve that were on the quarter-deck, and two others, who were in the barge, were slightly wounded. Captain [John Burroughs] Hopkins, of the *Cabot*, is wounded, his Master killed,⁵ and the Second Lieutenant of Marines wounded, and since dead.⁶ Upon the whole, it was a very hot engagement, in which our ship and the brig were much damaged; but we have this consolation, that the enemy is full as badly off; for by several expresses from Rhode-Island, we are assured that it was with much difficulty she got into port, both pumps

going. We are now, thank God, in harbour, and shall stay some time to re-fit.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 846-47. Published in part in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.
2. The schooner *Hawke*, commanded by Captain Wallace's nephew.
3. H.M. Bomb Brig *Bolton*.
4. Second Lieutenant John Fitzpatrick.
5. Charles Sinclair Seymour.
6. Second Lieutenant James Hood Wilson.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE BRIG *Andrew Doria* ¹

1776

April 10	To 1 Arm Chest	£ 3..0..0
	To 1 bar Oatmeal	1..0..0
	To 1 bar Pork	3.10..0
	To 12 lb Sgr Brown	0..3..0
	To 21..3..12 lb Bread @ 12/	13..2..6
	from Brig <i>Boulton</i>	<hr/> 20.15..6

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

SAMUEL BUELL TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Huntington, April 10, 1776.

Sir - After a cordial salutation, these inform that I left Easthampton on Monday morning after nine o'clock. No farther discoveries were made of the fleets mentioned in the committee's letter, unless that a considerable number of shipping made a harbour at Fisher's island, Lord's day evening. These, I suppose, were what we call Wallis's fleet. Those seen at sea on Sunday afternoon, perhaps, were from the West Indies or Boston. By their clustering in together and frequent firing, it seems they were collecting in their scattered fleet. We, sir, at the east end of Long island are certainly much exposed to ravages and plundering by the hands of violence. Whether we do not greatly need a regiment or two at the east end, must be submitted to your superior wisdom. I am, sir, in great haste [&c.]

Saml. Buell

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 173.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, DATED APRIL 10, 1776" ¹

Last night Gen. [John] Sullivan arrived here with six regiments. On Sunday last Admiral Hopkins's fleet fell in with the *Glasgow*, a good twenty gun ship, the bomb brig that has done so much damage at Rhode-Island and that neighbourhood, and three tenders. The brig commanded by Capt. [John Burroughs] Hopkins first came up with the *Glasgow*; they soon exchanged the compliments of a broadside, and continued engaged till the admiral came up, when the *Glasgow*, finding it too hot for her, ran off. The

brig followed, but the Admiral being unable to keep up with her, the man of war got off from them.

While the Admiral and Captain Hopkins were foul of the *Glasgow*, the rest of the fleet were busy with the bomb brig, and the three tenders, all of which were taken and carried into New London, where they had arrived before Gen. Sullivan left it.² A gentleman, from Newport, informs that on the inhabitants hearing the engagement, they got down some 18 pounders, and began to fire upon Wallace and Ayscough, on which they weighed and stood out of the harbour; at which time the *Glasgow* hove in sight, firing signal guns, on which they stood out to sea, and the *Glasgow* with them. Where they are gone is not known.

Our fleet is from New-Providence. They have brought from thence sixty twenty-four pounders, a large quantity of shot and shells, some other military stores, and some Tories. The *Asia* is moved down the harbour two or three miles. Our people took post, the night before last, on Governor's-Island, and on Red-Hook, both of which are now secure, and all communication with the ships and their dearly beloved Governor is cut off, which measure gives great umbrage to some.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

2. A very garbled account of the taking of the *Bolton* and *Hawke* and the engagement with the *Glasgow*.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1776

New-York, April 10.

Monday night 1000 of the Continental troops stationed here, went over and took possession of Governor's Island, and began to fortify it; the same night a regiment went over to Red Hook, and fortified that place likewise.

On Sunday morning about ten o'clock his most *unchristian* Majesty's ship *Savage*, and the *James* Pilot boat, came under the cover of a thick fog, to the Watering Place on Staten Island; each sent a boat on shore to take in water, of which Capt. [Hugh] Stevenson received intelligence, and prepared to attack them; the ship received information of our approach, and fired a signal gun for the boats to retreat, which they endeavoured to effect under a brisk and constant fire from the *Savage*, but being fired on by our men, and closely pursued, they left one of their cutters behind with 13 men; three killed and a number wounded, were carried off in the other boat; the prisoners arrived at Head Quarters on Monday evening, together with four Deserters from the *Phoenix*, who inform us they were immediately after this fray put to short allowance. By several gentlemen who were spectators of this engagement from Red Hook, we learn, that a number of men were seen to drop from the tops of and bowsprit of the *Savage*. Our brave Riflemen kept such a hot and incessant fire on the ship, that she found it expedient to cut her cable, and retreat out of their reach. They left behind them One Standard, One Musket, Twenty-seven iron bound casks, a *Cable* and *Anchor*, a Speaking Trumpet, Watch Coats &c.

On Saturday last the Continental fleet fell in with the *Glasgow* man of war, off Montock Point, at the East end of Long Island, when Admiral Hopkins being the foremost ship, he attacked the *Glasgow*, when a hot engagement ensued, but before another ship could come up, the *Glasgow* sheered off with considerable damage. The fleet afterwards took a bomb brig, and three tenders, all which they carried safe into New London on Sunday morning¹

This morning arrived in the harbor twenty three transports, from the eastward, having on board the Brigade commanded by Gen. Sullivan.

1. The bomb brig and the schooner tender *Hawke* were taken before (not after) the engagement with the *Glasgow*, and the other two vessels referred to as tenders were the brigantine and sloop from New York, carried in because they lacked proper clearances.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 10th 1776.

It is necessary in conducting the warlike operations on the Part of America, to meet our Enemy on every Ground, and to defend ourselves, in the best Manner we can, against all Attetmpts, in whatever Shape, to deprive us of either Liberty or Property. So far are the British Ministry from chusing the least Relaxation in the barbarous Schemes of reducing the American Colonies to Slavery, that they have passed an Act to seize & confiscate our Property wherever found on the High Seas. In Consequence of this Measure, the Congress have come to a Resolution of fitting out Letters of Marque & Reprisal, the Commission, Instructions, and Bond, preparatory to which, I have the Honour to enclose you, and am Gent [&c.]

J. H. Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12a, I, 95, NA.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1776

Philadelphia [April 10].

The *Roebuck* man of war at our Capes, on Friday last put to sea and returned on Saturday [April 6], having taken a schooner commanded by Seymour Hood, with naval stores from North Carolina for this port. They took 30 barrels out of the schooner and then scuttled her. The people they sent ashore in their boat.¹

1. *Sally*, Seymour Hood, master, E. Bachelder, owner, from Ocracoke, North Carolina, for Philadelphia, with tar and turpentine, destroyed off Cape Henlopen, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS JOHNSTON TO COLONEL ANTHONY WAYNE¹

Chester April 10th 1776

Dr Sir – I have the inexpressible pleasure of informing you, that Captn Barre [John Barry] has been amazingly succesful –

After an Engagement, wch continued at least one hour and twenty minutes (off Virginia) he made a Capture of the Armed Sloop *Edward*, commanded by a certain Mr Boyger² 1st Lieutt of the *Liverpool* –

All The Prisoners are to go to Philada thro' Jersey (saving one or two Seamen & three or four Negroes, who are prisoners with the Prize Master) Mr Bellengee ³

One of the Prisoners you will please to inform the Committee of Safety (one Henry Kelly) is an artful designing fellow – you will therefore naturally conclude, that special care should be taken of him –

The Commander of the Arm'd Sloop, *Wasp*, having this moment got a Pilot is just ready to sail.

I expected to see you to Day, but find myself disappointed–tomorrow perhaps, you will pay us a Visit – I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Fr: Johnston

1. Wayne Papers, I, 44, HSP.

2. Richard Boger.

3. John Bellinger, sailing master of the *Lexington*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

April 1776	At a Single Anchor in Hoar Kill Road Delaware[e] bay
Thursday 4th	In the morning Dried Sails, and Exercised the Ships company at Great Guns and Small arms. Moderate and fair weather, took a Small Sloop named the <i>Betsey</i> alongside, and Scuttled and Sunk her. ²
Friday 5th	at 7 in the morning observed a Small Sail Standing in, weighed and made Sail after her; finding the Small Bower Cable much rubbed, cut off from it three fathoms and bent it again; At Noon brought too the chace, which proved a Schooner from No Carolina to Philadelphia, laden with Tar, & Turpentine, Scuttled and Sunk her; ³ parted this life the Serjeant of Marines. Moderate and fine weather, Sounded every half hour, at 4 in the afternoon having touched Gently upon Fenwick Island Shoal, tacked and Stood to the N Et
Saturday 6th	Indian River bearing NW½No and Senepuxen SWt Sent the Master of the Schooner and a passenger on Shore. Moderate and fair weather with small Showers of Rain at times, Sent the <i>Maria</i> in chace of a Vessel, within the Hen and Chickens, and the Barge after one in the Delaware bay, at 11 Anchored within the Capes in 10½ fathoms, the Lighthouse WbSo
Sunday 7th	the Barge returned with the intelligence of the <i>Maria's</i> Chace being Run on Shore, and the Rebels defending her with musquetry. Fine pleasant weather, at 1 in the afternoon weighed and made Sail after a vessel in the offing, at 4 Fired a Shot at the Chace, which proved to be the <i>Lord Howe</i>

- Tender, at the Same time was joined by the *Maria*, whose officer [had] drove her chace on Shore, and returned the Rebels fire very frequently.⁴
- Monday 8th at 6 the Light house NWbN Distant 5 Leagues, at Noon the *Lord Howe* and *Roebuck's* Tenders in Company. The first part Strong gales and rain, latter little wind and foggy, at 2 PM Anchored in Old Hoar Kill Road in 7½ fathom water, the Lighthouse SbE½Et
- Tuesday 9th In the morning disarmed the *Lord Howe* Tender, and the *Maria*.
- Wednesday 10th Moderate and thick foggy weather, In the morning Sent the *Lord Howe* and *Maria*, late Tenders to Virginia. Strong Gales and rain at 8 In the afternoon Struck Yards, Topmasts.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Betsey*, C. Wey, master, W. Shepherd, owner, from Chincoteague, for Philadelphia, with oats and tobacco, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. The schooner *Sally*.

4. The schooner *Farmer*.

WILLIAM LUX TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Dear Sir

Baltimore 10 April 1776.

I have just now reced your favor of the 6th & am much pleased that our Committee are able to Justify their Conduct to your Satisfaction. I believe they all mean to do right, but its quite necessary to keep them within Bounds, because their Zeal will sometimes outstrip their Prudence. I intend down the last of the Week or Beginning of next with the Accot of the *Defence* and will then bring the Schooners Accot so far as I am Concerned – Mr Hollingsworth has not got any Cloverseed, the Flaxseed, Oil & Lead you shall have by the very first Conveyance. I am afraid Hackler cant be got, but I will try – I must beg you to send by Mr Chase £800. Mr Alexander has never come down, & I must Pay off all the Ships Accots before I come down. – I hear the Convention is adjourned if so I wish to know – We have got 3 of the 18 Pounders come down, 6 more were to set off yesterday Mr Hughes has drawn on me for the Carriage & hopes you will place some Money in my hands for that purpose. I have paid £30 for these 3, & wrote to him to send an Order on the Council, As I imagined they woud indulge him when they saw him exerting himself Mr Trumbull tells me you have appointed Capt Nicolson Agent & Paymaster of the *Defence*, please to let me know, & whether we are to be any further Concerned in furnishing any thing on the Ships Accot as we may close it finally; – I wish the accot in the Papers of the Surrender of Quebec could be true, but it will come presently. I have been hard at it disputing the Point

of Independency, – two to one against me – I wish you Health & Happiness & am [&c.]

Will^m Lux

[You] must excuse ½ a sheet of Paper these times.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR KNEES FOR THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Virginia* ¹

Baltimore, April 10, 1776.

Wanted, for the Frigate now building at Fell's-Point about 200 Knees of the following Dimensions, viz Five feet long in the Body, Four feet and a half in the Arm inside the Throat, to side 9 Inches, and to be left large in the Molding Way, to be strong and sound. Five Shillings a Piece will be paid on Delivery at the Yard, for the above-mentioned Number of Knees answerable to this Description, if brought within three Weeks from this Time. — Any Person or Persons, willing to contract for the whole, or any Part, may apply to

Samuel Purviance, jun.

1. *Maryland Journal*, April 24, 1776.

DR. C. F. WIESENTHAL TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Annapolis April 10th 1776

Memorendum

in the beginning of February I attended Some of our Soldiers So as they arivd – but not general Since my appointment was not known to all the officers but since the midle of february I attended the whole. Mr Wm Augustus Dashiell whom I recomendd as Mate under me did attend the Same Time but he has not got a Comission yet. Dr Budd arivd 2 Days after the Ship *Defence* returnd. when he went on Board Mr. Nathan Dorsey arivd the Evening the *Defence* Set off from the Wharf and thus went on Board.

Mr Dashiell was one of those that went out with the ship *Defence* in place of Dr Budd.

Dr Coulter and Beard went likewise out with the *Defence*

C Wiesenthal

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Wednesday April 10th 1776

The Congress being informed that a certain brigantine, called the *William* now lying in port Beaufort whereof Philip Wescott is at present Master belonging to William Strobbrook, Francis Burchitt and Philip Westcott of London, and it appearing by the register of the said Vessel that she is British property;

Resolved That Richard Cogdell, James Davis and John Green cause the

said Brigantine or Vessel to be immediately seized and detained, together with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture until further Orders

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

April 1776	At Anchor in Cape Fear Harbour
Saturday 6	Employ'd about overhauling the Rigging at 2 P M weigh'd and came to Sail up the River wt the watering sloop at 6 came too in 5 fm water off Brunswick the Church WBS 1½ mile
Sunday 7	at 8 AM weigh'd and Run up the River with the watering sloop fired 7 4 pounders 12 swivels & Small arms at the Rebbels who fired on us from the shore. at 1 P M came too anchor in 2 fm water the Dram tree NEBN the Old town House WSW Employ'd in watering
Monday 8	at 6 AM weigh'd and got further down the River and came too the watering sloop in Comp'y At 11 weigh'd and came to Sail turning down the River at 1 P M got aground sent the boat for the pilot out of the watering sloop at 9 got off
Tuesday 9	at 4 AM came on Board 4 Refugees which had Escaped from the Rebbels at 9 weigh'd and came to sail & kept firing at the Rebbels who fired on us Little wind and sometimes Calm with thunder and Lightning at 4 P M came too Deepwater point SW 5 miles.
Wednesday 10	At 5 AM weighed and came to sail turning down the River at 9 came too Bald Head SSE Deepwater point WSW at 4 P M Recd 14 highlanders ² weighed and ancd at brunswick the Church Wt 1½ mile.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. The Highlanders and the refugees picked up on the previous day had escaped after the defeat at Moore's Creek bridge in late February, and apparently had been hiding out along the shore since.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 10th Day of April. 1776

On Motion That this House do resolve That it is necessary a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subordinate to the President should be appointed

A Debate arose

And the Question being put It passed in the negative

The House was moved for Leave to bring in an Ordinance for vesting certain Powers and Authorities in Subordination to the President in the

Commander in Chief for the Time being of the First Rate Vessel in the Colony Service

And the Question being put

Resolved in the affirmative

Ordered That such an Ordinance be brought in and that the Honourable Mr Drayton Captain Lampriere Captain John Huger Colonel Pinckney and Capt Moultrie do prepare and bring in the same

Mr [Gideon] Dupont reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of Henry Aitken was referred and he read the Report in his Place and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's Table where the same was read and is as followeth

That having examined the Accounts of the Petitioner they found a Balance of Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty-eight Pounds and sixteen Shillings due from the Ship *Port Henderson* of which Five Hundred and Fifty eight Pounds and Twelve Shillings for Wages That the Sum of Three Hundred and One Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Nine Pence appears to be a Bill of Exchange paid to Mr Nathaniel Russel which Bill being drawn upon himself is now of no Value They therefore recommend That those two Sums making together Eight Hundred and Sixty Pounds Eight Shillings and Nine Pence Currency be paid to Captain Aitken out of the Proceeds of the Cargo of the Ship *Port Henderson* also the sum of Four Hundred and sixty nine Pounds Eight Shillings and Nine Pence which Captain Aitken had received from sundry Passengers and expended on the said Ship and is now demanded of him by the said Passengers

Message from the Legislative Council by their Clerk

In the Legislative Council the 10th Day of

April. 1776

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen

Upon the Third Reading of the Bill to impower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases this House is of Opinion that some Amendments are necessary to be made thereto – We therefore desire your House will be pleased to appoint a Committee to confer with a Committee of this House in the Conference Room immediately on such Amendments – Our Committee are the Honourable Mr [Thomas] Bee and the Honourable Doctor [David] Oliphant

By Order of the House

Geo: Gab: Powell Speaker

Message to the Legislative Council

Honourable Gentlemen

Agreeable to a Message Just now received from your House this House have appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee of your House on such Amendments as may be necessary to be

made to the Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases Our Committee are Colonel [Charles] Pinckney and the Honourable Mr [William Henry] Drayton

Ordered That the Message be ingrossed and that Mr Speaker do sign the same

Ordered That Colonel Pinckney and the Honourable Mr. Drayton do carry the said Message to the Legislative Council

Colonel Pinckney from the Committee of Conference reported several Amendments proposed in the Conference which being read were severally agreed to and ordered to be made Parts of the Bill

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland and the British West Indies Nova Scotia and East and West Florida and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases – read the Third Time and passed in that House

Ordered That the Bill be ingrossed

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster-Master General of the Land and Naval Forces in the service of this Colony read a Third Time and passed in the Legislative Council

Ordered That the Ordinance be ingrossed

On Motion

Resolved That this House will now proceed to ballot Jointly with the Honourable the Legislative Council for a Captain of the Ship *Prosper*

The members of the Legislative Council being introduced into the General Assembly for that Purpose

The balloting was proceeded in accordingly

And the Ballots being reckoned

Mr Speaker reported That Clement Lampriere Esquire was duly elected Captain and Commander of the Colony Ship of War *Prosper*

On Motion That the Report of the Committee on Henry Aitken's Petition be now taken under Consideration

The Question was put

And it passed in the Negative

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly*, 59–62.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE GUNNER OF THE *Viper* SLOOP OF WAR
DATED ON BOARD THE SHIP *Experiment* AT SEA, LAT. 21. LONG. 63.
APRIL 10”¹

On our passage from Boston to New York, we met with a hard gale of wind, which blew us off that coast, and we are obliged to bear away for Antigua; on our passage we took five American vessels, and since being in the

West Indies we have taken several others. The *Viper* sailed the beginning of March last, leaving me in the care of three prizes at St. John's, Antigua; she has sent in since sailing two prizes more.² His Majesty's ship *Experiment* sailing with a fleet of transports, &c. for Boston, I with several other officers and men of the *Viper*, take our passage to join her.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

2. See Prizes Taken by British Ships in the Windward Islands, May 1, 1776.

THOMAS HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH

Copy

Sir In obedience to your Excellency's commands, signified to me by your Letter of yesterday I have perused the Admiral's Letter, and the affidavits therein inclosed. The affidavits I have submitted to the consideration of the Judge of the Admiralty, and we are both of opinion, that the Offence therein charged, being committed by a person coming from shore, while the Ship lay off Savannah, which is within the body of the Province of Georgia, arises out of the Admiralty jurisdiction, and is not cognizable thereby, or by any other criminal jurisdiction of this Island. The forcibly taking away Stores, belonging to, or intended for the use of the Kings Forts, with intent to assist, in carrying on hostile measures then on foot against His Majesty, raises the Offence from Robbery to High Treason, which being committed in Georgia, is cognizable there on the 25th Edward 3d, or in England by that Statute, and the jurisdiction given by the 33d or 35th of Henry 8th But the State of Georgia, wherein the administration of civil and criminal justice, is silenced by arms, makes in effect this offence triable, for the present in England only. Under these circumstances I am of opinion, that William Platt² cannot be in such proper and safe custody, as tha[t] of the Admiral, who, if he shall judge proper, may send him to England, there to be dealt with according to Law – Had William Platt been apprehended by any civil Magistrate, I do suppose, the Admiral would have been applied to, through your Excellency, to take him under his charge and send him to England, for the purpose aforesaid. I am, with the greatest respect Sir [&c.]

April 10th 1776

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Harrison was attorney general at Jamaica.

2. The prisoner was Ebenezer Smith Platt, not William Platt, a name which Admiral Gayton had mistakenly given him.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

Spanish Town 10th April 1776

Sir As your Letter of yesterday's date comprehends questions of Law, wherein it is my duty to be advised by His Majesty's Attorney General, I directly sent it, with the Depositions accompanying it, to Mr [Thomas] Harrison for his guidance; and at the same time desired him, to lose no time in furnishing me, with his written opinion on the matter, and advice what part I ought to take in it, as Governor of the Island –

Inclosed I send you his answer, by which I conceive myself precluded

from any interference, in this affair – This being the case, I return you the Depositions of the Evidences against [Ebenezer Smith] Platt – I am Sir [&c.]

Basil Keith ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, Gayton, in his letter of June 13 to Philip Stephens, endorsed this letter: "April 10th 1776 Letter from the Govr Inclosing the Attorney Generals opinion respecting William Platt who I apprehended on information of being concern'd in taking Amunition belonging to Governmt out of the Ship *Philippa*, Richd Maitland Master, at Georgia in July 1775."

11 Apr.

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

[Extract]

Whereas it is His Majesty's firm resolution that every measure be pursued for Suppressing by most vigorous efforts by Sea and land, the unnatural Rebellion which at present unhappily subsists in North America; You are hereby required and directed to observe and punctually obey the following orders and directions, untill you receive contrary Orders from me or any other your superior officer: And whereas an Act having passed the present Session of Parliament, "To Prohibit all Trade and intercourse with the several Colonies in North America therein named during the continuance of the present rebellion within the said Colonies.["]

1st

You are therefore hereby required and directed to seize and take all vessels whatsoever belonging to or found Trading with the Said Colonies, and send them to Halifax in order for their being proceeded against according to Law. And as the Rebels are endeavouring to collect and equip a Naval force to intercept the supplies intended for the Fleet and Army, to obstruct the commerce of his Majesty's faithful Subjects, and to oppose the small Ships and vessels belonging to his Fleet: You are to do your utmost to Take, Sink, Burn or destroy these Pirates wherever they can be found, as also all Vessels whatsoever, that may be Arming, or evidently intended to be employed in the Rebellion against His Majesty: And for your further guidance and information herein, I refer you to the beforementioned Act of Parliament, which you will receive herewith, likewise the Kings Proclamation relative to the distribution of the Prizes taken in consequence thereof, and you are to send me an account of all vessels seized and taken by you, according to a form annexed.

2d

You are very carefully to examine all vessels you may meet with, and upon the discovery of any Arms, Ammunition, Military or Naval Stores, you are to Seize the Vessels on board of which such stores may be found and send them to Halifax, unless they are in the King's Service, and carrying supplies for the Fleet and Army.

IN CONGRESS.

The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Countess of New-Castle, Kent, and Suffolk on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to,

Samuel Nicholas Esquire

WE reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be *Captain of Marines*

~~I do Accord~~ ~~called the~~ in the service of the Thirteen United Colonies of North-America, fitted out for the defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Captain of Marines* by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers, Marines and Seamen under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Captain of Marines* And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United Colonies, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Navy of the United Colonies, or any other your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, the Usage of the Sea, and the Instructions herewith given you, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force untill revoked by this or a future Congress. *Philadelphia Novemr. 26. 1777*

By Order of the Congress

PRESIDENT.

Aust. Cha^s Thomson Esq

John Hancock

3d

You are to receive on board and afford every reasonable accomodation to the Governors or other officers of the Colonies within your respective Stations, who may be compelled by the violence of the people to seek such an Asylum, and generally to afford any protection in your power to any of his Majesty's Subjects who may require it; And as you are further hereby required & directed to cause it to be publicly signified in all such Sea Port Towns as are accessable to the Kings Ships, that if any violence shall hereafter be offered to any of the Officers of the Crown or other peaceably disposed subjects to his Majesty, or if any Bodies of Men should be raised and Armed in the said Towns, or any Military works erected therein then by order of His Majesty or those acting under his Authority, or if some attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any Public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, it will be your Duty to proceed by the most vigorous efforts against the said Town, as in open Rebellion against the King, and if after such Signification any Town shall persist in the Rebellious Acts above stated, You are hereby required and directed to proceed accordingly.

4th

And whereas there is good ground to suspect that many persons in England hold a traitorous correspondence with his Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America: You are hereby most strictly required and directed to Stop and search all Ships and vessels bound to, or from North America, and carefully examine every letter on board, and all those that shall in your Opinion contain any matter tending to aid, abet, or advise the Rebellious proceedings of His Majesty's Subjects in North America, to secure and send them to me carefully Sealed up by the safest and quickest conveyance.

5th

You are to observe the same conduct with respect to all letters containing intelligence of present or intended operations of the Rebels, or any othr information proper for me to be acquainted with.

6th

And whereas some attempts have been made by the Masters of Ships bound to North America, to take on board flint Stones by way of Ballast; You are hereby reqd and directed carefully to examine all such Ships & Vessels as shall arrive in the different Ports which you may be at in North America from Great Britain or Ireland, and in case you find the Ballast, or any part of it to consist of Flint Stones, to cause such flint stones to be taken out and thrown into deep water; And also to seize any flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms, which you may find on Board such Ships, for, although they are not expressed in His Majestys Order in council prohibiting the Exportation of Gunpowder, Arms, and ammunition, they are certainly within the meaning and intent of it; observing at the same time that these Orders are not to extend to flints manufactured for the use of Fire Arms sent out by, or within License from, the Master General or Principal officers of the Board of Ordnance.

7th

Whenever it can be done you are to Seize any of the Delegates to the Congress, the Rebel General Officers, or principal Aiders and abettors of the Rebellion, and keep them Prisoners until you can safely deliver them to me, and you are to Seize all Vessels carrying Emigrants from Great Britain to the Colonies and send them to Halifax.

8th

You are always to acquaint the Governor (for his Majesty) of the Province wherein you may be stationed with your arrival, and from time to time consult with him in what manner the ship you command may be best employed for the protection of His Majestys faithful Subjects and their property, the Support of Legal Authority of Government, and to answer such other purposes as the exigencies of the times may make it necessary for the Good of the Kings service: You are to give your utmost Aid and Assistance, according to the information and advice you may receive from the Governor, and use your best endeavours to employ the Kings Ship under your command very diligently towards answering the purposes beforementioned.²

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham*
in Halifax Harbour the 11th April 1776

M. Shuldhham

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

2. Remaining articles are identical with Vice Admiral Grave's orders of October 8, 1776 except for the substitution of Halifax for Boston. See Volume 2, 356-62.

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

[Extract]

Halifax April the 11th 1776.

Sir You have represented to me in your Letter of the 3d of March the Reason you had to request an Augmentation to the Force under your Command; I immediately dispatched Orders for the *Glasgow* to join You, that You might find no Inconvenience from the Absence of the *King's fisher*, which Ship I found it necessary to send to Halifax, where she is now heaving down; and as an Addition to your Squadron, I have ordered Captain [George] Montagu of the *Fowey* to follow your Directions for his future proceedings.

With the Ships You now have, I hope and flatter myself you will be able to effect some, if not all, the Services in the Delaware pursuant to my former Orders. I wish I could send You a greater Reinforcement, but the indispensibly necessary protection of the Victuallers which We hourly expect on the Coast, and the safe Arrival of those being of so great Importance to His Majesty's Service, it is utterly impossible for me to furnish You at this time with a greater Number of Ships.

I have no Doubt of the Propriety of your proposal for having a small Body of Troops to act in Conjunction with You upon the Service You are employed; but the present Situation of Affairs will not I fear admit of any being employed for the Purposes You mention.

In answer to your Request to have some Howitzers or Cohorns, I must inform You upon Inquiry I find that the Ordnance Storekeeper has none in Store, nor any three pound Shot, as demanded by Captain [Henry] Bellew.

In my Letter of the 23d of March I mentioned to You my Expectation that Sir peter parker would join You with a Squadron from England, from whom You consequently would have required an Additional Force and Assistance; but by Dispatches which I have since received by the *Milford*, I am informed by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it is probable Sir peter will proceed to Charles Town in South Carolina. The Inconveniences which attend your distant Situation certainly will not be lessened by this Measure: However if when you have authentic Information of Sir Peter's Arrival on the Coast, you should be so situated that it may be necessary to give Information of it, and should prefer sending to him rather than to me, I am sure he will chearfully give you his Advice and every Assistance in his Power.

You will also receive a Copy of a Letter I have received from Sir peter parker, wherein he expresses his Wish to be re-inforced with the *Experiment* and *Roebuck*; the *Experiment* which has been drove to the West Indies, and which is I hope now on her passage to Boston, I have ordered to join him, and if the important Service of preventing the Operations of the Rebels in the Delaware could be dispensed with, or that you could leave a sufficient Force there for that purpose, I should be glad to comply with his Desire.

From the most positive Information I have received, it is probable Sir peter parker is by this time at, or in the Neighbourhood of Charles Town, South Carolina.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth] 11 [April, 1776].

Gave Liberty to Capt William Pearne to fix a Vessel out for the Foreign West Indies, To be loaded with Such Articles as are not forbid by any Resolve of the Continental Congress. Among other articles, to carry about 70 M of Boards, the Neat proceeds of Which is to be laid out in Such things as We may direct – the Colony to receive the Same on their Arrival, Allowing the first Cost, Customary Commissions & Freight home, the Residue to be laid out as he may think fit, for all Which he is to give Bonds.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 43, 44.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Boston 11th April 1776

I am to inform your Excellency that Col [John] Glover applied to me for a Warrant upon the Paymaster Genl to pay those Men who are in the Service of the Continent, on board the Continental Privateers just arrived from a Cruise, but I did not think myself authorised by your Instructions to grant a Warrant; he informed me the Men would not be induced to go out

again unless they received their pay, I therefore directed him to supply the places of such Men as might leave the Privateers, out of his Regiment, until I could receive your Directions in the matter.

The Agent for the Privateers at Beverly, Capt [William] Bartlett has likewise applied for the same purpose. I must therefore beg the favour of your particular Directions relative to the above mentioned applications.

I have not been able to collect any material intelligence from the people taken on board the Transport, which Commodore Manley sent into Portsmouth; ² the general account they give, is, that the Enemy are going to Quebeck as soon as the River opens.

A fifty Gun Ship, ³ with three Transports, lies in Nantasket Road. A Man who made his Escape from the Ship informs that the Officers on board said they were to lie there until the Transports arrived which are expected from Europe and then to follow the Fleet. I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

3. H.M.S. *Renown*, Captain Francis Banks.

"LIST OF THE MEN ON BOARD THE *Spit-Fire* AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE OF THE BRIGANTINE *Georgia Packet* & SLOOP *Speedwell*" ¹

Newport April 11th 1776

A List of Officers, Marines &c. on Board the *Spit-fire* Gally John Grimes
Commander

1 Saml Viall	19 Michl Feild
2 Isaac Tyler	20 Johnathan Hill
3 Joseph Mauran	21 Jams Wheeton Bragton
4 Chas Yonge	22 Danl Hart
5 Oliver Reed	23 Jno Morgan
6 Benaja Cole	24 Jams Dauly
7 Thos Jones	25 Michl Da[u]lly
8 Ignatius Pitts	26 Thos Meret Smith
9 Josiah Vial	27 Henry Wigans
10 Noise Brown	28 Jno Rowland
11 Jno Pitts	29 Jno Powell
12 Jno Dunwell	30 Jno O'Neal
13 Thos Berkins	31 Wm Brawton
14 Tho Beal	32 Wm Japo
15 Jno Amer	33 Jno Cranston
16 Benja Johnson	34 Gardner Eldrige
17 George Cole	35 Winchr Viall
[18] [blank]	Contential Arms
Volenteers	Mr Thos Devall Esqr
Mr Thos Scranton	Joseph Chase
Saml Rhodes	Michl Ephrim
Jno Miller	Jno Peirce

Henry Higen Landers

Warrick Peirce
Nathl Humphry
Joseph Sunck

1. Maritime Papers, Revolutionary War 1776-1781, R.I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76

Block Island N61° East distant 40 Leagues.

Thursday 11th at ½ past 1 A M handed the fore TS; at 2 made the Signal & lay too, it blowing very hard at 4 saw a sail to Winward, Continue the Gun every Hour, at 6 the fogg Clear'd up, the *Whitby* & the Schooner ² out of sight, at 11 saw Block Island NEbE 8 Leagues, set the foresail & made sail; at noon Block Island bore SWbW 4 or 5 miles.

First part fresh Gales & Squally Middle & latter light airs & Variable at 4 P M came too in Rhode Island Road with the Bt Br in 22 fathms water & veer'd to a Cable, as did the *Symetry*, Brig & Sloop: the fort ESE the Dumplings WbS; Connanicut ferry NNW, at 10 two Row Galleys came out of the Harbr & boarded the prizes; Cutt the Cable Close to the Splice, & made sail after them, begun to Cannonade them, and they us, & struck often, at 11 they Towed the prizes into the Harbour.³ at ½ past the Rebels began to fire at us, from a Battery at the North end of the Town, carried out the Kedge Anchor & Hawser to warp farther off,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The schooner *John & Joseph*, taken April 8, 1776.3. The brig was the *Georgia Packet*; the Sloop, *Speedwell*.JOSEPH TOOCKER TO BARNABAS DEANE ¹

Sir

Hartford april the 11th A D 1776

I have some trunals for the Ship ² but have Not had any oppertunity to Send them Down

But I Shall go Down to work upon the Ship in a two or three weeks by water and will Cary them with me

I Should be very glad if you would Send me four Dollars or five Dollars by Mr Watson and I will Settél with you when I bring the trunels From your Humble Servent

Joseph Toocker

1. Barnabas Deane Papers, ConnHS.

2. The Continental frigate *Trumbull* building in Connecticut.MARINE LIEUTENANTS JOHN TREVETT AND ROBERT CUMMING TO COMMODORE
ESECK HOPKINS ¹

To The Honble Eseck Hopkins Esqr

Sir Please sign the following order, that we may get our Cloathes &c from on board the Ship *Columbus*, and you'll oblige Yr Hble Serts

John Trevett Rob^t Cumming

[New London] 11th Apl 1776 –

[Endorsed]

Captn [Abraham] Whipple, Please deliver to John Trevett & Robt Cumming all the Clothes &c which are on board your Ship ²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. On the muster roll of the *Columbus*, both Trevett and Robert Cumming are listed as “deserted” but with no date given. The captain of Marines, Joseph Shoemaker, was also listed in the same manner, R.I. Archc. Trevett’s Journal reads: “After two or three [blank] we were ordered to be paid in Continental money. When we wished to spend it, it would not pay for one pair of shoes. A grand cruise and I am glad it ended so well.” NHS.

BILL OF JAMES RICE FOR SUNDRIES SUPPLIED THE CONNECTICUT
BRIG *Defence* ¹

[New Haven, April 11, 1776] ²

The Colony of Connecticut To James Rice Dr
To Sundrys Supply’d the Brige *Defence* (Viz)

To a Sett of Sparrs Blocks & pumpss Except one Top		£48..--
To 2 Spare topmasts		2..--
“ 4 dozen Gun Takle Blocks	a 8/ p Dozn	1..12..
“ 15 Gun handspikes	1/	15..
“ 150 hand Gronados Fuses	2d	1..5..
“ 12 False Fire Moulds	9d	9..
“ 20 Rammers & Spung Staffs	1/	1..--
“ 12 Swivel Ram[mer]s & Spungs	1/	12..
“ 4 Formers for Carthrage	9d	3..
“ 14 Spare Carriage Wheels		1..2..
“ over hauling old Blocks (used for spare Blocks)		1..--
“ 32 Ram[mer]s Spungs & Ladel heads	9d	1..4..
“ 21 lb Brimstone	5d	8..9
“ 4 lb Tallow	6d	2..
“ 1 Broome 1/ and 15 powder Flasks	4d	6..
“ 12 lb Brimstone	5d	5..
“ 12 Kegs Lampblack	1/6	18..
“ 20 lb Brimstone	5d	8..4
“ 169 foot Boat oars	2d	1..8..2
“ 5 lb Sugar 3/4 12 lb Brimstone	5d 5/	8..4
“ 2 Bottles oil	3/	6..
“ 1 Oak Bucket		2..
Storage of 105 Bar[rel]s	3d	1..6..3
15¾ Bushels Salt to pack provisions	3/	2..7..3
		<hr/> £67..8..1

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 68, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, date given in summary of the *Defence* Accounts.

DIARY OF ENSIGN CALEB CLAP ¹

[En route from Cambridge to New York, March 29 to April 11, 1776]

Five Regiments Marchd for New York, from Cambridge Col [Loammi] Baldwins Regiment ² Left Cambrige at 3 O,Clock P,M, marchd to Waltham the first Day, the Second Day as far as Marlborough, the 3rd Do to Grafton the 4th to Bellingham, the 5th to Providence, the 6th day Lay at Providence, the 7 Marchd to Coventry (in Rhodiland) the 8th to Plainfield the 9th Norwich the 10th New London arived there at 7 O,Clock P M [April 6], drawed 6 Days Provision and Embarkd About 9, O'Clock the next morning for New York had fair wind, About 11 O. Clock PM We run O Ground at Huntington beach on Long Island Lay there till the 10th Instant then She Saild, and arived at New York the 11th Day —

1. "Diary of Ensign Caleb Clap, of Colonel Baldwin's Regiment, Massachusetts Line, Continental Army, March 29 until October 23, 1776," *The Historical Magazine*, 3rd series, III, No. 2, 133.

2. The Twenty-sixth Continental Infantry.

CAPTAIN OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS TO ELIE WILLIAMS ¹

My Dear Brother

Statin Island April 11th 1776

I wrote you from New York by Messrs Hall and Solley of Maryland by which you've learnt the reasons of my coming to that City, since which I have been removed with my Company together with Captain [Hugh] Stephenson and his Company to this Place which is about nine miles from [New] York and one of the most Beautiful Islands you ever Saw, tho' the soil is not cultivated and Ornamented in Such an Elegant & pleasant manner as the fine Country Seats in Connecticut and Massachusits (which I believe I've mentiond in former Letters) the great heights on this Island surrounded as well by plentifull ffarms as broad and Bold Waters abounding with all kinds of fish and Cover'd in a manner with Sails, afford a Delightful prospect, but those beautiful prospects are not the only advantage of the Hills many of which are natural fortifications and very happy for us if the Report is true that the Parliamt intends Landing 25,000 of their Mercenary Troops here this spring. New York is fortified at all Quarters and I hope will be able to make an Excellent defence in Case the ffleet Shod attempt burning the City, Several redoubts are Markt out here which I suppose will be thrown up as Soon as a Sufficient Number of troops can be Stationd here at present there is not more than Sufficient for Guards.

Sunday morning (being easter Sunday) we had a little Skirmish with a Parcel of Marines that came on shore to get fresh water, the first intelligence that we recd was that five hundred were landing at the watering place about three Miles from our Quarters the alarm was given and Capt Stephenson went to collect his men who were stationd near the Spot leaving me to bring up the Rear — the fact was the Ships wanted water and sent about 25 Men to fill their Barrells and the *Savage* (a Ship of War and the *James* a Pilot Boat to the *Phoenix*) to Protect their landing the Men were

APRIL 1776

Busy filling their Vessells when the front of our line came in Sight a Signal gun was fired for their retreat but not early enough [illegible] were with Stephenson in front and with a small Party gave the first fire which brot to[o] one of the boats in which they were making their Escape and ten of them were made Prisoners one of whom was carred in the tide Some were draggd out of the Water some were aboard the Boat three were killed and a number wounded the *Savage* kept up a brisk and almost Constant fire of Swivels Grape Shot and Musquetry but luckily none of our men were hurt. I dischargd a few Rifle Balls among the Vessels but not Certain what Effect they had after the Prisoners were made we had nothing to Contend with but the *Savage* which we co'd not Damage wth small arms and her Guns were a little Dangerous, She Continud firing about four hours and then stood off leaving behind One Barge Anchor Cable stores &c Twenty nine Iron bound Barrells One Standard one Muskett one Iron Pot and variations, and committees or councils of safety of the United Colonies, to use Putnam who Commands at New York. The Genl returned his thanks to Capt Stephenson's Officers and Men under his Command for their Soldier like behaviour Captain Stephenson setts off for Virginia this afternoon & leaves me Commanding Officer of the Guard & Stationd on Lower shore and I hope the next affair of this Sort will be Conducted by Yr affectionate Bror

Otho Hd Williams

Mr. Elie Williams Fredk County Maryland
favor of Capt Stephenson

1. Otho Holland Williams Papers, Letter Book, No. 1, MdHS. Enclosed with this letter was a briefer one of the same date to his sister, in which he said: "last Sunday in particular we had a little Skirmish but it was not of Sufficient duration to try the Mettal of all our men part of the Enemy being made Prisoners and the remainder dispersed before all our party co'd get engaged and then we had nothing to do but Dodge the great guns on board the *Savage* a very proper name for a Ministerial Ship of War."

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 11, 1776

A letter from General Putnam, at New York, of the 7, with sundry papers enclosed, ~~also a letter from Captain Barry~~ ² was presented to Congress, and read.

Resolved, That two new members be elected for the cannon committee, in the room of two who are absent:

The ballots being taken, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [William] Whipple were elected.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine into the truth of the report respecting Governor Tryon's exacting an Oath from persons going by the Packet, and to ascertain the fact by affidavits taken before a chief Justice, or other chief Magistrate.

The committee chosen, Mr. [John] Jay, Mr. [George] Wythe, and Mr. [James] Wilson.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conven-

tions. and committees or councils of safety of the United Colonies, to use their best endeavours in communicating to foreign nations the resolutions of Congress relative to trade. ³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 270-74.

2. While scratched off as Marine Committee business, this is the letter of April 7, 1776.

3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 20, 1776.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY ¹

In Marine Committee

Philadelphia, April 11th 1776

Sir We have received your letter of the 7th instant p the Prize Sloop *Edward* which shall be immediately Libelled in the Court of Admiralty of this Colony, and when Condemned a fair Sale of valuation of the Vessel her Stores and Materials will be made. – The share thereof belonging to you, the Officers and Crew shall be deposited in the hands of your Agents and in every respect the utmost Justice Shall be done to all concerned –

We Send down the Prize Master ² and Men to little Egg Harbour where you propose to call for them, and our letter by Lieut. Robert Scott ³ would inform you that Capt. Boys [Abraham Boyce] ⁴ with four or five Marines went down to Cape May in the Schooner *Wasp*, where they were to land if you did not fall in with them consequently You will take them off. As the Men of Warr in Virginia, Delaware and New York will undoubtedly hear of you they will probably lay some plans to suprise or decoy you, but we dare say a continued vigilance will enable you to avoid the Snares and power of those who are too strong for you, as well as to send us some more of those that are not an over match for the *Lexington*. We repeat our approbation of your Conduct, and beg you may signify to your officers and Men that the Marine Committee of Congress highly applaud their Zeal and bravery. With the best wishes &c.

Joseph Hewes

Geo: Read

W^m Whipple

Step Hopkins

John Hancock

Rob^t Morris

John Alsop

Richard Henry Lee

1. Mss. Collection, NYHS.

2. John Bellinger.

3. See letter of April 8, 1776.

4. Boyce was Marine Captain in the *Lexington*.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 11.” ¹

This morning arrived a sloop mounting six three pounders, and eight or ten swivels, late a tender ² belonging to the *Liverpool* man of war, and commanded by a Lieutenant Boucher, ³ of said sloop, having thirty five picked men on board, who on Saturday last off the Capes of Virginia, fell in with Capt. Barry of the Continental Brig called the *Lexington*. A battle ensued, which was continued desperately for one hour and twenty minutes,

when the tender struck. Capt. Barry lost two men killed and had four wounded. The other, one man killed and one wounded.

1. *New-York Journal*, April 18, 1776.
2. *The Edward*.
3. Lieutenant Richard Boger.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] – the 11th [April, 1776]. Advice is Just received from New York that Comodore Hopkins with two Ships two Brigs & a Sloop under his Command fell in with the *Glasgow* man of War of 20 Guns, a Bomb Briga and three Tenders off the east end of Long Island when a smart engagement ensued in which the Bomb Brig & three Tenders were taken, the *Glasgow* got off by out sailing our Ships, the Commodore has got safe into New London in Connecticut with his little Fleet and Prizes,² this Morning arived here a Prize Sloop taken by Capt Barry of the Brig. *Lexington* a Vessel lately fitted out by Congress, the Sloop was Commanded by a Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* had Six carriage & Six Swivel Guns & 35 Men, see Barrys Letter in the News paper enclosed to Mr [William] Hooper,³

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, HSP. Continuation of April 9 letter.
2. A repetition of the first garbled account of the engagement with the *Glasgow*.
3. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 11, 1776.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 11th April 1776

I rec'd your favor of the 24th ult – Col. [Josiah] Bartlett took with him the Marine money, you mention – the 10,000 dollars from the Secret Committee shall send by the first opportunity which I expect will be in about a week by Mr Jos: Henderson who is here in a carriage and will set out about that time. I find you are going to Boston and shall expect from you a particular account of the situation that town was left in by the Barbarians, also what Tories are left behind &c &c. There are several contracts for guns – if your ship cannot be supplied nearer home they must be sent from here.

I congratulate you on Admiral Hopkin's success, the particulars of which no doubt you have before now. Yesterday arrived there a sloop – she was a tender fitted out by the *Liverpool* with 6 carriage guns and 35 picked men commanded by the first Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* – she was sent in by the *Lexington* whom she engaged an hour and killed two of his men and wounded two; the sloop had one man killed and 5 or 6 wounded;² there are several more of these small fellows on the coast, which I expect the *Lexington* will give a good account of. The army have converted all the Yankees. I expect the statue of the Royal Brute now standing in Bowling Green will soon be demolished. In my last, I mentioned the officers for the ship you are building – I shall be glad if you'll also think of proper persons for Marine officers. I suppose there must be a Captain and two Lieuten-

ants; the officers for all the ships will soon be appointed – the day is set for appointing Agents, so expect my next will enclose your commission.

I suppose the late Act of Parliament declaring all Americans rebels has reached you before now; I should have sent you a copy had I have been able to obtain one but it has not yet been printed here. On the arrival of that Act in South Carolina, the Convention there seized a ship loaded with sugars bound from the West Indies to London (and had put in there to repair some damages she had rec'd and was then ready to sail) ordered ship and cargo to be sold and the money lodged in the Treasury and have sent to Congress for approbation: their conduct no doubt is justified by some late Resolves which I now enclose you. refer you to the papers for news. Yours sincerely

W^m Whipple.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 109–10, LC.

2. The sloop tender *Edward*, Lieutenant Richard Boger.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 11th

after dinner went to Kinsington, where a number of Inhabitants mett, in order to assist in geting the Lower deck beams in the Ship that was building for man of war, by Bruce & Comp^y. ²

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

2. The Continental frigate to be named the *Effingham*.

CAPTAIN JOHN ADAMS' COMMISSION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Chance* ¹

In Congress. – The Delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia:
To all to whom these presents shall come, send greeting:

Know ye,

That we have granted, and by these presents do grant, license and authority to John Adams, Mariner, commander of the sloop called *Chance*, ² of the burden of forty-five tons, or thereabouts, belonging to Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., of Philadelphia, in the County of Philadelphia, mounting four guns, and navigated with forty-five men, to fit out and set forth the said sloop in a warlike manner; and by and with the said sloop, and the crew thereof, by force of arms, to attack, seize, and take the ships and other vessels belonging to the inhabitants of Great Britain, or any of them, with their tackle, apparel, furniture, and loading, on the high seas, or between high water and low water mark, and to bring the same into some convenient Ports in the Colonies, in order that the Courts, which are or shall be appointed to hear and determine causes, civil and maritime, may proceed in due form to condemn the said captures, if they be judged lawful prizes; the said Joseph Dean & Co. having given bond, with sufficient

security, that nothing be done by said commander, or any of the officers, mariners, or company thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the usage and customs of civilized nations, and the instructions, (a copy of which is herewith delivered to him.) And we will and require all our officers whatever to give succour and assistance to the said commander in the premises. This commission shall continue in force until the Congress shall issue orders to the contrary.

Dated at Philadelphia, April 11, 1776.

By order of Congress:

John Hancock, President.
John Adams.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 850.
2. The *Chance* and the sloop *Congress*, of the same ownership, were commissioned the same day, and were the first privateers commissioned under the resolves of Congress of April 3, 1776, ordering blank commissions to be sent to the various colonies, and setting forth the instructions to be given to the captains of all private ships of war.

SUMMARY OF BOND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Chance* ¹

1776 *Chance*, Pennsylvania Sloop. Guns: 4 Crew: 45. Tons: 45.

April 11 Bond: Not stated. Master: John Adams
Bonders: Joseph Dean, Philadelphia. Philip Moore, Philadelphia.
Owners: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., Philadelphia.
Witnesses: William Ritchie, John Duffield.

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal 1776-1783), 196, II, 92, NA.

SUMMARY OF BOND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PRIVATEER SLOOP *Congress* ¹

1776 *Congress*, Pennsylvania Sloop. Guns: 6. Crew: 45. Tons: 50.

April 11 Bond: not stated. Master: George Macaroy
Bonders: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore, both of Philadelphia.
Owners: Joseph Dean, Philip Moore & Co., Philadelphia.
Witnesses: William Ritchie, John Duffield.

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal 1776-1783), 196, III, 40, NA.

INVOICE OF MERCHANDISE BOUGHT BY NORTH CAROLINA FROM JOHN WRIGHT STANLY ¹

Sundry merchandise Imported by John Wright Stanly
from St Eustatia and Offered to the Honorable the Con-
vention of No Carolina Vizt

No. 1.	100 peices fine Stripes	@ 4½ ps of Eight	450. . . .
	5 Rheams fine Letter Paper	5½	27. . 4. . .
	1 ditto	4 & 1 bits	4. . 1. . .
2.	100 ps Stripes	4 Ps	400. . . .

3.	12 ps Check	8 ps	96...--
	4 Rheam Papr	4 1/8	16..4..-
	4 ps blue Oznabrigs 180 Ells	7 1/2 Stivers	29..3..-
	2 ps bed Ticking 91 do	4 1/2 rials	51..1..3
	12 Bundles Sail Twine	4 1/8 Ps	49..4..-
4.	24 ps Check	8 Ps	192...--
	14 Rheam Paper	4 1/8	57..6..-
	1 ps Rowans 50 Ells		12...--
without a no	76 ps Russia Duck	14 Ps	1064...--
Do	1 ps Course Sheeting 131 1/2 Ells @ 2 1/2 bitts		41..0..1
Do	51 Coils Cordage 5251 lb @ 10 Ps		525..0..4
Do	8 ps Oznabrigs 1079 3/4 Ells 6 1/2 Stivers		146..1..4
			3162..2..0
75 P Ct Advance			2371..5..3
			5533..7..3
			£1660..3...1/2
Carried Over			
Amount brought Over			1660..3...1/2
No 9 & 11. -	220 ps Stripes @ 4 Ps	880...--	
2 & 5.	500 ps Brittanys @ 2	1000...--	
1 & 4	50 ps Onabs 6522 Ells 6 1/4 Stivers	849..4..1	
No numbr	35 ps Dowlas 763 yds 11 Stivers	404..4..-	
Do	15 ps Rowans 53 Ells in each		
	@ 12 Ps	180...--	
Do	8 ps Oznabs 1400 Ells 6 Stivers	175..0..3	
Do	40 ps Check 18 yds in each @ 5 Ps	200...--	
Do	30 lb White thread @ 9 bitts	33...--	
6	100 ps Brittanys 2 Ps & 1 bitt	212..4..0	
			3934..4..4
87 1/2 P Ct Advd			3442..6..-
Ps			7377..2..4
			2213..4..0
			3873..7...1/2
20 PCt on the above Sum of £3873..7...1/2			774.13..6 1/4
500 lb best Gun Powder 18/.			200...--
			£4848..1..1 3/4

Errors Excepted

April 11th, 1776.

J W Stanly

Your Committee have examind the Invoices of Sundry Goods Imported by John Wright Stanly the Cost of Which Appears to Amount to the Sum of

3162 ps of Eight & two reals charg'd at St Eustatia on which an Advance of 75 P Ct for risque & Charges Appear Reasonable as they were bought in Barter. Also Sundry Other Goods by Invo produced Amounting to 3934 ps Eight four reals & four Stivers bought with Ready Money, on which an Advance of 87½ PCt for risque and Charges and Twenty PCt for the risque, trouble & Commission Mr Stanly had in the Adventure. Your Committee are further of Opinion that 500 lb of Gun Powder offered by Mr Stanly at 18/. p lb is at this time a reasonable Price Which Several Sums Amount in the Whole to Four Thousand Eight Hundred & forty Eight Pounds One Shilling & One Penny three farthings Prock [Proclamation] Money which your Committee are of Opinion may be Allowed & paid to Mr Stanly for the Said Goods on Acct & for the Use of the publick On delivery of said Goods at Newbern in Good Order to such Person or Persons as the Congress shall Appoint to receive them.

Humbly Submitted to this Honorable House

April 11th 1776

Jn^o Campbell

Arch^d Corry

Jn^o Cowper

W^m Johnston.

Corn^s Hartnett

[Endorsed] Report on Merchandize Invoice of Goods bo't of John W. Stanly. Concurred with Apl 1776.

1. Treasurer and Comptroller Papers (Military Papers), NCDAH.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEORGE-TOWN [SOUTH CAROLINA], APRIL 11 [1776]"¹

We have accounts from Georgia of another small brush at Cockspur: There being a few soldiers on shore cutting wood, and filling water, the militia with a few Creek Indians, fired on them and killed some, three of which the Indians scalped, they also took twelve negroes, and one white man prisoner. On this the *Cherokee* hauled close, in shore, and landed a number of men under a heavy fire, but our people fired at them several times, to some advantage, so that the men were obliged to embark, and the vessel to haul out of gun shot.² Since this we are fully informed, that all the vessels have left the river, except two.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 29, 1776.

2. For the British version of this affair see journal of H.M. Armed Vessel *Cherokee*, March 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Thursday the 11th Day of April. 1776

Ordered That the Honourable Mr Drayton and Captain [Thomas] Savage do make immediate Inquiry of Edward Blake Esquire Commissary of the Naval Department and yesterday chosen one of the Commissioners of the Colony Treasury which of the two Departments he choose to act in

The Honourable Mr Drayton reported That he with Captain Savage had made the Inquiry they were ordered of Captain Blake And that Captain

Blake said he chose to act as a Commissioner of the Treasury and to decline the Office of Commissary of the Naval Department

Colónel Pinckney presented according to Order an Ordinance to appoint a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subject to the immediate Command of the President and Commander in Chief and the same was received and read a First Time

Ordered That the Ordinance be read a Second Time

An Ordinance to appoint a Commander of the Navy of this Colony subject to the immediate Command of the President and Commander in Chief was read a Second Time and passed

Ordered That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council

Ordered, That Mr Dupont and Mr Berwicke do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

The Report of the Committee on Captain Aitkens Petition being taken into Consideration the same was debated on Paragraph by Paragraph and agreed to after a Question being put upon each

Resolved That the Commissioners appointed by the late Congress for the Sale of the Cargo of the Ship *Port Henderson* Henry Aitken late Master be Authorized to pay to the said Henry Aitken out of the Proceeds of such Sales the Sum of Five Hundred and Fifty-eight Pounds and Twelve Shillings Currency due to him for Wages also the sum of Three Hundred and One Pounds sixteen Shillings and nine pence for a Bill of Exchange paid to Mr Nathaniel Russel which being drawn upon himself is now of no Value and also the sum of Four Hundred and Sixty Nine Pounds Eight Shillings and nine Pence Currency which Captain Aitken has received from several Passengers and expended on the said Ship and is now demanded of him by the said Passengers

Ordered That a Copy of the above Resolution be sent to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence and to His Excellency the President for his Assent

Mr Speaker reported That this House and the Legislative Council had attended His Excellency the President in the Council Chamber and presented to him the following Five Ordinances and Acts to wit

An Ordinance to ascertain the Duties of a Muster Master General of the Land and Naval Forces in the Service of this Colony

An Act to empower the Court of Admiralty to have Jurisdiction in all Cases of Capture of Ships or Vessels of the Inhabitants of Great Britain Ireland the British West Indies Nova Scotia East and West Florida and to establish the Trial by Jury in such Cases

On Motion

Resolved That it is the Opinion of this House That such Crown Officers as were confined by the late Congress to Charles-Town should have Liberty (if they choose it) to depart this Colony and that this House will make Provision for the Payment of their Passages and necessary Sea Stores to Europe or the West-Indies

12 Apr.

COMMITMENT ORDER ISSUED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Colony of the
Massachusetts Bay } The major part of the Council

To the Keeper of the Goal at Boston, in the County of Suffolk –
Greeting –

You are hereby directed and commanded to take into your Custody Crean Brush, William Jackson, Peter Ramsey, Edward [H]eighley, and Richard Newton, lately taken ² in their flight from Boston in attempting to carry away from thence under the protection of the British fleet, large Quantities of Goods Wares & Merchandizes, the Rightful Property of the Inhabitants of that town, and having joined themselves with the Fleet & army employed against the united Colonies of America – and you are commanded to confine the said Crean Brush William Jackson & Peter Ramsen, each in an apartment by himself, without the Privelege of Pen, Ink, Paper or Candle, and not suffer them, or either of them to converse with any person whatever, unless in your hearing, and for the better Security of the said Crean Brush you are further ordered & commanded to put him into Handcufts immediately – And them and each of them safely keep, 'till the further Order of the Major part of the Council, or they be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law – Hereof fail not at your Peril. –

Given under our hands at the Council Chamber in Watertown, this twelfth Day of April, in the Year of the Lord 1776 –

In the name & by Order of the major part of the Council

James Otis President

By their Honors Command Perez Morton D Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 316.

2. Taken in brig *Elizabeth* by Captain John Manley's squadron of schooners.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Friday April 12th 1776

Resolved That the following Officers and Seamen be appointed for each of the Vessels now building by this Colony, and the pay pr Month allowed them agreeable to the Sums affixed – Viz

Captain	Eight pounds
Lieutenant	Five pounds Eight shillings
Second Lieut	Five pounds
Master	Four pounds
Mate	Three pounds
Boatswain	Three pounds
Boatswains Mate	Two pounds four shillings
Steward	Two pounds Eight shillings
Gunner	Two pounds Eight shillings
Gunners Mate	Two pounds four shillings

Carpenter	Three pounds
Carpenters Mate	Two pounds four shillings
Surgeon	Seven pounds
Surgeons Mate	Four pounds
Quarter Master & Master at Arms	Two pounds Ten shillgs
Pilot	Two pounds Eighteen shillings
Cook	Two pounds four shillings
Drummer	Two pounds four shillings
Sixteen Boys	at Twenty Shillings each
Eighty Seamen & Marines	at Forty Shillings each

All of which Officers, Seamen & Marines shall furnish themselves with a good effective Fire Arm, Cartouch box, Cutlass and Blanket –

And be it further Resolved That the Captains be appointed as soon as may be, which Captains when chosen shall return a List of Persons, suitable for the other Officers, and shall proceed to inlist the Number of Seamen, Marines and Boys proposed; And for further encouragement to said Officers, Seamen & Marines – it is further

Resolved That they shall be intitled to One Third part of the proceeds of all Captures that shall be by them made and finally condemned to be distributed in such manner as this Court shall hereafter determine – and that said Vessels shall be Armed and mounted with at least Twelve Carriage Guns, all of One size viz – Six pounders, and with a proper number of Swivels and Cohorns – and the Honble Council are hereby desired to Commission them to Cruize against all [British] Property agreeable to the late Resolves of the Honble Continental Congress –

Resolved that for the more effectually fortifying & Securing the Town & Harbour of Boston, the Committee already appointed for that purpose, be & they hereby are directed & impowered to purchase a Sufficient number of Old Ships or Vessels, and cause them to be sunk in the Channel between the middle ground & Castle rocks so called, in said Harbour, for preventing any Vessels of above Two hundred Tons, entering the same, & that the said Committee execute said order without loss of time, & lay their Accounts before this Court for allowance –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 752–53, 757.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS ¹

April 1776.

Moor'd in Nantasket Road.

Friday 12th Sent the Cutter on shore to Georges Island with some Necessaries for the Sick; it came on to blow so hard, that in endeavouring to fetch the Ship she was drove to the N E part of Gallops Island; and the Boats Crew took that oppertunity to Desert with the Cutter & her Masts, Yards, Sails &ca; Seven black Musquits, 7 Cutlasses, 7 Cartouch Boxes wth belts &ca Compleat.

1. PRO, Admiralty .51/776.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening April 12. 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted That the sum of One Thousand and Eighty Five pounds four shillings & Ten pence be paid Messrs Clarke & Nightingale being the Balance of their Acct out of the Treasury.

That Seventy Two pounds be paid Nicholas Cooke Esqr for Twelve bolts of Duck bot of Jacob Greene

That seven pounds be paid Nicholas Cooke Esqr being the Amount of his Acct

That Nine pounds Twelve shillings & eight pence be paid James Marsh being the Amount of his Acct –

That Seven pounds One shilling be paid Elisha Brown out of the Treasury. – being the Amount of his Acct –

Voted. That One Hundred & Sixty Cutlasses be purchased of Benja Comstock a 9/ p piece.

Meeting Adjourn'd to Monday Evening

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

OWNERS' BOND FOR THE RHODE ISLAND SLOOP *Unity* ¹

Know all Men by these Presents That I Nicholas Brown of Providence in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island &c. Merchant am held and firmly bound unto Joseph Clarke Esqr. General Treasurer of the said Colony in the Sum of Fourteen 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 Twelfth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six.

Whereas the said Nicholas Brown hath imported into the said Colony a Quantity of Powder and Warlike Stores amounting to Fourteen Hundred and Sixty eight Pounds 12/ and in Consequence of a Resolution of the Continental Congress of the Fifteenth of July last for the Encouragement of the Importation of Powder and other Military Stores hath equipped the Sloop *Unity* with a Cargo for Hispaniola amounting to Seven Hundred & Twenty one Pounds 14s/.² and whereas pursuant to said Resolution and of an Act of the General Assembly of the said Colony the said Charles Church hath received Permission from the Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor of said Colony to proceed to the Island of Hispaniola in the said Sloop with the said Cargo. Now the Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Charles Church shall in all Things during the said Voyage conform himself to the Rules of the Continental Congress and shall lay out the Sum of One Hundred & Fifty Nine Pounds of his said Cargo in Powder Military & Naval Stores &c. as also the Amount of the Sperma Coeti Candles on board

said Sloop amounting to £262.10/ in the above mentioned Articles and in Case he shall not be able to invest the whole Proceeds of the Sperma Coeti Candles in the Articles abovementioned that then he shall be permitted to lay out the remainder of the Sperma Coeti Candles in Paper Ozenbriggs Ticklenbourg German Steel Flints Lead Linnens or Woolen Cloths Jesuits Bark or Rhubarb and shall import the same into this or any other of the United Colonies the Danger of the Sea & of the Enemy only excepted that then he shall be permitted to lay out & bring back the remainder of his Cargo in such Articles as he shall think proper and shall also within three Days after his Arrival in this Colony lodge in the Secretarys Office a true Account or Manifest of his Cargo the Danger of the Sea & Seizure by an Enemy being always excepted then this Obligation shall be void or else in full Force.

Nich^s Brown³

Sealed & Delivered
in the Presence of
William Mumford
Esek Brown

1. Maritime Papers, Bonds, Masters of Vessels, R.I. Arch.
2. "In the sloop *Unity* Charles Church Master for Hispaniola 164 bbls Flour, 2½ Tons Oil, 15 bbls Pork in Keggs, 19 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 13 Kegs Meat, 4 bbls Hams, 2 M Staves and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles owned by Nicholas Brown," Account of Permissions Granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch. See Appendix A.
3. A second bond was signed the same day by Nicholas Brown for the sloop *Polly*, Remembrance Simmons, master, to sail for St. Croix, with instructions similar to those given for the *Unity*, and based upon the same quantity of powder and arms imported in the *Unity*, R.I. Arch. The cargo shipped outward on board the *Polly* consisted of "22 m.hoops, 124 Shaken Hogsheads, 25 c Staves, 1½ Tons Oyl, 12 Keggs Hogs Fatt, 6 Keggs Meat, 4 Hhds Tobacco and 60 Boxes Sperma Coeti Candles. Owned by Nicholas Brown," Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch.

PERMISSIONS GRANTED BY GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

[1776]

April 12. Sloop *Dianna* John Home Master for South Carolina with Seamen & Stores for the Publick Service, fitted by Clarke & Nightingale.²

1. Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch. See Appendix A.
2. Probably the men recruited by Captain Robert Cochran, sent from South Carolina to engage seamen for the South Carolina armed vessels.

"MANIFEST OF SLOOP *Joseph's* CARGO JAMES MUNRO MASTER FROM HISPANIOLA MARCH 1776"¹

[Providence, April 12, 1776]²

5300 lb Gun Powder
380 Muskets
17 m Gun Flints
37 Large Cutlasses
4 Swivle Guns

30 ps Check & Linen
18 doz Linen Stockings
5000 lb Coffee.
5 Bolts Oznaburgs
200 Yds Gold Lace

12 Rhms Writing Paper
18 Casks Claret Wine

11 ps Scarlet Broad Clothe

Providce April 1776 I hereby certify the above to be a true Manifest of the Sloop *Joseph's* Cargo –

James Munro

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.

2. The date is approximated. Munro, in the sloop *Joseph*, cleared Providence on another voyage to Hispaniola on April 20, 1776, and eight days between arrival and departure is a likely estimate.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl [17]76

At a Single Anchor in Rhode Island Road.

Friday 12th

at 1 A M a light breeze springing up, slip'd the Hawser to Run farther off, a great number of shot struck us, & did great damage to the Lower Shrouds & Running Rigging, one shot struck the main mast, about 6 Inches in at 2 the Row Gallies went into the Harbour & the Battery left off Firing; came too with the small Br in 21 fm water, & veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable, the fort ESE the Dumplings SWbW at 5 the Rebels got three Guns on Brintons point, & began to fire at us, several shot came Close to us, at 6 weigh'd & shifted further to the Noward; & came too with the Small Br in 15 fms water; the fort SE the ferry House WNW; got the sheet anchor over the side; empd Knotting & splicing the Shrouds & Running Rigging; the Carpenters empd fishing the Mn Mast; bent the Inner Bt Br Cable to the spare Anchor & got it over the side, saw the Rebels makeing a Battery on the South point coming into the Harbr got the spare Sails up to Barocade the Quarters.

First part fresh Gales & Squally with rain, Middle & Latter fresh Breezes & Squally: P M empd in Knotting the shrouds & Splicing the Rigging,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

[April 1776]

[Off Point Judith, Rhode Island]

Friday 12

At 7 A M Hove up, Point Judith & stood off to the Southd At Meridian saw a sail under Montock point Moderate Breezes & Heazy Tackd & stood off for S W sail under Montock At 1 Brought her too, she had been taken by the *Scarborough* man of War about 8 Days before, took out a Midshipman & Six Hands & put a Lieutenant & 3 Hands, on board, she was from Hispaniola bound to new London Loaded with Mollasses Coffee & Powder ² Beat up the Sound with the Schooner At 12 M Night struck the Bottom to the

Westward of Fisher's Iland, Back'd off & Came to in 3 fathom Water.

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The schooner *John and Joseph*. See journal of the *Scarborough*, April 8, 1776.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

New London, April 12.

Last Saturday [April 6] Capt. Samuel Champlin arrived here in 27 Days from St. Eustatia, with a Quantity of Powder and Warlike Stores. Off the Capes of Virginia, he was bro't too by a Schooner Tender of 6 Carriage and 12 Swivel Guns, and ordered to lie under her stern 'till some People could be put on Board (there being at that Time a heavy Sea) however, the Wind shifting and blowing a hard Gale, he got clear of them, after being nine Hours under their Care, and proceeded on his Voyage. Three Days after, off the middle of Long-Island, he was attacked by a Sloop Tender of 12 Swivel Guns and between 20 and 30 Men: The Tender discharged about 40 Swivels and 60 small Arms at Capt. Champlin, who with 5 Swivel Guns and 16 Men, beat her off, and chased her 30 Hours, but could not get up with her. When Capt. Champlin was attacked by the first mentioned Vessel, he threw over some Letters he had for the Members of the Continental Congress.

Capt. Champlin left at St. Eustatia the Schooner *John*, John Eikens, Master, owned at Salem, and was bound for Newfoundland.

On Monday last [April 8], Commodore Hopkins, with the Continental Fleet under his Command, arrived here from New-Providence — He sailed from Philadelphia the 17th of February last, at which Time four of his Fleet were infected with the Small-Pox, which rendered it imprudent to cruise on this Coast; and the Wind coming at N.E. the Fleet sailed for New-Providence, where they arrived the 1st of March, and on the 4th they took Possession of his Majesty's Forts and Stores on that Island . . . ¹

On the 17th of March, the Fleet sailed from thence and on the 4th Instant made the East End of Long-Island, where they fell in with his Majesty's armed Schooner *Belona*, of 6 Carriage-Guns, 8 Swivels, and 25 Men, commanded by — Wallace, a Nephew of the noted Capt. [James] Wallace,² which Vessel they took Possession of; the next Day they fell in with the Brig *Bolton* (employed by Capt. Wallace as a Bomb Vessel) which they also took Possession of; [she] has 8 Guns, 2 Howitzers, 10 Swivels, and 48 Men, and was extremely well fitted with every Kind of Warlike Stores: On the 6th, they took Possession of two Vessels outward-bound with Provisions, having no Papers on Board to shew they were qualified to proceed; — the next Morning at 2 o'Clock, they [esp]ly'd his Majesty's Ship *Glasgow*, commanded by [Ty]ringham Howe, and at 3 o'Clock engaged her with part of the Fleet, for 3 Glasses, when the *Glasgow* bore away for Newport, and was chased for 3 Glasses longer, when the Commodore gave a Signal to discontinue the Chase, not chusing to follow her any longer, (as he had a Number of his prime Sailors on board the Prizes he had before taken, and knowing

Inventory of Stores &c taken at
Fort Nassau - March 3. 1776

71 Cannon from 9 to 32 Pounds
15 Mortars from 7 to 11 Inches diam. & 4 lbs. for
5337 Shells
9831 Round Shot & 165 Chain & Ball hand dills
140 Iron Grenades
816 Sizers or false Sizers
99 Sponges Cammus & Wires
46 Copper Saddles
407 Copper Hoops & 5 Copper Powder Measures
220 Iron Trunks for Carriages
3 Bells
24 Casks Powder
A Quantity of Malacca Rope not Weighed
2 old dill Blocks with large Shrofs
1 ~~old~~ Scaie Beam - 1 ~~old~~ Hammer ~~and 2 old~~ ~~Hammer~~
3 Stann'd Bids
2 Boxes Tallow Candles
4 Barrell Flour, 4 dill Bread 4 dill But,
Part of a Cask Spirit
1 Iron Dial & 1 English Flag

Stores &c taken at Fort Montague
March 3. 1776

17 Cannon from 9 to ³² Pounds
1240 Round Shot
121 Shells
81 Iron Trunks for Carriages
22 Copper Hoops - 2 Copper Powder Measures
1 Iron, 1 Laddle
Some old Iron, Copper Head not Weighed

that he should soon have Capt. Wallace's whole Fleet to engage, some of them being in Sight, and many of his own Crew very [sickl]y). During the Engagement they took the *Glasgow's* Tender.

Six Men were killed on board the *Alfred*, and 6 wounded; and on board the Brig *Cabot* 4 were killed and 7 wounded, among the latter was the Captain, who is badly wounded in the Hand; and one Man lost his Arm on board the *Columbus*. Among the killed was Sinclair Seymour, Master of the *Cabot*, and Mr. [James Hood] Wilson, Lieutenant of Marines; and Mr. [John] Fitzpatrick, Lieutenant of Marines on board the *Alfred*. The Brig *Cabot*, received considerable Damage in her Hull, Spars, and Rigging, which occasioned her falling a-stern of the *Glasgow*; and the *Alfred* received a very unlucky Shot which carried away her Tiller Ropes and Blocks, by which Misfortune the *Glasgow* got much a-head of them.

The next Day the Fleet arriv'd in this Port, and have landed their sick Men to the Number of 120, and likewise the wounded.

Commodore Hopkins has brought in Mr. Brown, Governor of the Bahama Islands; Mr. [James] Babbage, Secretary of that Province, one of the Council, and a Half Pay Officer; also Mr. [Thomas] Irving, a Mandamus Counsellor of South-Carolina, and Receiver of his Majesty's Quit-Rents.³

A Transport with most of the above Stores, arrived here with the Fleet.

Last Tuesday Young Wallace, who was taken by our Fleet, was carried from hence under Guard to Providence.

1. Inventory of Stores follows here. For inventory list see Hopkins to Trumbull, April 8, 1776.

2. The prize was the schooner *Hawke*, not the *Bellona*.

3. The parole of these three prisoners was taken the same day, and reads as follows: "We, Montfort Browne, Esq., Governour of New Providence, Thomas Irving, Esq., and James Babbidge, prisoners in the power of the Governor and Council of Safety for the Colony of Connecticut, being delivered to them by the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies in America, having been kindly treated and protected by them, and enlarged on parole, do hereby solemnly promise and engage, on the honour of gentlemen, that we will not bear arms against the Colonies of America, in any manner whatever, for the space of twelve months, or until we may be exchanged; nor will we, during that time, take any measures to give intelligence to the British Ministry or Ministerial Army or Navy, or to any person or persons whatever relative to American affairs; but will proceed, with all convenient expedition to the town of Windham in this Colony, and peaceably abide within the limits of said township, and submit ourselves to the further directions of the said Governour and his Council of Safety; that we will not, directly or indirectly, attempt to procure any person or persons to rescue us; and that we will not go on board any British man-of-war during the continuance of our engagement not to bear arms." ConnSL.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 12th 1776

The Troops that Arrived too late at Albany to Cross the Lakes on the Ice are now at this Post and Fort Edward Impatiently waiting for the Lakes to become Navigable. I hope a day or two will Effect it all is in readiness to move Immediately the Cannon are Imbarked and all such Stores as are not perishable.

General [John] Thomas is seven Miles from this place where I have advised him to remain untill the Lake opens as we have scarcely room to lay

down at this place. the Gentlemen Committee remain at Saratoga for the Same reason.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 101-02, NA.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] 3 ho. P.M.

April 12th, 1776.

Mr. [Thomas] Randall informed the Committee that he stands in need of cash to discharge debts contracted in purchasing and in part fitting out an armed Schooner

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, advance to Mr. Thomas Randall, Esqr. the sum of nine hundred pounds on account, in part of moneys by him advanced for the purchase of an armed schooner and her arms and outfit, the Treasurer to take Mr. Randall's receipt for the same.

Ordered, That Mr. Richard Norwood, commissary of Colony stores, deliver to Thomas Randall, Esqr. two hundred and fifty pounds of gunpowder and three hundred weight of lead for the use of a small armed schooner fitted out by the marine committee by order of the Provincial Congress, the said commissary to take a receipt for the same.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 404, 405.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 12, 1776

A letter from Colonel John Haslet, of the 10th instant, enclosing an account of an engagement between the detachment of the Delaware batallion at Lewis, and a tender of the *Roebuck*; also informing that another company is wanted at Lewis, and that he had ordered one to march thither, were presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the conduct of Colonel Haslet, in ordering another company to Lewis, be approved.

Resolved, That Mr. Alexander be appointed a member of the Marine Committee, in the room of Mr. [Samuel] Chase, who is absent.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 274, 275.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 12th 1776.

While the British Ministry are taking every Step, that Cruelty and Ravage can dictate, for the Destruction of American Liberty, it is incumbent on these United Colonies to exert their utmost Efforts to defeat them. Happily for our Country, their military Operations have not been attended with the Success which they so sanguinely expected. This Circumstance however, far from abating their Rage, has had the Effect constantly produced by disappointed Passions. It has roused them to make new Exertions of

Power against us: and we now behold American Property, by a late Act of Parliament, made legal Plunder. Such a Strain of Rapine and Violence, can be equalled only by the Spirit, with which it is likely to be executed.

Having authorized the Seizure of Vessels belonging to these Colonies wherever found upon the High Seas, there is too much Reason to apprehend the Execution of the Edict, (which we may expect in its greatest Extent) will, for a Time, prove a severe Clog to the Trade of America. Under these Circumstances, the Congress in Hopes of checking in some Degree, an Evil, which they cannot, at present, remove; and acting upon the same Principles of Self-Preservation and Retaliation which they have hitherto adopted, have been induced to come into sundry Resolutions relative to the fitting out Letters of Marque and Reprizal. The Trade of America is an Object of so much Consequence, and the Protection of it so necessary, that I make no Doubt of your giving all the Encouragement in your Power, to any Measures that may be deemed expedient, for its Security & Existence. I herewith transmit Bonds, Commissions, and Instructions,² which the Congress has thought proper to request the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees of Safety, to make Use of on the Occasion. I have the Honor to be Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock Presid^t

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

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, April 3, 1776.

MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND
COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Yours of the 9th Inst. was delivered to us this day at twelve o'Clock, and we immediately handed the Packet inclosed to the President. It contained the Act of Parliament for restraining the Trade of the Colonies passed in December last, and which was received here in the Begining of February; Our friends in South Carolina supposed we might not have received the Act and therefore sent the first Copy they received – There having been an Arrival of Powder lately On Account of the Congress we just before the Rect. of your Letter borrowed a Ton and shall send it to Chester Town to wait your Order. in the Distribution thereof – Every other Colony has been supplied from the Continental Magazine & this was spared to us without Hesitation – We are Gent. [&c.]

Th Johnson Junr T. Stone

Phila April 12th 1776 OClock night –

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

JOHN ADAMS TO ABIGAIL ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 12. 1776

The Ports are opened wide enough at last, and Privateers are allowed to prey upon British Trade. This is not Independency you know. – What is? Why Government in every Colony; a Confederation among them all,

and Treaties with foreign Nations, to acknowledge Us a Sovereign State, and all that. – When these Things will be done, or any of them, Time must discover. Perhaps the Time is near, perhaps a great Way off.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I., 376–77.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO MESHECH WEARE ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 12th Apl, 1776.

Inclosed you have some papers contag the late Resolutions of Congress, Blank Commissions &c. will be forwarded by the President. I hope Col. [Josiah] Bartlett will soon be here. I expect he will be set out before this reaches you.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 121.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 12th April, 1776.

Upon application of John Cabourn for a sum of money towards the payment of Men employed in sinking the Chevaux de Frize, By order of the Board an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in his favour, for two hundred pounds.

Capt. [Charles] Alexander requesting to be dismissed from his present service, being offer'd the Command of a Vessel in the Continental Service, to be employed in the protection of our Trade,

Resolved, for the above Reasons, that his request be granted.

Capt. [John] Hazelwood having applied for a sum of Money for the service of the Fire-Rafts, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on Jno. Nixon & others, the Committee of accounts, in his favour for one hundred pounds.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 539, 540.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS' SHIPYARD ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP
Hornet ¹

Philadelphia April 12. 1776

Stephen Hopkins Esqr for Sloop <i>Hornett</i> .				Dr
To Henry Rhile	for 19 days	9/		8.11..0
John Cotton	14 do	9/		6..6..0
William McMichal	3½ do	do		1.11..6
Adam Watt	3½ do	do		1.11..6
William Jesson	5 days	do		2..5..0
John Black	5 days	do		2..5..–
2 Stages	3½ do	5½		17..6
2 potts	4	3/		12..–
2 poles				1..–

Josphua Humphreys Attendance	2..--
Thomas Heavam for 31½ days	1.11.6
To 4 Mast Cloats 1/6	6..-
bill deliver'd	<u>£27.18.0</u>

1. Wharton & Humphreys, Ship Yard Accounts, 1773-1795, Joshua Humphreys Papers, HSP.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

[Extract]

Reedy Island, April 12, 1776.

I do not think there is any probability of meeting with Capt. Barry as he has gone into Egg Harbor to put up Nettings & is besides weak handed after manning Two prizes & the Loss of some Men in his last Action, but I hope we shall make out, by running directly off the Coast. I have no Time to add save my Compliments to Presidt Hancock,

1. *The Confidential Correspondence of Robert Morris*, Stan V. Henkel Catalogue, No. 1183 (Philadelphia, 1917), Letter No. 116.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Friday 12th April, 1776]

... a ship called the *Chance*, laden with Flax seed & Staves came down from Philadelphia. She did all she could to avoid me, by going out at the Cape May Channel where I could not follow her, but as soon as I saw she was fairly out, I gave chase to her and come up with her. The Master produced an English Register, declared that his Ship belong'd to a Mercht in London, and that the Cargo was a remittance for the payment of debts, and shippd agreeable to the Act of Parlimt of Decr last. I at first believed her to be so, but on examining the Papers of a Man who pretended to be only a Passenger, I found, what appeared to me sufficient Proof, that the Cargoe at best was the Property of a Mr Cason of Philadelphia an Active Man in the Rebellion; who jointly with the before Mentiond Passenger, whose Name is Graham, had very lately imported a considerable Cargoe of Powder & arms from Holland. I therefore took out all the Sailors (who were mostly English) put on board a few others and sent the Ship to be tryed in the Court of Admiralty at Halifax; and Graham to be delivered to the Commanding officer. There wer[e] many letters found on board, all those that treated on Politicks (every one of which breathed nothing but resistance) I thought proper to suppress, as well as all the News Papers; but those Letters which were merely mercantile and containd Bills of Exchange (of which there was a number to a very considerable amount) I forwarded by the Ship to Halifax.²

anchor'd at the Back of the overfall, which I find to be a quick Sand. The Anchor buried itself in such a manner that when we came to heave it up in the morning, the Cable broke and we lost the Anchor.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hamond's Orders . . . *Chance*, Thomas Rose, Master, Mess[rs.] Curson, of Philadelphia, Owners, from Philadelphia to Cork; with Flax Seed and Staves," *London Gazette*, May 10-13, 1777. *Chance*, ship, Thomas Rose, master, "found trading on a pretended voyage from one of his Majestys Colonies now in open Rebellion," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769-1777, N.S. Arch.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON ¹

No 115

To Mr Richard Harrison. Martinico

Sir By Captn Kell we send you a Cargoe of Flour, which we hope will get safe to Hand, and meet with a good Markett – as to the Species of Returns we have heretofore wrote you fully – we have Nothing to add at present only that you would please to observe that our Bay is so full of Men of War and Tenders, that we are of Opinion that whatever Returns you send should be in small Vessels, that sail well, and may occasionally run into some of the Inlets on the Seaboard Side of Worcestor County, or come in close under Cape Charles. –

[Annapolis] 12 Apl 1776.

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

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Wm'sburg April the 12th 1776

... Before you can receive this you will have seen the Letters to Governor [Robert] Eden from Ld G. Germain. They had a good Effect here – I think almost every Man except the Treasurer is willing to declare for independency – But I fear it is too late for Virginia for if the Attack should be made here, which we have now great Reason to expect, we shall be able to make but a poor Resistance – Our Army is but an handful of raw undisciplined Troops indifferently armed, wretchedly clothed, & without Tents or Blankets – our People are some Places discontented about [Patrick] Henry's Resignation, in others on Account of the removal of the Troops from their Neighbourhood, & in others at the Apprehension of being removed as the People of Norfolk & Princess are to be into the interior Parts of the Country. In this State of Things God knows what will be the Consequence of a vigorous Push made by a Fleet & 6 or 7 Regiments.

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1776

Williamsburg, April 12.

Last Saturday capt. James Barron arrived in town with despatches from the secretary of state for governor [Robert] Eden of Maryland, which he took from on board a small vessel that had been sent by lord Dunmore to carry them to Annapolis. They were in the custody of a certain mr. [Alexander] Ross from Fort Pitt, an old offender, and an associate of the infamous [John] Connolly.

The packet contained three letters. The first, dated Nov. 10th, only serves to announce his lordship's succeeding the earl of Dartmouth as secretary for the American department. The second, of Dec. 23d, enclosed the act of parliament for seizing American property; and assures him of his majesty's being determined, in concurrence with his parliament, to pursue the most *vigorous measures for reducing his rebellious subjects in North Amer-*

ica; and then closes with the king's exhortation to the people of his government, couched in terms of the same import, which we have already seen in sundry proclamations from his governours. The third letter, being more interesting, is inserted at full length, and is as follows:

[Here is inserted George Germain's letter of December 23, 1775, to Robert Eden, which will be found under that date in Volume 3.]

By two deserters who came into York last Sunday, from [John] Goodrich's pink, commanded by one Picket of the Eastern Shore, we learn that the tenders took off our capes a French sloop with 150 barrels of powder and 250 stand of arms; there were three engineers on board likewise, whom the governour ordered to be put into irons. They also inform, that lord Dunmore has fitted out a vessel with 16 oars, that carries 50 men, 6 three-pounders, and 12 swivels; and that another was on the stocks, under the inspection of Goodrich.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Friday April 12th 1776

The Committee to enquire into the Cost of sundry Merchandizes deemed useful to the service of this province as per Invoice exhibited by Mr John Wright Standley and to agree with him for the same reported as follows, vizt

Your Committee have examined the Invoices of sundry Goods imported by John Wright Stanley the Cost of which appears to amount to the sum of three thousand one hundred sixty two peices of eight (peices 8/8) and two rials charged at St Eustatia, on which an Advance of seventy five per Cent, for risk and charges appear reasonable as they were bought in Barter; also sundry other Goods, by Invoice produced amounting [to] three thousand nine hundred thirty four peices of eight (peices 8/8) for Rials and four stivers bought with Ready Money, on which an advance of eighty seven and a half per Cent for risk, and Charges, and twenty per Cent for the risk, trouble, and Commission, Mr Stanley had in the Adventure.

Your Committee are further of Opinion the five hundred pounds of Gunpowder offered by Mr Stanley at eight shillings per pound is at this time a reasonable price; which several sums amount in the whole to four thousand eight hundred forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three farthings Proclamation Money, which your Committee are of Opinion may be allowed and paid to Mr Stanley for the said Goods, on Account and for the use of the public, on delivery of said Goods at Newbern in good order, to such person or persons as the Congress shall appoint to receive them. humbly submitted to the House

The Congress taking the same into Consideration and the said report being read concurred therewith

The Congress having agreed with Mr John Wright Stanley on Account of the public, for sundry Goods, and Merchandizes, as per Invoice exhibited;

Resolved That the Treasurers or either of them pay to John Wright Stanley the Sum of four thousand eight hundred forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three Farthings Proclamation Money, for sundry Goods and Merchandizes purchased of him on Account and for the use of this province, he first producing a Receipt from John Green, and David Baron that all and every Article contained in the said Invoice are Bona fide and actually delivered into their possession in good and Merchantable Order, and that the Treasurers be allowed in their Accounts with the Public

On Motion, Resolved, That Mr John Green and Mr David Baron of New Bern be requested to receive and take into their possession from Mr John Wright Stanley, sundry Goods and Merchandizes as per Invoice exhibited, amounting to forty eight pounds one Shilling one penny three farthings, at the risk and account of the public till further Orders.

Mr Harnett Chairman from the Committee to take into Consideration the Petition of Joseph Wood and Copartners, praying an Order to dispose of the Effects of his Excellency Josiah Martin Esquire reported as follows to wit.

Your committee having enquired into the several Allegations set forth in the said Petition do report as follows: That the said Joseph Wood and Partners, with permission of the Committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, did on the fifth day of January last past, load on Board the Sloop *Joseph*, William Raddon Master, sundry Goods and Merchandize, on their own Account to the value of Six hundred and seventy pounds three Shillings and seven pence, on the Account of William Todd, one hundred and ninety pounds, of Joseph Wood junr Ten pounds, of William Raddon, nine pounds eighteen Shillings, prime Cost in Philadelphia, all which were consigned to the said Joseph Wood and bound to Georgia; that in his passage the said Sloop and Cargo were taken by an Armed Vessel called the *General Gage*, George Sybels Master, and carried into Cape Fear, where Josiah Martin, Esquire late Governor of this Province bore the chief Command, and the officers under Command of the said Josiah Martin did violently seize the said sloop and Cargo, and apply them to the use of the Enemies of America, whereby the said Joseph and Partners lost fifteen hundred pounds Current Money of Pennsylvania over the above the Profits they might reasonably have made

The house taking the same into Consideration concurred therewith.

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provincial Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO THOMAS MCKNIGHT ¹

On board the *Pallisser* Transport
the 12th April 1776

Thos McKnight Esqr Agent for prizes

having given directions to the Commissary General to purchase the Cargo of Flour taken by the *General Gage* Sloop with the Cyder on board the other Vessel taken by that Sloop, and such a Quantity of Rice as he could

obtain at the prices that may hereafter be agreed upon I am to desire You will make application to the Court of Vice Admty for permission that those articles may be delivered and that you will in consequence of such permission deliver the same into the hands of the Commissary Generl, as I apprehend they may be immediately wanted for the use of His Majestys Troops under my Command I am &ca

H C

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, Miscellaneous Letter Books, CL.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

No Carolina Snow *Peggy* in Cape Fear River April 12th 1776
 Sir The Master of The Ship *Jenny* which I have hired for the accomodation of His Majesty's Subjects who are daily flying from the Shore for protection from the Rebels, having represented to me that there is no lumber to be had but what is reserved by The Quarter Master General for His Majesty's Service; and that for want thereof he cannot fit his Ship for the reception of the People for whom she is intended I am to intreat the favour of you Sir, if it be consistent with the preferable wants of His Majesty's Service, to direct such Supply of lumber to fit The *Jenny* as a Transport, as shall be necessary for that purpose. ²

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir [&c.]

Jo. Martin

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. *Ibid.*, the next day, Clinton issued an order to furnish the lumber.

THOMAS HARRISON TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH ¹

Copy

[Spanish Town] April 12th 1776

Sir I cannot advise your Excellency, to receive William Platt, ² and the two Witnesses against him, from the Admiral, for the purpose of having them committed, to the Kingston goal; as well for the reasons contained in my former Letter, as because I am certain, that William Platt would be less secure there, than under the Admirals custody, in the Dock-Yard. —

In regard to the Witnesses, nothing less than the most absolute necessity, can justify their being so strictly confined. From what I hear, of the character and disposition of Mr Maitland, the Master of the *Philippa*, I am satisfied means can be contrived, between the Admiral and him, to put their appearance past a question — I am with the highest respect Sir [&c.]

Tho: Harrison

1. PRO. Admiralty 1/240.

2. Ebenezer Smith Platt.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

King's House Spanish Town 12th April 1776

As it is my duty, so it is my most earnest desire on all occasions, to act conjointly with you, in every matter, which may be for the good of His Majesty's service, or in support of His Government. —

But however anxious I am, in my endeavours [fo]r these purposes, I cannot go beyond the authority vested in me, by the Law and the Constitution; I therefore thought it highly proper, to take the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General, upon your Letter of yesterday's date. –

As I think it my duty, to be guided by the officer appointed by the Crown to advise me, in matters of such nature, as your request is; his opinion (a Copy of which I have the honour to inclose) prevents me from complying therewith – I am Sir [&c.]

Basil Keith ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

2. *Ibid.*, Gayton's endorsement reads: "April 12th 1776 Letter from the Govr Inclosing the opinion of the Attorney General with respect to securing Willm Platt, and the two Witnesses in Kingston Goal during the time the *Antelope* remain'd alongside the Wharf."

13 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April [1776] Sambro Light NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 6 or 7 Ls.

Saturday 13 at 7 AM brot too Main Topsl to the Mast at 8 AM hoisted out Longbt and Yawl. sent them onbd the Sloop and set fire to her² at 11 Made Sail –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. See journal of the *Lively*, April 9, 1776.

CAPTAIN JOHN LAMBERT TO JACKSON, TRACY & TRACY ¹

Gentlemen

Old York April 13 1776

Jotham Moulton Esqr of York has paid for Small Arms for the Schooner *Diligent* & the Bills for Repairg said Schooner the Sum of Fifty Three Pounds Fifteen Shillings & 1 d – a Particular Acct of which he will herewith Render to you, Which Sum please to pay him or his Order on Acct of this Collony & you'll Oblige Gentlemen [&c.]

£-53..15..1

John Lambert

To Messrs Jackson Tracy & Tracy at Newbery Port.

[Enclosure] Sir Please to pay the above Sum of Fifty three Pounds Fifteen Shillings & 1 d to Mr Edwd Law

Jotham Moulton

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 36.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL TUCKER TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sr

Beverly April 13 1776

Please to pay Capt. Joseph Lee thirty five pounds twelve shillings it being Cash recd of him for use of the Schooner *Franklin* –

Saml Tucker

1. Bartlett Papers, BHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 13th. 1776

On the Petition of James Furze and Thomas Thompson of the Snow *Industry*,² read and ordered that said Petitioners with the rest of the Crew belonging to said Snow unless their conduct should appear suspicious to the Committee of Cohasset have liberty to return Great Britain the West Indies or elsewhere each giving his parole of honor not to act offensively against the United Colonies of America in their present contest with Great Britain.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 18, 87.

2. See *Boston Gazette*, April 15, 1776.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, April 13, 1776

A Bill for amending an Act intituled an Act for the encouraging the fixing out of Armed Vessels for the defence of America – having passed the House of Representatives to be Enacted –

In Council Read a Second time, and passed a Concurrence to be Enacted –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 758.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 13th 1776

The Committee of Both Houses, appointed to Take under Consideration a Letter from the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Marblehead Informing this Court that there Was Sent to Said Town twenty two persons Who Where Taken on Board the Brigantine *Sally* by Capt John Manley (in the Continental Service) from Boston Bound to Hallifax the Committee Report by Way of Resolve

Resolved that the Soldiers belonging to the British Army with their Wives and Children, be sent to General Ward and that Caleb Wheaton and others who were taken on the Board the Brign *Sally* by Capt John Manly be sent to this Court for Examination, except the Women & Children, and them (exclusive of the Soldiers Wives & Children) to be disposed of by the Committee of Correspondence of Marblehead in that way & manner that shall be the least charge to Government – And that Brigadr [Michael] Farley be desired in season to collect the Accompts of the necessary Expences attending the support and maintenance of these and all the other persons taken on board the same Vessel, & endeavour to have the same discharged out of the monies arising on the Sales of the Cargo & effects found on Board the said Vessel.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 208, 393; vol. 34, 757, 758.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD THORNBROUGH ¹

April 1776 So End Nantucket Shoals No71Wt 17 Leagues
 [Saturday] 13 Spoke at 3 AM His Majs Brig *Diligence* Lieutenant [Edmund] Dodd Comr from Halifax, out 7 Days, and Inform'd us he had Orders to Send all Men of war to Halifax

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

COLONEL HENRY BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Rhode Island Head Quarters 13th April 1776

Sir I propose sending a Flag on Board the *Scarborough* to settle a Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners as we have several hope it will meet with Your Approbation – Once more must beg you would send down the 24 W Shot & some Cartridge Paper I have the Honour to be [&c.]

H. Babcock

1. "Nicholas Cooke Correspondence," *AAS Proceedings*, New Series, XXXVI, 317.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76 Moor'd in Rhode Island Road.
 Saturdy 13th A M the Carpenters empd fishing the Main Mast, a Boat came on board from the Rebels; saw them moving three pieces of Cannon from Brinton's point, the Rebels empd on their Battery at the entrance of the Harbour, empd in repairing the Rigging & sails came in a Sloop one of our prizes ² opened a Cask of Beef & supplied the *Symetry* with a Cask of Beef & 2 Firkins of Butter, found the Ship to drift, Let go the spare Anchor under foot, bent another Mizen Topsail.
 First & Middle part fresh Breezes & Hazy, Latter Modte & Clear; P M empd as above, at 4 came on board a Boat from the Town with a flagg of Truce, at 9 the Rebels began to fire at us from a Battery on Connanicot Island, close to the water side behind a Rock, they Continued firing at us 'till 11 oClock

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. *The Greyhound*, taken April 5, 1776.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Providence, April 13.

Sunday night last Admiral Esek Hopkins, in the *Alfred* Man of War, with six others of the Continental Fleet, very deeply laden with Cannon and warlike Stores from New-Providence, arrived at New-London. On Thursday the 4th instant they fell in with and took the Bomb Brig, Capt. Steeds [Edward Sneyd], one of the piratical Fleet that has long infested our Bay; she mounted 8 Carriage Guns, 2 Howitz, and had on board a considerable

Quantity of Stores. The next day they took another of the Pirates, an armed Schooner, mounting 6 Carriage Guns, commanded by one Wallace, a Nephew to the Villain who has the chief Command on this Station. ¹ And on Saturday morning, the 6th instant, at Four o'Clock off Point Judah, the Admiral, Capt. John Hopkins in the *Cabot*, and Capt. [Abraham] Whipple in the *Columbus*, fell in with the *Glasgow* Ship of War, of 24 Guns, and her Tender, the latter of which was taken; the *Glasgow*, after an Engagement of three Hours, in which she was much damaged, bore away for the Harbour of Newport to join Capt. [James] Wallace, and our Fleet being so heavy laden with their valuable Cargoes, she unhappily escaped. On board the Admiral's ship 6 Seaman and a Midshipman belonging to the Bomb Brig, who was in the cockpit, were killed, and 6 or 7 wounded; – Capt. John Hopkins of the *Cabot* was wounded in the Head; the Master (Mr. [Sinclair] Seymour of Philadelphia), a Lieutenant of Marines and 2 Seamen killed, and 4 wounded – on board the *Columbus* one man was wounded. 'Tis not yet known what loss the *Glasgow* sustained, but it must have been great, as before she got off her Quarter Deck was observed to be entirely [deserted]. The Continental Fleet the same Day proceeded up the Sound for New-London, where we hear they are landing their Cargoes, and will soon be in a Condition to attack the ministerial Fleet. Besides the Prizes above mentioned, they carried in a Brig and Sloop from New-York, laden with Wheat and Flour, supposed to have been destined for the Supply of our Enemies. The Officers and Men on board the Continental Vessels behaved with the greatest Bravery, and had the Engagement happened a few Miles further distant from Newport, the *Glasgow* must have fallen into their Hands.

As soon as the *Glasgow* got in, the *Rose*, Capt. Wallace, the *Nautilus*, Capt. Collins, the *Swan*, Capt. Ayscough, with several Tenders and pirated Prizes, stood out to Sea, leaving the *Glasgow*, a large Snow, and two small Sloops, at Anchor, about three Quarters of a Mile from Brenton's Point. – The ensuing Night, a Party of Troops carried one 18 Pounder, one 9, one 6, and two 4 pounders on said Point; and early next Morning saluted the *Glasgow* with such Warmth that she slipped her Cable, and pushed up the River, without firing a Gun, under all the Sail she could make, and the others followed with great Precipitation. By the terrible Cracking on board the *Glasgow*, the Noise and Confusion among her Men, it is thought the Cannon did some Execution. – The Wind shifting to the Northward about Noon, those Vessels ran down the Back of Conanicut and stood out to Sea, supposed to have gone in Quest of Capt. Wallace, to make a woeful Complaint of the Incivility of the *Yankies*!

A number of Negroes belonging to the Town of Newport were found on board the Vessels taken from the Enemy.

On Thursday last [April 11] Capt. Wallace, of the armed Schooner above mentioned arrived here from New-London, properly escorted, and is now safely secured in Gaol.

Sunday last [April 7], in the Forenoon, as a Company of American Regulars were getting up the Cable and Anchor the *Glasgow* had a little before left in her great Fright, a large Prize Sloop came in (Capt. [William] Wall, of this Place, from Maryland, loaded with Flour, &c.) which Wallace had carried out with him the Day before; and it being a very thick Air, and she expecting to find the *Glasgow* lying where she was left, got close in with the Boat before they discovered her, when the Boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her into Newport. She had on board 7 Men, and one Woman.

Thursday Evening the *Scarborough* Man of War of 20 Guns, from Georgia, a Snow of 16 Guns, and a Brig and Sloop, came to Anchor in the Harbour of Newport. – The same Night the two Row Gallies from this Town boarded and took the Brig and Sloop, and attempted to board the Snow; but she having a great Number of Marines on board, they were obliged to quit her. – ² A Battery at the North End of Newport, and the Gallies, afterwards played so effectually on the *Scarborough* and Snow, as obliged them to slip their Cables, and run under Cananicut, where they remained Yesterday. – Mr. Daniel Jenckes Tillinghast was wounded on board one of the Gallies. – The Brig Taken is loaded with Bread and Flour, the Sloop with Salt.

The Anchors and Cables of the *Scarborough* and Snow, which they so hastily left, have been since taken up by our People, with one or two others belonging to the Pirates.

Tuesday last Capt. Packard arrived here from the West-Indies; he sailed from this Port the 12th of February last, and on the 11th ult. off St. Eustatia, was taken by the *Pomona* Frigate, of 22 Guns, and carried to St. Kitts. – He informs that the *Argo* of 28 Guns cruizes off St. Eustatia with the *Pomona*; that an armed Pilot Boat is stationed between St. Eustatia and St. Martins, and that a Number of Frigates are cruizing among the Windward Islands.

Capt. Packard left St. Kitts in a Vessel bound to Barnstable, the 14th of March, at wick Time 9 Sail of Transports from England, with Troops, which had been blown off the Coast last Winter, lay there; 11 other Transports, and 5 Vessels laden with Rum and Sugar for the ministerial Army, were at Antigua; the whole were to sail in a few Days for Boston, under Convoy of the *Experiment* and *Hind* Frigates. – The Transports had taken all the 4 Pounders out of the Fort at St. Kitts, to defend themselves against the American Cruizers. A Transport Snow, mounting 16 Guns, and two Brigs, laden with rum and Sugar, bound to Boston, sailed from St. Eustatia the 15th of March.

Between 20 and 30 Sail of American Vessels had been taken and carried to Antigua, 17 of which had been condemned the 13th of March. Among the latter were three Vessels from Virginia, which had on board Certificates signed by Lord Dunmore, setting forth that the Owners were Friends to Government, also another from New-York, having a like Certificate from Capt. [George] Vandeput, of the *Asia* Man of War. The Masters were told

that the Colonies were in a state of Rebellion, and that no Distinction would be made between the Property of Whigs and Tories.

1. This account transposes the dates of the capture of the Bomb Brig *Bolton*, and the armed schooner *Hawke*.
2. The two prizes recaptured by the Rhode Island galleys were the brig *Georgia Packet*, and the sloop *Speedwell*; see libels against both advertised in the *Providence Gazette*, April 27, 1776.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir,

Saratoga April 13th 1776.

We have been here some days waiting for Genl Schuyler's Orders to proceed, which we have just received, & shall accordingly leave this Place tomorrow. Tho by the Advices from Canada communicated by him to us, & as we suppose sent forward to you, I am afraid we shall be able to effect but little there. We had a heavy Snow here yesterday, and the Waters are so out, as to make Travelling difficult by Land, & there is a strong Fresh in the River agt the Boats, but we shall endeavour to get on as well as we can. We join in Respect to the Congress, & to yourself in particular. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

B Franklyn

1. John Hancock Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 4 ho.P.M. April 13th, 1776

A letter from Major-General Schuyler to General [William] Thompson was read, of which the following extract is the last sentence, to wit:

Will you be so good as to request the New-York Congress that the sailors may be sent up without delay?

Capt. Jacobus Wynkoop, on request, attended the Committee, and agreed to accept of and execute the following order:

Ordered, That Capt. Jacobus Wynkoop do enlist the number of mariners desired by Major-General Schuyler for the service at the lakes, with all possible despatch; that Capt. Wynkoop proceed to Albany with the said mariners to General Schuyler, and take his directions as to the vessels on the lakes until the Honourable the Continental Congress shall have appointed him to that command, or some other gentleman shall arrive at the Lakes, authorized to take the command.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 408.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

My Dear Sir You will Doubtless be much Surprized At the Movement of his Majesty's Troops. I am most exceedingly hurt at the unfortunate Necessity there was for their Steering to the Northwd; For I am sure had it been possible for them to come here, Success would have been easy; a Month hence will be very Different, having now in our Neighbourhood General [Is-

rael] Putnam and about fifteen Thousand, these are Indefatigable in fortifying, a great deal has been done already as you will see by the Enclosed Paper, besides which they are now at work upon Governors Island, and at the Narrows; From my being under a Necessity of moving down towards the Hook for want of water, Not that I could possibly flatter myself with a Hope of preventing their carrying on those works, yet think they might have been retarded

I am much Afraid My Dear General you are also greatly disappointed, for if the News Papers say true, you are returned to Virginia our prospect does not appear so Clear at [*sic* as] when we were last together, may we meet in better Times is the Sincere Wish of Dear Sir [&c.]

H^d Parker

Phenix New York

April 13th. 1776

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 13, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to build two galleys, capable of carrying each two 36 or 42 pounders, to oppose the enemy's vessels in bays and harbours.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 276, 280.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 13th April, 1776.

The Commodore or Commanding officer at Fort Island, was this day directed to suffer all River Vessels not having Pilots on Board, to pass the Chevaux de Frize, and was a few days since directed not to suffer any Sea Vessels to pass without a permit from this Board.

Resolved, That Doct'r Matthew McHenry be & he is hereby appointed Surgeon to the Provincial Ship *Montgomery*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 540, 541.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRITISH SLOOP *Edward* ¹

Port of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania, ss.	}	TO ALL whom it may concern
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Notice is hereby given, That a Court [of Admiralty] for taking cognizance of, and trying the justice of captures of vessels made pursuant to the Resolves of the Honorable the Continental Congress, and brought into this port of Philadelphia, will be held at the court-house, in the city of Philadelphia, on the 29th day of April instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to try the truth of the facts alleged in the bill of John Barry, Es-

quire, Commander of the brigantine of war called the *Lexington* (who as well &c.) against the armed vessel sloop or tender called the *Edward*, burthen about fifty tons, mounting six carriage guns, and lately commanded by Richard Boger, Esq; – To the end and intent that the owner of the said vessel called the *Edward*, or any person concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel with her appurtenances should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge.

Andrew Robeson, Register.

[Philadelphia] April 13, 1776.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 13, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks On Saturday the 13 of April [1776] [Under Cape May]

8 [A.M.] Saw the *Robuck* Came two By the Light Houes Histead out the Boot to go one Bord the Sloop ²

2 [P.M.] Thes 24 hours Bignes with Light airs
at 4 p m wade & Sailed With the Ships & Scooner from Cape may one a Cruss

At Sun Sat Cape may Boar W N W Dist about 3 Leaugs
the *Robuck* in Cheas of Us,
at Dark Lost Sight of her

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. The sloop in which Silas Deane was a passenger.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 13 April 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Mr Thos Contee (for the Use of Mr William Allain) seventeen Pound thirteen Shillings for Boat Hire for *Hornet* and *Wasp*.²

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

2. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and Continental schooner *Wasp* which were outfitted in Baltimore in January and early February 1776.

THOMAS LUDWELL LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Wmsburg April 13th 1776

Dear Brother . . . The last accounts from [North] Carolina mention that Clinton landed on an Island in Cape Fear with about six hundred men, where he is chiefly employ'd in teaching his soldiers the street firing. – General [James] Moore watches his motions with an army of 3000. – General [Robert] Howe, in a letter I reced yesterday from Halifax, N.Carolina, speaking of the Convention which now sits there, says “they have raised three new regiments, and are contemplating on[e] more; – they loose all thought of expence in their ardor to promote the common cause” & further, “Independence seems to be the word, I know not a dissenting voice” The last certain

intelligence of the continental fleet left them in Charles Town S. Carolina. An express was sent to [Esek] Hopkins there, from N. Carolina, to inform him, how sure a prey G. [Governor] Martin, Clinton, & all the immense naval and military stores at Cape Fear would be to him, if he moved with his fleet to that place. This event has been since constantly expected with great impatience. General Lee has held up to the Council of safety at Newbern a noble object of Naval enterprize at Norfolk & has urged them to propose the affair to Hopkins, if he comes this way; with this additional inducement, that should it be imprudent to return to sea on account of the number of british ships of war which may be expected on the american coast, he can, by a battery erected on an Island, at the mouth of the river leading up to Norfolk, make for himself a safe harbour against the Navy of G. Britain: The committee have returned the General an answer that they think the matter of great importance, & will inform the Admiral. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg 13th Apl 1776

. . . Our Enemies are prosecuting their Vengeance, particularly against our Traders, with a relentless & unremitted fury. . . . We are in hourly Expectation of the Fleet from Britain. It seems their immediate Destination was for [North] Carolina, with a View, no doubt, to aid the Insurgents of that Province. Clinton's Disappointment in that Quarter will probably be the Means of altering the Plan & it is very likely that Virginia will be honor'd with the first Visit. [William] Howe's Desertion of Boston was shameful indeed; but I wish some of the Southern Colonies may not feel the bad Effects of it. Perhaps it might have been better for the united Colonies in general, if he could, without Danger, have been kept pent up, at least some time longer & until the rest of their forces had been Weakend by their Division. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1776

Williamsburg, April 13.

On Sunday the 30th ult. the sloop *Liberty*, of Perth Amboy, from St. Eustatia, with 83 barrels of gunpowder, 21 bales of dry goods, and two hogsheads of medicines, was taken by a tender, off the capes of Philadelphia, and carried into Norfolk. The Captain, and three passengers, are made close prisoners. The mate escaped; he says he was an Antigua, where were 7000 British troops, making preparations to sail for some part of the continent; that the *Roebuck*, and another man of war (which he supposed was the *Mercury*) at the time he was taken, lay in Delaware bay; that there were so many tenders cruising upon the coast, and the caiffes on board so very vigilant since the proclamation came over directing the distribution of the prizes, that it was almost impossible for any vessel to escape them.

We were informed yesterday that the Governor had taken a French sloop (probably it is the same we mentioned in our last) from Martinico, with two engineers on board, a considerable quantity of gunpowder, and 150 or 200 stands of arms.

Two of the Negroes who mistook one of our armed vessels at James-town for a tender, and expressed their inclination to serve Lord Dunmore, are under sentence of death, and will be executed in a few days, as an example to others.

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

[April 1776] W end Tortuga E $\frac{1}{2}$ S 4 or 5 L[eagues]
 Saturday 13 AM 2 Clos'd reefd Miz Topsl – In 2d reefs Main and fore
 Topsls At 5 gave Chace to a Sail to the Eastwd – Out 2 reefs &
 Fired 2 Guns and brot to the Chace a Sloop from Casco Bay.
 Made Sail and gave Chace in Shore. Fired two Guns, and
 brot to a Schooner from Cape Nichola to Newfoundland.
 Brot to Main topsail to the Mast. –
 Found the Sloop Loaded with Lumber from New Falmouth in
 New England sent a Petty Officer and three Men (having
 seizd her) to take Charge of her.² At 6 In 2 reefs and made
 Sail – the Sloop parted Company for Jamaica.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. Sloop *Lovely Lass*, James Bodrick, master, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO COUNT D'ARGOUT ¹

(A Copy) English Harbour Antigua 13th April 1776.

Sir I have this moment had the honour of receiving your Excellencys Letter of the 20th March past, by Monsieur De Marigny Commander of His Most Christian Majesty's Frigate the *Cerein*, notifying to me that His Most Christian Majesty had been pleased to appoint you to succeed the Count De Noziers (who returns to France) as Governor General of that Island and its Dependencies; I have great pleasure in receiving this notification and beg leave to Congratulate your Excellency on the high honour conferred on you by the King your Master. I am at the same time very happy to perceive your Excellency expressing such an earnest desire to maintain a friendly intercourse of mutual Good Offices among our respectives Colonies; and I entreat the favour of you to rest assured it is my full intention, at all times to exert my best endeavours to cultivate the same.

The Account your Excellency has inclosed me in Answer to the written Intelligence I did myself the honour to transmit the Compte de Noziers the 9th March last, concerning the Shipping Gunpowder Arms &c. to His Britannic Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in North America, shall be transmitted to the British Court by the first opportunity for England, and I wish the same may give a reasonable Satisfaction in that matter as I flatter myself your Excellency will Rigourously exert your Authority to prevent for the fu-

ture any Supplies of that kind being Shipped from any part of your Government to the North American Rebels.

I am also to apologize to your Excellency for a mistake which happened at Roseau, in the Island of Dominica, by the Second Officer on board His Britannic Majesty's Frigate the *Argo*, firing some Shot at your Frigate the *Cerein*, when coming into that Bay, it happened it seems in the night and the *Argo*'s Officers not perceiving any Colours mistook her for an American Vessel endeavouring to make her escape from them: this Captain [William] Garnier and his Lieutenant (who are now here) assure me was really the Case; and the Lieutenant says He had not the least Intention to Insult his Most Christian Majesty's Flag, and is exceeding Sorry for his mistake therein. I have the honour to be [&c.]

Jam^s Young

His Excellency the Compte Dargout
His Most Christian Majesty's
Governor General of the Island Martinique &c.&c.&c.

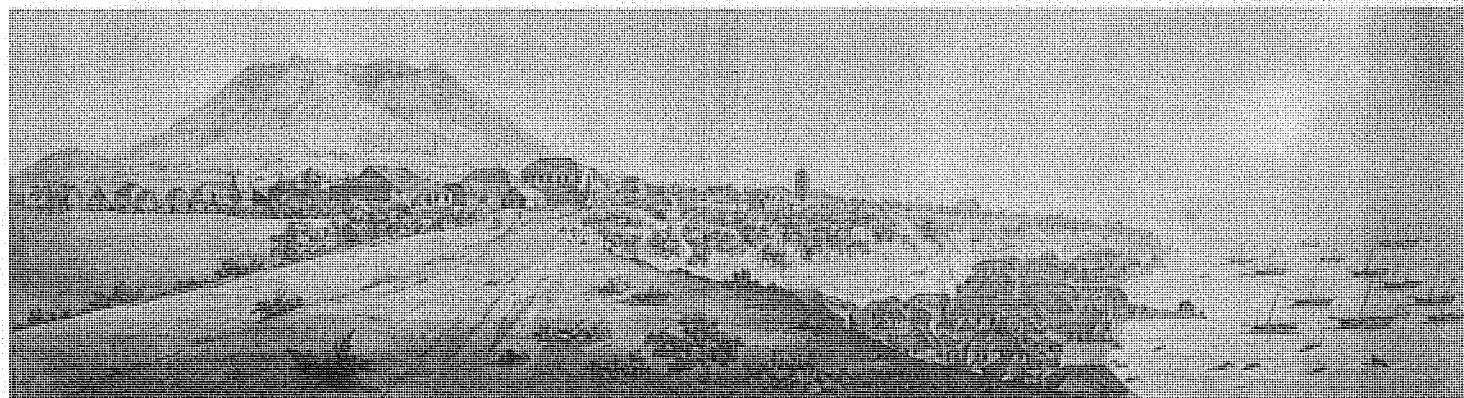
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

JACK THOMPSON TO S. BURLING ¹

St. Eustatia, 13th April, 1776.

Sir – I wrote you the 9th instant, via Maryland, to the care of Mr. Clem. Biddle, merchant in Philadelphia, in whose hands I begged you long since to keep letters for me, as he would have more frequent opportunities to forward them than you from New-York, they having four pilot boats in this trade, and they outsail every ship they meet with. The sloop [blank] Whar-ton, and Capt. Porter, are out from this nine weeks; no account of them. David Morris and two others, who sailed three weeks after them, are safe arrived in Philadelphia. Am very uneasy about Mount, and still I am very certain he was not taken in the West Indies. We have daily advices from most of the islands; but in case she is arrived, and not in your power to send her out again in safety, which I should be very sorry for; in that case you and T.G. must be mindful of the remittance, and believe it would be as easy to make from Philadelphia, if not more so, than from New-York. The merchants there have large sums owing them at St. Kitts and Antigua, and the factors want to remit, and T. and A. no doubt would think hard of a disappointment, particularly at this time, when they have fathered so many American vessels, and they all want cash.

I apprehend you will have a warm summer, as all the troops have quitted Boston for New-York, and the preparations you are making, I hope, will enable you to give them a warm reception. I am astonished the merchants at New-York, Philadelphia, and other places on the Continent do not fit out privateers as last war, with commissions from Congress to take all vessels coming from or going to Europe, from any part of the world whatever, as English bottoms; the Admiral has given two commissions at Antigua and one at Dominica, to vessels fitted out by the merchants and planters, to take all American vessels they can meet with; and I must say I do wish the Amer-



(Top) Port Royal, Jamaica. (Bottom) St. Eustatius.

icans would return the compliment. If two or more privateers did once appear in the West Indies, all kinds of produce, particularly sugar and rum, would fall 25 per cent. Since we had advice of the fleet sailing from Philadelphia, the shippers to Europe offer 10 per cent premium against American privateers only, and many of the merchants that have wrote for insurances expect to be disappointed. By a vessel from Madeira, we are advised that three outward bound Indiamen were laying there waiting for convoy, with large quantities of wine on board, and I am very well convinced if a few privateers were sent into these seas, it would prevent any sugars being shipped this season, they are so damnably frightened since these few vessels sailed from Philadelphia.

Twenty-nine sail transports, under convoy, passed here last Saturday from Antigua, with troops and stores for the army that was at Boston. Rum is very plenty in every island, 18d. and 20d. per gallon; the transports have taken in a large quantity at St. Kitts and Antigua, which kept the price at 2s. 6d. Lumber is £40 per M. and in making sugar hogsheads every second stave is made out of boards brought from Egg Harbour, and they will not have hogsheads for rum nor molasses; and the Congress would do right to forbid any lumber being shipped from any part of the Continent; and a few privateers to pick up the Irish vessels with beef and pork, would be the plan, and 20 or 30 sugar ships convoyed in safe to any part of America, would be glorious prizes, and then to sell the cargoes on reasonable terms, would enable the Congress to carry on a war for seven years. If these vessels were constantly kept cruising, I am very well convinced every English island in the West Indies would be ruined in three years; and you may be assured if some such plan is not adopted by the Congress, America is ruined. The army at Boston is constantly supplied with bread, flour, wine, rum, molasses, gin, beef and pork, from the West India islands, and that will continue to be the case let the army go where they will, unless they receive a check from the privateers. The great Mr. [John] Burke, who was taken last winter going into Boston with a cargo of rum and sugar,² is returned to Antigua, and is now fitting and loading three vessels for the same purpose. I am exceedingly sorry he made his escape, or was suffered to leave the Continent, as he is concerned in the two privateers that are fitted out there.

No beef nor pork at market; butter £12 per firkin, tobacco £5 per cwt. rice 40s. corn 16s. pease none, flour £12 per barrel and plenty, hams 18d per lb. cheese 18d. sheep and poultry any price you may please to ask.

My compliments to friend Helen and family, Captain [Anthony] Rutgers and others. I am,

Jack Thompson.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 185.

2. Taken by John Manley December 8, 1776. Burke was listed as a passenger on board the brig *Little Hannah*, bound from Antigua for Boston with a cargo of rum.

14 Apr. (Sunday)

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sunday, April 14th, – My brother Jabez arrives from Antigua, and Turk Island with some salt, rum, and molasses. He was seized by His Majesty's Ship *Pomona*, and carried into Antigua, and condemned. A gentleman bought his vessel for him, and she is registered there. He is obliged to go to Halifax to enter. He tells me my brother Hezekiah, he heard in the West Indies, was safe arrived at Norwich.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, I, 118.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Boston April 14th 1776 –

Sir I now enclose you a more particular Accot of the Vessels, left by the Enemy at Boston; also an Inventory of the Ordnance and Ordnance stores. I have not included those that are at the Castle Island, because General Ward informs me, that the Province claim the whole of them. we have found within this week, Anchors and Cables, worth at least £3,000 Sterling. they weigh from 35 hundred weight, down to 500 Wt (meaning the Anchors.) taken out in three or four fathom water, at low tide. I hope the Continental Congress, will allow us, salvage, upon these as well as other things, which we have secured. I have had only 12 Men employed constantly, in clearing the Docks &c, which do not belong to the Army. On thursday last [April 11], the people at Cohasset observing a Brigg coming up the Bay, armed themselves, and mann'd three or four whale boats, went off and found her to be a merchant-man, boarded and took her. she was from the West Indies, laden with Rum & Sugar, Rum 300 Hhds, for General [William] Howe's army, which they expected to find here. On friday morning last, ran away from the *Renown*, ship of war now lying in Nantasket Road, 8 british seamen, that belonged to her; who brought off the Cutter & landed at Point Shirley, and are now in this town. Commodore Manly's crew, that he took in the last rich prize, are in close prison in this Town. Mr [William] Jackson, [Crean] Brush and 3 others, were examined by the General Court, who were all committed to prison Yesterday, Brush in Irons. I expect to settle all my Accots and finish all matters in my late Department this Week; and shall be much obliged to you, to give me leave to come to New York, to have a final settlement with Colo Mifflin, and deliver up the Books &ca.

[Enclosure]

Inventory of Stores belonging to the King & left in Boston, taken the 18th & 19th March 1776, by Order of Thomas Mifflin, Esqr Quarr Mast-General of the Continental Army –

a Briga about 120 Tons loaded with Oyl and Pearl Ash
a Schooner, abt 80 Tons, scuttled with 200 Hogshead
of Salt on board 150 do in a Store 100 Bundles Iron
Hoops

Long Wharf	157 Pack Saddles
	123 Water Casks
	a Brig. Scuttled, about 140 Tons
	a Sloop do 70 do
	a Schooner do 40 do
	1000 Chaldron Sea Coal
	52 Iron Grates
	Gen Gages Chariot taken out of the Dock, broke
	a Quantity of Cordage & old Cable do
	5 Anchors
Greens Wharf	abt 200 Blanketts
	42 3/2 Jarrs, (large) of Sweet Oyl -
Hatch's Wharf	3 Cannon dble Charg'd & Spiked
Hancocks Wharf	a New Ship about 300 Tons, Scuttled
	a Schooner 70 do do
	abt 1000 Bushs Salt
	3000 Blanketts
	30 Water Casks
Tudors Wharf	a Ship about 350 do do
Dummets Wharf	5000 Bushells Wheat in Store
	a Sloop abt 60 do do
	a fishing Boat
Webbs Wharf	a Sloop About 60 Tons Scuttled
Fullers Wharf	abt 500 Bushlls Salt
Fitch's do	do a Schooner 70 do do
B M Genls Office	abt 1000 Bushells Sea Coal } also Lumber
	& one Clock }
	abt 150 Hogsheads Lime
	4 BB flour
	100 Empty Iron Bound Casks - Carr'd to fort Hill }
	by Order of General Putnam }
	10 24 lb Cannon Cartridges
Tilestons Wharf	300 Hogsheads Salt
	3 Brigts 1 150 tons 1 120 tons & 1 130 Tons
	the Brigg <i>Washington</i> , commd by Capt Martindale }
	with all her Guns in the Dock }
	1 & 1/2 Hogshead Sugar
	A Quantity picketts, fascines & Gabeons, in Store
	abt 5000 feet Boards
Griffins do	a number of Iron Grates
	abt 1500 Ruggs & Blanketts
Hubbards do	50 water Casks, Iron bound, carr'd to fort Hill.
	by order of Genl Putnam
	1 Cask Deck Nails
	abt 200. Cord Wood
	abt 200 Chaldron Sea Coal

South Battery	52 ps Cannon, trunnions broke off & spiked
or	600 feet Boards
Laboratory	abt 30 Iron Bound Casks Car'd to fort-Hill } by Order of Genl Putnam } A Number of Ball & empty Shells a Brigtn 120 Ton a Schooner 60 Tons
Wheelrights Wharf	14 Anchors 3½ Hogsheads Brimstone 300 Hogsheads Salt A Quantity Log wood 3 Hogsheads Sea Coal 1 13 Inch Mortar with an Iron Bed, a Numbr of Shells Carcasses, & Cannon Shott in the Dock 600 Bushells of Corn & Oats
Halls Wharf	100 sacks Bran
& in his	8 Hogsheads Molasses
possession	100 Empty Iron Bound Casks 2 Schooners, abt 60 Tons each 1 Sloop 40 do 10 Horses Teams & Harness
Hutchinsons	a New Ship abt 350 Tons, Scuttled
Wharf	2 Briggs do 120 do each, do 2 Sloops do 60 do do
Winisimet do	a new Ship, building, thrown off the Stocks 200 Ton Donation abt 100 Bushells Salt, Store pulld down
Pecks Wharf	abt 100 Hogshds essence of Spruce 10 Hogsheads Beef 6 do Molasses not quite full 5 Barrells do a Sloop abt 50 Tons, ¾ full Molasses –
at Mr Lovells	Gen Gages Coach a Phaeton & Harness compleat 20 Iron potts & Kettles a Parcel Lumber Tools & Joice
Joy's Yard	20 Barrells flour
Hills Bake House	10,000 Bushls Wheat & flour not bolted
North &	1500 do Bran
South Mills	13 Empty Iron Bound Butts
King's Brewery	14 Hogsheads Spruce Beer 2 Iron Tier'd Trucks
Town Granary	1000 Bushells Bran 100 do Horse Beans
Vincent's Stable	10 Ton Hay
Lows Lumber	50,000 Shingles
Yard	35,000 feet Boards

1000 Clap boards
 20 Hand Barrows
 Henderson Inches abt 6 Tons Hay
 Store near
 Beacon Hill
 Stables at the abt 10 Ton Hay
 Rope walks 110 Horses, by return this day

Boston, March 20th 1776.

Jn^o G. Frazer DQMG. ²

1. Washington Papers, L.C.

2. This inventory superceded preliminary one made by Frazer on March 18, 1776 which is also in the Washington Papers.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Honble Sirs

Boston April 14th, 1776

I have taken the liberty to inclose you, Copys of the Lists of Vessells,² and Ordinance & ordinance Stores, left by our Enemy in this Town; all of which I have properly secur'd since they evacuated it, A More particular Account of the Cargo's foun'd in the Vessells, with an Account of all other Kings Stores, will forward as soon as I can ascertain the amount of each article; I was order'd in here by the Quarter Master General the same Day the Enemy left the Town, in Order to take an Account and Secure all Kings Stores which I've been constantly employ'd about ever since, and hope to finish in about two Weeks, when I shall Render an Account of the Whole of my Proceedings to Colo Mifflin, Q M G. The amount of Kings Stores alone will I am sure be worth upward of Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling, besides a Number of Cables and Anchors, taken up out of the Harbour in three & four fathom of Water, the Anchors weight from Thirtyfive Hundred down to five, some very large Cables almost new. The Value of these two articles that I have already got, is computed by good judges to be worth Three Thousand Pounds Sterling. I've only had twelve Hands employ'd in this Work two Weeks, they are Men that I hir'd belonging to the Town, who are very well acquainted with the Harbour. I hope in two Weeks more to Clear the Harbour, and get out a number more Anchors & Cables, &c. the Men expect to be allow'd Salvage besides their pay for every thing taken beyond low water mark, as well as for the Cargoes of Salt, which wou'd all have been lost, had not we us'd the greatest industry to have got it out, as the Vessells were all left scuttled - Your Honours will judge whether this demand is Resonable, and please to let me know your determination: If you think my Extraordinary trouble is worth any more, than my pay as Assistant Qr Master General, you'l please to make me what allowance you think proper.

His Excellency has been pleas'd to give me a Majority in the 6th Regiment of Foot, which I shall join as soon as I finish the above Business, which I am Order'd to do - and am Your Honours [&c.]

John G. Frazer, A Q M G

P S The Quarter Master General has fix'd upon Jonathan Williams Esqr of

Boston, as Agent to dispose of all Stores found here, except what we want for our Army, he has already sold to a large amount, Horses, Wheat, Coal Flour &c

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, IX, 17-19, NA.

2. See next entry.

LIST OF VESSELS REMAINING IN BOSTON AFTER THE BRITISH EVACUATION ¹

1. A Brigantine Privateer, commanded by Captain Martindale, taken by the *Fowey*, man-of-war, burden one hundred and ten tons; at Tileston's Wharf.²
2. A Brigantine loaded with Salt, one hundred and twenty tons, owned by Major Peddrick, of Marblehead; at Tileston's Wharf, scuttled.
3. A Brigantine loaded with Salt, one hundred and forty tons, owned by Robert Hooper, Esq., of Marblehead; at Tileston's Wharf.
4. A Brigantine from Jamaica, belonging to Providence; no cargo on board; one hundred and twenty tons; at Tileston's Wharf.
5. A Brigantine loaded with Lumber, one hundred and forty-five tons, Captain Pike master; masts cut away.
6. A small Fishing-Boat, ten tons, owned by Moses Pitcher; at Gardner's Wharf.
7. A Brigantine loaded with Lumber, but taken out by the enemy, one hundred and fifty tons; at Rowe's Wharf, owned at Portsmouth.
8. A schooner, forty-five tons, formerly belonging to Pickering, sold at vendue; and purchased by John Rowe, Esq; at Rowe's Wharf.
9. A Sloop, seventy-five tons, belonging to this Province, taken by a man-of-war; at Hall's Wharf.
10. A Schooner, *Sophia*, owned by Thomas Bishop, Esq., Commander of the *Lively*, forty tons; at Hall's Wharf.
11. A Schooner, thirty tons, owned by Mr. Shimmear, Commissary-General of the King's Forces; at Peck's Wharf.
12. A Sloop belonging to Rhode-Island, loaded with condemned Stores of the King's ships, masts cut away, and she scuttled; at Peck's Wharf.
13. A Schooner, thirty-five tons; at Peck's Wharf.
14. A Sloop, formerly belonging to Rhode-Island, taken with Wood, seventy-five tons; at Hallowell's Ship-Yard.
15. A Brigantine, one hundred tons, Jewet master, belonging to Newbury; at Hallowell's Ship-Yard.
16. A Fishing-Boat, owned by Mandamus Councillors; in Oliver's Dock.
17. A Boat, ten tons, from Rhode-Island, owned by Homans, a tailor; at Oliver's Dock.
18. A Schooner, owned by Mr. Williams, of Boston, one hundred and ten tons; at Oliver's Dock.
19. A Schooner, cut out of Stonington Harbour, loaded with Sugar, Molasses, &c., sixty tons; at Phillips's Wharf, masts cut away.
20. A Sloop, seventy-five tons, belonging to Nantucket, now the property of N. Ray Thomas; at Phillips's Wharf.

21. A Schooner, ninety tons, owned by Samuel White, of Marblehead; at Phillips's Wharf.
22. A Schooner, twenty tons, owned by William Perry; at the Long Wharf.
23. A Schooner, seventy tons, with some Salt on board, owned by Major Peddrick, of Marblehead; at Minot's Wharf.
24. A Brigantine, belonging to Marblehead, one hundred and forty tons; at the Long Wharf.
25. A Sloop, belonging to the eastward, ninety tons; at the Long Wharf.
26. A Brigantine, loaded with Oil, owned by Colonel Hancock, ninety tons.
27. A Schooner, ninety tons, owned by Captain Cobb; at Treat's Wharf.
28. A Schooner, forty-five tons, owned by Conner, a butcher; in Town Dock.
29. A Schooner, loaded with Salt, owned by Captain White, of Salem; at Phillips's Wharf.
30. A Schooner, ninety-five tons, owned by Webb; at his Wharf; masts cut away.
31. A Schooner, at Noble's Wharf, forty-five tons, owned by John White, of Boston; masts cut away.
32. A Ship, three hundred tons, owned at the Grenards, bound to Portsmouth, loaded with Rum, Sugar and Molasses; had sixteen Guns in her hold; brought in here by a man-of-war.
33. A new Ship, belonging to the Honourable John Hancock, Esq.; at his Wharf; masts cut away, and otherwise much damaged.
34. A Schooner, called *The Hope*, one of the King's Armed Tenders, sold by the Admiral to one Breed, of London; at Hancock's Wharf.
35. A Schooner at Hutchinson's Wharf, seventy tons, owned by Captain Vernon.
- 36, 37. Two small Sloops, belonging to the King, employed as Tenders – one formerly taken at Philadelphia, the other from Rhode-Island; at Clark's Ship-Yard.
38. A Ship, three hundred tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
39. A Brig, one hundred and ten tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
40. A Sloop, seventy tons, owned by Captain Vernon; masts cut away.
41. A Schooner belonging to Enoch Tiley, of Casco-Bay, and others, one hundred and ten tons; at Vernon's Wharf; no masts.
42. A Schooner owned by Captain Dodge, of Salem, sixty tons; at New-Boston.
43. One Sloop drifted on Dorchester-Flats; names of owners not known.
44. A Sloop, drifted on Dorchester-Flats; names of the owners not known.

45. A Schooner, drifted to Chelsea, loaded with Oil, belonging to Benjamin Jepson.

John G. Frazer

Assistant Quartermaster General.

Boston, April 14, 1776.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 934-35.

2. The former Continental brig *Washington*.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] April 14 1776

The Fleet lay in the Road allmost a fortnight after the Town was evacuated; in that time Major [Benjamin] Tupper came with a Body of Men to G[e]r[man]t[ow]n and procured two Lighters, (one of them was that of which you are part owner) and fitted them with every sort of combustable Matters, Hand Grenades &c. in order to set fire to the Fleet, but the very day he was ready they saild and it was said that they had inteligence from Boston of the design. However he carried the Lighters up to Town for the next Fleet that appears.

Fort Hill is a fortifying I suppose in the best Manner, committes have been appointed to survey the Islands &c. but we are scanty of Men, tis said we have not more than 2000 Effective Men left, and the General thought it necessary to take the Heavy cannon with him. We have many peices spiked up which they are imployed in cleaning, about an 100 peices I have heard was left at the Castle with their trunnels broke or spiked. The Castle you have no doubt heard was burnt by the Troops before they saild, and an attempt made to blow up the walls in which however they did not succeed any further than to shatter them. . . .

The Works upon the Neck are levelling. We keep Guards upon the Shoars yet. — Manly has taken a vessel Load of Tories. Among them is Black the Scotchman and Brasen head Jackson, Hill the Baker &c. What can be done with them. I think they ought to be transported to England. I was advertize for tory transports . . .

All the Tories look crest fallen. Several deserters from on board the commodore[']s ship say that tis very sickly on board. We have only that and two or 3 cutters beside's. We fear that a Brig laden with 70 tons of powder which saild from Newbury port has fallen into the enemys hands upon her return.³

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 378-81.

2. Captain Francis Banks in the *Renown*, flying a commodore's pendant, was in command of the British ships trying to block the harbor, and lying in Nantasket road.

3. Abigail's sentence construction is at fault. The brig for Newburyport was bringing in seventy tons of powder, not carrying it out.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Scarborough*, CAPTAIN ANDREW BARKLEY ¹

Aprl 76

[Rhode Island Harbor]

Sunday 14th at 5 A M the Rebels began to fire at us again; one of their

shott struck the Mn yards, & carried away 2 of the Main Shrouds at 8 finding the shott struck us often shifted our birth farther to the NE, & came too with the small Br in 22 fms water, & veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable, the Fort SE Connanicot ferry Wt & the Dumplins SWbW; at 9 the Rebels began to fire at us from a Battery behind a Hill on Brintons point, at 11 the Rebels firing so brisk at us, & the Tide of Ebb setting so strong, to avoid the Tide sitting us Close to their Battery's, Cutt the Cable, $\frac{2}{3}$ from the Anchor, made sail, & Run Close under the So Shore, the *Symetry* & Sloop in Co the Rebels kept a continual fire at us from their 2 Battery's, which we return'd all the way going out, one shot struck the Middle of the fore Mast & several struck the Hull & Lower Rigging at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 11 got out of Gun shott, at noon the light house NW 3 miles.

Modte Breezes & fair wr P M empd knotting the Shrouds, and repairing the Rigging that was Cutt away by the shott, at 3 Rhode Island light House NbW distance about 5 Leagues, the *Symetry* and Sloop in Co²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/867.

2. The sloop *Greyhound*, taken April 5, 1776.

LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES TO JOSEPH HEWES¹

[*Alfred*, New London Harbor, April 14, 1776]²

When I Undertook to write you an Account of our proceedings in the Fleet I did not imagine that I should have been so Stinted in point of time I owed you a much earlier Account but Since our Arrival here the repairs and Bussiness of the Ship has required my Constant Attention. – I will endeavour to be more punctual Hereafter – in the meanwhile hope you will excuse this Omission 'till I can Account for it personally – I pass over wha[t was] prior to our Arrival at the Capes of Delaware – when we were met by the *Hornet* Sloop & *Wasp* Schooner from Maryland. –

On the 17th of Feby the Fleet put to Sea with a Smart North East Wind. In the Night of the Ninteenth the (Gale having Increased) we lost Company with the *Hornet* and *Fly* Tender – We Continued Steerned to the Southward without Seeing a Single Sail or meeting with any thing remarkable 'till the first of March when we anchored at Abaco (one of the Bahamia Islands) having previously brought too a Couple of New Providence Sloops to take Pilots out of them – By these People we were informed that there was a large Quantity of Powder [with] a Number of Cannon, in the two Forts of New Providence – In Consequence of this Intelligence the Marines and Landsmen, to the number of 300 and Upwards under the Command of Captn [Samuel] Nicholas were Embarked in the two Sloops. – It was determined tht they Should keep below Deck 'till the Sloops were got in Close to the Fort – and they were then to land Instantly & take possession before the Island could be Alarmed. – This however was rendered Abortive, as the

John Paul Jones.



Joseph Hewes.



Forts Fired an Alarm on the Approach of our Fleet – We then ran in and Anchored at a small Key 3 Leagues to windward of the Town and from thence the Comodore dispatched the Marines with the Sloop *providence* and Schooner *Wasp* to Cover their Landing – They landed without Opposition and soon took possession of the Eastern Garrison (F. Montague), which, (after Firing a few shot) the Islanders had abandoned – The Next mornng the Marines marched for the Town and were met by a Messenger from the Govr who told Captn Nicholas that “the Western Garrison (F. Nassau) was ready for his reception and that he might march his Force in as Soon as he Pleased.” – This was effected without firing a Gun on our Side – but the Govr had Sent off 150 barrels of Powder the Night before. – Inclosed you have an Inventory of the Cannon, Stores, &ca which we took Possession of and brought off in the Fleet – we Continued at Providence ’till 17th Ultio and then brot off th[e] Govr and two More Gen[tn] Prisoners. – our Course was now directed back for the Continent and after meeting with much bad Weather on the 5th Inst off Block Island we took one of Captn [James] Wallace’s Tenders, the *Hawke* Schooner of 6 Guns – and the Bomb Brig *Bolton* of 8 Guns & 2 Howitzers &ca – the Next mornng we fell in with the *Glasgow* Man of War and [a] Hot Engagement Ensued – the particulars of which I cannot communicate better than by extracting the minutes which I entered in the *Alfred’s* Log Book as Follows –

At 2 A.M. Cleared Ship for Action. At ½ past do the *Cabot* being between us & the Enemy, began to Engage and soon after we did the same. at the third Glass the Enemy bore away, and by crouding Sail at length got a considerable way a head made Signals for the rest of the English Fleet at Rhoad Island to come to her Assistance & steered directly for the Harbour. The Comodore then thought it Imprudent to Risque our Prizes &ca by Pursuing further therefore to Prevent our being decoyed into their hands, at ½ past 6 made the Signal to leave off Chace & haul by the Wind to Join our prizes. The *Cabott* was Disabled at the 2d broadside The Capt being dangerously Wounded; the Master and several Men killed – the Enemys whole Fire was then Directed at us and an unlucky Shot haveing carried away our Wheel Block & Ropes, the Ship broached too and gave the Enemy an Oppertunity of Rakeing us with several Broad sides before we were again in Condition to steer the Stick & Return the Fire. In the Action we Received Several Shot under Water which made the Ship Verry Leaky we had besides the Mainmast Shot thro’ and the Upperworks and Rigging verry considerably damaged – Yett it is Surpriseing that we only lost the 2d Lieut of Marines & 4 Men, one of whom (Martin Gillingwater) a Midshipman Prisoner, who was in the Cockpitt and had been taken in the Bomb Brig *Bolton* Yesterday – we had no more than three Men dangerously & 4 Slightly wounded

~~I leave in your province to make the natural comments you see arising from the Subject I wish to avoid Censuring Individuals. the Utmost delicacy is necessary and highly becom[ing] in my Si[tuation] I therefore content~~

~~myself with relating Facts Only and leave wiser heads the privilege of determining their propriety~~

I have the pleasure of Assuring you that the Commr in Chief is respected thro' the Fleet and I verily believe that the Officers and men in general would go any length to execute his Orders. it is with pain that I Confine this plaudit to an individual I should be happy in extending it to every Captain and Officer in the Service – praise is certainly due to some – but Alas! there are Exceptions. it is certainly for the Intrest of the Service that a Cordial interchange of Civilities should Subsist between Superiour and Inferiour Officers – and therefore it is bad policy in Superiours to behave towards their inferiours indiscriminately as tho they were of a lower Species. – ~~Such a Conduct will damp the [ardor] of any Man – would to heaven it were otherwise! – but in sad truth this is a Conduct too much in Fashion in our Infant Fleet the ill Consequences of this are Obvious.~~³

Men of liberal Minds, who have been long Accustomed to Command can Ill brook being thus set at naught by others who pretend to Claim the monopoly of Sense. – the Rude ungentle treatment which they experience creates Such heartburnings as are no wise consonant with that Chearful Ardour and Spirit which ought ever to be the Characteristick of an Officer. and t[hen] whoever thinks himself hearty in the Service is widely mistaken when he Adopts such a line of conduct in order to prove it – for, to be Obeyed it is nessary to be Esteemed.

the Fleet having been re-inforced with 200 Men lent from the Army is now in condition for Another Enterprize and we expect to embrace the first Wind for Rhode Island where I hope we shall meet with better Success as we understand that the *Scarborough* is now there – it is Proposed to clean the Ships at Rhode Island or Providence so that our detention there will admit of a return of letters from Philadelphia – Meantime with a grateful Sense of past favors I have the honor to be with much Esteem Sir [&c.]

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6475–6478, LC.
2. The autograph draft of this letter, from which this entry is taken, contains neither place, date, salutation nor signature. In a subsequent letter to Hewes of May 18, 1776, Jones refers to his former letter of "14th ult."
3. The sentences through which Jones drew lines, of course, never reached Hewes. They are retained here as pertinent to the affairs of the Continental fleet.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL BRIG *Andrew Doria*, CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

April 1776 [New London Harbor]

Sunday 14th At 1 A M hove up, with a fresh Breeze from the South & run in, with the Light house, & came too abrest of the Comodore,

1. *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO CHRISTOPHER LEFFINGWELL, NORWICH ¹

[New London] April 14th 1776

Dear Sir

The foregoing is a Copy of what the Admiral this moment Recd – ²

I think no time should be lost, but forward the Artillery, that is with you down hear as soon as Possible – I am [&c.]

N Shaw Junr

Forward the Inclos'd to the Governour Imediately from the Admiral

N S

1. Shaw Papers, YUL.

2. George Washington's letter of the same date to Esck Hopkins.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir:

New York, April 14, 1776.

I have just received Information that the *Nautilus*, Sloop of War is arrived here from Newport, said to be sent Express from thence for the *Asia*, *Phoenix* and *Savage* and that they are intended for New London in Order to block up your Squadron in that Harbour. I thought it my Duty to give you Notice of this by Express,² that you might take your Measures accordingly. The *Phoenix*, *Savage*, and *Nautilus* sailed this Morning. The *Asia* still remains in the Harbour.

I should be much obliged to you, if you would forward the Cannon and Stores, I left a List with you for, as soon as possible; and as the Men of War are now out, I should be extremely glad if you would keep a good Look out to see that the Coast is clear before any more of the Continental Troops embark from New London. I am, etc.³

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 476.

2. From Washington's account with the United States: "1776 April 15 To Jno Phillips for Riding Express to Commodore Hopkins at New London [£] 3.-.-," *Fac-simile of Washington's Accounts during the Revolutionary War* . . . (Washington, 1833), 13.

3. Hopkins sent copies of this letter to Governors Cooke and Trumbull, Hopkins Papers and Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT ¹

April 1776

Moor'd in Graves End Bay.

Sunday 14

A M at 5 Up Yards & Top Masts. at 6 Unmoor'd & hove short on the Bt Br at 10 Weigh'd & drop'd further to the So ward at 11 came to with the small Br in 7 fm Water Veer'd to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a Cable. Ships Co put to $\frac{2}{3}$ Allowance of all Species Moderate & fair P M at 2 hove up & came to Sail at 4 in coming thro' the Narrows was fired at with Muskets by a Number of Rebels, fir'd at them 2 eighteen pdrs at 5 came to with the Bt Br in 16 fm in Gravesend Bay Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable Coney Island ESE Gravesend Church NE & the point of Long Island NbW

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

GENERAL ORDER FROM CONTINENTAL ARMY HEADQUARTERS ¹

Whereas the *Asia* having quitted her station, and left the harbour, the navigation between this city and New-Jersey, by the Kills, is become quite

safe; the troops upon Staten-Island and Bergen Neck, are to let all boats coming to New-York or returning to Jersey, to Pass and repass, without molestation.

Given at Head-quarters, in New-York, 14th of March [*sic* April], 1776.

Horatio Gates, Adjutant General.

1. *New-York Gazette*, April 15, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK

[Remarks on] Sunday the 14 of April 1776 [Off Delaware Capes]

Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather Sat the F:T:S:

at 9 A M Hauld the Wind Down the F:T:S: Dubel R:M.S:

Tuck the Bunet off[f] of the gibb & F:S:

10 Saw a Schooner Standing to the westward

Tk & gave Chass

2 [P. M.] Latt Obs 38:09No

Modret Breezes & Clear Wethear

4 out oars & Rode aftear the Schooner

at 3 P M fieard 2 guns & Broght her two

at 6 P M Speak the Schooner Capt Samul Williams fom St Ustatia

Bound for philedphia

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*, CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

April 1776 At a single Anchor in Hoar Kill Road Delaware bay

Thursday 11th at 6 in the Morning Got up [yards and topmasts] and weighed and made Sail after Several Sail of Vessels coming down Cape May Channel; At Noon they returned back; Tacked & Stood to the Eastward.

Fresh gales and cloudy weather, at 4 in the afternoon Tacked and brought too, at 6 made Sail, at 8 Anchored in 9½ fathoms, Cape Henlopen WbSo 5 Leagues.

Friday 12th at Noon, hove Short, converted the Spritsail Course to mend the Topsail.

Fresh gales and clear weather, at ½ past Noon endeavouring to weigh the Anchor, the Cable parted at about 20 fathoms from the Anchor, made Sail and gave Chace to a Sail coming down the Bay, at 3 fired Several Guns Shotted and brought her too, found her to be called the *Chance*, a Ship from Philadelphia Laden with flax Seed ²

Saturday 13th at 8 in the morning Anchored with the prize in 7 fms the light house WbN 3 Miles, Sent the Barge and Cutter to examine if possible, Several Vessels under Cape May, it being partly moderate weather.

at 5 in the afternoon observing five Sail of Small Vessels,

Steering out to Sea, thro' Cape May Channel, weighed, made Sail, and gave them Chace, at 9 Lost sight of the Chace, thro, the extraordinary darkness of the night, and Close Reefed the Topsails; lost a Wood Buoy.

Sunday 14th Moderate and fair weather at 7 in the Afternoon Anchored in 7 fathoms water the Lighthouse SbEt, distant 1 Mile the *Chance* in Company; at 9 Sent a Petty Officer and Seven Seamen, victualled for Eighteen days on board, to Navigate her to Halifax, and she proceeded to Sea accordingly.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Chance*, Thomas Rose, master, Messrs. Curson, of Philadelphia, owners, from Philadelphia for Cork, with flaxseed and staves, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Comme 14 April 1776 – 9 oClock P.M.

Present – Saml Purviance Chn Wm Lux Depy Chn –

B. Nicholson	J. Smith	J. Calhoun	
W. Buchanan	J. Boyd	J. Sterrett	T. Harrison –

An Express is just arrived from Virginia with a Packet directed to this Committee Inclosing a Letter to the Honble Council of Safety of this Province, with a Letter to The Honble John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and a Letter from the Honble Council of Safety of Virginia to this Committee, of which the following is a Copy –

Gentlemen

Williamsburgh 6 April 1776

We could not suffer a Moment to pass before we transmitted the inclosed Copies of intercepted Letters, address by the Secretary of State to the Governor of your Province, which open the Schemes of Administration to us in a more explicit Manner, than any other Intelligence we have been able to procure – We wish you to transmit Copies of these Letters to Congress without Delay –

I am, For & by Order of the Committee of Safety of Virginia,
Gentlemen –

Your most Huml Servt
John Page – Vice Presd

B. A certain Mr Alexander Ross, who was refused a Permission from this Committee, has been onboard of Lord Dunmore's Ship, and was the Person entrusted with the Care of the Inclosed Letters; he has escaped from us, but as we think him a Person inimical to the American Cause, he ought to be apprehended –

J. P. V. Prd

[Here are inserted Lord George Germain's letter of December 23, 1775, and the General Letter to all Governors of the same date]

The Committee maturely considered the forementioned Letters, and,

esteeming the Information contained in them as highly interesting to American Freedom, Unanimously Resolved, That they be sent off by Express to Congress, and that Major [Mordecai] Gist be requested to permit an Officer to carry them – Major Gist, being accordingly applied to, ordered Lieutenant David Plunket on that Service, and directed him to attend the Committee for their Orders, who delivered to him the preceding Letters, and one to the Honble John Hancock Esqr, of which the following is a Copy – viz

Honble Sir

In Committee Baltimore 14 Apl 76
10 oClock P.M

The Inclosed Copies of Letters were just now received by our Committee by Express from the Council of Safety of Virginia, with Desire, that they might be forwarded to you instantly – Indeed they contain Matters, we think of too much Importance to have been delayed a Moment – In consequence wherof we have prevailed on our Commanding Officer here to appoint Mr David Plunket, on whose Prudence & Industry we can depend, to wait on you with this, and if your Honl Body should think it necessary to take any Steps, or give any Instructions to the Council of Safety on the Occasion, he will wait your Commands – We have the Honor to be with greatest Respect –
Honble Sir Yr most obed Servt

(signed by all the Members present.)

To The Honble John Hancock Esqr
President of the Congress Philadelphia

The Committee then resumed the Consideration of the Letter from the Council of Safety of Virginia, and thereon Resolved, That Messrs John Smith, Benjamin Nicholson & John Sterrett, three of their Members, do wait on the Council of Safety at Annapolis, early tomorrow Morning with the Packet directed to them, as they think it of too much Importance to be trusted by a common Express, and that they carry with them the Letters above referred to, in order to lay them before the Council of Safety, lest their Packet might not contain the same Intelligence, And that they take with them Mr Jeremiah Townley Chase, one of the Committee, who is now at Annapolis –

Attestd Geo Lux Secry

I. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO LIEUTENANT JOHN NICHOLSON ¹

Sir.

You are immediately to proceed with the *Defence's* Tender off the Harbour of Annapolis and there to Land Captn [Samuel] Smyth; while he is ashore, you are to stand off and on the Harbour and examine every Boat, that comes out Annapolis or thereabouts (taking Care to distress no Boat unnecessarily) and if you find Governor Eden and Secretary Smyth, or either of them, you are to make them Prisoners – if Captain Smith has Orders to

deliver them to the Council of Safety, you'll in that Case deliver them to him for that Purpose; if not, bring them on Board the *Defence* – If upon Capt'n Smith's Return you find they are not at Annapolis, you are then to proceed down to Colonel Fitchew's and assist Captain Smith if necessary, in examining the Colonels House in making them Prisoners; Provided they are not to be found in either Place, and you have Reason to think you can over take them in standing further down the Bay, in that Case you'll proceed as far as Prudence will direct you – You must be particularly careful in your Watch while off Annapolis – take Care to consult Capt'n Smyth in all Cases – Given from under my Hand this 14th April 1776 at Fell's Point Baltimore.

James Nicholson

To Mr John Nicholson Lientt of the Ship *Defence*

N.B. If you find Mr [Alexander] Ross, you'll likewise make him Prisoner.

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH ¹

Sir

[Baltimore] 14 April 1776

You are requested by the Gentlemen of the [Baltimore] Committee to proceed in Capt Nicholson's Tender with any Officer he may send to assist you and such a Number of Armed Men as may be necessary, and therewith proceed as Speedily as possible for Annapolis – Should you, before you get there, meet the Governor's Barge or Boat, you must by all means endeavour to board her, & in case Governor Eden, his Secretary Mr Smith, or Mr Alexander Ross are found onboard you are by all means to seize their Persons & Papers, and instantly return with them under the strictest Guard to Baltimore, for doing which you may depend on being protected & justified by the Committee & held blameless – in case you should not meet such Boat or Persons, you'll please to proceed Immediately to Annapolis and use every Precaution to prevent an Alarm by obliging the Men not to appear in Number on Deck, and causing the Boat to lye at a Distance, while you go on shore with the Letter delivered you for the Gentlemen of the Baltimore Committee, who may be at Annapolis, whose Directions you'll please to follow after your Arrival there – You'll please to take Blunderbusses and any Quantity you see necessary of Arms out of Capt Nicholson's Vessel which he will readily furnish – please to consult in every Thing with the Officer, which Capt Nicholson sends with you, and let your Measures be kept as secret as possible from the Men at least, until it comes to the Execution – I am in behalf of the Committee [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Junr Chn ²

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

2. Major Mordecai Gist placed an endorsement on the back of Smith's orders wishing him "a pleasant and prosperous Voyage." William Hand Browne, ed., *Archives of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1892), XI, 374. Hereafter cited as Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.* These orders to seize the governor and the actions of the Baltimore Committee created a sizeable furor. Alexander Ross, "a great Scoundrel," was stopped in Virginia while returning to

[Savanna-la-Mar], Jamaica bound to Sunbury with rum and Sugar &c on board took her people out put on board an Officer and 5 hands.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/771.

2. The prize was the brig *Live Oak*, Foster, master, with 29 puncheons of rum and sugar, according to the master's log of the *Cherokee*, which adds, "the *Raven* detained her." PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. John*, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM GRANT¹

April 1776 In St Mary's River

Thursdy 11 Fresh Breezes and Squally the People empd in filling Water & Cutting fire Wood, Loosed Sails to dry, Cleared Hause, Cut up the old Topsails for Sundry Uses.

Friday 12 Fresh Breezes & clear Weather at 6 A M saw the *Betsy* Sloop on Shore found she had parted her Cables in the Night Sent the Boat to sweep for the Anchor got it up sent the Stream hauser on Board her & moor'd her, saw from the Masthead 3 Sail standing in for the Bar, proved to be the snow and One Sloop they had taken at Sea² in the said Snow in Company with the Pilot Boat

Fresh Breezes and Variable Weather at 8 pm the Master returned with the Cutter & brought with him the Captain of the Sloop Do fird a Gun & made the Signal for sailing – Weighed and dropt down a breast of the point & came to Anchor Sloop in Company – Discharged the Pilot Boat and gave him a Certificate

Saturday 13 Fresh Breezes & Calm at 8 p m . . . fired 1 Gun p Signal for sailing at 9 pm . . . sent Mr. Lolley & 5 men to take Charge of the Sloop to proceed to St Augustine sent Mr Wright & some Seamen to take charge of the Snow – Sent provisions on board both with some ammunition

Sunday 14 At 4 [A.M.] Weighed & came to sail – Recd on board fresh Beeff 451 Wt discharged Macredie's Small Schooner Fresh Breezes & Clear Weather, Weighed and came to sail Sloop & Schooner in Company at 6 p m got over the Barr – Got the Boats in, Reef'd the topsails Main sail, all the Vessells in sight –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. Sloop *Neptune*; identified by subsequent journal entry.

GOVERNOR GEORGE JAMES BRUERE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

No 1

Bermuda April the 14th 1776

My Lord I was honored with Your Lordships circular letter, of the 10th of Novemr; with the pleasure of being Informed of Your Lordships Appointment. I have likewise received Your Lordships Dispatch of the 23d of December, with the Act of Parliament inclosed: both those letters, were

forwarded to Me, by His Excellency Governor Hay from Barbados, and reachd my hand, the 10th of the present month (of April) .

I hope that His Majestys, and the British Parliaments, determin'd Resolution, to bring the Colonies to a due Sence of their Duty, and Obedience to the Imperial Sovereignty of great Britain, will have the desired Effect, and that the Deluded People, may be brought into a regular Mode of Government, which hath been wanting, these Several Years past, from this place included, to all those, to the Northward of Bermuda &c

I am in expectation every day, to receive Your Lordships Commands, in answer to the several dispatches, that have been Addressed to my Lord Dartmouth; those of the months of August, and September last. And likewise other letters, committed to the Care of the Revd Mr Lyttleton, who I hope arrived Safe in England, in January last.

As soon as I had any hopes, of the North West Winds being moderated, on the Coast of North America, I despatched a little Sloop to Boston, on the 3d Instant, with fifteen or twenty thousand oranges and lemons, Six or Seven dozen of Poultry Ducks &c. all we could get at the beginning of the Season and my Youngest Son sent thirty Eight large Hogsheads of Molasses for the use of the Navy and Army, with some Eggs and other live Stock &c. which I imagine will be Acceptable to General Howe, and my Brother officers at Boston. I was obliged to Man the Sloop in part with some of my own House Negroes.

I have had the misfortune to lose my Second Son Lieut John Bruere a very promising Youth, doing duty as aid de Camp to Genl Howe; was Killed on Bunker Hill in the Battle on the 19 of June last.

I have had the Honor to Serve, in the 14th Regiment and here, thirty Six years: and was under Your Lordships Command, in Genl Prices Regiment; all the North Campaign to Culloden with the late Duke of Cumberland. I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect [&c.]

George Ja^s Bruere
Govr of Bermuda

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 37/36.

GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

(No 3)

My Lord,

Jamaica 14th April 1776

I did myself the Honor to write to your Lordship on the 27th of March, since which I am Credibly informed that the French Government in Hispaniola Offered by Public Proclamation a free Trade to the North Americans.

As I have hitherto understood the North American Trade with that Island was tolerated only from Motives of necessity and conveniency, consequently that the risk of Seizure and Forfeiture hung over it; the giving the Royal Sanction to it at this time I conceive to be a Matter of such consequence that it is my Duty to give your Lordship the earliest advice thereof

By the *Grantham* Packet Admiral Gayton sent the original Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty of which I have the Honor to send you a Copy for

fear of accident to the *Grantham*: and at the same time, explain to your Lordship why tho' this Letter was not addressed to me, it did not accompany my Dispatch by that packet: fearing for a moment to be suspected of the least Negligence in reporting by the first opportunity every thing that comes to my knowledge in which His Majesty's Government and the Interests and safety of His Subjects in any part of His Dominions may be concerned.

The Post Master by His Official Letter to my Secretary on the 14th March informed him of the Arrival of the *Grantham* and that she was to sail on the 29th of the same Month, my dispatches were delivered on board the 28th and I concluded she would sail on the day appointed, and from my inland Situation knew nothing to the Contrary till the Morning of the first of April I received a Letter from the Admiral inclosing a Copy of that sent him from New Providence, and telling me that the Packet did not sail before the Morning of the 31st by which means he luckily had the opportunity of transmitting this Intelligence to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I do not hear that any more Troops are arrived at Hispaniola since Lieutenant Cobb left it, but the report still prevails that more are expected there.

Your Lordship will observe by that Officers Letter to me, which I transmitted with my dispatch No 2, that in his conversation with the Count De Ennery he amuses Him with an Account of His own framing of the Strength and Situation of this Island.

Nothing but the most imminent Danger or the most pressing Necessity, shall force me in these times to complain of either; for the present, contenting myself with giving the best and earliest information in my power of every thing that can make my Superiors perfectly acquainted with both.

The Admiral having favoured me with a Copy of Captain [Andrew] Barkley's Letter to him, as also of Mr Andrew Bredon's information, and a Discription of the Rebel Vessels fitted out from Philadelphia, I think it my duty to inclose them to your Lordship.²

The Ship with our supply of Gunpowder on board is not yet arrived; but my mind is much relieved with regard to her as a report prevails here which I think very probable that she was detained for Convoy. I Have the Honour to be My Lord [&c.]

Basil Keith

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part II, LC Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, part III, Andrew Barkley's letter from Savannah River, March 21, 1776, and Andrew Bredon's declaration of March 20, 1776 with a description of the "Rebel Fleet" fitted at Philadelphia and "ready to sail on the 12th of February 1776."

15 Apr.

LIST OF MEN WHO RETOOK THE SLOOP *Hannah* ¹

Mount Desart april: 15:1776

the Copy of the names of the men Consarned in taking mr Richard fisher in the sloop *hannah* ²

Ebeneazer sallsborough	Job stanwood
Jabez sallsborough	Daniel Rodiar
Ruben sallsborough	Elisha Cosens
siles parker	John hamor
Levy higgins	Caleb finney
Ezra Young	John thomas

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

2. See memo of James Wallace to Fisher, April 2, 1776.

JOSHUA WENTWORTH TO STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir,

Portsmouth April 15, 1776

With inexpressable pleasure I rec'd the news of the formidable Fortress of Boston & its environs, being precipitately evacuated, by the Savage Enemies to America; Let the cause they have Engag'd in, be ever a terror, & a flight with disgrace – perpetually attend them, is my Ardent wish. –

Your favr of 25 Ulto & 2d Inst I have recd the former by Cap [John] Frasier; ² the latter this day & shall pay due attention to your direction in payment of his, & his Mates Loss when properly ascertain'd – I made Strict enquiry of the Pillage when Comr Manly bro't the prize to Town from New Castle, who Manly-like dispised the Act, but cou'd not then find out the egressors. – The Charge of three pounds you advanc'd for expences on the *Rainbow*,³ I have debted to that Captor & Credt you. The Uniform proceedings of the Continental Congress, is Conspicuous in every resolve yet pass'd, & more particularly so in their late determination of makg reprizals on Brittish Interest, it is Noble, Firm & Sperited – wch (as you observe) Leads on to the Grand Point in Exertion; Shall we be free from a Negative of any Crown'd head on earth or not – I daily expect to receive that News – And in Gods Name, let us all, with one voice say Amen. –

The 3d Inst Com Manly bro't in the Brig *Elizabeth*, One of the 3d Division wch Saild from Nantasket, with a Valuable Cargo of English Goods & a few hhds Rum & Sugar – A Mr [William] Jackson who was Passenger & part freighter, and a verrie Tory supposes the Cargo worth Twenty Thousand Pounds Sterlg Those Goods are the greater part owned by the late Inhabitants of Boston, & by some that were Inhabitants, when the Troops left it. The residue by this Mr Jackson & others of the same cast. The Complicate state of this prize, required my Immediate setg off for Boston Expectg I might find some Directions for my Goverment thare, when I waited on General Ward who, was obliging enough to give me his opinion (but not able to direct, havg receiv'd no Instruction to the point) that the Vessel & Cargo must be libled, & a dividend to the Captors wou'd follow, of all such

Goods as might be legally claim'd by the friends to America, & those that was the property of them Enimical, might be decreed forfeited. Upon further enquirery I was inform'd a resolve pass'd in Congress, That all Vessels & Goods retaken Previous to a Condemnation by a Brittish Court of Admiralty were liable to a partial decree (by every Colony Judge) to the Captors not more than One Third nor less than a Quarter the Present Prize falls under this resolve; and any other that may be property of our Internal Enemies liable to a full Confiscation may be necessary for my Government – Therefore shall be much oblig'd by your full direction, of this Capture & a Copy of the Continental resolves thereon. This Brig is owned by a Mr Richard Hart of this Town, taken on her return from the West Indies last Octo & carried into Boston, not condemn'd, the Rum on board are Sevente[en] hhds & four of Sugar, not removed out of her from the time of Capture. – The other Cargo, was in general stolen, by virtue of General How's Proclamation (wh undoubtedly you have seen) appiontg one Crean Brush Superintendant, who by the way was taken in the prize, & is now Confined in the Massts Colony, wth Mr Jackson & Sund[r]ly others, by order of the General Court to whom General Ward delivered them –

There were a Sergent & twelve privates of the 4th or Kings owne Reg't taken prisoniers on board wth the others making Sixty Three Souls, among whom are four Negros (two men & two women) wch I have Confined in Goal here concluding they may be Esteem'd a part of the prize –

There appear'd from the Pillage of this Cargo by many of the Passengers, the Property was in him that cou'd secret the most, for when examining the Chests & bedg of the Prisoners, I found great Qtys of Goods that they had Collected while on board, wh were taken out of Ware houses without packing, & hove promiscuously on board the Vessel, even the Sailors had provided for their disposal at pleasure, In fact the distruction of Property (under Cover of General Hows Proclamation) is unparrel'd – I tho't it my duty to be Critical in examing for Cash wch render'd it necessary to Insist on a Close Scrutiny, and found about one hundd Pounds L My (vizt) £36.18.7d on Mr Jackson & £62.16s. on a Mr Keighley likewise One hundd & fifty nine pounds 1/9d Stg of Mr Jackson in five Sets of Exchge, wch I now have in Possession, considering, that a man so inimical to his Country ought to be disposs'd of any Interest, whereby he cou'd be benifited, added to which they are Navy Bills except £60. which was the draft of Gov. Wentworth; On this point shou'd be oblig'd by your opinion & direction.

I am now dischargg the Cargo as it is in a perishing situation, and when Selected, and the regular course persued th[r]ough the Admiralty, shall advertize agreeable to His Excellencys Instruction to General Ward, who was obligg eno. to give me an abstract. The General Court of this Province findg a difficulty in makg a Code of Laws for the Admiralty Court, did not compleat that Institution their last Session when, they adjourn'd to June, which elapse of time will not admit my ficitating the disposal of the Prizes under my care, so early as I cou'd wish for the safety of part of the Interest of the *Susanna* (viz) the Po[r]ter, wch I fear may be spoiled by laying, it not

having equal Body, to that commonly imported for Sale, which enduces me to desire your direction for a disposal of that Article, either at Private or Publick Sale –

Capt Burk⁴ is now here, touchg in for a few Stores, Sails again this day – I shall advise you of their proceedings &c when within my Knowledge.

This Letter shall Suberscribe to His Excellly General Washington, agreeable to yr Desire remaing with much Esteem & regard Sir [&c.]

Josh^a Wentworth

please to excuse the course paper, as none other Comatable, & this the manufacture of France, much more of their producg may be the tradg of this Country in my opinion

[Endorsed] Sent Copy of this Le[tter] from Jos. Wentworth dated 15th Apl at Por[tsmouth] 25th Apl to Congres

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Captain of the ship *Susannah* taken March 6, 1776 by John Manley's squadron.

3. The schooner *Rainbow* taken by Winborn Adams in the schooner *Warren* and sent into Portsmouth November 25, 1775.

4. Captain William Burke, commander of Washington's armed schooner *Warren*.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1776

Watertown, April 15.

Thursday last arrived at Newport, the *Phoenix* Man of War, and a Snow of 16 Guns from Georgia, and carried in with them a Brig laden with Flour and Bread, and a Sloop with Salt. About half after 10 o'Clock at night, a small Battery of 3 guns begain firing on the *Phoenix* and Snow; at the same time the Row Galleys that lay in the harbour, attack'd the Ships for 3 or 4 hours, when the Ship and Snow slipt their cables and ran off under Conannicut Island; and the Galleys retook the above Prizes and sent them safe to Providence.¹

Last Thursday three Boats with 26 Hands, took a Snow bound from Grenada to Boston, James Fuz, Master, and carried her into Cohasset. Her Cargo consists of 354 Puncheons of Rum, 49 Barrels Sugar, 10 Barrels Coffee, 3 Tons Hay, some Wood, and about ten Barrels of Pork and Beef, a valuable Prize.

It is an undoubted fact, that between 8 and 9000 wt. of gunpowder is just arrived at Virginia, from one of the French islands, with a number of field pieces, four and six pounders, some muskets &c. Several French Gentlemen likewise came in the vessel, one of whom, shortly after their arrival, set out for Philadelphia.

1. The *Scarborough*; not the *Phoenix*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES¹

[Watertown, April 15, 1776]

Resolved. That the Honbl Council or such part of them as they shall appoint for that purpose are desired and hereby impowered to give Orders,

in case they should think most for the Interest & Safety of the Colony, that the Armed Vessels at present under the command of Capt Obrian [Jeremiah Obrien] & Capt [Luke] Lambert be hauled up and the Officers & Men discharged untill the further Orders of the General Court –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 299.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Boston 15 April 1776.

Yours of the 14th Inst I have received, & would inform you that I have represented the circumstances of the armed Vessels & Sailors to General Washington, and can do nothing further in this matter until I have an answer from the General.

With regard to Col [John] Glovers Regiment marching from Beverly, I never heard such a thing mentioned before, and that Regiment is not to march until I order it, which I have no thoughts of doing at present I am Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

P S. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Genl Washington touching the pay of the Privateers Men, & if their Captains produce their Rolls upon Oath, I can grant Warrants for their pay.

1. Joseph Ward Papers, ChHS.

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

[Providence] Monday Evening 15th April 1776

Meeting in being according to adjournment.

Voted. That there be an Examination among the Calkers and that a Sub-committee with a Master Calker of each ship fix the prices that each one shall have and that the Boys Wages be particularly consider'd and Settled that Mr John Brown be the Committee. –

Voted. That the Assistants that work with the Head Rigger that are not particularly agreed with have not more than 4/6 p Day for their Work.

Voted. That this Committee agree to take all the Ravens D[uck] that Messrs Clarke & Nightingale and Capt Jos. Cooke have to sell at 14 Dollrs p piece suppose One Hundred Bolts:

Meeting adjourned to Fryday Evening. –

1. Journal R.I. Frigates, RIHS.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

Newport, April 15.

Thursday last, towards night, the ship *Scarborough* of 20 guns, a transport ship of 200 tons, and 16 guns, a brig loaded with provisions, and a sloop loaded with salt, came into this bay, and anchored between Goat-Island and Connanicut. In the evening two row galleys, commanded by Captains

Grimes and Hyer, with a number of volunteers from the army on this island, took the brig and sloop; after which a battery at the North part of the town, a battery at Brenton's Point, and the gallies play'd so briskly upon the ships, that they were soon obliged to move out of the reach of the batteries, and went under Conanicut. Capt. Hyer, in one of the gallies, lay within musket shot of the *Scarborough*, firing upon her, while Grimes boarded and sent off the brig and sloop.

The *Scarborough* did the galley some damage in her hull and rigging, and the musketry from her tops wounded one of Capt. Hyer's people, which was all the injury received on the American side. This bold action, of taking two vessels close under the stern of a 20 gun ship, may possibly convince our enemies that the Yankees are not such dastards, as the Tories in this country have represented them.

There were 17 hands taken in the above vessels, who inform that the ships were from Georgia, the transport having on board 140 soldiers; that the *Scarborough* was commanded by Captain Barclay, and had on board James Wright, Governor of Georgia, his family, and some other Tories of that place: That the brig was from Philad[e]lphia, taken going into Georgia; that the sloop was from some of the islands, commanded by Capt. Gregory Cozzens of this place, and taken near Georgia; that they were bound to Boston, and had parted with several other prizes, one of which, a sloop, arrived here on Saturday, and anchored between the two ships.

Saturday night and yesterday morning a battery at Connanicut so disturbed the quiet of the *Scarborough*, the transport ship and the sloop, that they took advantage of a fair wind and pushed out to sea; but as they passed the mouth of the harbour, a battery on the east side near Castle Hill, hulled the *Scarborough* twice, and sent one 18 pounder through the sloop. The *Scarborough* returned a very heavy fire on both the batteries, without doing the least damage. Our bay is now free from pirates.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 15, 1776.

On the memorial of Messrs. D'Oraison, Gourrige & Co., granted them liberty to purchase some convenient vessel capable to carry forty horses and load the same with horses and stores for them, fifteen barrels of pork, thirty barrels of flour, forty barrels of beef, forty firkins of hog's fat, and the residue of the cargo in lumber, of staves, heading and hoops, and proceed with the same to Cape Francois; that they have liberty according to their own undertaking and engagement, to bring into this Colony as soon as may be every kind of military and naval stores, molasses, sugar, sulphur, blankets, linen, and any kind of coarse cloths. and the Governor is desired to grant them a permit accordingly.

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table in favour of Capt. Robert Niles, for four hundred pounds for the use of the schooner *Spy*, and to render his account when required. *Order drawn April 15th, 1776, and sent by Mr. S. Gray.*

Nathll Backus and Benj. Huntington, Esqrs, are appointed to liquidate the schooner *Spy's* accounts, and make return as soon as may be.

To Seth Harding, Esqr. Captain of the armed brig *Defence* belonging to the Colony of Connecticut:

You are hereby ordered forthwith to inlist as many men as you can at N. London for the service, to compleat the complement of one hundred and twenty men.

You are further ordered on request of Admiral Hopkins, to join the American fleet under his command and proceed with him on a short cruise against our enemies, observing such orders as shall be given by the admiral, under the same regulations as the rest of the continental fleet during the time for which the admiral may make such cruise: always subject to the orders of the General Assembly of this Colony or the further orders of the Governor and Council of Safety.

A copy of the above was sent as orders to Capt. Harding April 15th, 1776, by the hands of Mr. Simeon Gray.

To Robert Niles, Captain of the armed schooner *Spy*:

You are hereby ordered on request of Admiral Hopkins, to join the American fleet under his command and proceed with him on a short cruise against our enemies, observing such orders as shall be given by the admiral, under the same regulations as the rest of the continental fleet during the time for which the admiral may make such cruise; always subject to the orders of the General Assembly or the further orders of the Governor and Council of Safety.

If the admiral has no occasion for your service, you will go on to pursue the orders you have already received.

The above order was sent by Mr. S. Gray April 15th, 1776.

Voted to furnish Capt. [John] Grinell, Thaddeus Burr, Esqr, Capt. Samll Broom, and Major David Dimon, of Fairfield, with five hundred pounds weight of powder, to set forth an armed vessel against the enemies of America. Said powder to be by them replaced or paid for in cash at the election of the General Assembly or the Governor and Council of Safety, in a reasonable time.²

Voted, That Mr. David Brooks of Haddam be and he is hereby appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley under command of Capt. [Jehiel] Tinker.

Voted, That Col. Jedh Elderkin and Nathll Wales, junr, Esqrs, be and they are hereby appointed a committee to take care of and provide for the continental prisoners brought into this Colony by Admiral Hopkins and ordered to be kept in Windham county goal, and to order, direct and govern said prisoners in the most prudent manner they can until further orders from the Continental Congress, the General Assembly, or the Governor and Council of Safety.

Voted, That each of the row-gallies belonging to this Colony be pro-

vided with twenty lances and poles and twenty tommy-hocks or hatchets by the persons who furnish said gallies for service.

Voted, That Col. Elderkin and Nathl Wales junr, Esqrs, be a committee to take care of and provide for Governor [Montfort] Brown and Messrs. [Thomas] Irving and [James] Babbage, lately brought as prisoners from New Providence, and treat them with that humanity and kindness which is shewn to other continental prisoners of their rank or quality who are kept in this Colony.

Voted, That Prosper Wetmore, Esqr, sheriff of N. London county, forthwith transport to the town of Windham all the prisoners committed to him by order of Capt. Hezh Bissell and Mr. Jonathan Trumbull Junr, a committee appointed by his Honor the Governor and his Council of Safety to take care of the prisoners lately brought to New London by Admiral Hopkins, and that said sheriff deliver said prisoners in his custody at and within the county goal in Windham in the county of Windham to the sheriff of said Windham county. And said Sheriff of said Windham County is hereby ordered and directed to receive all said prisoners at the hands of the said N. London county sheriff, and them hold and keep in safe custody and confinement in said Windham county goal until further orders from the General Assembly or his Honor the Governor and his Council of Safety.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 261-63.

2. Probably the sloop *Broome*, William Nott, commander, commissioned July 2, 1776.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Lebanon 15th April 1776 -

On Representation from the Committee who were directed last Week to attend you respecting the Prisoners taken in your late Cruise &ca - that you would be glad to have our Armed Brigg *Defence* now in the Harbour of N London to attend & assist you in any further Operations you may think proper soon to Effect - We have considered your Desire & fully comply with the same - & have given Orders to Capt [Seth] Harding accordingly - Copy of which are enclosed -

Att same Time we render you our Thanks for your favourable Acceptance of our Request respecting the Cannon & Military Stores - I am in Be-half of the Governor & Council of Safety [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

P S Capt [Robert] Niles in the *Spy* is also ordered to attend your Directions provided you shall have any Occasion for his Services -

[Addressed] On the Service of the United Colonies

To the Honble Esek Hopkins Esqr Admiral of the Continental Fleet

On Board the Ship *Alfred*, now in the Harbour at New London

P Express Mr [Simeon] Gray -

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Lebanon 15th April 1776.

Please to send an Inventory of the Cannon & their Sizes – with the places where landed for Use & of the Warlike Stores for them – Those for Mamacock must be mounted & you'll please to be preparing & getting in readiness Timber & Necesaries for that Purpose – & look out and employ Workmen that no Time be lost – There is one M Lol at Norwich is a Workman for the Business & who will come down for Employment he is tho't a proper person –

Please to send me an Account of the Powder you have lately received for the Colony – & for the Continent – & any other matters you may think proper – Mr Gray the Bearer will bring your answe[r] – I am sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Shaw Mss., Force Transcripts, LC.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, R.N., TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN¹

Wethersfield, Connecticut April 15th 1776.

If the Bearer of this Mr. [Silas] Deane should be taken by any of his Majesty's Cruiser's, I think it incumbent on me, to recommend him to any of the Officers of the said Cruiser's, for the Civilities received by Gentlemen of this Place since I have been a Prisoner, particularly his Brother Mr Barnabus Deane, and flatter myself should he fall into the hands of any of my Brother Officers that they will treat him with as much Politeness as the Gentlemen Prisoners here has received from his Friends

W^m Hunter

Late Commander of His Majesty's Brigg *Gaspee* taken Prisoner at St. Johns.

1. "The Deane Papers," *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XXIII, 19–20.COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISK¹

[Extract]

Fairfield April 15th 1776.

. . . there being between 9 & 10,000 Men there [New York] beside our two Regts and the New York Militia. The Fortifications go on very fast, and I have no Doubt but that the Fortifications in & near that City will be in such a Condition by the End of this Week, that it will not only be impracticable for the Enemy to land An Army at the City but I think that even the Approach of Men of Warr within Gunshot of the City will be so hazardous to the Ships, that I dont think they will Dare attempt it; nor indeed do I think they would even now, for last Monday [April 8] a Person was sent over, on to the Governour's Island, to mark out the Ground for a Fortification; this is about a Mile from the City or near it and within Cannon Shott of the *Asia*, on seeing this she immediately hove up her Anchors, and fell down 2 or 3 Miles further untill she was out of the Reach of Cannon from the Island; at Night we sent over 1,000 Men & took Possession of the Island, hove up Lines & fortified it. . . .

1. Silliman Papers, YUL.

GUNNER JAMES THOMAS TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

sir

as I have bin for Sum time Confined Very Justly for Ill Behaviour towards you and Am Very Sory I Should Ever to give any Gentleman Any Displeasure I hereby Ask Pardon if you Will Vouchsaife to Graint it I will for the Futer Endeavour to Avoid Giving any Ofence to you or Any Officer Ship *Alfred* Apr 15 1776 James Thomas

To Lieutent Paul Jones

[Endorsed by Jones] *Alfred* April 15th 1776 New London letter from Mr Thomas the Gunner when under Confinement. Exd ²

1. Papers of John Paul Jones, 6480, LC.

2. "Exd" probably indicated "Accepted" as Thomas continued as gunner until transferred to the *Columbus*, August 7, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York, April 15. 1776

Sir I am now to Inform you that on the 4th Instant I set out from Cambridge and arrived here on Saturday last [April 13]—I came through Providence, Norwich and New London in order to see and expedite the embarkation of the Troops—The third Brigade under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] was at New London when I left It, where there was a sufficient number of Transports to embark them, and most probably wou'd have arrived here before this, had It not been for a Severe Storm which happened the night they sailed which dispersed them, and I fear has done them some Injury. . . .

All the Ships of War besides the *Asia* moved out of this Harbour on Saturday, and the *Asia* yesterday, some of which are now below the Narrows and the rest gone to Sea.

Having received Information from hence before my departure from Cambridge that Thirty peices of Heavy Cannon were wanting essentially necessary for the defence of this place in addition to those already here, I took the liberty of applying to Adml Hopkins, whom I saw at New London, for that Number with the Mortars & Stores he brought from [New] Providence, a List of which he had Transmitted you. he told me that as many were wanting for the defence of Providence river & the Harbour at New London It was uncertain whether I cou'd have all I wanted, But that he wou'd send me all that could be spared.

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 587–89, NA.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW-YORK, APRIL 15." ¹

Since the arrival of the provincial troops the men of war here are not allowed provision nor water, and they, in their turn, are driving back all boats from the Jersies, and cutting off our supplies of provisions from thence . . . We are well supplied with Dutch goods, and soon shall with French; it is impossible the men of war can watch all our vessels, though they lie at the

Hook on purpose; we have so many creeks and harbours that they know nothing of, that they cannot ruin us.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 6 to June 8, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1776

New-York, April 15.

We hear his Majesty's Ships *Phoenix*, *Savage* and *Nautilus* now on this Station, will fall down to Sandy Hook this Day or To-morrow.

CAPTAIN JOHN BARRY TO CAPTAIN TIMOTHY SHALOR ¹

Sir/

Little Eggharbour April 15th 1776

You are hereby desired to take with you to Philadelphia and there deliver the prisoners which I have taken out of the Sloop *Edward*, and to supply them with sufficient meat Drink & Lodging during their journey to the place aforesaid, for which Mr Robt Morris will satisfy you, he or any of the Marine Committee at Philadelphia –

19 in No

John Barry ²

1. FDRL.

2. Journal of the Continental Congress, April 18, 1776 reads: "The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due . . . To Timothy Shalor, for expences in bringing prisoners from Egg Harbour, the sum of £14.1.1 – 37.5 dollars. *Ordered*, that the same be paid." Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 15, 1776

Resolved, That the Committee on fortifying ports, be Empowered to write in the name of the Congress to General Washington, and request him to send a proper person to examine such ports on the coast of New England as they shall direct, and report thereon.²

That the said committee be empowered to employ proper persons to examine the several ports and harbours on the coast between New York and Delaware bay, and between Delaware bay and Chesapeake, and to the southward.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to bring in a Resolution, whereby persons resident, having property in America, who assist any of the enemies of these United Colonies in the captures of vessels or goods, may be made liable to make good the damages to the sufferers:

The members chosen, Mr. [Carter] Braxton, Mr. [John] Jay, and Mr. [George] Wythe.

A petition from Moses Kirkland, a prisoner, was presented to Congress, and read:

Resolved, That the same be referred to the Committee on Prisoners.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 283–85.

2. Washington named Colonel Richard Gridley to view the works at Cape Ann, and Colonel Henry Knox to report on those at New London.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, 15th April 1776.

... The Marine Committee have assigned this evening for the appointment of officers for the ships but I shall get the appointment for your ship put off till I hear from you, I have wrote you several times on this subject and hope soon to have a long list and that it will contain something more than is necessary, that I may have a hand in the choice . . .

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 15th April, 1776.

Capt. Pitt has permission from this Board to hire any Seamen Confined in Gaol by order of this Committee.

Upon application of Colo. Roberdeau for Pilots to carry down the Privateers' Sloops *Congress* & *Chance*.

Resolved, That a Pilot be allowed the Sloop *Congress*, provided the Captain of her will Promise and engage to go down the Cape May Channel and land his Pilot there.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 542.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia, April 15, 1776] ²

We are informed that the intention of this board has been misunderstood respecting the passage of such vessels as are not Sea Vessels by the Cheveau Du freze, which has occasioned the stoppage of divers small craft contrary to our said intention, this is therefore to inform you that we had only in intention to prevent Sea Vessels from going down unless they had a permit from this board, our reason for making this regulation, was an apprehension that a pilot might be induced to go down in some of them, contrary to our regulations, and thereby be exposed to the Men-of-War below, who might be with their assistance more easily got up to this city, of course you will conclude that it was not intended to interrupt any other Vessels from passing, you are therefore desired to allow them to pass without any delay according to former usage.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 717.

2. The date is approximated. The order referred to was passed by the Committee of Safety on April 4, 1776, and it probably took sometime for the misunderstanding, with its results, to come to the attention of the committee.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY *Ranger* ¹

Philadelphia, April 15, 1776

RUNaway from the *Ranger* Armed Boat, James Montgomery, Esq; Commander, two Men, viz. John Vint, by Trade a Shoemaker, a tall well

made Man, stoops a little, very much pitted with the Smallpox, wears generally a blue Jacket, or a Great Coat of the same Colour, and very slow of speech, a Native of Ireland, about 5 feet 10 Inches High.

James Wilson, Trade unknown, a tall slender Man, about 5 feet 10 Inches high, wears a brown Coat, is smooth faced, and very pale, a Native of the North of Ireland. Whoever takes up either of them, and secures them, so that they may be brought on board the said Boat again, shall have Four Dollars reward.

James Montgomery

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

Remarks on Monday the 15 of April 1776

at 8 A M Sat Capt [John] Barrey pepel on Shoar at Cape May ²

9 A M wade & sailed up the River
the Latter part Rane

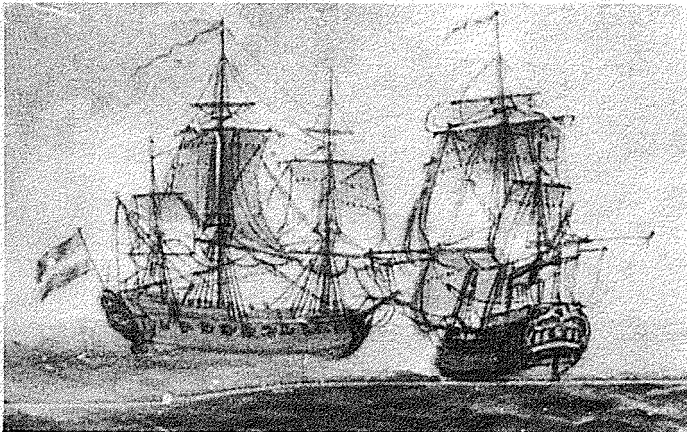
Latts Obs 39.08 No

Thick Rane Wathear

at 10 P M Came two at Chastar

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. The prize crew which had brought in H.M. Sloop *Edward*, taken by Barry in the *Lexington*.
April 7, 1776.



CAPTAIN THOMAS CONWAY'S ACCOUNT WITH THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND¹

Dr The Province of Maryland In Account with Thomas Conway as Master of the Sloop <i>Molly</i> 1776			Cr Va Currency		
		Va Curry	177[5]		
April 15	To Wages for myself from 13th December 4 Months & 2 days a 130/ P Month	} 26..8..8	Decr 23d 1776	By Cash of J & Hooe.	9.12..-
	To ditto for Extra Service & risk		March 26	By Cash of ditto	2..-..-
	To Wages for Stephen Stiles from 2d Jan- uary to 15th Aprill as Mate a 4 £ p Month	} 13.14..8	April 8	By ditto of ditto	5..6..-
	To ditto for ditto's Pilotage		15	By ditto of ditto	57..5..4
	To ditto for Benedict Tarr from 20th December to 15th Aprill a 60/	} 11.10..-			
	To 1 Months Wages to 3 Men that left the Vessell in Martinicoe a 40/				
	To Wages for Jno Stoops from 22d De- cember to 8th April at 30/	} 5..6..-			
		£74..3..4			£74..3..4
			E[rrors] E[xcepted] and Contents Rec'd P Thomas Conway		

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts, 1775-1776, Md. Arch.

JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Liberty Hall 15th Apl 1776

... I am now to acknowledge yours by post of the 24 March, which contain'd a confirmation of what had been before rumored about, that Boston was in our possession which I am very glad to hear, as at any rate the driving the British Army from a place, that they had been in possession for near two years, and had rendered us stronger the nature of its situation would admit of, must necessarily give the powers of Europe an high opinion of our Spirit, Strength, & Military abilities – what these vanquished troops may do next I know not, but am apprehensive that they will throughout the Colonys do every injury they can, to all such Towns, [Citi]es &c as are within reach of the Cannon of there [ships] as to their land forces, even if they are augmented to the full number that Administration expect, I donot see (provided America keeps firmly united) any great things that they can do, all the injury however they can do they will, for instead of any prospect of accomodation, such as America, would, or should consent to, it is plain to me that Great Britain would crush us to attoms if she were able, and if that is the case, I do not see what it is we should hesitate about I assess I could wish to hear that it was determined to set them at defiance and declair for a free Trade, which in all probability might ingage the powers of Europe to push for part of our trade, this might be productive of a quarrel, and furnish the British fleet with better imployment then blocking up our harbours – ...

My House standing within point Blank Cannon Shott of the Shipping, I thought it advisable to remove my family and most valuable efects, we are now living in the House where Mr Ballentine formerly kept store Just below Nomony Ferry – (Baptized Liberty Hall) I am with much respect Dr Sir [&c.]

J. A. Washington

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM VIRGINIA, DATED APRIL 15." ¹

It is certain Mr. Archibald Govan's vessel, and a number of Scotch passengers, are stopped, and the property seized, chiefly consisting of specie, to the amount of fifty thousand pounds, which, if condemned, will be no bad first fruits of your resolution of reprisal. The vessel being Govan's, I suppose will be considered as American property, but the cash, I take for granted, was mostly collected for the principals in Scotland.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 1, 1776.SAMUEL JOHNSTON TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[Extract]

Halifax [North Carolina] 15 April 1776

Dear Sir Your Brother Delegates [William] Hooper and [John] Penn got here yesterday, I this day got your Letter but have only had time to glance it over. I am much disappointed in not seeing you here, We are going to

the devil [in a] hurry without knowing how to help ourselves, and tho many are sensible of this, yet they would rather go that way than to submit to the British Ministry – It seems a matter of uncertainty whether the French will join us or risque a quarrell with Great Britain on our Account could we keep our Ports open for Exports and procure supplies of Military Stores we would do great matters, otherwise we must inevitably fall thro, this however is a language I speak only to you and a few such

Our people are full of the idea of independance and are very busy in forming a Constitution but there are so many to consult on the Subject that it will be a strange piece of patchwork – it would be easy for one man to form a Constitution, but it requires great Judgment to adapt it to the Genius of the people

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH.

16 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that I left Nantasket Road on the 27th March with the *Centurion*, *Lively*, and *Tryal* Armed Schooner, the Transports with the Troops and other Vessels; and that the whole Fleet arrived at this place on the 2d April; and I have much satisfaction in acquainting you that not the least accident or loss happened during the passage.

Captain Hamond of the *Roebuck* having by his Letter of the 3d March (an Extract of which I sent you with my last) acquainted me that the *Liverpool* and *Otter* were in want of sundry Stores, and short of Provisions, I have sent a Supply for them by the *Fowey*, and have Ordered Captain [George] Montagu to continue under the direction of Captain Hamond; I have also added the *Glasgow* to the Ships under his Command, so that with the Force he will now have, I hope he may be able to effect some, if not all the Services in the Delaware, pursuant to their Lordships directions. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhams

[Endorsed] R-6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that His Majesty's Sloop *Viper* belonging to the Squadron under my Command which had been blown off the Coast and forced to bear away to the West Indies, arrived here yesterday from Antigua; and the *Hawke* Sloop having lost her Masts and forced to that Island by stress of Weather, Admiral Young has transmitted to me the Dispatches which were to have been brought out in her; but as Duplicates of those Or-

ders and letters have been already received and acknowledged, I omit particularizing them.

The Packets for several of the Southern Governors, as mentioned in Captain Cooper of the *Hawke's* Order, (a Schedule of which is therein inclosed) I have also received, and shall forward them by the first Opportunity.

Admiral Young having transmitted to me an Account of such Ships and Vessels as were destined to America, and had been driven to Antigua I have the pleasure to inform you that the *Layton*, *Killingsworth*, *Resolution*, and *Manners*, Victuallers are among the number, with several other Ships laden with Coals, Porter, Vegetables, &c. – The *Layton* is Arrived here with the *Viper*, and the others Admiral Young informed me would be ready to Sail from thence by the first of March, and would come under Convoy of the *Experiment*, which Ship has also been forced to Antigua.

I have the further pleasure of acquainting you, that the *Albion*, on board which Ship you inform me by your Letter of the 21st November were Vegetables for the use of the Fleet, is among those, of which I have received information from Admiral Young. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Sir, Chatham in Halifax Harbour 16th April 1776.

I am to inform you that pursuant to their Lordships directions to me, I have Ordered the *Nautilus* to Bermuda for the protection of His Majesty's Stores on that Island. The *Saint-John* Armed Schooner has been for a considerable time at the Island of [New] Providence, but as I am informed by Lieutenant [William] Grant who Commands her, that she is very much out of repair and in want of Stores, I intend to relieve him as soon as it is in my power; But as the safeguard and protection of the Store Ships and Victuallers which are hourly and impatiently expected upon the Coast, is an object of so great importance, it is impossible for me at present to dispense with the want of any one of the few Cruizers I have for that purpose; and I must further add that the *Milford* is the only Ship which has joined me from England since this Command has devolved upon me, except the *Orpheus* which I found here, and not yet ready for Sea, so that I have not Ships to appropriate to the various Services that demand my attention. Captain [Francis] Banks in the *Renown* remains in Nantasket Road, and has the Command of the Cruizers in Boston Bay, to intercept and send to this place the Ships with the Supplies ordered to Boston, and which will consequently be ignorant of the removal of the Fleet and Army.

You having by your Letter of the 11th November communicated to me their Lordships desire that I should send a Reinforcement to Sir Peter Parker; in answer thereto I am to acquaint you, the *Experiment* which you mention, having been drove to the West Indies is not yet Arrived, but is daily expected, and I have left with Captain Banks Orders for her to proceed immediately on her Arrival upon that Service, and it is my intention agre-

able to their Lordship's recommendation, to send another Ship to him as soon as the Arrival of the Victuallers and Storeships will permit me to alter the present disposition of the Squadron.

Mr [George] Jackson by his Letter of the 8th January informing me of several American Armed Vessels Cruizing in the Bay of Canso, and one in the Gulph of St Lawrence, I have to acquaint you that I have not as yet been able to send a Ship to either of these places, but I intend the *Orpheus* for that Service, the moment she can be got ready, and I mean to send another as soon as it may be in my power.

Their Lordships will observe by the State and Condition of the several Ships sent herewith, how much short of Complement some of them are; and they will be pleased to consider the impossibility of Supplying in this Country the losses Sustained by Deaths and Desertion, the total cessation of commerce, rendering Press Warrants very ineffectual for that purpose. I am [&c.]

M: Shuldham.

[Endorsed] 16 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A. Shuldham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRIGANTINE *Juno* AND CARGO¹

Nova Scotia Court of
Vice Admiralty [Halifax] }

Tuesday } Court open'd as usual by makeing Proclamation –
April 16 } The Memorial & order return'd by the Marshall as on file

Proclamation made for all claimers as usual none appeard Information exhibited by James Monk Esqr Solicitor General now read as on file. Alexander Graeme Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship the *King Fisher* being duly Sworn declares that on the twenty eighth day of February last he took the Brig *Juno* off[f] the Cape of Delaware Standing in for Philadelphia he took Possession of her that morning one of the men gave Information that there was Powder on Board and upon Searching afterwards he found 24 Hogsheads Salt Petre 12 Barrels of Sulphur, 20 Barrels Gun Powder, he carried the Vessel into Hampton Road

The Gun Powder he put on Board the *Roebuck* the Sulphur and Salt Petre he brought to Halifax and that he also brought the Master Capt[n] [William] Keith and several of his hands and that the Papers produced by him were all the papers he found on Board the said Brig –
Papers filed No 1 to 3 –

Richard Roe Midshipman being duly sworn Confirms the above –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch. See also March 23, and May 3, 1776.

MAJOR DANIEL ILSLEY TO CAPTAIN JAMES PURINTON¹

Falmouth April 16th 1776

You are Dyrected forthwith to take Charge of the Boats Belonging to the Provence and See that they are in good Repair – You are Likewise to Ex-

amin all Vesels Coming into this harbour or Els where – Demand their Papers and make Report to the Comd officer You are Likewise to go without the Islands with your Boat when the weather will Permit and on the Discovery of any Vessel that you may in the Least Suspect to be an Enemy to make the Best of your way to the Comd officer and make Report of Such Discovery – you are Likewise to assist with your Boats Crew (wich will Be 5 in Number) in the movement of the Cannon at the upper Battery or Els where as Your Superior officer Shall Dyrect –

Your Crew to appear and attend Roll Call if not otherwais on Dutey Every Day that the Boats are not on Dutey – Your Self Excèpted –

Daniel Ilsley Comdg officer

1. Daniel Ilsley Orderly Book, MeHS.

CONDEMNATION COSTS OF SHIP *Jenny*¹

Essex – Ipswich ss. April 16. 1776

Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought in either of the Counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex.

Proponants Costs in the Trial of the Ship *Jenny*
William Foster Master

Judge's Fees for receiving & filing the Libel	0..6..0	
for notifying the Trial	0..8..0	
for Expençe of notifying	0..3..11½	
for 4 Warrants for Jurors	1..0..0	
for Travel 15 miles	0..7..6	
for Attendance	1..0..0	
Constables for warning Town Meetings	}	0..2..7
drawing Jurors, Sum[s] & returning Warrts		
Sheriff for Attendance		0..4..0
for ringg the Bell &c		0..0..10
Jury's Fees		3..7..6
Clerks Fees for Attendance 5/ for recording the	}	0.12..0
Proceedings of Court 2/ for taxing Bill 5/		
two Witnesses (Jere[h] Proctor, Saml Green)		
Travel 20 miles each		0..6..8
	carried over	7.18..21½
[page two]	Brought over	7.18..21½
2 Witness[es] attendance one Day		5..4
		<hr/> 8..3..9

Tax'd by Isaac Mansfield Clerk
a Copy examin'd by Isaac Mansfield Clerk

1. Bartlett Papers, BHS.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO THE SPEAKER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Sir

Boston, April 16, 1776

As I am left in Boston with the command of the Continental troops In this Colony; I think it my duty to acquaint the Honorable house with my situation. Five Regiments are in this Colony, Two in Boston, one at Dorchester Heights, one at Charlestown, & one at Beverly. These Regiments were stationed by Genl Washingtons orders. In Boston there is not Seven hundred men fit for Duty, at Beverly not three hundred. I by no means think it prudent to take any men from Beverly, as all the prizes, taken from the Enemy, remain there, uncondemned, & considering near fifty of that regiment are on Board the Continental Privateers. The troops that marched to the Southward were hurried off, Chief of the cannon then fit for service, were ordered away, that we had not many if any Cannon in our most advanced posts to anoy the Enemy with, if we had been attacked. And the Stores scattered from Medford to Dorchester, the teams so drained off that we are not able to procure teams to move the Ordnance & Ordnance Stores, as I could wish. The harbour is now open to our Enemies, the men of War have it in their power to cannonade the town of Boston. If the Enemys should return, is it not possible for them to Carry the town of Boston, & the lines we have occupied for ten months, & scatter destruction in all the adjacent towns? Nay is not proba[b]le? If such should be the case they would get to themselves more honor, And more advantage than by vanquishing any other Colony in New England, and our disgrace & dishonour would be in proportion. I would not willingly Exaggerate matters; and fear when there was no occasion for fear, this matter has lain heavy on my mind ever since they evacuated the town. It appears to me Indispensibly necessary that the Channel should forthwith be stoped in whole or in part, so as to render it impossable to strangers with large ships. There is nothing to hinder the men of wars men from landing, in Braintree, Squantum or Dorchester in the night, & spreading destruction all around them & geting off without much difficulty, provided they know our state, & we have reason to fear that many among us would readily give them information of the same. I would by no means pretend to dictate to the Honorable house, I mention them with submission & with a mind full of anxiety, for the future well being of my Country. And am Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 347, NA Photocopy.

MAJOR BARACHIAH BASSETT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE CONTINENTAL
FORCES AT BOSTON ¹

Sir

I have sent you under the Care of a Sergeant four prisoners taken aboard the Schooner *Valent*,² at Martha's Vineyard bound for Boston – Viz:

Edward Marsh, Master the Mate, & two passengers in the employment of the Ministerial Forces I am Sir [&c.]

Bar^h Bassett
Majr in the Provincial Forces

Martha's Vineyard – April 16th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 349, NA Photocopy.

2. Actually the schooner *Violenti*, bound from Marblehead for Georgia, taken at sea February 1, 1776 by H.M.S. *Scarborough* and one of the prizes under convoy of that ship to Boston. On April 20, the prisoners, John Loring, Basil Cooper and David Lang were ordered to Concord jail. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO LIEUTENANT ELISHA HINMAN ¹

Ship *Alfred* at New London April 16, 1776

Sir You are to take Charge of the *Cabot* and proceed with her directly to Newport and land the ten Guns there to General [Henry] Babcock – but in case you cant get into Newport harbour then you are to go into the River Eastward of Rhode Island and land your Guns at Howlands Ferry and send an Express to Brigadier Babcock with it as soon as possible – if you cant get into either of the above ports go up to Providence and deliver the Guns to Governor Cooke Yours &c

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

ALEXANDER McDougall TO JOHN JAY ¹

[Extract]

New York April 16th 1776

... We have two sloops and a peteauger armed on account of the Colony, ready to Saile on a Cruze. They have been detained for want of a regulation for the Seamen's pay. one of the sloops carries Six four Pounders, & the other four, of the best Guns of their Denominations I ever saw; and the largest Sloop is very well calculated for the Service. The Peteauger mounts Swivels on the Combing of the Hatches, as she is decked; carries about twenty men, Designed to scour in inland Navigation.

1. John Jay Papers, CUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

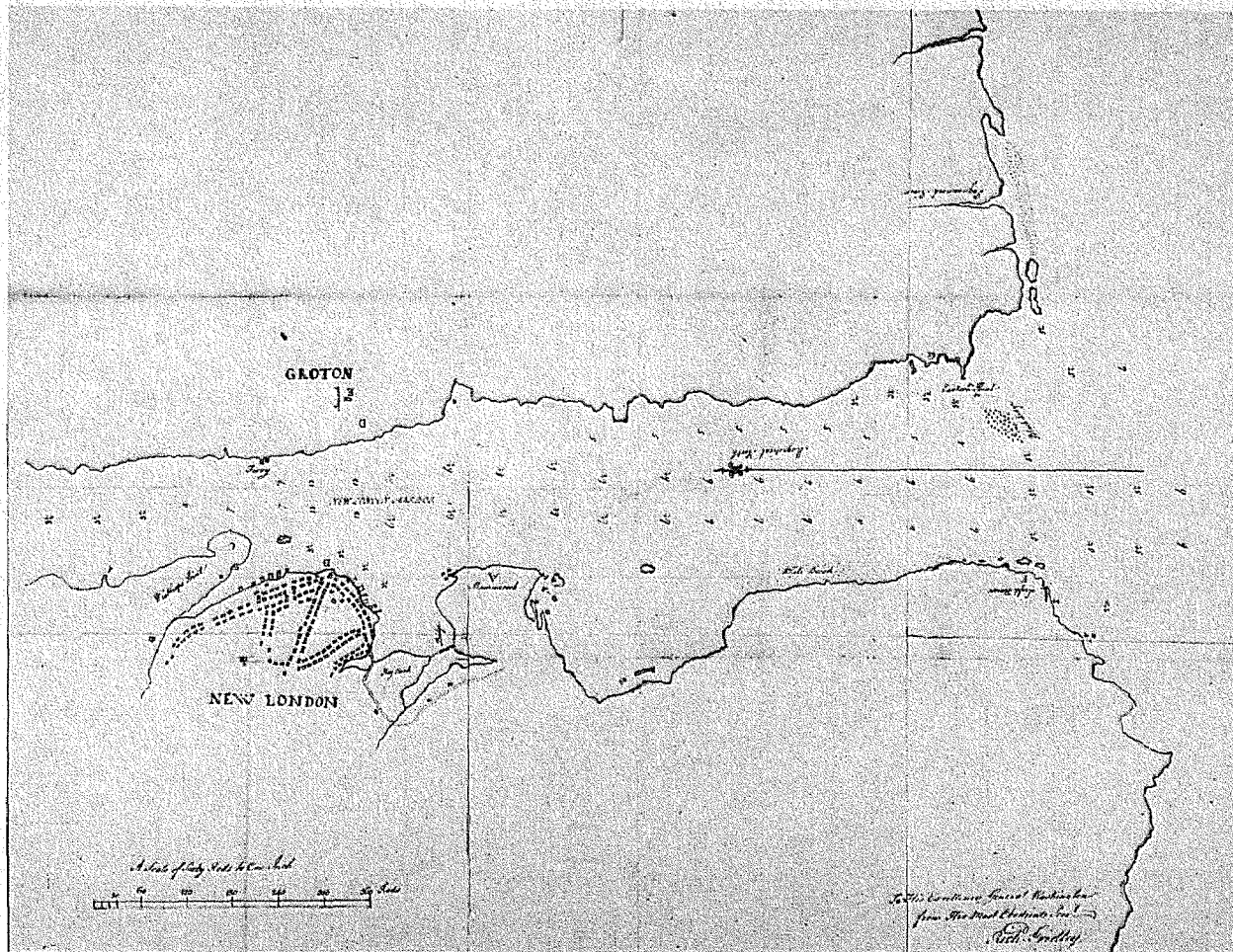
[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 16, 1776

A letter from [Commodore] E. Hopkins, Commander of the fleet from New London, of the 9th, enclosing a list of the cannon and stores brought from [New] Providence;

A letter from the committee of Baltimore, of the 14th, enclosing copies of intercepted letters from the Secretary of State to governor Eden;

A letter from General [John] Thomas, of the 8th, being received were laid before Congress, and read.

Ordered, That the secretary publish an extract of Commander Hopkins letter.²



Manuscript chart of New London, Connecticut.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letter from the committee of Baltimore, and the papers enclosed, came to the following resolutions:

Whereas information has been this day laid before Congress, from which there is great reason to believe, that Robert Eden, Esqr governor of the colony of Maryland, has lately carried on a correspondence with the British ministry, highly dangerous to the liberties of America;

Resolved, therefore, That the council of safety of Maryland be earnestly requested, immediately to cause the person and papers of Governor Eden to be seized and secured, and such of the papers as relate to the American dispute, without delay, conveyed safely to Congress; and that copies of the intercepted letters from the Secretary of State, be enclosed to the said council of safety.

Resolved, That the council of safety of Maryland be requested to cause the person and papers of Alexander Ross to be immediately seized and secured, and that the papers be sent safely to Congress.

And to prevent the said Alexander Ross having any opportunity to escape,

Resolved, That the like request be made to the committees of observation for Baltimore and Frederic counties in Maryland, in one of which counties the said Alexander Ross probably now is.

Resolved, That the president write to Commodore Hopkins and direct him to send a complete list and state of the stores taken and brought from [New] Providence, with the sizes of the cannon &c. and, in case he should have left New London, that Governor Trumbull be desired to order a list of the stores left at New London by Commodore Hopkins, to be made out, and transmitted to Congress.

Resolved, That the cannon and such other of the stores as are not necessary for the fleet, be landed and left at New London, and that such of the cannon and wheels as Governor Trumbull shall direct, may be employed for the defence of that harbour, during the pleasure of the Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 285, 286, 289.

2. Printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 17, 1776.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia April 16th 1776.

By the Letters of Lord Germaine to your Governour, Copies of which you have enclosed, it evidently appears, that Mr Eden has been carrying on a dangerous Correspondence with the Ministry of Great Britain, who seem desperately bent on the Destruction of America. The Congress therefore have come to a Resolution that the Person and Papers of Governour Eden be immediately seized, from which there is Reason to believe, we may not only learn, but probably defeat, the Designs of our Enemies.

The Congress also being informed, that there is one Alexander Ross in your Colony, who has lately been with Lord Dunmore, and is represented as a dangerous Partizan of the British Administration. him also the Congress

are desirous of apprehending, and for that Purpose, have passed a Resolution, which you have enclosed with the other.

The Congress, relying on your Zeal, confide that you will exert your best Endeavours in executing said Resolutions.

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

Gentlemen,

Philada April 16th 1776.

I received, & immediately communicated to Congress, your Letter of the 14th, with the important Papers enclosed. In Consequence of which, the Congress have resolved, that the Person and Papers of Governor Eden be immediately seized by the Committee of Safety, to whom I write by this Opportunity. The Person mentioned in the enclosed Resolution (Mr Alexander Ross) is represented as a dangerous Partizan of Administration, who has lately been with Lord Dunmore, and, it is suggested, is on his Way to the Indian Country to execute the execrable Designs of our Enemies. I have no Doubt, but you will exert your utmost Endeavours in seizing & securing him. I am with respect, Gentlemen [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt

[P.S.] You will please not to make public Mention of the Resolution respectg Govr Eden, untill the Come of Safety have executed it –

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS. Purviance, chairman of the Baltimore Committee, sent copies of the Congressional resolve to the Virginia Committee of Safety.

JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 16, 1776

You will learn the Exploits of our Fleet, before you get this. They have behaved as all our Forces behave by Sea and Land. Every day convinces us that our People are equal to every Service of War or Peace by Sea or Land.

You say the Sigh's for Independence are universal. You say too what I can scarcely believe, that *Moderation* and Timidity are at an End. How is this possible? Is Cunning at an End too – and Reserve – and hinting against a Measure that a Man dare not oppose directly or disapprove openly? Is trimming at an End too? and Duplicity? and Hypocrisy? If they are, I give you Joy, sir, of a group of Tyrants gone. But I have not yet Faith in all this. You deal in the Marvellous like a Traveller. As to the Sighs, what are they after? Independence? Have We not been independent these twelve Months, wanting Three days?

Have you seen the Privateering Resolves? Are not these Independence enough for my beloved Constituents? Have you seen the Resolves for opening our Ports to all Nations? Are these Independence enough? What more would you have? Why Methinks I hear you say, We want to compleat our Form and Plan of Government. Why don't you petition Congress then for Leave to establish such a Form as shall be most conducive to the

Happiness of the People? But you say, Why don't the Southern Colonies Seize upon the Government? That I can't answer – but by all We can learn they are about it, every where. We want a Confederation, you will say. True. This must be obtained. But we are united now, they say, and the Difference between Union and Confederation is only the same with that between an express and an implied Contract.

But We ought to form Alliances. With Whom? What Alliances? You don't mean to exchange British for French tyranny. No, You don't mean to ask the Protection of French Armies. No, we had better depend upon our own. We only Want commercial Treaties. Try the Experiment without them. But France and England will part the Continent between them. Perhaps so, but both will have good luck to get it.

But you will say what is your own opinion of these Things? I answer, I would not tell you all that I have said, and written, and done in this Business for a shilling, because Letters are now a days jumpd after. Why don't your Honours of the General Court, if you are so unanimous in this, give positive Instructions to your own Delegates, to promote Independency. Don't blame your Delegates untill they have disobeyed your Instructions in favour of Independency. The S[outhern] Colonies say your are afraid.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 227–28.

JOHN ADAMS TO JOSEPH WARD ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia April 16, 1776

Dear Sir, – Upon the receipt of your favor of the third of April, I showed your recommendation of Capt. [Gustavus] Fellows to several gentlemen; but it had been previously determined that Captain [John] Manley and Captain [Isaac] Cazneau should have the command of the two ships building in the Massachusetts.

It is a great work to fortify Boston harbour, and will require many men – But however, I am not sufficiently informed to judge of the propriety of this measure – if there is the least reason to expect that Howe's army will return to Boston, it was wrong to remove so many men so soon, but it is hard to believe that that army will very suddenly return to that place. The Militia of that Province are tremendous to the enemy, and well they may be, for I believe they don't know of such another.

Every motive of self-preservation, of honour, profit, and glory, call upon our people to fortify the harbour so as to be impregnable. It will make a rendezvous for men of war and privateers, and a mart of trade.

You seem to wish for independence. Do the resolves for privateering and opening the ports satisfy you, if not let me know what will? Will nothing do, but a positive declaration that we never will be reconciled upon any terms?

It requires time to bring the Colonies all of one mind but time will do it.

1. *Papers of Col. Joseph Ward, Force Transcripts*, LC.

ELBRIDGE GERRY TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Dr Sir

Philadelphia April 16th 1776

I have just Time to send You by the post a News Paper in which is inserted the Resolves of Congress for opening the American Ports to all Nations excepting such as are Subject to the King of Great Britain – ²

As it is a Matter of Importance that these Resolves should be published in all the papers & sent to every Part of Europe & the West Indies not inimical to the Colonies, I doubt not the Committees of Correspondence or other Suitable persons will be desired by the honle Court to attend to such a Measure & cause the same to [be] republished in foreign Papers – I hope by the next Post to send some Blank Commissions & Instructions for Letters of Marque & of Resolves of Congress relative thereto, they being now in the press I remain [&c.]

Elb Gerry

Hona James Warren Esqr or in his Absence William Cooper Esqr

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives April 28th 1776

Read & committed to the Committee on the State of the Colony

Sent up for Concurrence

J Warren Spkr

In Council April 18th 1776

read & concurred

John Lowell Dpy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 324, NA Photocopy.

2. The resolutions of April 6, printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, April 10, 1776.BENJAMIN MARSHALL & BROTHERS TO JEREMIAH WADSWORTH, HARTFORD ¹

[Extract]

Philada April 16th 1776

... There is a 40 Gun Ship now within our Capes with her tenders which have been troublesome, but as several Cruizers are now fitting out hope at least the Tenders will be taken. One of the *Liverpool* Tenders of 8 Carriage Guns & Swivels wt 35 Men was taken & sent in here by Capt [John] Barry in a fast Sailing Brig a few days past. – Thou desires to know the price of Flax, its seldom well dressed in Connecticut, but if thou Can gett such as is dress'd well, Neat & Clean it would fetch here from 15d a 16d p lb. should thou think proper to send any we will do the best we can for thy Interest We are [&c.]

Benjamin Marshall & Brothers

1. Jeremiah Wadsworth Papers, ConnHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

[Philadelphia] 16th April, 1776.

Resolved, That Jacob Hans be and he is hereby appointed Captain to one tier of Fire-Rafts.

Committees.

Committee for importing Powder, Arms &c.

Robert Morris,	Robert Whyte.
Tho's Wharton, jun'r,	

Fire Raft Committee.

Samuel Howell,	James Biddle.
Owen Biddle,	

Floating Battery Committee.

Samuel Howell,	George Clymer.
Robert Whyte,	

Ship Committee.

Mr. [John] Nixon,	Tho's Wharton, jun'r,
Robert Whyte,	Mr. Howell,
John Nixon [<i>sic</i>],	Mr. Clymer.

Cheveux-de-Frize Committee.

Robert Whyte,	Sam'l Morris, jun'r.
Owen Biddle,	

Committee for fitting out 4 Guard Boats
to Cruize at Cape May.

Mr. Nixon,	Mr. Whyte.
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Fort Island Committee.

George Clymer,	David Rittenhouse,
Owen Biddle,	Samuel Miles,

Barrack Committee – Fort Island.

Owen Biddle,	Dan'l Roberdeau.
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Armed Boat Committee

Robert Whyte,	John Nixon.
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Committee for further Defences.

Geo. Clymer,	S. Miles,
D. Rittenhouse,	Mr. [John] McNeill.
O. Biddle,	

Committee for fitting out two of the Armed Boats.

James Mease,	S'l Howell,
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Committee for building two Gallies for the Bay
Service.

Sam'l Howell,	Thomas Wharton, jun'r.
Owen Biddle,	

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, April the 16, 1776.

Before now I doubt not but you have heard of a small Brush that we had with the tender belonging to the *Roebuck*, on Esther Sunday [April 7] – the same day the ship took a small sloop and brought her into our Road, where she guted and turn'd her on Drift, it being thick and hazy wether, we could not tell where she drove. On Thursday [April 11] the wind being to the Westward, the ship hove up and stood out to sea, in quest of her tender as we suppose, for she has not been seen since Tuesday last; on Thursday night she anchored of about East from the light house, on Friday came [down under] Cape May. A ship which I take to belong to Sam Fisher and Andrew Bunner, (of your Place,) when the *Roebuck* hove up and stood over towards her and took her; the same Evening I saw from the light house five sail comeing down from under Cape May, which I took to be the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, and three New England Schooners, they all anchored there that night. On Saturday morning the Ship *Roebuck* came into our Road, with the other ship her Prize, and in a very short time man'd two of her boats, and sent them over towards Cape May, as I judged to cutt some of them vessels out, very luckily for them the ship hove out a signal for them to come aboard again, which they did, or they would have caut a Scotch Prize and be Damn'd to them. On Saturday Evening, the five sail under Cape May, made sail and stood out likewise, the *Roebuck* after them, and on Sunday afternoon the ship returned into our Road, after an unsuccessful Cruise, where she now lies, without her tender; some People to the South of our Cape, says that they saw her tender taken by a Sloop, some days agoe. I have rec'd some orders from you and from Capt. Richards & [Leeson] Simmons, which I shall strive to comply with. Having no more to add, I remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st, IV, 732–33.ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE MARYLAND SHIP *Defence* ¹

Baltimore, April 16th, 1776

Deserted from Ship *Defence*, Patrick Corbett, twenty-four years of age, fair complexion, five feet five inches high, has a scar on his left hand, by birth an Irishman. – Twenty Shillings reward if brought to the ship, or Messrs. Lux & Bowley.

1. *Dunlap's Maryland Gazette*, April 23, 1776.MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Tuesday 16th Ap[r]il P. M.

In consequence of Intercepted Letters received from the Commee of Safety in Virginia Copyes of which are hereafter inserted – the Commee of Safety appointed a Deputation of two of their body Messs Carroll and Hall and requested W. Paca Esqr to wait on the Governor with them and

desire a sight of his Letter of the 27th of August to Lord Dartmouth – and in case the same could not be procured to Ask his parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention – The Gent report that they waited on his Excellency accordingly and desired a sight of the Letter, to which he answered that he had sent away the Copy of that Letter with all his papers of consequence last fall and could not remember the particulars, but observed we might be convinced there was nothing of a nature unfriendly to the peace of this province because the Troops going to the Southward were not ordered here – he asserted also upon his Honour that he had not endeavoured to enflame the Ministry by traducing the Characters of Individuals, some he had spoke well of, others he had recommended as sufferers – the Gent of the [Continental] Congress he had spoke of as acting in the Line of Moderation.

That they then Informd his Excellency they were Instructed to ask his Parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention; the Governor complained of being unjustly Suspected gave them his Letters from Wm Eden Esqr his Brother one of the Under Secretaries of State – also from Lord Dartmouth – Copies of which he gave leave to take and are hereafter inserted – he desired time till Wednesday 12. O'Clock to give his Definitive Answer.²

1. Red Book, I, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Eden replied the next day: "I find it incumbent on me to tell you that I will not accord to it, nor can I, whilst I act, in any degree, as Governor of this Province, give my parole to walk about in it, a prisoner at large, . . . I shall persevere in my Line of Duty by what I think the Rule of Right, but not without some Chagrin at knowing myself unmeritedly the Object of Suspicion, altho' I have the Satisfaction to think that a considerable part of the most respectable persons in the Province entertain a very different Opinion of me, than is to be inferred from your proposed Arrest."

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT¹

April 1776	St Martins So 105 Lgs
Monday 15	at 7 [A. M.] fired two 12 Prs Shottd to bring too a Sloop from Philadelphia wth Flour b[oun]d to the Spanish Islnds in the West Indies wch we detain'd & sent a Mate & 5 Men on bd her Modte & fair Wr P M Sailmrs making a Mn Sail for the Prize out of an old lower studdg sl 1½ past 3 brot too fir'd a 12 Pr a signl for the Convoy to come under our stern, at 6 spoke a sloop from [New] Providence to St Christophers –
Tuesday 16	A M at 6 Brot too bent the Mn sl on bd the Prize, at 8 parted Co with her ½ past Wore & made sl in Co 19 sl Modte Breezes & fair Wr P M at 5 fir'd one 12 Pr a signl for the Convoy to bear down under our Stern, at 6 in 1st reefs Topsls

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua.
 Tuesday 16 Delivered to the Ship *Enterprize* a transport, Geo. Silby Master, two Small Boxes, one Directed to Mr Willm Robinson, Tower Hill London with the Captains Books and Papers for the *Hind*, and the other to the Principal Officers and Commissioners of His Majestys Navy with the Compleat Muster Books for the *Argo* from the 22d of November 1775 to the 29 Feby 1776 Inclusive as also a Letter to the Commissioners of the Victualling Office with the Quarterly Account of Provisions for Novr & Decr 75 and Jany 1776. — ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

2. Ship journals rarely disclose the details with which various home departments of the Royal Navy were kept informed quarterly of personnel and supplies. The above is a rare example of the method used.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BARBADOES, APRIL 16.” ¹

Yesterday the schooner *Granby*, of 10 carriage guns and 14 swivels, in the service of government, brought into this port three American sloops and a snow, all laden with corn, rice and flour; they were bound for Cape Francois.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 6 to June 8, 1776.

17 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir, *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 17th April 1776.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you I have received information that the *Brownhall*, laden with Naval Stores, and destined to this place, is safe at Antigua, where she is said to have arrived the 13th of February last, and I hope this Ship may be ready to avail herself of the Convoy of the *Experiment*.

The arrival of that Ship will be a very seasonable Supply to us, although I fear by no means adequate to our wants; for I must beg their Lordships to consider, that added to the Demands from the numerous Squadron under my Command, I have many applications from the Transports for Pitch Tar and Sundry Articles of Naval Stores, which cannot be by any means Purchased in this Country; and as the good Condition of these Ships (which already amount to a very great number and must necessarily be more) is of the greatest consequence to His Majesty's Service, the method by which they may be Supplied deserves the most serious Consideration. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

[Endorsed] 17 Apl 1776 Halifax V. A. Shuldham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

TRIAL OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Charming Polly* AND CARGO ¹

Nova Scotia	}	Cause
Court of Vice		
Admiralty		
		Commodore [Francis] Banks Commander of his Majestys Ship of War the <i>Renown</i> vs

The Sloop *Charming Polly* and Cargo.

Tuesday 16 April 1776	}	Libel fil'd & entred and Order made thereon as on file –
Wednesday 17th April 1776		Examination Orderd to be taken before the Register –
		Mr Richard Shruckburg Midshipman (appeared) of his Majesty's Ship <i>Renown</i> and Produc'd his Orders from Commodore Banks for bringing the Sloop <i>Charming Polly</i> to Halifax and declar'd that the said Sloop was taken by one Captn Dun Captain of a Transport Ship and deliver'd over by him to Commodore Banks –
		The Deposition of James Dunn Master of the of Sloop <i>Charming Polly</i> [corrected to read] transport ship <i>Pacific</i> taken as follows

James Dunn Master of the Transport Ship called the *Pacific* being duly Sworn declares that he took the Sloop *Charming Polly* off of Cape Cod the 4th of March last, that he found the Master had no Papers on Board and therefor he the said Dunn detain'd the said Sloop and deliver'd her up to Commodore Banks ²

James Dunn

Halifax, April 17th 1776

Sworn before me, Chas Morris junr Regr –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch. *Charming Polly* was declared a legal prize and awarded to Commodore Francis Banks and crew on May 4, 1776.
2. "Came in the *Pacific* Indiaman," extract from journal of H.M.S. *Renown*, March 5, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/776. The prize sloop *Charming Polly* had arrived in Nantasket road the day before.

JOSHUA ORNE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Marblehead April 17. 1776

May it Please your Honrs –

The Committe of Correspondence upon a ReExamination of the Prisoners, (taken by Capn Manly on board the Brig *Sally* bound to Hallifax) have made a Discovery of Joseph Wheaton & his Brother Caleb Wheatons Stealing & Carrg away a Fishing Boat in the night of the 28th Feby last, from Eleazer Ingalls of this Town, & then made their Escape to one of the Men of Warr Station'd here – An Acct of the Boats amount with stores &c, Will be forwarded by the Owner who also Attends to Wait your Honours

Determination respecting what Steps He shall pursue in the Recovery of his Intrest Again – We are with the Greatest Respect [&c.]

In behalf of the Committee

Joshua Orne Chairm[an]

P S Phineas Jones one of the Prisoners & who was also concerned in the above Theft Eloped the 10th Inst – notwithstanding he was under the Care of the Guards –

[Endorsed] In Council April 19th 1776 Read & orderd that Wm Sever, Jos. Garrish & Benja Chadbourn Esqrs be a Comtee to Examine sd prisoners & report thereon John Lowell Dpy Secy P T –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 313. Orne was chairman of the Marblehead Committee of Correspondence.

SILVANUS HUSSEY TO STEPHEN COLLINS ¹

Respected Kinsman

Lynn 4 mo. 17, 1776

Stephen Collins

After My Love To thee wife Nansey & famuly, theas may Inform that I this day Recd A Letter from Nantuckett which gave mee an acct of A Sloop I had Saled from their for Baltimore Seth Paddack Master, (the Sloops Name *Mayflower*) and that they have taking the Sloop priz'd & Sunk hur in the Channil with A Number more to Stop up the passage,² and I hear that Capt Paddack is Bount to Phelidelphia, I thaught I would trouble the[e] with an Order on him for money Putt into his hands £ 40 – LMoney to Purchase Flour for mee in Baltimore and as the Vessel is Sunk I Suppose the Capt Has the Money with him, and Likewise A Sum to the amount of £ 16 [2] Lawful Money which I Lett him have at Nantuckett he ows mee on Note of hand, all of which shal be glad [thou] would gett and if aney Opertunity this way thou will please to Lay out in Flour and Ship Mee, Prohabs Capt Had Purchased the Flour Before his Vessel was taking away from him in that Case thou will pleas To Send it this way or if No Opertunity To Sell it for the Most it will fetch, I heard Capt Paddack Recd the Freight Equal as though he Carried the Flour and was A Going to Leave it in John & Clemment Bittels³ hand Shall Be glad thou would ask them and acquannt mee if he has and How Mutch the Sum. I have Likewise Drawn an Order on A Blank person for the Amount of what the Above Vessel was priz'd at and thou will when the[e] Knows who is To Pay for the Vessel Putt his or their Names Down, and Receive the Mony and Send it to Mee By Land, if aney thing Else is Nessery in Order To Obtain the mony for the Vessel pleas To Let Mee Know as Soon as Thou Can. I Suppose Capt Paddack told the Committee who Prizd the Vessel who his owner was if so I Should think this Order would Be Sufficnt, Prohabs thou may hear of Capt Paddack By applying To Frankling⁴ as he is A Kinsman of his, I Should not have Troubled thee with this Busines Butt I Knew of no person So will acquainted as thy Self, of my acquaintance To Transackt Such A peace of Busines as it Requires Cor-respondance in Baltmore as I Suppose, and I thought thou would undertake

it if thou Dont make A Busines of Doing Busines on Commission – am thy [&c.]

Sil^{us} Hussey

1. Record Group 45, NA.
2. Sunk along with a number of other vessels in March 1776, when it was feared the British sloop *Otter* intended to attack Baltimore.
3. The firm of John & Clement Biddle of Philadelphia.
4. Benjamin Franklin.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday April 17th 1776

Resolved That the Select men & Committee of Safety &c. for the Town of Truro, be and they hereby are directed to deliver to Capt James Holmes, late Master of the Ship *Friendship*, Stranded on the Shoar at Cape Cod the 29th day of Feby last, The remainder of his Private Property that is yet in the hands of the Said Selectmen and Committee of Safety of Said Town of Truro –

In the House of Representatives. The House made Choice of Simeon Sampson as Captain of the Armed Brigantine Building at Kingston for the Service of this Colony.

In Council Read & Concurred –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 764, 765, 769.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN REMEMBRANCE SIMMONS ¹

Sir

Providence April 17, 1776

You being Master of the Sloop *Sally* and Ready for the Seas, My orders & Directions are that you Imbrace every Good Oppoty to Gain your Passage in the Most safest way you Can According to the best of Your Judgment, To St Croix & There Dispose of your Cargo to the Best Advantage & take a few hhds of the very best Sugar not to Exceed 10 hhds and fill up your Vessel with Good Rum, which you will Indeavour to purchase without Cask and put the same in your Own Casks wch you are to get Made Out of the White Oak Shaken hhds you have on bord and the remainder of your Cargo you Will lay out in 3/4 Cannon & 1/4 pistle Powder If to be had Cheep enough to Ansr wch you Will not Exceed 1/2 pr 8 P lb – but expect it will be for much less if So you Will layout all the Money you have more than to purchas the Sugar & Rum as Aforesaid In Powder, and Small Arms, wch you are to pick up wherever you Can & May buy any part of a Gun locks or Barrels or any Parts You Can get, if Reasonable, If yu find the Island in Grait Want of any thing you have, you Must Demand Powder & arms for it – You must Take Grait Care to Imploy the very best of Coopers who will be Carefull to make your Cask Tight, If the Powder & arms is not to be had reasonabbly You have Liberty to lay out the remdr Your Money in Any Sorts of Goods wch you May think will Answer best – According to the best You Judge as Steel, Course Linnen, (but not fine Linen) Checks, Hanker-

chiefs, pins, paper, pepers, nutmegs, Cotton, Ravens Duck &c &c You are to be exceeding Cautious About getg home & fall in to the Back of Nantucket or Vinyard & after you get in to Some Safe Harbore to give Me Notice if you find you Cant Come with Safety into this Colony – Your Commissions for doing the Buissness is to be 5 pCt for Sales & 2½ for Returns, be sure to make no bad Debts, or leave none behind – Your Priveledge Out is to be 2m. of Hoops wch you are to take the Chance of with All on Deck as well as those in your hold & to loose a proportion as yours: Bears to the Whole if any loss & 8 hhds of the Common size with Cargo [blurred.] If Anything Shod happen with you to Render you Incapapable of doing the Buissness Your Mate is to take the Command & follow these My Orders – If your Vessel wont Load with Rum & Sugar As Aforsd you'l take Some Smaller, as Beer Casks &c filled with Rum to fill up – Wishing a Good Voyage & safe Return, Am yr [&c.]

N Brown

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy the foregoing wch I promis [to] Observe & do my best to follow – Rembr^r Simmons

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCB.L.

“MEANIFEST OF THE CARGO BROUGHT FROM HIGHSPANOLI IN THE SCOONER
Polly ISAAC BROWN MEARSTER – APRIL 17 – 1776”¹

20 Cask of Powder
10 Bags of Shot
14 Bolts of Duck About 650 Yards
20 Reame of Papor
3 Peacis of Coars Linnen
19 Guns
10 Pair Pistols
2 Sord & Cutlas
3 Dozens of Hankerchiefs

1. Maritime Papers, Manifests Import Cargos, R.I. Arch.

APPOINTMENT OF NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. AS AGENT FOR COMMODORE
ESEK HOPKINS¹

Know all Men by these Pressents that I Esek Hopkins (Commandr in Cheif of the Arm'd Vessells belonging to the United Colonies) do Constitute and Appoint Nathl Shaw Junr Mercht to be my Agent and in my Name and behalf to Appear in all Causes WhatsoEver and to have full Power to transact any Bussiness for me as though I were Pressent in this Port or Colony – New London April 17th 1776

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

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Sr/

New London April 17, 1776

In Closed you have a Copey of a Letter Recd this day from Genl Wasin-

ton I[n] Consequence of which I have Sent out this afternoon the *Cabot* with 10 ps of the heavey gons with orders to Land them at Newpot or Soome whare in your goverment the *fly* Came in this Evening and Saw Some of the Ships off Montoge poin at half past 3 oClock this after noon. I am Extremely Consernd for the Town of Newport make no Dought but you will take the most prudent steps for the public good.

P.S. Should be glad that the Commr. of the *Cabot*² should be assisted with Ballast or any thing else he may want – besides the 10 Cannon sent in the *Cabot* I have 16 more which I will send round as soon as I can with Safety.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Lieutenant Elisha Hinman; see Hopkins' orders to him, April 16, 1776.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY BABCOCK¹

Sir

New London April 17th, 1776

I this Moment receiv'd an Express from General Washington the Contents are inclosed – Have sent the *Cabot* with ten pieces of Cannon with Orders to deliver them to you as soon as possible – have given the Captain Orders to land them in Newport if possible – if not at Houlands Ferry – Your own prudence will Suggest what Steps may be necessary for the Public Safety. I am [&c.]

E.H.

To Henry Babcock Esqr

Brigd General & Commandr of the Troops on Rhode Island

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[New York] Die Mercurii, A.M.

April 17th 1776.

Mr. William Mercier, (who is appointed to superintend the fitting out the armed sloop *Montgomerie*, whereof Wm. Rogers is commandant,) applied for an order on the store keeper for 6 pr. pistols, 200 lb. musket balls, 20 cartridge boxes, 600 lb. gunpowder. Mr. Mercier also applied for the sum of £200, to be applied towards defraying sundry expenses accrued in fitting out said sloop.

A draft of a Letter to His Excellency Genl. Washington was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – The Committee of Safety of this Colony, having been requested to apply to your Excellency to obtain a release of seven citizens now detained on board the ships *Phoenix* and *Asia*, as prisoners; they are well informed an exchange may be effected if your Excellency would be pleased to give the Committee the benefit of a number of your prisoners of equal rank. Should either of the ships depart with their prisoners on board, their respective families must labour under additional misfortunes. Some of them have been detained a long time. The Committee enclose a list of their

names; and beg leave to assure you, that they are, with the greatest esteem, [&c.]

His Excellency Genl. Washington.²

The names of the prisoners alluded to in the foregoing letter, are as follows, to wit: William Mount, master of a vessel; Robt. Johnson, mate; Wm. Berwick, pilot; Jacob Germaine, pilot; Charles Galatian, Wm. Dillon, boatmen; Wm. Bicker, hatter, – *Asia*.

Die Mercurii 4 ho. P.M.

April 17th, 1776.

Mr. [Comfort] Sands produced the following letters, which were read, in order to support his request for an order on the treasury for the sum of eleven hundred and fifty pounds, to pay for the sloop *Sally* and the schooner *Polly*.

St. Eustatia, March the 2d, 1776.

Sir – I am sorry to relate to you the sad misfortune that I have met with on the high seas. On the 10th day of February, in the lat. $23^{\circ}09'$, long. $63^{\circ}00'$, I met with the *Portland* ship of war of 50 guns. In spite of my endeavours, she brought me to, and took all my people and sent the sloop to Antego, with two officers and 5 men. I had the good fortune to save part of my money, which I have lodged in the hands of Samuel Cousens. I expect to sail in 6 or 7 days for New-York, in a fast sailing sloop belonging to Amboy. I have enclosed a bill on Mr. Curson & Seaton, and do intend to bring a copy of the same myself.

Sir, I still remain, yours,

Wilkie Dodge.

A letter from Matthew Van Alstyne, to his brother Abraham Van Alstyne, of this city, merchant, dated St. Eustatia, Feby. 24th, 1776, of which the following is an extract:

I am sorry to inform you of my misfortune of being taken by the *Pamone* frigate. I had been at Martinico, and going to Guardeloop. I was becalmed under the land when he took me.

Also another letter, from Capt. Mathew Van Alstyne, to Abraham Van Alstyne, dated St. Eustatia, Feby. 4th, 1776.

I am going to St. Christopher's, to take charge of Capt. Sanders' brig, rather than come home, for the sea is full of all kinds of cruizers. There is not one vessel in ten that escapes, going or coming. On my arrival here I wrote up to my friends at St. Christopher's, and related my misfortune of being taken.

Ordered, That Peter Van Brugh Livingston, Esqr. as Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony, pay to Mr. Comfort Sands six hundred and fifty pounds for the sloop *Sally*, whereof Wilkie Dodge was late master. And the further sum of five hundred pounds for the schooner *Pol-*

ly, Mathew Van Alstyne, master, which was insured at that price by Sands, on account of this Colony.

Edward Tylee [Tilley] being examined saith, that he has been a prisoner on board the *Asia* seven months; that he was well treated by Capt. [George] Vandeput during the whole time, and that upon the whole, he did not receive any ill treatment from any of the ship's company. This examinant farther saith, that Lord Rosehill informed this examinant just before he came from on board the *Asia*, that he, Lord Rosehill, had given the information to Captain Vandeput by the way of Amboy, which occasioned his being taken prisoner. This examinant being examined relative to the *Asia's* firing on the city, said that he was not on board at the time, but was informed after being on board, that Captain Vandeput gave orders for the first firing, but that he, Capt. Vandeput, went down between decks to stop the 2d firing; that the next morning, the 1st lieutenant, Mr. Galbreath, had loaded an 18 pounder with grape shot to fire on the inhabitants; that Capt. Vandeput jumped out of his cabin in his shirt to prevent it.

This examinant further saith, that one John Noble of this city, came continually on board the *Asia* with intelligence from this city; that he has frequently heard him give intelligence on board, particularly relative to the troops taking possession of Bedlow's island; that he, the examinant, heard Noble say, he managed and brought about the escape of Capt. Harris, when he, said Noble, was on guard; that the said Noble the week before last brought on board 3 rifle guns; that Lawrence Hartwick was another person who continually brought intelligence; that he was one of the persons who attempted to set fire to the furnace with combustibles made on board the ship *Asia* and gave the information which caused the two boats with iron to be seized; that with respect to the supply of fresh provisions they used to have it brought on board by many persons who he did not know; they refused to take Continental money for it; that a blockmaker, a tall man with a snuff-coloured coat, brown hair, who said he was a committee man, came on board twice some time in the month of November, to the best of his knowledge, in company with on Lawce. Hartwicke; that this examinant gave Hartwicke a letter to carry for him to Nathl. Tylee in New-York, and that in the presence of the said blockmaker; that the said blockmaker told this examinant, "You know you and I are not of the same way of thinking;" that the said blockmaker and Hardwicke broke the said letter open and showed the same to Captain Vandeput, as Captain Vandeput informed this examinant, upon which this examinant was more closely confined, and suffered considerably thereby.

This examinant further saith, that Mr. Bogert, the butcher, one or two nights before the ship *Lady Gage* was cut out, was on board the *Asia*; that two or three nights after the cutting out of the said ship, the said Bogert was on board again, and was invited by the gentlemen of the gun-room to go down with them in the gun-room; that this examinant was in the gun-room; that this examinant heard Bogert say, that when he, Bogert, was coming from Bedlow's island, he saw Mr. Nixen put off from alongside the *Asia*, and

that he, Bogert, lay down in the boat and let a sailor set upon him to prevent Nixcen's seeing him; that the officers in the gun-room on informing Bogert of the expedition in cutting out the *Lady Gage*, and laughing very heartily about it, one of the officers said to Bogert, "We told you of our going upon that expedition the other night;" that Bogert answered, "Yes, you did, but I did not want to hear it;" That one Nicolls, of Connecticut, a friend of this examinant, gave Bogert 16s. to purchase necessaries with for this examinant; that Bogert brought him off 2 gallons of rum, and the remainder of the money he kept for near three months, though often solicited to bring him some necessaries for the remainder, which he never did, till a friend of this deponent came on board to see him, and who he gave an order on Mr. Bogert to receive it and send him some necessaries, which he accordingly did.

James Smith, captain of the armed sloop called the *General Schuyler*, and Colo. Alexander McDougall, of the city of New-York, executed their joint and several bond to the Honourable John Hancock, President of the Congress of the United Colonies, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with condition thereto that the said James Smith, commander of the said sloop shall not exceed or transgress the powers and authorities which shall be contained in his commission as commander of the said sloop, but shall in all things observe and conduct himself, and govern his crew, by and according to the same, and certain instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other instructions as may hereafter be given him; and shall make reparation for all damages sustained by any misconduct or unwarrantable proceedings of himself, or the officers or crew of the said sloop.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said James Smith, as commander of the said sloop, and his instructions were also delivered to him.

Thomas Cregier, commander of the armed schooner *Gen. Putnam*, and Thomas Randall of the city of New-York, duly executed a similar joint and several bond to John Hancock, Esqr. President as aforesaid, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with a similar condition thereto as to the conduct and behaviour of the said Thomas Cregier, and his officers and crew.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said Thomas Cregier, as commander of the said armed schooner *General Putnam*, and a set of instructions delivered to him.

Capt. William Rogers, commander of the armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and Joseph Hallett of the city of New-York, duly executed a similar joint and several bond to John Hancock Esqr. President as aforesaid, in the sum of five thousand dollars, with a condition thereto for the good conduct and behaviour of the said Wm. Rogers, as commander of the said armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and of his officers and crew, in terms similar to the condition of the bond of the said James Smith and Alexr. McDougall.

Thereupon a commission was filled up and delivered to the said Wm. Rogers, as commander of the said armed sloop *Montgomerie*, and a set of instructions delivered to him.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 408, 409, 410, 411.

2. The original letter, signed by William Paulding as chairman of the committee, is in the Washington Papers, LC.

BILL OF SALE OF THE SCHOONER *General Putnam* [*Betsey*]
TO THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK ¹

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Know Ye, that I Paul Mersereau of Staten Island, owner of the good perreage or Vessel, called The *Betsey* of the Burthen of Twenty seven Tons, or thereabouts, for and in Consideration of the Sum of Two Hundred & forty five pounds Current Money of the Province of New York paid, before the Sealing and Delivery of these Presents, by Mr. Thomas Randal, of the City New York Merchant the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, and therewith fully satisfied, contented and paid: Have Granted, Bargained and Sold, and by these Presents do Grant, Bargain and Sell, unto the said Thomas Randall for the use of the province of New York or their Executors Administrators and Assigns, all & every part of the said good Perreauger or Vessel, called The *Betsey*, together with the Mast, Sails & Anchors & cables and all other Necessaries thereto appertaining and belonging. To Have and to Hold the said Perrauger and Appurtenances, thereunto belonging, Unto me the said Paul Mersereau or to my Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to the sole and only proper Use, Benefit and Behoof of the said Thomas Randall in trust for the province of New York or their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, forever. And I the said Paul Mersereau have and by these Presents, do Promise, Covenant and agree for myself my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to and with the said Thomas Randal, for the use of the province of New York of their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to War-rant and Defend the said Thomas Randal and all other the before-mentioned Appurtenances, for and during the full Term of one Year and a Day, according to the Laws and Customs of Oleron in such Cases made and provided (Fire, Enemies, Restraint of Princes, Perils and Dangers of the Seas, only excepted) In Testimony whereof the said Paul Mersereau has hereunto set his Hand and Seal this Seventeenth Day of April in the Seventeenth Year of his Majesty's Reign, Annoque Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six

Sealed and Delivered
in the Presence of Hugh Duncan.

Paul Mersereau

[Endorsed] Bill of Sale of the Schooner *General Putnam* (*Betsey*) £ 245

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in the New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE COST OF THE SLOOP *Schuyler*, JAMES SMITH MASTER ¹

1776

Januy 23.	Paid Col M'Dougal for the Sloop	£ 325. . . . -
Febry 26	Paid Capt James Smith his Accot. of Outfit	248. . . . 10
April 17	Paid do portledge bill &c &c	268. 12. . 6 1/2
	Paid do do do	124. . 9. . 2
March 4	Paid do on Accot of Seamen's Wages	50.
12	Paid Chn Duyckink for Sails	17. 19. . -

[Endorsed]

Cost of Sloop *Schuyler*

Armed Vessels Continental

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in the New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

DIARY OF SAMUEL RICHARDS ¹

[April 10 to April 17, 1776]

on arriving at New London we found we had to wait for vessells to be procured to transport us to New York, we there waited five days, still enjoying the hospitality of the citizens, but the men drawing their own rations and cooking for themselves. I was hospitably entertained during our stay - at the house of a namesake.²

While at New London went on board Commodore Hopkins' ship, he having returned from his expedition to the Island of New Providence, where he siezed a considerable quantity of millitary stores belonging to the British. the powder taken was particularly needed.³ every thing about the ship appeared in a forlorn condition, having had no repairs since a running fight she sustained with a british ship on her way home; she having succeeded in capturing the ships tender.

the fifth day I went on board a sloop with about 100 of the regiment - on the commencement of a N. East storm and were driven rapidly on through the sound: in passing thro' Hurlgate, or as it is popularly called Hellgate - our vessell ran on *the middle rock*, an unpleasant and dangerous circumstance indeed. As the vessell ran on at high tide, when it ebbed she slid off without our sustaining any injury. On our arrival at New York we were at first cantoned in the empty houses of the citizens, many of them having left the city to be away from the ensuing scene.

1. *Captain, Richards' Diary*, 29-30.

2. Richards at that time was an ensign in the 22nd Continental Infantry.

3. The one item that Hopkins failed to get was powder.

SECRET INTELLIGENCE FROM NEW YORK CITY ¹

[Extract]

New York April 17th 1776.

Secret Intelligence.

The two Privateers fitted out here, has not met with such good success as they expected, they cannot get Men to man them as yet - One that carries

Six 4 Pounders is to have 40 Men, and the other that carries Four, 4 Pounders is to have 30 or 35 Men –

NB. Since I wrote the fore part of the above, two Brigs and three Sloops, are coming down the Sound, with the remaining part of Washington's Army about 300 Men. It is a great pity that some method cannot be taken to stop the communication down the Sound to the Town; as it would certainly prevent the Rebels from receiving supplies but by Land.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. Enclosed in Shuldhham to Stephens, May 20, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹.

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, April 17, 1776

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To John Avery, Junr for riding express from Commodore Hopkins and back, the sum of 40.7 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be instructed to recommend to the Congress, proper persons for commission officers for the frigates now building, and that the warrant officers be appointed by said committee; and that they fit the said frigates for the sea with all expedition:

That the Marine Committee recommend to Congress proper persons to be agents for prizes in the several colonies:

That a bounty of eight dollars be allowed by the public to the owner of every American vessel for every able seaman that he shall import into the United Colonies, over and above the number said vessel carried out; and that foreigners importing able seamen over and above the ship's company, and discharging them in the American ports, shall be entitled to the same bounty.

Resolved, That the nomination or appointment of captains or commanders of continental vessels shall not establish rank, which is to be settled by Congress before commissions are granted.

The Congress having proceeded to the election of captains for the two frigates building in Massachusetts bay,

The ballots being taken,

~~William~~ John Manly and Isaac Cazneau were elected captains of the two frigates now building in Massachusetts bay.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to give orders for the arming and manning abroad any of the ships or vessels employed in the importation of cargoes for the continental account; the expences and charges of such armaments to be paid by the said Committee; they receiving for the public service, on the arrival of every vessel, all the arms, ammunition, and stores.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be empowered to import cargoes of salt on the continental account, in such ships or vessels as they employ to carry outward cargoes, and are obliged to insure on their return.

Resolved, That the Secret Committee be directed to supply Mr.

[Thomas] Leaming with 200 lb. of powder, for the use of the militia of Cape May, he paying for the same.

Resolved, That the commanding officer at New York, be directed to order two companies of Colonel [Elias] Dayton's batallion to march to Cape May, there to remain till farther orders.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 289-91.

COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

We are appointed by the Congress a Committee to examine into and report to them the Properest Places for the Building Forts for the Protection of our Trade, our Cruisers, and their Prizes, and we have permission from them to request of you to send some Person in whose judgment you can confide to take an exact Plan of the Harbours of Cape Ann and New London, and the fortifications now erected at those Places, with the Number and Size of the Cannon in them, and give us his opinion what more is necessary to be done to put them in such a State of Defence as will answer the above purposes, with an estimate of the Expense, we also wish to be inform'd the Distance of each of those Ports from the Sea, what Difficulties attend the getting into, or out of them, or whether they may be easily block'd up by the Enemy, in short we would gladly be inform'd of every advantage and disadvantage attending them, and hope you will order as full a Report as possible—

We congratulate you on your safe arrival at New-York and are [&c.]

Benj^a Harrison John Adams W^m Whipple

Philad: Aprl 17th 1776.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOHN HANCOCK TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir,

Philada April 17th 1776

Your Letter of the 9th of March [*sic* April], with the Enclosure, was duly received and laid before Congress; in whose Name, I beg Leave to congratulate you on the Success of your Expedition. Your Account of the Spirit and Bravery shown by the Men, affords them the greatest Satisfaction; and encourages them to expect similar Exertions of Courage on every future Occasion. Though it is to be regretted, that the *Glasgow* Man of War made her Escape, yet as it was not thro' any Misconduct, the Praise due to You and the other Officers, is undoubtedly the same.

I have it in Charge from Congress to direct, that you send a compleat List and State of the Stores taken and brought from [New] Providence with the Sizes &c and that the Cannon, and such other of the Stores as are not necessary for the Fleet, be landed and left at New London.

The following Extract of a Letter from Antigua, I hope will be of Service to you. With that View I send it.

Antigua, March 26th 1776. The third Division of Transports will leave Antigua in a few Days, it is said for New York, under Convoy of an old East India Ship, mounting 16 Guns. There will be six in Number.

Wishing you the greatest Success and Happiness, I am [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt

1. Peck Mss., RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 17 April, 1776.

Richard Boger, Commander of an armed Vessel taken by Capt. Barry, and John Draper, another Officer of the said Vessel, being brought to this City as Prisoners, were agreed to be enlarged on their separately signing the following Parole, which they agreed to, and signed accordingly:

I, Richard Boger the 2nd, & John Draper, being Prisoners in the united American Colonies, and enlarged upon our Parole, do, upon the Honour of a Gentleman and officer, Promise that I will not go further than two Miles from Germantown, where I am ordered to reside, without leave of the Committee of Safety of the Province of Pennsylvania, or of the Continental Congress, and that we will not bear arms against the said Colonies, nor carry on any Political Correspondence whatever on the subject of the dispute between Great Britain and these Colonies, nor give any Intelligence to any Person whatever, relative to American affairs, so long as we remain a Prisoner.

Signed separately by
Rich'd Boger, & John Draper.

Resolved, That the Mariners taken Prisoners by Capt. Barry and brought to this City, be suffered to go at large, upon their promising not to bear arms against the American Colonies, and not to leave this City without the consent of this Committee, or of Mr. Allen Moore, who is appointed to take care of them; and that they will appear before the said Allen Moore once every day.

Upon application of Capt. Thomas Forrest for a sum of Money to purchase Cloathing for his Marine Company, By order of the Board, an order was drawn on John M. Nesbitt, Esq'r, for thirty pounds, in favour of said Forrest. for which he is to be accountable to said Nesbitt.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 545, 546.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

17th April, 1776. – List of Men taken by Capt. Barry & brought as Prisoners to this City, out of the Tender Sloop *Edward*, Capt. Boger:

John Johnston, Mid Shipman.

Isaac Burch,
William Fulton,
Seth Bowen,
Jacob Smith,
John Dayton,
John Palmer,
Richard Gibson,
John Doyle,
Thomas Phillips,
John Willson,

Owen Humphreys,
John Henderson,
Robert Oyston,
Thomas Dopson,
James Webb,
James Ogelby,
James Spencer,
Henry Kelley,
John Shad,
John Nesbitt.²

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 479.

2. A second and more complete list, undated, and with the heading "A list of the Sloop *Edward's* Crew," is in *ibid.*, 421, as follows:

Captain, Richard Bowdger,
John Dreaper, Mate.
John Johnston, Midshipman.
Isaac Burch,
William Fulton,
Seth Bowen,
Jacob Smith,
John Nesbit, left at
Capt. Timothy Shler's, sick.
John Deyton,
John Palmour,
Richard Gibson,
John Doyle,

Owen Eumphries;
John Hinderson,
Robert Oyston,
Thomas Dopson,
James Webb,
James Oglbey,
James Spencer,
Thomas Phillips, left at
Meg'r Rich'd Weicot's, sick.
Jno. Wilson, left at Meg'r
Rich'd Weicot's, sick,
Andrew Kelley, in the Sloop.
John Steed, in the Sloop.

JOURNAL OF CONTINENTAL SCHOONER *Wasp*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM HALLOCK ¹

[Delaware River off Philadelphia]

[Remarks on] Wednesday the 17 of April 1776

Clear Wathear & plesent

Leused the Sails to Dry

Nothin more Remarkable these 24 hours²

1. PRO, High Court of Admiralty, 30/733, No. 10.

2. This ends the journal, save for the date "Thursday the 18th of April 1776," with no further entries. On April 18 the Continental Congress elected William Hallock, the captain of the *Wasp*, to command the sloop *Hornet*, and Charles Alexander, of the Pennsylvania navy, to succeed him in the *Wasp*, Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSHUA BARNEY ¹

[April 7 to April 17, 1776]

arriving at Philad I was in manner the Commander, as the Captain immediately left the vessel, April 1776² a few weeks afterwards I embarked on board the Schr *Wasp* under the orders of Capt. Charles Alexander (a brave scotman) we were sent to convoy off our coast the vessel on board of which was Doctr Franklin [*sic* Silas Deane] going to Europe.³

1. Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

2. Captain William Stone, of the Continental sloop *Hornet*.

3. Charles Alexander was not commissioned captain of the *Wasp* until April 18, 1776. The es-

cort of Silas Deane to sea was performed while the schooner was still under the command of William Hallock, and covered the period from April 9 to April 17, 1776. Hence, if Barney was on board the *Wasp* at that time, he must have entered almost immediately after the *Hornet* reached Philadelphia on April 7, 1776.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1776

Philadelphia, April 17.

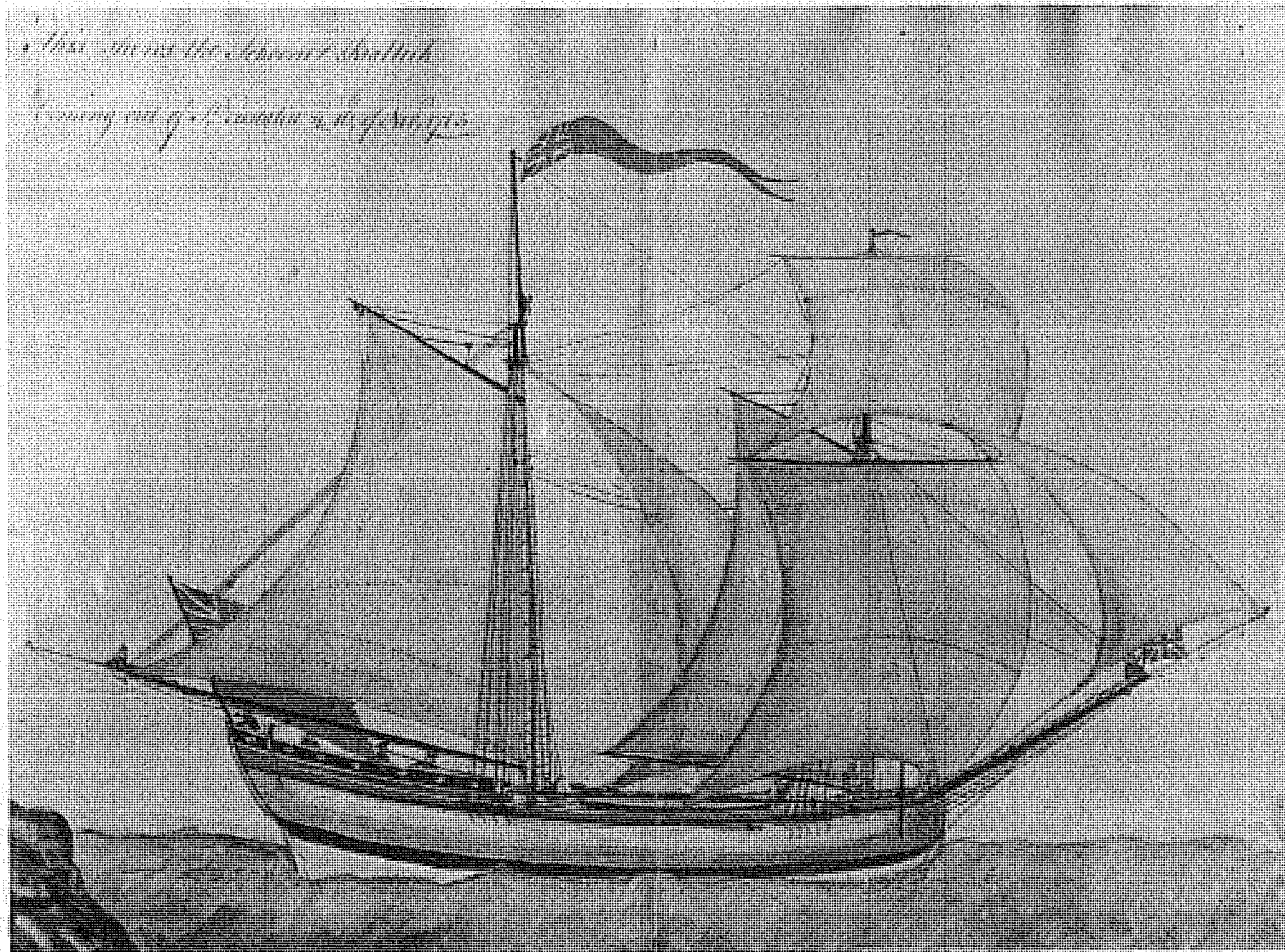
From Sussex County on Delaware we learn, that a small schooner, the property of Mr. Nehemiah Field, of Lewes Town, returning from St. Eustatia with some stores, and having information of the *Roebuck* man of war being in the road, came to anchor a few miles southward of the Light-house, and sent a messenger to Lewes, desiring assistance to discharge the cargo: A Company of Continental Troops (of the Delaware Battalion) stationed at Lewes, were immediately ordered to march to the assistance of the schooner; in the mean time the schooner perceiving the man of war's tender bearing down upon her, endeavoured to get into Indian River, but not effecting it, she run ashore near to Mr. Henry Fisher's pilot-boat (which some time since had been run ashore by the 3d Lieut. of the man of war and three hands, who were all taken prisoners) The company having arrived, got behind the vessels on shore, and waited for the tender, which when within 200 yards distance, fired a broadside; a hot fire from both sides ensued, which lasted near two hours, and the tender was finally obliged to sheer off without having effected her purpose, but on the contrary, with the loss of several men, as many were seen to fall. The cargoe was safely landed from the schooner and secured, without the loss of a man, either killed or wounded. The militia officers at Lewes behaved with that courage and magnanimity which does honour to their country.¹

1. See letter from commanding officer at Lewes, April 9, 1776.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LEWESTOWN, DATED 17th INST. [APRIL 1776]"¹

Lewestown is at this time made up of officers and soldiers, and the people altogether seem determined to defend our little place. As for Tories there are none such among us. That infamous name is quite done away since danger comes so nigh us. The *Roebuck* still remains in our road all alone, and has, I believe, lost her tender; a few days ago some say they saw a sloop take her to the southward of our cape. We have between fifty and a hundred men on guard night and day at the light house, Arnold's, and the creek's mouth; and are determined to watch them closely. They have made application to fish on our beach, we would not let them, but desired them to go to Newfoundland for that purpose. If they should attempt to fish on the beach, we are determined to shew them Yankee play, as we did on Easter Sunday, when we were unloading Capt. [Nehemiah] Field. I do assure you that if you were here you would be pleased with the spirit of the people.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 20, 1776.



Schooner Baltick, of Salem, Massachusetts.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At an Especial Meeting of the Committee on Wednesday Evening 17th April 1776 –Were Present

Samuel Purviance Junr Chairman

W. Buchanan	T. Harrison	J. Calhoun	J. Boyd –
B. Nicholson	T. T. Chase	J. Sterrett	G. Lux Secry

The Gentlemen of the Committee appointed to go to Annapolis returned and reported, that they had delivered the Packet to the Council of Safety, and also, as was directed, laid before them the Letters from Virginia, and that the Council of Safety had given them the following Copy of their Proceedings –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 17 April 1776

The Governor has given the Council Satisfaction from under his Hand, that he will not leave the Province till the Meeting of the Convention: And that he will use his Endeavours to promote the Peace thereof, while he stays –

(A Copy)

G. Duvall Clk

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE MARYLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Annapolis April 17, 1776]

Gent/ We have had an Alarm here of a very interesting Nature, we think it advisable to communicate the Intelligence by express, at the same time letting you know what we have done therein – and we are induced to expedite our dispatch because we do not know but that the Congress may have taken some steps in the same affair, Copies having been forwarded to them from the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, to whom the whole Packett was transmitted by the Committee of Safety of Virginia, we think very improperly; as the Address ought to have been made in the first place to us.

Some time past Alexander Ross (a great Scoun[drel] we fear) applyed to our board for a permit to Lord Dunmore under pretence of private business, getting some Money that was due to him as he alledged; he brought us a Letter from two Gent of the Congress Messrs [Robert] Alexander and [John] Rogers, which we doubt R.A. remembers. – We Refused to give him any other permitt than to the Comee of Safety of Virginia, thither he went we are told, but could get no permitt to Dunmore, he got a Letter tis said to the Commee of Hampton – they declined giving him any passport; he went to Lord Dunmore without any and on his way back was stopt by Capt [James] Barron, who took from him some Letters to Governor Eden and particularly a Circular Letter also a private Letter from Ld G. Germaine, which we take it for granted you have seen, some of the Commee of Balt Assuring us they forwarded Duplicates to the Congress. – on Receipt of those

Letters Monday afternoon we immediately gave orders to apprehend Ross – and the next Morning a Deputation from our board together with W. Paca Esqr then in Town waited on the Governor, showed him the Copys of the Intercepted Letters, and requested a sight of his Letter of the 27th of August to Lord Dartmouth, – the Governor declar'd to us that he had sent away the Copy of that Letter with all his other Papers of Consequence last fall, and could not remember the particulars but observed we might be convinced there was nothing of a nature unfriendly to the peace of this province, because the Troops going to the Southward were not ordered here. – he asserted also upon his honour that he had not endeavour'd to enflame the Ministry, by traducing the Character of Individuals, some he had spoke well of, others he had recommended as sufferers – the Gent of the Congress he had spoke of as acting within the Line of Moderation. –

The Deputation informd him they were instructed to ask his parole that he would not leave the province till the meeting of the Convention; he complained of being unjustly suspected gave us his Letter from Wm Eden Esqr his Brother one of the Under Secretarys also from Lord Dartmouth (Copies of which we had leave to take and herewith transmitt you) – he desired time till this day 12. o'Clock to give his definitive Answer – he has given it, and we send you a Copy thereof we look upon it as giving his parol in effect that he will not leave the province till the Convention, and will endeavour to promote the peace thereof; in the mean time. – he wishes to continue in that Line of conduct as long as he can consistent with his station, and will not leave the province, after the Convention, provided they will Assure him that when he finds he can no longer stay with peace and consistency, he may have leave to Depart and carry his effects – this we promised to recommend to our friends in Convention. – W. P. [Paca] agrees with us in Opinion that we may rest satisfyed with this answer and not call the Convention sooner than the 27th of May, unless some thing further should intervene. – You have probably heard that our Convention did not meet agreeable to their late adjournmt on friday Evening 26 Members who were collected agreed to Seperate and that G. Duvall should write a circular Letter informing the Delegates that the Members Assembled recommended the holding a Convention on the 27th of May – we inclose also a Copy of their Circular Letter.

The Indignity Offerd our Board by the Commee of Safety in Virginia and the want of Confidence in the Balt. Commee to say nothing more harsh we cannot help complaining of – We know of no good cause for this insult in passing us by, nor can we conceive what Motives could induce such treatment. – We send you by Mr Green – who will hand you this – 1372.0.7 Currency in Gold for the Continental service. W. P. has delivered in this Money he brought for the Treasury. – be pleased to forward the Money plates by Mr Green if not already sent.

We are Gent with respect [&c.] p order. –

P.S. – the last Ton of Continental powder if not already sent to Chester we

would have orderd to Balto having already sent powder to the Eastern shore –

The Copies of the Governors Letters are sent in confidence and are not to be printed – Our Ansr to his Excy's Letter you shall receive by next Post.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday 17 April 1776.

Permit was granted to William Jones, of the Sloop *Sally*, belonging to Mr Robert Cummins Victualler to the Troops, to pass and repass with Provisions to any Part of this Province.

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

WILLIAM HOOPER TO JOSEPH HEWES ¹

[Extract]

There are at Wilmington about 2700 men chiefly Militia & Minute Men. Governour Martin is near Brunswick with 35 Vessels great & small armed & unarmed. Clinton is with him expecting Cornwallis with 4000 men, With a few Musquets & those bad no cannon, little powder must we oppose them – but the spirit of this people is equal to any thing. If they fail be assured the victory of Britain will not be bloodless. The Congress must direct their particular attention to this Colony. Our Strength I am well assured is not equal to our Spirits, and dreadful would it be should we sink in the generous effort to preserve our Liberties. We must be immediately supplied with field pieces and other articles of defence, let the expense to the continent be what it will The negroes are deserting from the Sea Coast to Gov Martin, Three of mine were lately intercepted on their way and are now in Goal – They have burnt one House for me, and every hour I expect to hear that my property in Wilmington and at the Sound are in flames –

The people here are loud in their Clamors against Hopkins certain it is that with his two largest Ships, Martin, Clinton, [Lord William] Campbell the *Cruzer & Scorpion* the only vessels Martin had with him for a considerable time – 20 large Merchantmen 3000 Stand of Arms and all kinds of Ordinance Stores would have been easy prize to him, & this Colony saved the expense of 300,000 £ Where is he . . . When I was at Richmond your Vessel had not sailed, she was full with 200 Hds of Tobacco but from the Tenders being on the Watch would with difficulty escape

Halifax April 17 1776

1. Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH typescript.

NARRATIVE OF SIR HENRY CLINTON ¹

[Cape Fear, March 13 – April 17, 1776]

There I Continued for above a Month, sometimes on Board, sometimes

on shore, casting an anxious Eye every day towards the Cape, in expectation of a signal for the Fleet, but neither that nor any vessel from the northward appeared, so that I had the mortification to see the sultry, unhealthy season approaching us with hasty strides, when all thoughts of military operations in the Carolinas must be given up: while my ignorance of the Commander in Chiefs Proceedings and intentions rendered me incapable of forming any Plan of junction or cooperation, & to add to our apprehensions not a fortnights Provision were left to either men of war or army.

1. Manuscript history of the Revolution by Sir Henry Clinton, CL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES ¹

April 1776 In Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Tuesday 16 at 10 A M weighd at 11 Do came too in 3 fm Barnets
 Creek E N E old town house S W B S fired 6: 4 pounders
 and 4 swivels at the Rebbels who fired at us from the shore
 Fresh breezes and Clear Wr at 5 P M weigh'd and came to
 sail at 6 came too anchor off Newtons Ferry, the old town
 House W N W the Ferry House S E B E
 Wednesday 17 at 2 AM came on Bd 4 Refugees who Escap'd from the
 Rebbels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

April 1776. Cape look out Shoal [North Carolina] N E. 2 Leagues.
 Wednesy 17. at 11 am Saw a Sail in the W S Wt gave Chace at Noon
 Brot her too the Schooner *Martha* from Bermudas Masters
 Name Joseph Brownlow Salt loaded Sent Lieutt and 3 Men
 on Board.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.