

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 7

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

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

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

Part 4 of 9

**United States
Government Printing Office
Washington, 1976**

Electronically published by
American Naval Records Society
Bolton Landing, New York
2012

AS A WORK OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
THIS PUBLICATION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

ately proceed to St Eustatia, and deliver said Letter to the Governor, and obtain his answer thereto. I would also have you talk with the Governor on the Subject of said Letter, and make the strictest enquiry in your power, into the several Facts mentioned in the Memorial and Letter; and get his Explanation of the whole: during your stay at St Eustatia, pray try if you can Purchase Ten or Twelve good three pound Guns, or if you cannot meet with so many, buy what number you can get, taking care they are good and serviceable.

When you have executed this Service you may call (in your way to Antigua) at Old Road and Compleat the *Seafords* Water; and likewise at Basseterre and take onboard the *Seafords* people from the Prize you put Mr Gray onboard, who I hear has been obliged to carry her to that place. I am &c.

Jam^s Young.

P.S. The other inclosed Paper is Copy of a Letter of Intelligence I have received from England, which you will pay proper attention to, should you fall in with the Schooner described.

J: Y.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

15 Dec. (Sunday)

PAROLE OF DUNCAN MUNRO, PASSENGER ON BOARD THE BRITISH PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Fanny*¹

I Duncan Munro while Passenger on Board the Brig *Fanny* comanded by Richard Blythe bound from Barbadoes to Halifax was made a Prisoner by Capt [Joseph] White comander of a Privateer belonging to this State² and carried into Plymouth some time in June last and whereas the Council of this State have at my Request permitted me to reside at the Town of Reading upon my being put on my Parole—Do promise and engage on my Word and honour and on the Faith of a Gentleman to depart from hence to Reading in the State of Massachusetts Bay and to remain there or within five Miles of the Place of my Residence in said Town during the present War between Great Brittain and the united States of America or until the Congress of said united States or the Assembly or Council of this State shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly give any Intelligence whatever to the Enemies of the united States, or do, or say any thing in opposition to or in Prejudice of the Measures and proceedings of any Congress for the Said States during the present Troubles or until I am duly exchanged or Discharged

Given under my Hand this fifteenth Day of December 1776 –

Duncan Munro

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 246.

2. Privateer sloop *Revenge*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK¹

No 60

Sir, The Assistance of the men belonging to the Ship *Defense* may be of Service to the common cause at Philadelphia. – We request you therefore to march immediately without loss of Time with all the men, that can be spared from the

necessary Care of the ship, whilst in harbour. – When in Philadelphia you are to obey the direction of the Honble Congress. –

Mr Chase having mentioned nothing of great Guns in his Letter to Capt'n Nicholson, we think none ought to be removed 'till further orders. – let the men take their small Arms &c, no time must be lost ²

[Annapolis] Decr 15th 1776

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

2. In his reply to the Council the next day, Captain Cook wrote: "I flatter myself the greatest part of our Company will go with Chearfulness," Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM JUDD, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Antelope Port Royal

Jamaica Decr 15th 1776

Sir

In consequence of an Order from you dated 10th December directing me to give you an Account of my Proceedings with respect to the June Convoy which sail'd from Bluefields the 17th June under my Command. For that purpose I beg leave to lay before you an exact Copy taken from the Ships Log Signed by myself the Second & Third Lieutenants & Master from the 15th June to the 7th July, which when you have thought proper to peruse and taken into Consideration the Inclosed Sailing Instructions, the List of the Convoy and the Disposition and order of Sailing, likewise the Affidavit taken by one of the Masters of the Convoy, I flatter myself that you will approve of my Conduct. And Sir, as you yourself whose experience & knowledge in those matters are much more extensive than mine, I need not mention to you the great difficulty for even a Fleet of Men of War, much more for a Single Ship to take care of an obstinate, and I may venture to add very often a great many Ignorant Masters of Merchant Ships to deal with, which I beg leave to assure you was the Case of a Number of the June Convoy, but by no means can I blame the whole And I have only to say that it has always been my Study to endeavour to promote the good of His Majestys Service as much as in my Power both with Care & Honor I am, Sir with profound respect [&c.]

Willm Judd

(A Copy)

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON ¹

Decemb 1776

Cape Francois SSW $\frac{1}{2}$ W Monte Christa SE off shore 6 Leags

Sunday 15

Little Wind & Cloudy . . . at 6 [A]M Saw a Sail bearg SE Wore & Gave chace at 7 Hoisted the Boats Out & Sent them After the Chace at 10 the Boats returnd with the Chace a Schooner from Rhode Island ² took possession of her at noon Made Sail Monte Christa SSE abt 2 Leags –

Modte & Cloudy Saw a Sail to the Etwd Tackt & gave chace between 2 & 3 fird 8 Shot at the chace Brought her too a

Schooner from Newberry to Cape Francois Seized her as a prize took the People out of her & Sent an Officer wt 5 Men On board her³ Close reefed the Topsails & Made Sail the Prizes in Co

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.

2. Schooner *Polly*, Ebenezer Andrews, master, bound for Hispaniola with fish and lumber, Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, Outward Entries, R. I. Arch.

3. Schooner *John*, with fish and lumber, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Seaford*, CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS¹

December 1776

At Sea [off St. Eustatius]

Sunday 15th

At 6 A M Saw a Sail, Gave Chace Carried away the Larbd Main Studding Sail, At 10 Fired Shott She bro't too Sent the boat on board proved a Schooner from Philadelphia to St Eustatia. Exchanged the Prisoners At 12 AM St Eustatia NW 2 Miles —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/880.

16 Dec.

PETITION OF CAPTAIN JOHN DE SILVER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

To the Honble the Council of the State of the Massachusetts Bay —

The Petition of Capt John De Silver

Humbly Sheweth

That your petr. arrived in Boston from Martinico in the Schooner "*L'amiable felicite*" having a french bottom & belonging to said Martinico — That he brot with him forty five hogsheads of Molosses twenty five Hogsheads & twenty five barrells of Sugar twenty seven barrells of Coffee thirteen barrells of Cocoa fifteen Cases of Liquor, twelve boxes of Soap, Nineteen Cases of Wine three Tierces Rum four Casks Burdo. Wine fifty six Hankers Brandy twenty four pieces Sail Duck, twelve pieces of light Duck one bale Checks, twelve Small Arms twelve Kegs of Glaz'd Powder 600 Bullets, Six Swivel Guns and Eight pieces of Ozanbrigs — That your petr. Vessel now lays at Newbury Port, where he has been Loading her with Lumber and other Articles the produce of this Country, and was just ready for Sailing having all his hands and every thing ready, when he was informed, that there was an Embargo laid by the Genl Court of this State, and told that he could not depart without leave from your Honors.

That the only reason of his coming to New England was that he might bring them a Supply. and have the priviledge of having in return a Cargo of their produce And if he should be stoped it would be a great Damage to himself & the other French Owners in Martinico

He Therefore humbly prays your Honors would be pleased to grant that he may have leave to depart with his Vessel and Cargo to sd Martinico.

And as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

John De Silver

[Endorsed] In Council [Boston] Dec. 16t 1776 Read and Ordered that the Prayer of the Said Petition be granted and that the Petitioner have and he hereby

has Liberty to proceed to Martinico with his Said Şchr *L'amiable Felicite* the Embargo Notwithstanding —

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 107.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 16th Decr 1776 —

Mr [John] Lambert reported that the Brig *Massachusetts* was graved — but had no hands —

Order'd That the Secretary go over to the Council & enquire whether a Commander is appointed for the sd Brig

Reported — That Capt John Foster Williams was appointed — Capt [John] Ayres return'd from his Cruise & waited on the Board — bro't no material News —

Resolved That the Ship *Marshall* purchas'd of Mr Bruce, be call'd the *Bowdoin* — Capt [George] Williams Reported That he had agreed to take the Brig *Ann* £750 — & her Cargo, with the Addition of 12 Boxes Candles more, to have said Vessell compleated for the Sea & furnis'd with Master Mate & Hands — on the same Terms others are engag'd —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 49, 51.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR CONTRACT FOR CHARTER OF THE SCHOONER *Edward* ¹

This Charterparty of Affreightment Indented made and fully concluded this Sixteenth day of December, In the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy six; Between Caleb Loring of Hingham in the County of Suffolk and State of the Massachusetts Bay Merchant Owner of the Schooner named *Edward* of the burthen of about Seventy Tons whereof Arnald is Master on the one part, And the Board of War for the State of Massachusetts Bay aforesaid of the other part; Witnesseth That the said Caleb Loring for the considerations hereinafter mentioned Hath Granted and Letten to Freight, And by these presents Doth Grant and Lett to Freight unto the said Board of War The whole Hull or Body of the said Schooner Furniture and Appurtenances whatsoever to her belonging for a Voyage to be made in her from the Port of Boston to Baltimore or any of the Southern States, and back to Boston again; And the said Caleb Loring doth hereby Covenant Grant and Agree with the said Board of War, That the said Schooner is Tight Stanch and strong, and in and during the Voyage aforesaid shall be well and sufficiently Tackled and Apparrelled with all Necessaries for such a Vessel and Voyage, And that it shall and may be Lawful for the said Board of War, as well at Boston as at Baltimore or any of the Southern States fully to Load the said Schooner with such Goods Wares and Merchandize as they shall think proper. —

In Consideration whereof the said Board of War do by these presents Covenant and Agree with the said Caleb Loring, That they shall and will pay or cause to be paid unto the said Caleb Loring for the hire of the said Schooner after the rate of Eight shillings Lawful money a Ton per Month, and after that rate for a less

time than a Month, the Months to be accounted by the Callender, and to Commence upon the day of the date hereof, and that within Thirty days after her return to Boston aforesaid And that in Case the said Schooner should be Lost or taken during said Voyage That then and in that Case they will pay or cause to be paid unto the said Caleb Loring the sum of Four Hundred Pounds – Lawful money being the Estimated Value of said Schooner and also the hire that shall become due after the rate aforesaid to the time of her being lost or taken, And the said Board of War do further Covenant that they will Victual and Man the said Schooner and pay all Pilotage & Port charges the said Voyage: To the true performance whereof the Parties to these presents do bind and Oblige themselves their heirs Executors and Administrators and Assigns in the sum and penalty of Five Hundred Pounds – Lawful money firmly by these presents. In Witness whereof the said Parties have hereunto Interchangeably set their hands and Seals the day and Year first within written. –

It is understood that the Board of War bind themselves & their Successor in Office, not their Executors Heirs & Assigns as above written – this Addition made before Signing

Signed Sealed & Delivd.

in the presence of

Caleb Loring

Jam^s Swan Jno Appleton

By Order of the Board Sam Phps Savage Prest PT.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 30–30a.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear Sir.

Boston Dec 16 1776

I have received your favor of the 16 November, hope the express will arrive very soon with the Cash or I shall not know what to do. The ship *Hancock* is arrived from Newbury Port into this Harbour. It was thought she could not by any means lay with safety at Newbury, Capt Manly has therefore exerted himself to get her Round, and has been obliged to be at very considerable expense to execute this business at this season of the year, pray inform me whether I am to provide Sloops for the seamen, and whether it is not the Business of the captain. I think by the rules and regulations of the Navy, it be longs to the captain; however, if Congress orders that they should be purchased and laid in the charge of the Continent for the use of the sailors I shall obey. Capt Manly says that you told him you should give me directions to pay the officers of the ships their back wages or arrearages. I find their commissions are all dated the 10th of October last, but you must be sensible they were appointed and have been employed in the service of the ships long before that time, please to let me know your mind upon this subject. This State has not as yet been able to procure the Cannon for the *Hancock*, and I know not when they will, please to let me know if the Congress will allow the enormous price of one hundred pounds and ten for them to the owners of the furnace in Rhode Island provided I can prevail with them to cast them. I wrote to you sometime ago upon this head but have not as yet been favoured with an answer. The sooner I have the mind of the Congress upon this

head the better. The ship might go to sea in Ten days if she had her guns and men and I could procure some Duck for her light sails. Capt Bradford the Continental Agent tells me there is a considerable quantity of light Duck under his care in one of the Continental prizes which he has wrote to Congress about, but as he does not know but they will order him to send it to the Southward he dares not part with it, pray send him orders to Deliver me as much of it as I may want for the ships, as also any other article he has that will be of use for the vessels. I remain with great Respect [&c.]

Thomas Cushing.

P.S. Pray send me answer by the return of this Express, who carries a letter from the Council which renders it needless for me to write you relative to the proceedings of our Assembly.

The Hon John Hancock Esq.

1. *The Historical Magazine* (Morrisania, N.Y., 1868), 2d series, IV, No. 6, 282.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1776

Boston, December 16.

The Enemy are in Possession of Newport, in Rhode-Island, but what Number we have not learnt; and we hear that the noted Joseph Wanton, Esq; is appointed Governor of the same, and has given Orders for those who desire Protection from (what is called) Government, to affix a White Flag to their respective Houses.

We learn, That on Friday last four Vessels, belonging to the Enemy landed about 200 Troops on the Elizabeth Islands, and Plundered from thence about 200 Sheep, besides burning a House and Barn, belonging to Mr. John Read of this Town.

Capt. Tucker, in a privateer from Salem has taken a prize snow, laden with rum, sugar, &c. and sent her into Portsmouth ¹

To be Sold by Public Auction, at the House of John Marston, Esq; in Boston, on Tuesday the 24th of December Inst. at Eleven o'Clock, A. M.

The Prize Brig *Isabella*, about 180 Tons burthen, two years old, and as compleat and well Built a Vessel as any this State affords of her size, and is an extraordinary sailer by the wind.

She has one suit of Sails and Rigging sufficient for them, pretty good, a good Boat, an Iron Cab[oose], and Stores as common. Said Vessel may be seen at Marblehead at present, and the Inventory of her Stores by applying to the Subscriber; and at the Long Wharf in Boston, a few days before the Sale.

And at the same time and place will be sold,

The Cargo of the above-mentioned Brig, consisting of about One Hundred and Forty Chaldron or more of choice Sea Coal and about One Hundred and Twenty Groce of Quart Bottles.

B. Burdick, Auctioneer.

Marblehead, Dec. 13, 1776.

To be Sold at Public Auction, On Friday the 27th December Inst. At Ten o'Clock, A. M. At the House of Ben Burdick, jun. in Marblehead,

The prize brig *Betsey*, about 120 tons burthen; an English built vessel, well found, with sails and rigging; her cables about 100 fathom, each almost new, with a hawser pretty wore, 3 good anchors, boat, &c.—Inventory to be seen, and vessel and appurtenances to be reviewed any time before the sale, by applying to

Benjamin Burdick, Auctioneer.

At the same Time and Place, Will be Sold at Vendue,

A Fine English cable, call'd 130 fathom in length, full 12 inches, about 3800 wt. never used; 2 hawsers of 5 inch, about 100 fathom each, partly wor[n]; 1 anchor of 800 wt. 1 ditto of 200 wt. 4 new [shor]t cannon, 2 pounders; 4 new swivels, well mounted; 2 fine copper stoves, with all the apparatus; a new fore-sail, main-sail and top-sail, of the best English duck, fit for a brig of 180 to 200 tons; several other very good brig's sails; a sloop's jibb almost new; a chest of carpenter's tools, consisting of saws, aug[e]r, caulking irons, axes, hammers, mawls, cannippers, plane, &c. &c. 2 brass compasses.

1. John Tucker commanded the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Harlequin*. See Volume 6.

JAMES WARREN TO SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE¹

Sir/

Plymo Decr 16th 1776

This will be handed you by Capt [Ichabod] Morton of the Schooner *Elen*. which I have Chartered for Maryland. or Pensilvania as you shall Choose for either one or two Trips.² I could have wished this Vessels & one Other I have since Charterd had been A size larger, but I was too late to pick & choose. & I beleive they will do very well upon the Terms agreed on she now goes to Boston to Attend your orders supposing you would Choose to Ship some goods. by her. I have paid the Advance wages to the people. you have therefore Nothing to do. but victual & give your Orders . . I am with great Respect [&c.]

J Warren

I have made some Contracts for Shott & some for Spears. the Shot Contracted for are none larger than 12 lb & 2 or 3 Tons Grape Mr Lothrop is makeg a large quantity by Contract with the Commissary if you Choose to Consign to the Master I beleive Capt Morton Capable of Transacting the Business

Decr 17. I have this [moment] Bot a Schooner. some Lumber & pickled fish –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 12, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777. Warren was President of the Massachusetts Board and Savage, President pro tem.

2. Charter is in Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 29.

CAPTAIN ICHABOD MORTON'S BILL TO JAMES WARREN RELATIVE TO SCHOONER
*Ellen*¹

Schooner: <i>Ellen</i>	Dr
To 1 Co[r]d wood	0 . 8 . 0
To Ship bread	0 . 6 . 6
To 1 lb Candles	0 . 0 . 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ichabod Morton Master To 1 monthes pay from Decr 11th	5 . 0 . 0
Josiah Clark mate to 1 months pay Decr 13th	4 . 4 . 0
Bartlett Silevester to 1 months pay Decr 13th	4 . 4 . 0

Judah Bartlett to 1 months pay Decr 13th	3. . 6. . 0
Amasa Morton to 1 months pay Decr 14th	2. . 8. . 0

£19. 17. . 4¼

Plymo Decr 16. 1776 recd. of Jas: Warren Nineteen pounds. seventeen Shillings
& 4d ¾ in full of the above

P – Ichabod Morton

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 28.

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

December 1776 Montock's point N50°E 14 Leags

Sunday 15th at 4 AM sett fore top Sail at ½ past 4 Wore Ship at 5 Got
up the Mizzen yard at 7 Gott up top Gallt mast & yards at
Noon saw Long Island bearing from NNE to WBN.
First part fresh Gales & Clear Wr Middle & Latter parts
Modt Breezes & Cloudy Weathr at 3 PM Got down top
Gallt yards & Doubl'd reef't the Main Sail at 4 PM Long Is-
land No 5 Leags saw a Sail in the SW Qr gave Chace at
½ past 4 fir'd one 9 Pounder to bring the Chace too, at
6 PM She bore down but the Wind blowing so fresh could not
speak her at 7 PM Wore Ship & hand'd fore and Mizzen top
Sails at 8 PM fir'd 2 three pounders to make the Chace make
more Sail at ½ past 8 Lay'd too wt the Main top Sail to the
Mast at 11 PM the Wind began to Abate a little at 12 Sett
fore & Mizzen top Sails

Monday 16th at ½ past 6 AM hoisted out the Cutter and sent her on board
of the Chace, found her to be a Transport ship taken by the
Alfred Rebel Privateer, on her Passage from Cape Briton to
Halifax sent 7 Men on board her, and took 6 Prisoners on
board us at ½ past 8 the Cutter return'd hoisted her in & made
Sail, Prize in Compy

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/420.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN ¹

December 1776 Sandy Hook N25.18W 119 Leagues

Sunday 15th at ½ pt 11 AM Saw a Sail do gave Chace in Company as
before

First pt Modt & fair Midl & latter Strong Gales and Squally
wth Thunder Lightning & Rain, At 6 PM fired a Shot and
brot too a Sloop from Harbour Island bound to Nantucket
Laden with Salt,² put a Petty Officer & 4 Men onboard, do
bore away and rejoin'd the *Repulse*, At 7 brot too Close by
the *Repulse* under the Close Reef'd Maintopsl ½ pt 11 lost
sight of the *Repulse*

Monday 16th At 1 AM took in the Maintopsl & lay under the Mizzen Staysl, the Wind at this time Shifting from the SE to the NW and blowing Excessive hard; At day light the *Nautilus* very near us, but could not see the *Repulse* from our Mast head At 7 AM Saw a Sail in the SE, do set the foresl & bore down to speake her At ½ past 8 brot too the Schooner *Lively*³ from Cape Niclow bound to Piscataqua, do a very High Sea running, lay too under a Mizzen Staysl in Company with the *Nautilus* & Schooner *Lively* –
First part Strong Gales and Clear, Midl & latter more Modt & fair At 4 PM hoisted out the Cutter & sent on board the Schooner, found her to [be] loaded with 70 Hhds Mellasses & 7 Pieces Cannon

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

2. Sloop *Fame*, Nathaniel Bernard, master, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

3. Schooner *Lively*, Benjamin Jenkins, master, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE¹

Gentln

Philada Decr 16th 1776

Since I wrote the President this Morning, a Young Gentl came up from Chincoteague where he had landed out of the Sloop *Independence* (Capt Young) belonging to the Continent, this sloop was from Martinico bound hither but was chased into that place by a large Frigate. The Sloop has on board a quantity of Blankets, Coarse Cloths & near 1000 Muskets, which I will take care of. Capt Young staid behind sick & she is now Commanded by Lieut Robinson [James Robertson] who had no paper to write on but sent up word he would push round for this place soon as he cou'd the Goods are what was ordered by the Secret Committee & the *Andw Doria* will bring a good Cargo from St Eustatia where she is arrived. the *Sachem* is also arrived at Martinico, but no News yet from Monsr Hortalez —

You have enclosed the letters from Mr [William] Bingham and Mr [Silas] Deane, the latter complaining as I have long expected he wou'd for want of advices & Remittances, in short if the Congress mean to Succeed in this Contest they must pay good Executive Men to do their business as it ought to be & not lavish Millions away by their own mismanagement, I say mismanagement because no Man living can attend the daily deliberations of Congress & do executive parts of business at the same time. I do aver here will be more money lost, totally lost, in Horses, Waggon, Cattle &c &c for want of sufficient Numbers of proper persons to look after them, than wou'd have paid all the Salarys Payne [Robert Treat Paine] ever did or ever will grumble at Mr Deane has had a hard situation I foretold it long since & unless you employ some Man of Talents to Collect materials & keep the Commissioners abroad Constantly informed of what is passing here, You never will have that Consequence nor your Agents that Dignity they ought to have. I should be glad you woud return me these letters or Copies of them & I will reply from hence, they have been with me but a few minutes & I will not keep the express

any longer as I expect you are hungry as Hawkes after News from France. I cannot keep a Copy of this, but in haste remain, very sincerely Gentl [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 15–17, NA.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE,
H. M. SLOOP *Falcon* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esquire
Captain of His Majs Ship the *Roebuck*.

After the first of January next, In case by any accident His Majesty's Sloop under your command should be separated from me, and not be in a condition to keep this station in order to restrain the Kings Rebellious subjects in their endeavours to provide supplies of ammunition and other military Stores, and for the purpose of preventing all Trade and intercourse with the Colonies as well as destroying their Armed Vessels. You are hereby directed to proceed to the Island of Antigua, where you are to put yourself under the command of the Commander in chief, requesting his permission to clean and refit your Sloop in order for the joining Vice Admiral Lord Howe at New York as early in the next Spring as the Season will admit.

Given under my hand on board His Majestys Ship the *Roebuck* in Delaware Bay the 16th December 1776

A S Hamond

The Second Rendezvous to be opened in case of separation from the *Roebuck*

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

CARTER BRAXTON TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
PRIVATEER SLOOP *Phoenix* ¹

Sir

Williamsburg Decr 16th 1776

With the materials with which I have now supplied you I expect you will be ready to embark on a Cruize in a short time with the Men under your command now and such as Mr Floyd shall enlist to the time of your sailing. The Company to whom the Privateer *Phenix* belongs ² have instructed Mr Phripp and myself to give such directions as appear to us necessary for my part I shall rely in a just measure on your skill and judgment in this Cruize, knowing you are so much better acquainted with these things than myself and only give general directions in particular circumstances. You are I presume to proceed to the West Indies and there endeavour to apprehend some of the English Vessels either those belonging to Great Britain or such as belong to any of their Islands or Countries except Bermudas or the Bahama Islands, or should you hear that the Portuguese are actually taking our Vessels in that case you may seize any of theirs. If you make any captures of any ships or Vessels above described you are to send them into this State directing them to Mr Phripp and myself, but if you should know that our State is stopt up in that case you will order them to Philadelphia to the care of Mr Morris or the nearest Port, giving Orders that immediate notice be sent by Express to Mr Phripp and myself. Should any accident happen to you at Sea

and a refit be necessary you will apply to Mr Isaac Gouverneur at Curacoa or to my Mr Rawleigh Colston at Surrinam with my Letters of Credit or any others on whom Mr Phripp shall give you credit for such assistance as you may want which expense is to be charged to the Company as your Men are not enlisted to serve longer than some time in January should they insist any of them to return home to Boston ² when their time is expired you are by no means to go there with your Vessel but rather put such Men on board some Vessel that may be going to Boston. The terms of their enlistment do not oblige you to carry them home at the end of the time, and the Company will by no means agree that the Vessel should be carried so far out of her way If you prove unsuccessful during the continuance of your Provisions and Stores which expect will serve you three Months, after they are expended you are to return home to receive another recruit of necessaries and Men which are to be engaged on account of the Company but at present I have obliged myself and Messrs Willing and Morris to find a three Months supply of all necessaries whatever, Powder I put over a thousand weight you will remember is our property after the Cruise is over by Agreement.

You are to send me before you sail from York a perfect Account of all your disbursements since you came to this Country and the Articles that have been added to your Vessel &c. Mr Reynolds at York will Supply you with any thing further you may have occasion for there.

Those of the Company that are here have agreed that if you are out near three Months & can take no Prizes, in that case you may return to Boston to discharge these Men and enlist others for a five Months Voyage and that you will apply to Mr [John] Rowe for such necessaries as you may want until you can get here to take in your stores for a further Cruise.

You will remember to send with any Vessel you may take all the Papers belonging to said Vessel with respect to her clearance, age, Owners &c.

Carter Braxton

1. Laurens Collection, Group 19, SCHS.

2. The company to which the *Phoenix* belonged included Braxton and Robert Morris, Papers CC (Claims for Captured Vessels, 1777-1784), 44, 27, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Monday 16th December, 1776.

Agreed that the first Commissioner do furnish the Clerk with Two Thousand Pounds in Order to proceed to George Town to pay off the People belonging to the *Rattle Snake* Stationed there –

Agreed that the first Commissioner do direct Mr Hezekiah Anthony to Repair on board the *Comet* and Act as Second Lieut on board the said Brigg in Case of Refusal to Act in that Station To Order him on Board the Schooner *Rattle Snake* to Act as first Lieut In Case of Refusal to demand his Commission and Dismiss him the service –

A Letter was wrote to Capt. Edward Allen

Capt Edward Allen

Sir/ The Commissioners of the Navy desire that you will as soon as posible Have the Brigg *Comet* ready to proceed on a Cruise & that you

will Lay before the Board an Indent of all such stores as are wanting for the said Brigg as also a pay Bill made Out to the 27th Inst. that the people may receive their wages to that time I am Sir Your [&c.]
Edwd Blake first Commissr

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 30.

PILOTAGE CERTIFICATE BY LIEUTENANT JOHN WRIGHT, R.N.¹

These are to Certifie His Excellency Patrick Tonym Esqre Governor of His Majesty's Province of St Augustine, or to whom else it may Concern, That Mr Dan. Gibbons Pilot Extra took charge of the Sloop *Fincastle* under my Command on the 15 December 1776 in St Marys River and Piloted her over the Barr of that place to Sea.

On the 16 took charge of the said Sloop at Sea, and Piloted her over St Augustine Barr into the Harbor of St Augustine where he left her in safety, And I further Certifie that the said Sloop *Fincastle* is employed in the service of Government by order of His Excellency Lord Dunmore, and that I have for the above Pilotage given Three Certificates of this Tenor and Date, Dated on board the said Sloop in St Augustine Harbor East Florida 16 Decemr 1776

John Wright

1. FDRL.

DEPOSITION OF JAMES FRASER¹

Copy Before John Stanley Eqr one of the Members of His Majesty's Council for the Island of St Christopher His Majesty's Solicitor General for his Leeward Charibbee Island in America and one of the Justices assigned to keep the Peace within the said Island of St Christopher. Personally appeared James Fraser of the said Island of St Christopher, Gentleman, who being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God; deposeth and Saith, that on, or about the 16th day of November now last past, he this Deponent, in Company with Captain John Dean and Captain John Spier (Masters of Vessels now lying at anchor in the Road of Basseterre in this Island) being on board a Sloop in the Road of St Eustatius, he this Deponent, upon Spying a Brigantine comeing round the Leeward part of the Said Island of St Eustatius, with a Pendant and Colours flying observed to his Said Companions, that there was a Man of War Tender coming round, upon the Said Captain Dean (to the best of this Deponents Recollection) replied O No by God it is an American Privateer, for "don't you See the Congress Colours with 13 Stripes in them" or expressed himself in words of that Substance and Effect, and this Deponent farther Saith that the said Brigantine Soon afterwards came to an anchor in the Road of St Eustatius on the Larboard Quarter of the Sloop, on board of which this Deponent and his said Companions then were and from whence the Deponent plainly discovered that She carried 14 carriage Guns or there abouts, and was afterwards informed, & believes that She was manned with 110 Men or there abouts, was called the *Andrew Doria*, & commanded by one Captain Robinson [Isaiah Robinson], and this Deponent further Saith that upon the Said Brigantines coming to anchor, the Dutch Colours (which during the Time the Said Brigantine was working into

the Road were flying in Fort Orange in the said Island were hawled down, and that as Soon as the Said Brigantine had brought too, & furled her Sails, She fired (to the best of this Deponent Recollection) Eleven Guns and this Deponent further Saith that after an Interval of upwards of a quarter of an hour as he and his said Companions were rowing on Shore he perceived the Dutch Colours in Fort Orange to be hoisting again, and when they were compleatly hoisted, nine great Guns were fired from the Said Fort, after which the Brigantine returned one Gun more. and the Deponent further Saith that upon his and his Companions getting on Shore and going immediately into a Tavern in the Said Island of St Eustatius, where there was a large mixed Company, he found People were discoursing there on the Ceremony of the Salute fired by the Said American Privateer, and of the return of it, by the Said Dutch Fort, and this Deponent further Saith that it was then and there publicly Said by Some of the Company present at the Said Tavern, that the Commandant of Fort Orange hesitated to return a Salute fired by a Vessel under the Congress Colours and that before he would return the Salute, he went to the Governor of the Said Island to have his Directions about it, and that it was by the Governor's order that the Said Salute was returned by the Said Dutch Fort.

(Signed) James Fraser.

Sworn before me this 16th day of Decr 1776.

(Sighn'd) John Stanley.

We the above mentioned John Dean & John Spier having heard the above Deposition read do Swear upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that the Contents there of are Substantially true.

(Sighn'd) John Dean John Spier.

Sworn before me this 16th day of Decr 1776.

(Sighn'd) John Stanley.

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

CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R.N., TO GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF ¹

(A Copy) *Seaford* St Eustatia Road Decr the 16th 1776.

Sir I beg leave to acquaint your Excellency with the arrival of His Britannic Majesty's Ship the *Seaford* in the Road of Statia, being charged with some dispatches from Vice Admiral Young to your Excellency; I beg to know, when it will be most convenient for your Excellency, to let me have the Honor of waiting on you with them.

I beg leave to observe to your Excellency, that it has hitherto been my Custom, since I have had the Honor of Commanding one of His Majesty's Ships, on my Arrival, at any of the Ports, of the States of Holland (where they had a Fort) to Salute the Flag of their High Mightinesses, but at present I am sorry to be obliged ('till I have your Excellencys Answer) to swerve from a rule which I have always considered myself as bound to adhere to, as well from the nature of my Instructions as my own particular inclination, And why I am now prevented from doing what has hitherto been so much my wish (to pay every respect in my Power to their High Mightinesses Flag) is, that reports prevail of their High Mightinesses Fort, having received and returned Salutes, from the Vessels

of the King my Masters, Rebellious Colonists; And Sailing under what they call Provincial Colours; Should such reports be well founded, I must consider it as an insult offered, to His Britannic Majesty, and of course must decline Saluting your Fort; I would willingly hope and believe, that the reports may be premature, and if your Excellency will assure me that no such insult has been offered to the King my Master, I shall immediately Salute your Fort with 11 Guns, on your Excellency's assuring me that a like number will be returned. I have the Honor to be &ca

Jn^o Colpoys

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF TO CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS,
H. M. S. *Seaford*¹

(Copy)

St Eustatia Decr 16th 1776.

Sir, I have duly received your very acceptable Letter of this date and have the pleasure of Congratulating you upon your safe Arrival in His Brittannic Majesty's Ship of War the *Seaford* in the road of this Island, & hope I shall have the Honor of receiving the dispatches of His Excellency Vice Admiral Young from your hand to morrow forenoon any Hour you will be pleased to mention.

I am much concerned that any report should have prevailed here, or elsewhere, capable of determining you to decline giving or receiving the Ordinary Marks of that friendship and cordiality, which have long Subsisted & I flatter myself will long continue to Subsist between His Brittannic Majesty & their High Mightinesses, the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, my Masters; As it neither is, nor ever hath been the Custom of this Port to demand the Passports of foreign Vessels, Merchantmen entering this Port & Saluting the Fort have been always Saluted in return as such, that is with two Guns less than the Salute given; but I can boldly affirm that no Insult hath been knowingly offered or intended to the King your Master, which induces me to presume, that upon reflection you will see cause to Suspect many of the Informations you may have casually received, and believe that I shall be extremely happy in showing those distinctive Marks of Attention to the British Flag, which Subsisting treaties between two Nations in Amity have established; and in returning the Salute, when you will be pleased to honour my Fort with it, with the same number of Guns. I have the Honor to be &c

Johannes De Graaff

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

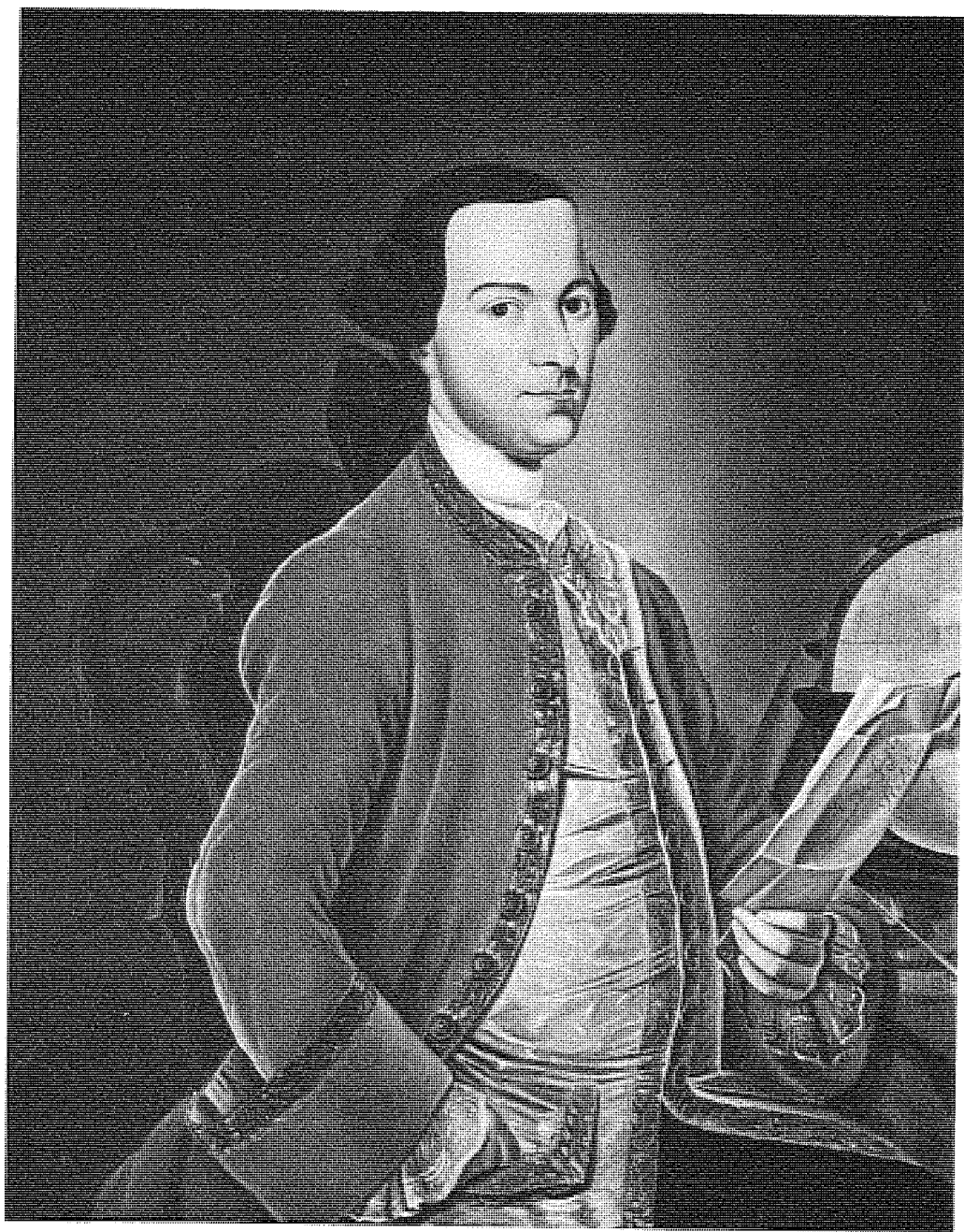
CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R.N., TO GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF¹

Sir *Seaford* St Eustatia Road December the 16th 1776.

I have just now been Honoured with your Excellency's answer to my letter of this days date, and beg leave to acquaint you that I will do myself the Honour of waiting on your Excellency with Vice Adml Youngs dispatches to morrow at 11-o'-Clock I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

was Sign'd J. H. Colpoy's

1. Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 926-27, Neth. Arch.



Johannes de Graaff, Governor of St. Eustatius

17 Dec.

MEMORIAL OF ADAM BABCOCK TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts-Bay now Sitting at Boston –

The Memorial of Adam Babcock of New Haven in the State of Connecticut Merchant, in behalf of himself & the other Owners of the Privateer Briggantine *Fanny* mounting Fourteen Carriage Guns now lying at Dartmouth, within this State, humbly sheweth

That Your Honors Memorialist together with Thos Mumford Esquire of Groton, Wm Hart Esq. of Say Brook, Saml Brown Esq of Guilford, Mr Thos Hazard of New Haven & Mr John Grenell of Fairfield all of the State of Connecticut Merchants, and Mr. Archd Blair of the City of Philadelphia Merchant are Owners of the said Privateer, that they have Victualed, Arm'd & Man'd said Privateer at a very great expence at Providence in the State of Rhode Island, that she being ready to proceed on her Cruise Sailed from thence on the 4th Inst. & put into Dartmouth not having a favorable Wind to go to Sea, & is now prevented Sailing on her intended Cruise from thence, by an Act of the Honble General Court of this State, bearing Date the 7th Instant to the very great damage & loss of Your Honors Memorialist and the other Owners, who have expended the Sum of Six thousand pounds Lawful Mony in the purchase & equipment of the said Vessel she being an exceeding fast Sailing Bermudian Briggantine – He therefore humbly prays Your Honors to grant leave for the said Privateer to depart from this State upon her Cruise – and your Memorialist is the rather induced to hope for this indulgence from Your Honors as the said Briggantine is not owned by an Inhabitant of this State, is principally Maned with people from the State of Connecticut and only put into Dartmouth to make a safe harbour from whence she would have sail'd before this had she not been prevented by the said Act – And Your Honors Memorialist as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

Adam Babcock

Boston in the State of Massachusetts Bay, Decemr 17th 1776 –

[Endorsed] In Council Dec 19t 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Memorial be Granted and that the Memorialist have and he hereby has Liberty to sail his said Brig from the Port of Dartmouth upon her intended Cruise the Embargo notwithstanding –

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 123, 123a.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 17th Decr 1776. A. M.

Order'd, that Capt [John] Ayres attend the board relative to the prize of the *Alfred*, which Capt Jones reported he left five days ago, bound to the Southward.² Capt Ayres attended, & acquainted the Board, that his Main Mast was broken; thereby disabled from pursuing the purpose of intercepting the Prize. –

Capt [John] Skimmer & [Daniel] Waters, attended the Board, about going with their Vessels after the *Alfred's* prize: Reported that they were unprepar'd & cou'd not proceed on the Cruize. —

Order'd, Capt [John Foster] Williams to fix out the Briga *Massachusetts*, of which he is appointed Capt. —

Great Complaints have been offer'd to the Board against the Commanders of the Forts at Hull, & on the Castle; relative to firing at Ships, (belonging to the Continent) entering the Harbor

Voted, that James Swan be Secretary to this Board, untill Mr Austin return to Town. —

Order'd, that he be qualified for the Office by taking the Oath; which was done, and a Copy is now on file. —

Mr [John] Brown, a Committee to Charter Mr Sargeants Vessel, Reported, That Mr Sargent will deliver the Schooner ready for the Sea; he receiving a gratuity of £20. in lieu of Commissions, 8/P Ton P Month, and that he be insured against all risques. —

Order'd, that a Letter be written to the Continental Agent, recommending his ordering one or more Schooners to go after the *Alfred's* prize immediately. —³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 52–57.

2. The prize ship *Mellish*. It was feared she might sail into British-occupied Newport.

3. Samuel Phillips Savage to John Bradford, December 17, 1776, Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 8, Board of War Letter Book, 1776–1780.

JAMES WARREN FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR, TO SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE ¹

Sir

Plymo Decr 17th 1776

This goes by Capt Bartlett of the Schooner *Elizabeth* Chartered on Acct of the Board for South Carolina. Maryland or Pensilvania. She is a fine Schooner of 46 Tons & I am told he is very Capable of selling or purchasing a Cargo in either of those places. if you think proper to Consign to him. Months wages are already paid. you will therefore furnish him with such Stores & Cargo as you shall think proper. & dispatch him that he may go another Trip if you want it. I have another Schooner of a smaller size which I shall send up next week. unless you think best to order her from here. I shall either purchase or hire one more perhaps this day. & shall hire one for the West Indies if I can make a Cargo which I have some prospect of. when you dont approve of my Conduct you will recall me I am [&c.]

J Warren

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 152, 13, Board of War Letters, 1776–1777.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Philada Decemr 17th 1776.

Mr [George] Walton, Mr [George] Clymer & myself, thought it advisable to open the enclosed letter, last night that we might judge if the expense of another express should be incurred or detain it for the Post, which we concluded to do as I had wrote You the unfortunate Fate of Genl [Charles] Lee before. I am sorry

to inform you that the *Roebuck & Falcon* Men of War are in Delaware Bay & two Bomb Ketches said to be in the offing. on Rect of this News (which is certain) I hired a Pilot Boat, & sent her with a letter to Capt Biddle, & all the other Vessells outward bound, desiring them to stop or come back. so that my labours appear to be lost & sorry I am for the disappointment, however its likely the first smart NoWester may give us an opening to push them out. I have just heard that a party or partys of the Enemy were yesterday at Moors Town & Haddonfield in the Jerseys opposite to this & distant about 7 to 9 Miles, what their Views are I cannot say, but by the appearance of the Men of War below & the Bomb Ketches being said to have sailed from N York it would seem as if these party's meant to make their way to Red Bank erect Works to command the chevaux de Frize & then to come up with the Ships this however is mere matter of speculation. Colo Griffin is I understand gone over with about 800 men, but I fear he will not be strong enough for them. I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir &c

Rob^t Morris.

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 18-19, NA.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JAMES MARTIN ¹

Sir

Philada Decemr 17th 1776

You will find herein Bills of Loadg for sundry goods on board the Sloop *Independence* Commanded by Lt [James] Robinson ² now at Chincoteague be pleased to receive these goods have them Carted Across to the best and nearest Landg on Chesapeake, hire a good Boat or Craft and send them over to Cumberland or Fork River Consigned to Benjamin Harrison junr Esq of Charles City Co Virginia. advise him by letters the goods are the property of Willing & Morris & Co and they will Send him an Invoice and orders respecting the Sale of them - Your Compliance shall be thankfully Acknowledged and your trouble Compensated by Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

P.S. The sooner this is done the better

Decr 18 Its probable that other Vessells may arrive at Chincoteague or Sinepuxent with Goods on board for my House or myself & in such case I wish you would take charge of them & write to me here or at Baltimore for Orders.

R M -

1. Bank of North America Papers, HSP.
2. First Lieutenant James Robertson, who had taken command of the Continental sloop *Independence*, when Captain John Young had been left ill in Martinique.

MAJOR THOMAS PROCTOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Sir,

To-morrow the ferry at Rudolphs' will be in order, and I have got two boats to ply to Fort & Province Islands, agreeable to your Instructions, Capt. Rice's Gally arriv'd from Cape about an hour ago, and Anchors off the Fort. The Lieut. of which Informs of Eight Ships and three tenders being in the Cape, the *Fowey* and *Roebuck* is supposed to be two of them. The vessels which were leaving port

are some of them gone into Morriss river, others into Christeen, &c., one vessell taken, said to be a Frenchman. I should be glad to have some Casks of powder sent down here, as there is room in the magazine. The Floating batterys expects supplies from the Garrison, as they have but Fifty rounds for each Gun. It is more than probable that these ships would not attempt our river at this precarious season, did they not Intend forcibly to form a Conjunction with Lord Howe, under these Conjectures, think it highly Expedient that a sufficient number of men Should be thrown in Immediately for the Defence of this place, being Exceeding weak, by a reason of Detachments being sent to Join the Grand Army, & Desertions so prevalent, & be assured if I am suitably furnished with men, provisions and stores, the English shall purchase deer what ever they get from me. I am, Sir, [&c.]
Thos. Proctor.

Fort Island, Tuesday Eveng, 7 o'Clock, Decr 17th, 1776.

N.B. – Something ought to be done to prevent their possessing themselves of Red Bank & Billings' Port, as I have not been able to do any thing at either for want of men.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 118.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Tuesday, December 17, 1776.

Ordered That Capt. Paddison [William Patterson] immediately proceed with all the Hands he can procure, to the Head of Elk, there to assist in bringing down the Vessels containing the continental Stores, to Baltimore Town.

[Ordered] That the said Commissary [of Stores] deliver to Capt. Paddison two Jackets, and as many Pair of Shoes, and as much linen as he may want for his men.

Commission issued to James Phillips appointed Commander of the Sloop *General Lee*, mounting 10 Carriage Guns and 8 Swivels, he having complied with the Resolution of Congress.

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

STORES DELIVERED TO VIRGINIA STATE SLOOP *Scorpion* ¹

[December 17, 1776] ²

Copy of Receipt given Sloop <i>Scorpion</i>		
8 Carridge Guns	3 poundr	4 Spare Quoins
Compleat		10 " Trucks
450 Round of Shott		12 Water Casks Diff't Sizes
20 Bags Langrage		6 Large Oars
3 Rope Spunges		Some pig Iron said to be 17 Tons
8 Cartridge Boxes		or thereabouts, more
2 formers		or less
150 Iron Grape Shott		

W^m Richards

1. Papers concerning the State Navy, vol. 2, 236, VSL.

2. Date based on entry in Navy Board Journal, 141, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN ROBERT TOMPKINS¹

[Williamsburg] December 17th 1776

Having receiv'd a letter from Doct McNicholl of your arresting and treating him in a manner very unbecoming an Officer in his Station, You are therefore to discharge the Doctor from his present confinement and send him up to this Board with your complaint in writing – and without the least delay proceed up the Bay for the Arms, that business requiring the greatest dispatch.

By order of the Board
Thomas Whiting

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL. Tompkins commanded the galley *Henry*.

GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD TO GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF¹

Copy.

St Christophers 17th Decr 1776.

Sir, At a time when the antient Treaties of alliance and Friendship between Great Britain and the States General are existing in their original Spirit & Vigor; when their High Mightinesses as well as the other Sovereign Powers of Europe behold with astonishment & indignation and have Solemnly expressed their abhorrence of the unnatural Rebellion stirred up by the Subjects of the King my Master on the continent of North America, and have given the most earnest assurances of withholding all Succour & Countenance to them in the prosecution of their treasonable attempts against the Supremacy & Constitutional authority of Great Britain over them; it is with the deepest concern that I find my Self called upon to remonstrate to your Honour against the repeated & avowed encouragement and Protection which these rebellious Colonists have publicly received and still daily meet with in the Island over which you preside.

The Performance of this unpleasing, yet indispensable part of my Duty hath been hitherto delayed from a disinclination in me to give credit merely to publick Fame, and from my unwillingness to believe that the antient and natural allies of Great Britain could be so far regardless not only of the common principles of national Policy but of the Sacred obligations of Treaties, as to cherish & uphold British Subjects in their unjustifiable & rebellious Practices against their parent State; but it is now, Sir, from the most authentick Information that in the name of my Royal Master I complain to you.

That not only Supplies of all Sorts of Provisions and warlike Stores are almost daily & publickly furnished by the Inhabitants of St Eustatius to His Majesty's said rebellious Subjects, but that Vessels have been also equipped & Set forth in a warlike manner from that Island for the express and avowed Purpose of cruizing against & making Prize of the Ships and properties of his peaceable & faithful Subjects.

That in particular a Sloop called the *Baltimore Hero* thus equipped & set forth did actually on or about the 21st day of November last under certain colours called Those of the continental Congress almost within the Reach of the Batteries of St Eustatius piratically Seize and take possession of a Brigantine & her Cargo bound from this Island to St Eustatius the Property of Mr Forster McConnell a British Subject resident in the Island of Dominica, which Sloop after this act of

Piracy notoriously committed within Sight of the Dutch Forts returned into the Road of St Eustatius with her Colours flying & there continued to receive every mark of Support & Protection.

That an armed Vessel called the *Andrew Doria* commanded by one Capt: [Isaiah] Robinson, belonging to & in the Service of the said Rebels did some time about the middle of November last, publicly enter and come to an anchor in the Road of St Eustatius & with Colours flying known to be those of the Rebels called the Continental Congress Saluted with Thirteen Guns Their High Mightinesses Fort called Fort Orange & which Salute was afterwards with the Solemnity due to the Flags of Independent Sovereign States returned to the said Vessel by the said Fort, which Vessel was afterwards permitted to take in a Loading of Gunpowder & other necessities of war & Provisions at St Eustatius for the use of the American Rebel Army.

Individuals there are to be found in every State, who from the Sordid Principle of gain will be tempted to transgress every publick Law by which the State is bound But with every possible allowance for the Errors of Humanity, & the political offences of private Persons, it must be evident to you, Sir, that a partiality & conduct similar to the one herein complained of even in favour of a Sovereign State in Amity with the States General, but at Enmity with Great Britain, would be a flagrant Violation of the many compacts now existing between our Two Courts. How much more then must those compacts be infringed by extending such assistance & avowed countenance to the proscribed Rebels of Great Britain? In no other light can these deluded People be lawfully considered, for they have been declared such by the Sovereign Authority of Great Britain, & the Law of nations acknowledges no such Right as that of a lawful War waged by Subjects against their Sovereign State. In this Character have they been accordingly hitherto considered by the different Princes & States of Europe, & consequently their captures at Sea, under the authority of their usurped Powers, can be but piratical Depredations. But to the Scandal of all publick Faith and national Honour, it has remained for a dutch Settlement to be the avowed abettors of their Treasons & Promoters of their Piracies, & for their High Mightinesses Forts to be the first publick Recognizers of a Flag hitherto unknown in the Catalogue of national Ensigns.

The Duty of the King's Commission, which I have at present the honour to execute, and the Zeal I bear for His Majesty's Service would not allow me to withhold from you, Sir, a representation of Facts so injurious to that good Faith, union & Harmony, which on the part of my Royal Master have been so uniformly cultivated with the States General. In his name do I therefore call upon you, Sir, the Governor of their Island of St Eustatius for an exemplary atonement for the Indignity offered to His Majesty's Colours by the Honours publicly paid by Fort Orange to those of His Rebel Subjects. And I do more over, Sir, require (and do not doubt) that when you shall have reflected how grossly the Treaties between our Two Courts have been Violated in the Instances above alledged, you will not only exert your authority to prevent a Repetition of those Breaches of Faith, but will also take effectual Steps, that ample Reparation may be made to the Sufferers by the Piracy committed by the Sloop the *Baltimore Hero*, and that the Partners,

Sharers and abettors in that act be found out & apprehended, & that they may suffer condign Punishment for a Terror to others.

I have thought proper that these my Sentiments should be delivered to your Honour by as respectable a conveyance as I could. I have therefore for this purpose made choiche of Mr [John] Stanley, a member of His Majesty's Council, and His Solicitor General, who will have the Honour to present them to you, & wait your Reply. He is fully instructed and authorized by me to discuss at large this Subject, & the several Treaties which are the Foundation of this application, and I doubt not your proper Reception of Him and his Commission. I have the Honour to be &c.

(Sighn'd) Craister Greathead.

1. Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 204-07, Neth. Arch.

18 Dec.

PETITION OF JONATHAN TITCOMB TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honle Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay
May it please Your Honors

Your Pitioner being Desirous of importing Provisions into this State From Carolina and being Acquainted that Liberty may be granted by Your Honors for that Purpose beg the favour of Your Honors granting Permission for His Schooner *Ranger*, 60 tons burdn, Jeremiah Pearson Master to proceid from this Port Under Such Restriction as shall seem Meet, to Some of the united States of America for the purpose Of importing into this State the Produce growth Or Manufacturis of the Same And as in Duty bound Will ever pray &c

Jona Titcomb

Newbury Port 18 Decmr 1776

N.B. Cargo out 6hh Sugr -

[Endorsed] Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 20th 1776

To the Naval Officer of Newbury Port permit the Schooner *Ranger*, whereof Jeremiah Pearson is Master bound to South Carolina, Burthen about 60 tons to take on Board six hh Sugr and proceed on her sd Voyage, said Master giving Bond that he will import into this State in sd Vessel Provisions, and Naval Stores, the Dangers of the Seas and Enemy excepted

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 128.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 18 1776

The Board having been Informed that Capt Jones Commander of one of the Continental Armed Vessells has brought into this Harbour of Boston About One hundred and Forty Prisoners from on board sundry prizes he has lately taken and whereas it will be inexpedient to have so great a number of Prisoners lodged & Continued in this or any other State as these now taken together with those already in this Government will amount to, and whereas There are a number of Persons belonging to several of the United States now in New York which have been lately made Prisoners by our Enemies

Therefore Resolved that in the opinion of this Board it will be most for the advantage of this & the other United States that an Exchange of Prisoners be made as soon as may be & that it be & hereby is Recommended to John Bradford Esqr the Continental Agent, to Employ one or more of the Continental Schooners now in this State as a Flag of Truce & to send them to the State of New York with the Prisoners now here, Excepting such as are in the Land Service in order to be exchanged for such Americans as are now Prisoners there, and the Secretary is hereby directed to serve John Bradford Esqr with a Copy of this Resolution –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 124.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

Sir

Providence December 18th 1776 –

I receiv'd yours of the 15th instant and am very glad to hear you are safe Arrived; as it would have been Impossible for you to have got in here – I wish your Prizes may get in Safe – If you can you may hire a Pilot to go in some Small Vessel, off, or about Nantucket, to give the Prize Masters an Account of our Situation here, and order the Prizes to Boston –

As to any alteration of the *Alfred* I have receiv'd no Orders from the Marine Committee about that matter, owing I suppose to the difficulty of the Times – and as Captn Hinman has a Commission for the *Alfred*, do not know at present but it may be best for him to take her, and for you to go onboard the *Columbus* – however shall write or come down to Boston soon – in the mean time you will get the Ship alongSide the Wharf, and her Stores Secured – And as some of the Mens times are out that they Enlisted for, you may get their Accounts Settled, and give them an Order for the ballance, taking Care to Charge what was Advanc'd them in Philadelphia – those who belong to Philadelphia or have Wives there, you will give an Order on Mr James Read for One half their Wages, and pay the rest – and call on Mr John Bradford for Money to enable you so to do, who I have wrote to Supply you –

If my Son Esek wants to come home to See his Friends, you will be kind enough to give him leave –

The Owners of the Privateer ² made a great Noise about your taking the Men out of her, and have brought an Action, but I think they will make nothing of it – We have likewise brought an Action against Captn [Isaac] Field for taking our Men – I am Sir Your Friend [&c.]

Esek Hopkins Cr in Chief

P.S – You will deliver the Prisoners you have onboard the *Alfred* to the Officers of the State you are in – Yours &c

E. H –

1. Papers CC (Letters of John Hancock, and Miscellaneous Papers), 58, 183–86, NA.

2. Schooner *Eagle*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO MIDSHIPMAN ESEK HOPKINS, JR. ¹

Dear Son

Providence December 18th 1776 –

I receiv'd yours, and have wrote to Mr John Bradford Agent ² to pay you all my Share of Prize Money in his hands which you may Receive and make use of as

much as is Necessary, and bring the Rest home to me. I have wrote to Captn Jones to let you come home – but would have you get your Account from the Clerk Stated, and get Captn Jones to Sign it –

Your Mother Brothers & Sisters are well – I am Your Affectiont Father
E H –

To Mr Esek Hopkins junr onboard the *Alfred* at Boston –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Rhode Island] 18th Decr

A Prize taken lately by a Rebel Privateer, came into the harbour yesterday, not knowing the Island was in our possession. She struck after a shot or two had been fired at her.²

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 128.
2. Mackenzie noted in his diary, December 25, 1776: "The Prize that was taken on her entering the harbour a few days ago, is one of a Coal fleet from Louisbourg to New York. She was taken by the *Alfred* Privateer belonging to Providence, and was sent in here by her not knowing the place was taken. The *Alfred* took three other vessels out of the same fleet, and she and them are daily expected in."

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY.¹

Decemr [1776]	Remarks . . . off Rhode Island.
Wedy 18	a strange Sail came into the harbour, fired 5 shot to bring her too, & sent our boats Manned and Armed as did the rest of the Ships by Signal, at 11 the Boats boarded her Strong Gales & squally with a hard Frost 2 pm the Boats returned with the <i>Betty</i> a Transport from Louisburgh which had been Taken by the <i>Alfred</i> an American Privateer.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Sphynx*, CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT ¹

December 1776	Moor'd as before between Connonicut & the Main.
Wednesday 18	AM sent the boat to the assistance of the Prize Sloop, she being on Shore, Lost in getting her off a Grapnail and Boat's Warp; at 9 Saw a Ship passing by the Western Channell towards Rhoad Island, at 11 heard the report of Guns to the Eastward, Rebels plundered her [the prize sloop] of two Swivels & sundry Gunrs Stores

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/922.

JOURNAL OF JOHN TREVETT ¹

[Sloop *Providence*, December 6 to December 18]

Shortly after (the 6th of Dec,) the British took possession of Newport. The ship *Warren*, Ship *Providence* & Sloop *Providence* lay near Gould Island, but

we made the best of our way to Providence, while the British fleet was running into Narriganset bay: the Sloop *Providence* had some men on shore on Gould Island cutting wood, I perceived a large quantity of hay stacked up there, I ordered one of the men to give me a brand of fire. I stepped into the barge and our Sloop hove too, until I set fire to all the hay on the Island, as I well knew it would fall into the hands of the British, and all I received for this was the loss of a silver knee buckle, and a Waistcoat, but had great contentment of mind, which money cannot purchase, then we hauled our wind to the north end of Jamestown Island, the wind being S.W. as soon as we opened Narriganset bay, there was nothing to be seen but Ships, we under easy sail wishing some of them to give chase, we lay in the way until we gave them 3 shot, when immediately 3 of their ships with all sail they could pack, gave us chase, which we wanted, and we under easy sail stood up for Warwick neck, they finding we intended to get them a ground, signal was given from the Com. of the British Fleet and they gave up the chase, and then we went up to Providence. A short time after, one of our prize Ships running in for New Port, was taken after receiving a number of shot being cut off by one of their Ships near Prudence Island, and carried back to Newport,² so ends this cruise. —

1. Trevett's Journal, NHS.

2. The coal ship *Betty*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut holden at Middletown by adjournment on the third Wednesday of December, being the Eighteenth Day of said Month Anno Domini 1776.

Resolved by this Assembly, That an Embargo be and the same is hereby laid on all privateers and on all shipping whatever except continental vessells and armed vessells belonging to the respective States on permission being first had and obtained from his Honor the Governor and his Committee of Safety to depart.

And provided also, and it is hereby resolved, That his Honor the Governor with the advice of his said committee may at any time permit such vessels to sail as they may judge necessary to import such medicines and other necessaries as they may think wanted for the good of the State.

Said embargo to continue till the rising of this Assembly in May next. Provided nevertheless, that his Honor the Governor with the advice of his said committee may suspend the same within said time if found requisite. And the Governor is desired to issue a proclamation accordingly.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut State Records*, 89, 123.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Number 16.

Eagle Off New York

Sir

December the 18th 1776.

By the Receipt of your Letter of the 19th of October, I have the particular Satisfaction to be advised of the Approbation their Lordships have done me the Honor to express of my Proceedings to the Date of the Dispatches delivered by Major Cuyler, who arrived here the 15th Instant.

The large Detachment of the Army which pursued the Rebel Forces through the Jerseys for an Extent of near Ninety Miles to the Banks of the Delaware, being now of Necessity retired into Winter-Quarters; I have nothing concerning the present Disposition of the Ships to add to my last of the 12th Instant, by this Opportunity.

I received Letters yesterday from Sir Peter Parker, to let me know that the King's Forces under the Command of Lieutenant General Clinton took possession of Rhode-Island the 7th without Opposition; And that he had ordered the *Mercury* for England with the Lieutenant General's Dispatches, and to give their Lordships the earliest Intelligence of that beneficial Acquisition. I have added Copies of the Commodore's Letters, by this Conveyance.

The uninterrupted Progress of the Army having removed the Rebel General Washington (under whose Authority the Exchange of Prisoners on this Part of the Continent could only be then negotiated) too far distant for continuing the Communication; And the Appointment of the late Armament preventing the Effect of an Intercourse I had subsequently opened with the principal Persons in Authority at Rhode Island and Providence Plantation, with better Prospects of Success; I have not yet derived any material Benefit from the Proposition.

I do not trouble their Lordships with the Papers on the Subject referred to in Sir Peter Parker's Letter, as the Matter is of no consequence, and I shall now probably have an Opportunity to renew the Overture with better Advantage.

You will, Sir, have been already apprized from the Contents of my preceeding Letters, of the regard which has been had to the Subject of their Lordships pleasure, respecting the return of the Petty-Officers appointed to superintend the Navigation of the Transports of different Descriptions. Such as are since arrived, will take their Passage in the *Bristol* and the same Care will be continued in future Instances.

Equal Attention will be shewn to their Commands for the Dismission of the Agents of Transports, as they can be spared. But their Continuance here is so essential for carrying on the various Duties incident to this Branch of the conjunct Service, that I cannot at present say how soon a Decrease of their Numbers might be made with any Propriety. And when I have observed, that those Duties have consisted of repeated Embarkations and Landings, often of very considerable Corps of Troops, for near four Months, I am persuaded I shall be excused for any seeming Delay in that respect.

The State of the *Asia* and *Experiment* is such, that there will be a necessity for sending them to England. But as the calls for the Use of practised Seamen have been so various and frequent, and will be so soon renewed in a still greater Proportion, should this unhappy Contest (as there is yet too much reason to apprehend) continue any part of the next Year, it is not without great Uneasiness that I divest myself of the Aid of those Ships, under the Uncertainty whether they can be seasonably returned or replaced: Having to request that I may be strengthened with Six Sail of not less than sixty-four or sixty-Gun Ships in Addition to the Naval Force appointed for this last Year, to co-operate in the proposed Services of the Army next Campaign. It is desirable for this End, that such Reinforcement should be arrived here (or at Rhode-Island, as Circumstances of

Weather upon the Coast may induce) before the End of March. I am, with great
Consideration, Sir [&c.] Howe

[Endorsed] R 23rd Febry, at 11 PM (5 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract] Philadelphia December 18th 1776

Yesterday Captain John Rice commander of a Lookout Vessel which we
Stationed at Cape May arrived here from his Station and informs us that Five of
the Enemys Ships with three Tenders are in our Capes. The *Roebuck* and *Fowey*
are of the number, the names and force of the others we are ignorant of – We
presume they do not intend up our River, unless General Howe's future move-
ments should encourage them. . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN RICHARD EYRES ¹

In Council of Safety,
Sir, Philada., 18th Decem. 1776.

You are hereby ordered to use your best endeavour to procure if possible a
sufficient number of volunteers immediately, to man your Schooner ² and proceed
in consort with Captain Rice to Christiana Creek to protect the Public Stores and
the Merchant Vessels that lay there, particular instructions will be given to Captain
Rice, who will take the command on that Station.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 119.

2. The *Delaware* armed schooner.

Pennsylvania Packet, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1776

Philadelphia, December 18.

Since our last arrived here the privateer brig *General Montgomery*, James
Montgomery, Esq; commander, who has brought in with him the ship *King*
George, which he took on her passage from Jamaica to London; her cargo consists
of gold dust, ivory, rum, sugar, &c.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decr 76 Cape Henlopen Light House SbWt C. May SEbE½E
abt 5 Miles

Wednesday 18th AM Saw a Sail standing down the river, Sent the Boats Mann'd
& Arm'd to the Sail, which was a Sloop. they run her ashore
under C May. the Boats boarded her, but the Rebels firing on
the Boats they return'd without the Vessel. –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

RETURN OF CAPTURE OF SCHOONER *Success* BY CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE
HAMOND, R.N. ¹

Account of one Vessel Seized as a Prize by His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* under
my command the 18th Decr 1776 Vizt at the mouth of the River Delaware

When Taken	18 Decr 1776
Where Taken	Cape May
Name of the Vessel	<i>Success</i>
Master	Jno Burrows
Owner	Messrs Mercer & Schantz
Residence of the Owner	New Brunswick, Jersey
Numr of	
Tons	70
Men	5
Guns	—
From	Hispanolia
Where Bound	Philadelphia
Lading	Molasses & Rum
How Rigged	Schooner
To what Port Sent	New York
To Whose Care Consigned	Geo. Cherry Esqr

NB – No papers of any kind found on board

A. S. Hamond ²

1. Ships' Papers, Misc., HSP.

2. Return found on board when recaptured by Captain John Baldwin in the Continental schooner
Wasp.

LIEUTENANT JOHN BURNELL TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Sir,

Baltimore Decemr 18th 1776

I am to inform you that, last night Capt George Cook Departed with about
Sixty or Seventy Men, Mr [Henry] Auchinlick his first Lieutenant and the other
Officers belonging to the Ship *Defence* under his Command, for the Head of Elk,
from whence they are to proceed to Philadelphia with an intent to join the Forces
there. —

I would have attended him, but was obliged to give place to my Senior Officer,
wherefore I was left in Command of the Ship 'till Capt Cook's return from the
Expedition, which I expect will not be 'till Howe's expulsion from the Jerseys,
which I'm in hopes will be soon. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

John Burnell ²

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. Second Lieutenant in the *Defence*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday December 18th 1776

Information being this Day given to the Board that the Sloop *Margaret Rich-*

ard Nestor Master now lying in Pamunkey River together with her Cargo is the Property of a certain Robert Shedden and other Persons inimical to the United States of America It is therefore Ordered that the said Sloop *Margaret* be attached by the Marshall of the Admiralty and that the said Nestor be cited to appear in the said Court and answer the Libel of James Barron and others respecting the said Vessell and Cargo

Ordered that Mr James Hubard who conducted the Sale of the Cargo and Stores belonging to the *Oxford* a Prize taken by the Captains James and Richard Barron make out an Account thereof and state the proportions of the Shares due to the said Captains, their Officers and Men without delay and return the said Account to this Board agreeable to the Regulations of the Navy Board.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Captain Gabriel Jones for four hundred and seventy three pounds twelve shillings upon Account for the purpose of enlisting his Company of Marines into the Land Service agreeable to Act of Assembly Bond executed acknowledged and ordered to be filed

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Captain John Lee for four hundred and seventy three pounds twelve shillings upon Account for the purpose of enlisting his Company of Marines into the Land Service agreeable to Act of Assembly Bond executed acknowledged and ordered to be filed

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 287-88, 289-90.

COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Hallifax 18th Decr 1776

Your Committee appointed to Consider the Petition of John Lowry Esqr atty for a Certain Jonathan Davis of Massachusetts Bay Report as follows. That it appears to your Committee, from the Confession of Southworth Collen Made before the Committee of Pasquotank County 5th June last, against whom the said Petition was exhibited & from Sundry Papers Produced before your Committee, That on or about the month of March 1775 the Sd Jonathan Davis Chartered a Certain Vessell Calld the *Hannah* from a Certain Barnabas Hedge, & Placed & appointed the Said Southworth Collen Captain thereof on an Intended Voyage from Boston to No Carolina, thence to the West Indies & Back to Boston again. that the said Collen did not Compleat the Intended Voyage but Deviated therefrom without Instructions so to do and hath Lately Sold the said Vessel & Changed the Register thereof with design as your Committee Conceive to defraud the said Davis; from all which Circumstances your Committee are of oppinion the Interposition of this House in favour of said Davis is necessary to Compell the said Collen to give Security for Reparation of Damages & Restoring of Said Vessell all which is Humbly Submitted

Dorneay Beuget

[Endorsed] Report on the Petn of John Lowry. Concurred with Decr 1776

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

19 Dec.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE OF IPSWICH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
COUNCIL ¹[December 19, 1776] ²State of Massachusetts bay }
Ipswich ss:

To the Honble. the Council of this State

We being of the Committee of Correspondence Safety &ca. for the Town of Ipswich do humbly Acquaint your honors that we are of the Opinion that it will be greatly for the benefit of said Town & the Towns Adjacent for the Scooner *Rebekah* to go her intended Voyage to one of the Carolina's as said Towns are in great Need of Rice and other Necessary's the produce thereof—therefore pray your honors to grant the Petition of Isaac Dodge Esqr. & others for leave to send said Scooner the Voyage Aforesaid – We are your honors [&c.]

Daniel Noyes Thomas Staniford
John Crocker Nathan Foster
Nathl Farley

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 135½.

2. Petition was granted this date.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN GILL, COMMANDING OFFICER
AT CASTLE ISLAND ¹

Councill Chamber [Boston] Decr 19 1776

Whereas Complaint has been made to the Board by a Master of a Coaster from Newbury Port, that some few Days pass on his Entering this port he was fired upon from Castle Island & Compelled to Anchor & Land, at Considerable Hazard, and that thereupon the officer Commanding Demanded & took from him thirty six shillings as pay for the two shot fired at him.

You are therefore hereby Ordered & Directed Immediately to attend at the Councill Chamber in Boston, Bringing with you Capt Lieut William Cooper, in order that further Enquiry may be made into this matter.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 173, 71b.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1776

Boston, December 19.

The *Alfred* Man of War, of the American Navy, with the Sloop *Providence*, sailed from Rhode-Island, the 2d of November. – On the 12th they took a Brig with a very valuable Cargo from Liverpool for Halifax; and on the 13th off Louisburg they took a fine Transport, laden with Cloathing, for Canada – the 16th, of [f] Cape-North, they took a Snow, with a Cargo of Fish, &c. from Gaspey for Barbados – in the Night of the 18th, the *Providence* disappeared. – The *Alfred* kept the Transport Ship under Convoy, having mounted her with Guns, and manned her well. – on the 22d they were off Canso, the *Alfred's* Boats were sent to burn a Transport, laden with Provision, as she had got ashore within the Harbour, and

could not be got off – the Boats also burnt the Oil Stores, with their Contents, and all the Materials for the Whale Fishery. – The 23d, the *Alfred* took three Transport Ships from Spanish River for New-York, under Convoy of the *Flora* Frigate; it was then hazy, otherwise the *Flora* would have been within sight. – On the 26th, the *Alfred* took a Merchant Ship, of 10 Guns, from Liverpool for Halifax; she had now five Ships under Convoy, and being unable to man a greater Number proceeded for Port. – On the 8th December, on St. George's Bank, she was chased by a large Ship and ordered the Quebec Transport to make Sail and run a-Head, some of the fastest sailing Ships accompanied her, and the *Alfred* fell in between them and the Stranger; the Wind shifted in the Night. – The *Alfred* carried a top Light, and stood to the Northward – The Cloathing Ship and others that had been a-Head stood on to the Southward – the strange Ship was near the *Alfred* in the Morning, and appeared a Man of War with St. George's Colours – The last taken Ship, as she sailed fast, was sent astern to view the Enemy and make a Signal agreed on, if she was of superior Force, she made the Signal that the Enemy was of superior force – the Wind increased to a violent Gale in the Evening, and by that Means the *Alfred* and Prize Ship got clear of the Enemy, and the *Alfred* arrived safe in Nantasket Road the 16th current, having on board one Hundred and Forty Prisoners, among whom are the Attorney-General of Canada, with Lady and Family, and several Officers and Soldiers – she had only two Days Provision left, and left Rhode-Island with more than one Hundred and Forty Officers and Men. – The Quebec Transport is called the *Melliah* [*sic Mellish*] – she was lately a Bomb in the English Service, and was then named the *Thunder*

Thursday, last week, Captain Palmer, in the Brig *Elizabeth*, belonging to the United States of America, arrived in a safe Port, from Mars[e]illes in France, which he left the 7th of October with a valuable Cargo of Linnens and coarse Woollens. He informs that greater Preparations for War were making in France, when he left that Place, than had been known there for 20 Years past; that two large Squadrons, one from Brest, the other from Toulon, were to sail on the first of January next, on an Expedition some where, but that their Destination was a profound Secret.

Silas Deane, Esq; was well in Paris, a Day or two before Captain Palmer sailed.

Last Friday, the Enemy landed 200 Troops, from four Vessels, on the Elizabeth Islands, and plundered from thence about 200 Sheep, besides burning a House and Barn, belonging to Mr. John Read, of this Town.

COMMISSION OF EBENEZER HILL TO COMMAND RHODE ISLAND ROW GALLEY
Washington ¹

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

To Ebenezer Hill, Gentleman – Greeting.

Whereas the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, at the Session held at Providence on the last Wednesday in October AD 1775. ordered two Row Gallies to be equipped, to be employed in protecting the Trade of this State and whereas you the said Ebenezer Hill have been appointed Captain of the Row Galley called

the *Washington* being one of the said Row-Gallies: I do therefore hereby in the Name of the Governor and Company of the said State, authorize empower and commission you the said Ebenezer Hill to have take and exercise the Office of Captain of the said Row-Galley, and to command guide and conduct the Officers and Men on board the same. And in Case of an Invasion or Assault of a common Enemy to infest or disturb this or any other of the United States of America, you are with the Officers and Men on board the said Row-Galley to the utmost of your Skill and Ability to burn sink and Destroy all such Ships and Vessels and to Resist Expel Kill and Destroy all Parties so invading or Assaulting, in Order to preserve the Rights Property and Lives of the good People of this and the other United States. You are also to follow such further Instructions Directions and Orders, as shall from Time to Time be further given forth, either by the General Assembly the Governor and General Council or other your Superior Officers. And for your so doing this Commission shall be your sufficient Warrant

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of said State, this
Nineteenth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six.

Nich^s Cooke

By his Honor's Command. Henry Ward Secry

1. Miscellaneous Collection, vol. 2, 133, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Middletown, December 19, 1776] ²

An Act for stating the Fees of the Several County Courts & of the respective Officers concerned in the Trials of Causes relating to Prizes or Captures brought into this State –

Be it enacted by the Governor Council & representatives in general Court Assembled & by the Authority of the same – That the Chief Judge & the other Justices, the Attorney for the State, the Clerk & Sherif, the Jurors, Constables & other Officers of the Respective County Courts in this State, that shall take Cognizance of, & hear, try or determine, any Cause or Action; relating to the Capture of any Vessel, Cargo & appurtenances taken & brot into this State by any Ship or Vessel of Warr, Privateer, Letter of Marque & Reprizal belonging to the United States of America, or to any of the Inhabitants of sd several States, shall have & receive the several Fees and Allowances as if hereafter set & affixed in the following Table – , to wit –

Table of Fees –

	Judges	Advocates	Clerks	Marshals
	Fees.	Fees.	Fees.	Fees.
To the Cheif Judge for his Services P day	18/-			
The assistant Justices P day	12/			
For filing & allowing a Libel . . to the judge	3/			
For Citation for appearance.	1/3			
for Sumons for a Wittness	1/			

Table of Fees—[continued]

For drawing a Libel	6/
For pleading thereto & attending the Court, such Fees as the Court shall judge reasonable	
To the Clerk or Register –	
For Citation for appearance	0..2..0
For summons for a Witness	0..1..0
For filing papers & serving Cost	0..3..0
For Interlocutory Decree recording &c	0..2..0
For a definitive Decree & recording	0..6..0
For taking every evidence in Court	0..1..0
For Copy of a Libel	0..3..0
For Copy of a Decree	0..6..0
For a Retraxit	0..1..0
For all money paid into Court on Condemnation, one eighth P Cent poundage	
For entering a Motion for Appeal	0..1..0
For allowing or disallowing thereof	0..1..4
For all Copies not Exceeding one sheet	0..1..0
If above one sheet, for every sheet each }	0..1..0
Sheet Containing 400 Words }	
For every adjournment	0..1..3
For every Bond to prosecute an appeal }	0..1..6
To the Sherif or marshal	
For Serving all Writs Citations & warrants The same Fees as is allready by Law allowed in Other Cases	
one half P Cent. upon the Sale of any Vessel Cargo & appurtenances condemned provided the amount thereof do not exceed one Thousand pounds, but where the Value & Sale of such Vessel Cargo & her appurtenances shall exceed One Thousand pounds, then the sd Sherif shall have One half P Cent upon the first Thousand pounds, & one eighth P Cent. upon all sums Over –	
For the Jurors P day <u>each</u>	4/7
For the Constable P day	4/
For Witnesses – P day	4/
For their Travel P mile	4d

And it is further Enacted that the several Sums expressed in the foregoing Table of Fees & allowances shall be paid into the hands of the Clerk of said Court by the Captors or out of the monies said Vessel or Vessels Cargo or Cargoes & appurtenances Condemnd as aforesd shall Sell for, to be distributed to the several Officers of sd Court to whom the same shall belong, before any Distribution be made thereof for the benefit of the Captors or Attornies and others concerned therein

[Endorsed] In the Lower House

The foregoing Bill is Passed with Alterations (viz) That 19/ be Inserted in Stead of 18/ in the 9th Line from the Bottom of the first Page and that 10/ be Inserted in Stead of 12/ in the 8th Line from the Bottom of the Same Page.³

Attest Benj Huntington Clerk

In the upper House, The foregoing Bill is passd without the Alterations therein, as above Voted by the lower House

Test George Wylls Secrty

Concurred in the lower House Attest Benj Huntington Clerk

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 295a-c, ConnSL.

2. Date is estimated; the Assembly had convened the day before at Middletown, *Connecticut Courant*, December 23, 1776.

3. Referring to the fees for the chief judge and the assistant justices.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JOHN RICE, GALLEY
*Convention*¹

In Council of Safety,

Philada., 19th Decemr, 1776.

Sir,

You are hereby ordered to apply to this Council for necessaries for your Crew, and they shall be supplied, after which you are to proceed down to Christiana Creek and use your best endeavours to protect the Public Stores and Merchant Vessels there, Captain [Richard] Eyres in the *Delaware* Armed Vessel has orders to go in consort with you, as you are the Senior Officer, the Command on that Station will rest with you, and as the Stores and effects up that Creek are of great value, we hope you will exert yourself for their preservation at the same time taking care to secure the armed vessels under your Command from being taken, should they unluckily be so circumstanced, that they must otherwise inevitably fall into the Enemies hands, you are to burn or destroy them if possible, the rest we must leave to your discretion, wishing you health and happiness.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 119-20.

CHRISTIANNA McMULLEN TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE¹

Philada, Decr; 19. 1776

To the Honourable Captain Biddle on board the Continental Frigate *Randolph*

The Petition of Christianna McMullen most humbly sheweth, that your Honrs Petitioner is a poor Distressed woman and Have been by Infirmitys and other Disorders rendered Incapable of Getting a Livelihood for her self These several Years past your Petitioner's Son being Pressed on Board your Honrs Ship which was the sole support of your Honrs Poor Petitioner

May it Therefore Please your Honor to take your Petitioners Case into your Honrs Wise and serious Consideration in Pleasing to Discharge your Petitioner's Son which will be the means of Supporting your Honrs Petitioner and In return to your Honrs Goodness your Petitioner Prays that the great god Will Pour down his Blessings on your Honor and Family whilst Alive

Christianna mcMullen

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decr 76

At Single Anchor under C: May

Thursy 19th

Fresh breezes with Frost. At 7 AM Saw the *Roebuck* in the Offing. At 9 Air'd spare sails clean'd the Rooms out. Saw a Sail under C: May sent the Boats Mann'd & Armd to taken [*sic*]. which was done after the Crew run her ashore & left her. ² At Noon the *Roebuck* anchor'd under C: Henlopen
First part Modt & hazey, Mid. & latter fresh breezes wth rain At 4 PM His Maj's Ship *Roebuck* under sail working out. At 8 Saw a Sail coming in at C: May passage fired 8 Six Pounders at her shotted & 2 Six Pound grape she hauled her wind & stood out to Sea, sent the Longboat & Pinnace in Chase. At 12 Made the Signal for the Boats to return finding the Vessel to go from them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

2. Vessel, name unknown, carrying oil, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO VAN BIBBER & HARRISON ¹

[Extract]

No. 66.

Gentln Your favors of the 19th Novr from St Eustatia, & 23rd of same month from Martinique we have received. – The information you have given us that all kinds of goods and warlike Stores are plenty in 'Statia affords us Pleasure. – we hope to receive supplies from thence being determined to miss no Opportunity that offers of throwing Cargoe into your hands for that purpose. –

We have given to [John] Martin, and shall to every other Captain in our service, orders to proceed either to 'Statia, or Martinique, as the most probable chance may offer of his, or their geting in with Safety . . .

It affords us Pleasure that Captain Robertson's [Isaiah Robinson] Salute was returned in the respectful manner you mention.

. . . For God's sake, send us all the salt you possibly can, our People are in the greatest distress for Want of it. Next to that Article, send us Blankets & other Woolens, Lead, Musquets, Hats, Strong shoes, Stockings Col[ore]d thread, & Butts for Cloths, Medicines agreeable to the inclosed Inventory, Sail Cloth for Tents & Sails, course white Linen, ten thousand needles of different Sizes, and five thousand strong Clasp Knives for Soldiers, – Thread for the Linen & Twine for the Tents & Sails. – We have a pretty good stock of Powder. – send no more 'till you hear from us on the subject.

[Annapolis] Decr 19th 1776..

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday 19th December 1776. –

Samuel Arell is Recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed to the Command of Capt Valentine Piers Company of Marines –

Thomas Hamilton is Recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper Person to be appointed first Lieut to the Company of Marines lately Commanded by Capt Valentine Piers in the Room of Samuel Arell who is Recommended Capt of the said Company.

Ordered that Capt Eliezer Callender Superintend the Building, Rigging & fitting of the Galley now Building at Fredericksburg under the Direction of Colo. Fielding Lewis. –

1. Navy Board Journal, 141–42, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN WILLIS WILSON, GALLEY *Caswell* ¹

[Williamsburg] Decr 19th 1776 –

Yours of the 17th Inst. we receiv'd, in consequence of what we have sent you p Mr Argyles Herbert five hundred pounds – An Act of Assembly has pass'd for raising the pay of the Seamen in the following manner, to wit able Seamen three Shillings p day. Ordy do two Shillings p day and Landmen eighteen pence p day with a bounty of twenty Dollars of the time of their enlisting, provided they enlist for the term of three Years, which you are to take notice of at the time of your enlisting Men in future, and you are also to reinlist those you have under your command at present, if they will agree to enlist on the above Terms.

By order of the Board

Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO JAMES HUNTER, FREDERICKSBURG ¹

Sir,

The Navy Board desire you will have made and sent to the care of Mr Thomas Archer at York, the following Anchors –

Vizt.	2 of	1200 lb
	2	1000
	8	800
	8	600
	8	500
	6	350

One of the above Anchors of 1200, one of 1000 and two of 800 are immediately wanted and are desir'd to be first sent

(Signed) Thomas Whiting 1st Comr

[Williamsburg] 19th Decr 1776 –

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN ¹

December 1776

Bermuda N70.09 Et 189 Miles

Thursday 19

At 6 AM Saw a Sail, do gave Chace in Company as before.
 Do Wear [Fresh breezes & Cloudy] At 2 PM lost sight of the
Nautilus and prize Schooner At 4 [P]M Saw the *Nautilus*
 distant 5 Leagues at 1/2 pt 5 fired a Shot at the Chace at 7
 PM fired 5 Guns & brot too the *Peggy* Schooner from So
 Carolina Laden with Indigo & Rice bound to St Eustatius,
 fired Gun and burnt a false fire as Signl to the *Nautilus*, but
 receiv'd no answer

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG ¹

(Copy)

St Eustatius december 19th 1776

Sir, I have had the Honor of receiving from the hand of Captain Colpoys of his Britannic Majesty's Ship the *Seaford*, your Excellencys letter of the 17th instant with the inclosed Memorial, both relative to the Capture of a Brigg the property of Messrs Bendal & Foster McConnell of Dominica, by an armed Vessel, said to be fitted out in this Port and owned by a Mr Vanbibber now an Inhabitant and burgher of the Island: & Mr McConnell one of her Owners brought me a letter from his Excellency Governor Shirley with the same Complaint.

In consequence of your Excellency's application, as the Charge is brought agt a Burgher of the Island, I immediately assembled the Council, in order (if possible) to investigate the truth; and although the fact has not as yet been proved, should it, upon the strictest enquiry, turn out as represented, your Excellency may be assured, that I will not only cause full restitution to be made to the injured Subjects of his Britannic Majesty, but likewise proceed with the utmost rigor of the Law, against the Person or Persons found to be concerned in such Piratical enterprizes, and thereby give your Excellency a convincing proof that the Government of this Island, while it disallows any hostilities, or infringements of the Laws of Nations by any Vessels whatsoever, under the reach of its Guns, is also determined not to suffer with impunity, much less to encourage such unwarrantable proceedings, as it hath lately been (I may venture to say) slanderously charged with. And here I cannot avoid expressing my Concern, that any reports should prevail tending to disturb that Harmony and good understanding, which ought to subsist between the Commanding officers of the respective Governments—reports industriously propagated to interrupt that friendship and Cordiality, which have long subsisted and I trust will long continue to Subsist between His Brittannick Majesty, & the High and Mighty Lords of the States General, my Masters.

I have already partly satisfied Captain Colpoys on this subject both by letter and verbally and must further observe to your Excellency, that although the Instructions of the Commanders in Chief doubtless require their utmost watchfulness & attention in order to prevent any Clandestine transactions, yet irregularities will, in spite of their utmost vigilance, be committed by individuals: of which I believe there are many instances on both sides—the only thing that an Active

Commander can do, is upon regular complaints to redress the respective Grievances of the Subjects of the Nations in Amity by every legal method within the limits of his power and instructions – And as this hath been & ever shall continue to be the rule of my Conduct during the unhappy disturbances between Great Britain & her North American Colonies, I flatter myself that your Excellency will not only see great cause to suspect many current assertions, but likewise perceive the Degree of that Malice, which hath represented the Government of this Island as the avowed and declared abettor of a scene of Piracy and depredation: a charge which I should be very sorry that, to their High Mightinesses, to whom, under God, I shall ever think myself accountable for my Conduct, I was not able to prove both illfounded and injurious.

Respecting the positive answer your Excellency desires to have whether any Vessels taken from his Britannic Majesty's Loyal and faithful Subjects, will be Suffered to be brought into this Port and disposed of, I must observe that had your Excellency been pleased to be at the pains of inquiring, you would have readily concluded, that as ever when Great Britain was engaged in a foreign War, no Prizes whatsoever were ever allowed to be brought into this Port, Prudence and my own experience of that matter, will prevent my rushing head long into a measure which I could not answer to my Masters; as the allowing even of Prizes taken in a foreign War being brought into this Port, neither lies with me alone, or with me and the Council jointly; and as little does it depend upon me to determine, whether the Antient Alliances between Great Britain and the Dutch Nation are to be broken off, and new engagements inimical to the King your Master entered into; not the least notification thereof having been transmitted to me. –

Before I conclude I beg leave to mention to your Excellency that as I shall be always ready to prevent or upon due complaint to remove any cause of National Offence as far as my power, the limits of my Orders and the Freedom of such trade, as I am Confident the Lords States General, my Masters, will not suffer to be interrupted, can admit, and in that view will co-operate heartily in promoting a good Harmony and understanding between the respective Governments and Subjects of the British and Belgic Nations; so do I trust that your Excellency, on your side, will give instructions to the Commanders of the Vessels under your direction to abstain from committing any Hostilities or Infringements of the Laws of Nations, under the reach of the Guns of this Island; which have been heretofore the causes of repeated Complaints, as I shall think it my duty to transmit on my side, as I have already done, exact accounts of every even the least material occurrence, that may from time to time happen and in any wise concern My Lords & Masters to be informed of. I have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

Johannes De Graaff.

This Port always hath made & still makes distinction between Merchant or Private Vessels and the Ships of War belonging to Sovereign States: the latter receive constantly, when they honor its Fortress with a Salute Gun for Gun, as a distinctive mark of Independancy –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Another copy is in Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 301-03, Neth. Arch.

20 Dec.

PETITION OF LEONARD JARVIS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honble the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay

The petition of Leonard Jarvis of Dartmouth

Humbly Sheweth

That his Sloop *Polly* whereof Lemuel Jenkins is Master now lying in Dartmouth aforesaid is bound on a Voyage to South Carolina with forty Hogsheads of Rum and five Hogsheads of Sugar, and to return back with Rice and other Merchandize; And as a general Embargo is laid on Vessells they cannot Sail without leave from your Honors. Therefore

Your petitioner Humbly prays your Honors would be pleased to Grant a permit for the said Sloop to proceed on her Voyage to South Carolina as aforesaid. —

And as in duty bound shall ever pray

Leonard Jarvis

[Endorsed] In Council [Boston] Decr 20 1776 Read and Ordered that a Permitt be granted to the *Polly* Lemuel Jenkins Master to proceed to South Carolina with 40 Hhds Rum and five Hhd Sugar each to contain not more than twelve hundred Weight (Gross hundred) Said Jenkins giving Bond that he will import a Load of Provisions in Said Vessell into this State — the Danger of the Seas & Enemy excepted

Jno Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol 166, 142.

JOHN BRADFORD TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Boston 20th Decemr 1776

Your esteemed favour of the 18th Inst was deliver'd me by Capt [John Paul] Jones, shall furnish him with every thing he wants I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing your son,² the *Alfred* not being up, I shall with pleasure shew him every Civility in my power & give him what money he wants — I should gladly pay him your share of the prize money as the money for vessell & Cargo is now in my hands, but I have not Receiv'd the Names or proportions of those who were Concern'd in the Capture, pray put Capt Whipple in mind to forward it, as I want much to have it settled ³ I am Sir Respectfully [&c.]

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

2. Esek Hopkins, Jr., a midshipman on board the *Alfred*.

3. The prize money for the brig *Lord Lifford*, a prize of the Continental ship *Columbus*. As commander in chief, Hopkins was entitled to a share of the proceeds. Bradford also wrote to Whipple this date asking the names and stations of those concerned in the capture, John Bradford Letter Book, vol. 1, LC.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord

Providence December 20th 1776

I received a Letter from Capt Furneaux of the *Syren* dated October 11th last proposing, as he informed me with your Lordships Permission an Exchange of a

Number of Prisoners he then had on board his Ship. I wrote to him that I accepted of the Proposal and would send the same Number of Prisoners to Block Island to be exchanged I have since been told that Capt Furneaux was at that Island about the Time agreed upon. But many Difficulties having arisen I was prevented from sending the Prisoners until after the Time stipulated was elapsed. However on the 12th of November I dispatched Mr Adjutant [Benjamin] Stelle with Two Masters of Merchantmen, Five Mates Twenty Seamen and a Corporal in the 53d Regt in the Service of his Britannick Majesty to Block-Island and gave him Orders to effect the Exchange, and in Case of the Absen[ce] of Capt Furneaux to deliver his Prisoners to the Captain of the First British Ship of War which should arrive taking a Receipt for them not doubting but that an equal Number would be returned. Upon Mr Stelle's arrival at the Island he found no Ship of War there and he being on Shore with the Masters and some of the Mates the other Prisoners took the Vessel by Force and carried her to Long Island where they landed and sent the Vessel back to Block-Island. Mr Stelle is not yet returned nor have I had any Intelligence from him within Four Weeks.

A Number of Masters of Vessels who were Prisoners here upon their Petition to the General Assembly were permitted to purchase a Vessel to carry them their Pasengers Mates and Apprentices to Great Britain. They were all embarked and only waited for a Wind when the General Assembly having Notice of Lieut. Barker's Arrival at New-London with Powers from your Lordship to negotiate an Exchange of Prisoners stopped the Brig. and sent a Committee to confer with Lieut. Barker; who entered into an Agreement with him to make an Exchange at Huntington upon Long-Island as near as might be on the 10th instant: In Pursuance of which after having endeavoured in vain to procure a Vessel Pilot and Men without Coercion to carry the Prisoners to the appointed Place I issued a Warrant to the Sheriff to impress them for that Purpose who was upon the Business when we were alarmed with a powerful Naval Armament in the Sound destined as we were informed for this State: Which turned our Attention to Objects of more immediate Importance. In this Situation burthened with the Number of Prisoners in the State I gave Permission to the above-mentioned Masters &c to proceed on their Voyage agreeable to the First Order of Assembly and inclose their Petition to your Lordship. The Brig. I am informed was stopped in Seconet River by One of the Ships of War under your Lordships Command; the Captain of which notwithstanding the Parole that had been given took the principal Part of the Mates and Apprentices out of the Brig. & they are now doing duty on board the British Ships of War –

I beg leave to observe to your Lordship that the unaccountable detention of Adjutant Stelle and the flagrant Act of Violence committed by the Prisoners in running away with his Vessel together with the difficult Navigation in the Sound in the Winter Season create such obstacles as make it almost impracticable to comply with the Agreement entered into with Lieut. Barker.

I have entered into this detail to account to your Lordship for the Failure on our Part in not effecting the Exchange of Prisoners.

I inclose an Account of the Prisoners who have been dismissed from this State for whom I must desire your Lordship to cause an equal Exchange both with Regard to Rank and Number to be made.

I have also to inform your Lordship that we have in this State about Fifty Seamen Prisoners several of whom were Officers on board the British Ships of War whom I am ready to exchange at any Place upon the Continent your Lordship shall appoint in this or the State of Connecticut. – I have the Honor to be with the greatest personal Esteem My Lord [&c.]

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

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1776

New-London, December 20.

Yesterday Se'nnight was sent into Chatham (Massachusetts State) a Prize Ship taken by the *American-Revenue* Privateer, Captain Samuel Champlin of this Port, in Lat. 27. She is a light Guineaman, was homeward bound from the West-Indies, mounted 6 Carriage Guns, and made some Resistance. The Day before this Ship was taken she parted Company with 16 Sail of Ships from the West-Indies bound to England, which Capt. Champlin went in quest of.

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

Remarks in Long Isld Sound Friday Decr 20 1776

- 6 [A.M.] Came on Bd from the *Senegal* a Lieut & 9 Private Marines
 7 [A.M.] Weighd and Came to sail between the Norwalk [Norwalk] Islands & the Main the Rebels came down behind the Tries & rocks and fierd Musketry at us Fierd several shott from the 4 prs at them at 9 Turnd through between the Islands haveing 13 feet at Lowwater in the shoalest part saw two Vessels at Anchor In Norwalk Harbr at 10 Joind the *Senegal* & stood over to Huntington Bay.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

ROBERT MORRIS TO SILAS DEANE ¹

Dear Sir

Philadelphia Decembr 20th 1776

It is with a heavy heart I sit down to write to you, as the late unfortunate turn of American Affairs, leaves no room for joy in the mind of any true friend of our Country. – I am now the only member of Congress left in this City; & cannot pretend to give you a regular detail of our manifold Misfortunes, because my Papers are all sent with my Family into the Country; They commenced however with the loss of Fort Washington, by the reduction of which the Enemy made near 2700 of our best Troops Prisoners, & at that critical Period intercepted some dispatches from Genl Washington to Congress, with some of the General's Private Letters, particularly one to Ned Rutledge in which he had fully laid open the unfortunate Situation he was then involved in by the Cursed Short enlistments of our Army, the greatest part of whose times expired on the first of December, & those of the rest on the first of January, when he foresaw that the whole army would leave him, as they had undergone great Fatigue during the Campaign, had

Suffered very much by sickness, and were like to Suffer much more for want of Cloathing in the approaching Winter – The Enemy being thus possessed of a most Authentic account of his real situation, determined to take advantage of it, & before Genl Washington had time to make any new Arrangements at Fort Lee, on the West Side of the North River, to which he had Crossed with about 3000 men, a large body of the Enemy landed above and another below him, so that he was near being surrounded by a force much superior to his own, & had nothing left but to retire hastily off the Neck of Land on which Fort Lee Stands, & Leave behind him considerable Baggage & Stores with most of our Large Cannon & Mortars: He retreated to Hackinsac and was there in hopes of making a Stand, until the Militia of the Country should come to his assistance, but the Vigilance of the Enemy did not give time for this; they pursued & he retreated all the way through the Jerseys to Trentown & from thence they forced him across the Delaware where he still remains, to oppose their passage across the River. Lord Cornwallis Commanded the British Forces in the Jerseys until they reached Brunswick where Genl Howe joined them with Reinforcements, determined to make his way to this City without farther Loss of time. You may be sure the Militia of New Jersey and of this State were called upon to turn out and defend their Country in this hour of distress, but alas our internal Enemies had by various Arts & means frightened many, disaffected others, & caused a general Languor to prevail over the minds of almost all men, not before actively engaged in the War; many also were dissatisfied with the Constitutions formed for their respective States; so that from one Cause or another, no Jersey militia turned out to oppose the Enemy's March thro: the Heart of their Country, & it was not without much difficulty that the Associators of this City were prevailed upon to march & join the General which they have now done & their example is likely to be pretty generally followed – During Genl Washingtons retreat thro: the Jerseys he wrote for Genl Lee, who had been left to Command on the East side of the North River, with about 10000 men, most of whose Enlistments are either Expired or Expiring; & he Obeyed the Summons & brought with him about 3000 men, with whom he followed the Enemies rear, but was obliged to make Slow Marches, his people being in great want of Shoes, Stockings, & other Necessaries, which he was forced to Collect from the Tories in the neighbourhood of his Rout. Having passed a place called Chatham, near Elizabeth Town, he Lodged at a Farm House, last thursday night, sev'night, & some treacherous Villain gave Notice to the Enemy, & the Generals ill fate or some cause which I am ignorant of having delayed him there until 10 O'Clock on the Fryday morning, when his Army had Marched and their rear was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles before him, he was surpris'd & taken by about 70 Light Horse, who hastily carried him off in Triumph; an Event much to be Lamented. – The Command of this Party then devolved on General Sullivan, who Continuing his Rout fell in with Genl Gates & about 500 men returning from the Lakes, & both joined Genl Washington yesterday; A junction which has been impatiently waited for; but still I fear, that our force is too small to drive the Enemy from their Posts near the Delaware without which Philadelphia must be in danger of Falling, & they doubtless mean to attack it whenever they can cross the River on Ice, & have only been Kept from it by our having sent up the Gon-

dalo's & brought off or destroyed all the boats along the Jersey Shore. — The scattered Cantonments of the Enemy, seem however favorable to an Attack from us & we are preparing to make one, but it will be a work of extreme difficulty to get at them: they have excellent intelligence of all our Movements, while we have scarce any that is certain, of theirs: Lord & General Howe have besides issued a Proclamation offering Pardon without exception to all who submit & apply for it, which a great Part of the Inhabitants of the Jersey's are supposed to have done, & thus strengthened the Hands of our Enemies.

In this perplexing situation of things Congress were informed this day sev'-night that an advanced Party of Hessians & Highlanders had taken Possession of Burlington; that they were pushing for Coopers Ferry (opposite this City) & that they had the means of Crossing it: There were no Troops to oppose them, our whole force both by Land & water, being above; it was therefore deemed unsafe for Congress to remain here, and it was absolutely necessary that they should be in a place of Safety where they could deliberate freely & without interruption: they therefore last Saturday adjourned to Baltimore, where they are now sitting. This City was for ten days in the utmost Confusion and distress — Almost all have removed their Families & Effects from it except the Quakers who with their Families pretty generally remain: Besides these we have many sick Soldiers, & some few effective ones under General Putnam, who is come here to throw up Lines, & prepare for the defence of the Place if Genl Washington should be forced to retreat hither — You may be sure that I have my full share of trouble on this occasion. — We are told the British Troops are kept from Plunder but the Hessians & other Foreigners looking upon that as a right of War, Plunder wherever they go, from both Whigs & Tories indiscriminately, & horrid Devestation they have made. —

I must add to this Gloomy Picture one Circumstance more distressing than all the rest, because it threatens instant and total ruin to the American Cause, unless it be effectually and Speedily remedied; I mean the depreciation of the Continental Currency; The Enormous Pay of our Army, the immense expence at which they are supplied with Provisions, Clothing and other necessaries, & in short the extravagance that has prevailed in most departments of the public service, have called forth prodigious Emissions of Paper money both Continental and Colonial; and our internal Enemies who are numerous & many of them rich, have always been undermining its value by various Artifices, and now that our distresses are wrought to a pitch, by the Success & near approach of the Enemy they speak plainer & some of them positively refuse to take it at any rate, & those who do otherwise, receive it with fear & trembling & you may judge of its value even amongst these, when I tell you that 666 continental Paper Dollars are given for a Bill of Exchange of 100 £ Sterling, 3 Dollars for a pair of Shoes, 12 Dollars for a Hat, half a Dollar for a pound of Butter & so on: A Common Labourer asks two Dollars a day for his Work & idles away half his time; all which amounts to a real depreciation of the money:—The War must be carried on at an Expence proportioned [to] this nominal value, which must inevitably call for immense emissions, and a farther depreciation must therefore ensue; unless prevented by borrowing in the money now in Circulation, which we are attempting both by Loan & Lottery;

though from our present troubles, but little has been done in either of these Ways here: How they succeed in the other States I am not well informed. Something more will however be necessary; force must inevitably be employed, and I dread to see the day of employing it: We have already Calamities sufficient for any Country, & the Measure will be full when one part of the People of America are obliged to Dragoon the other, and at the very time when they are Contending with a Powerful external Foe. For my part I see but two ways of releif, & one of these must be from you: If France will open her Eyes to her true Interest & think the Commerce of North America worth the Expence & Evils of a War with Great Britain, she may easily create a diversion, & totally change the face of our Affairs; but she must do it soon: our situation is Critical & admits of no delay I dont however mean that instant submission must ensue, if we should be left unassisted; but there is a great difference between the Benefits which she may derive from a Connection with this Country in full health & vigor & those which can be obtained after it shall be exhausted by the expensive Efforts of a tedious War, in which its Cities will be destroyed, its Fields ravaged, its inhabitants diminished in number, plundered of their property, & disabled from Cultivating the most fertile soil in the World. Neither can she after a tedious delay expect that Vigorous Assistance, from us which she may be assured of, with a more early declaration in our favour—If they join us generously in the day of our distress, without attempting undue advantages because we are distressed, they will bind a grateful people to promote their future glory & intrest with unabating Zeal, & from my Knowledge of the Commerce of this Country with Europe I dare assert that Whatever European power enjoys the preference of it, must necessarily become the Richest & most Potent in Europe. But alas should time be lost in tedious negotiation, & Succours be withheld America must sue for Peace from her Oppressors. Our People knew not the hardships & Calamities of War when they dared Britain to Arms – Every man was then a bold Patriot, felt himself equal to the Contest, & seemed to wish for an opportunity of evincing his Prowess – but now when we are actually engaged, When Death and ruin stare us in the face, & when nothing but intrepid[i]ty & vigorous exertion can deliver us, sorry am I to say, that many of those who were foremost in noise, shrink back like Cowards from the Danger. This indeed is not generally the Case, but fear often becomes Epidemical, & there is danger of its spreading like Contagion among us, unless some fortunate event should stop the Disorder in time.

You will doubtless be surprized that our Navy is not farther advanced, because you are unacquainted with many of the difficulties which have retarded its Progress, particularly the Want of Sea Coal for our Anchor Smiths, the Disappointments in our first attempts to Cast Cannon, and above all the frequent calling out of our Militia in a manner which would permit an Exemption of the necessary Workmen. You will wonder at this, & it would require more time than I can spare to explain it & therefore you must be satisfied with knowing the Fact; Though Dr Franklin will be able to tell you many Particulars respecting the Flying Camp which may account for it.

The Frigate in New Hampshire is a very fine Ship Completely fitted with every thing but Cannon which were to have been Cast in Rhodisland, where the

Attention of all people has been so eminently engaged with business of Privateering that they have sacrificed every other Object public & Private to it. I understand however that the Guns Cast in Connecticut for the Frigate Building there, are Ordered to Portsmouth, and soon after their Arrival the *Raileigh* will doubtless put to Sea.

At Boston there are two fine Frigates nearly ready for Sea & their Commanders McNeil [Hector McNeill] & Manly [John Manley] are very good Officers. At Rhodisland were built the two worst of all our Frigates as I am informed by those who have seen them. They are however completely fitted & partly manned.

The Frigate built in Connecticut is said to be a very fine ship, but she cannot put to sea this Winter for Want of Sails Cordage &c

The two New York Frigates are also very fine vessels but they are blocked up by the Enemy, & have been hawled into Esopus Creek for Safety.

At this place we have four very fine Ships, one of them the *Randolph* Capt. Biddle, carrying 26 twelve pounders, will I hope put to sea with this Letter; another, the *Delaware*, Capt. Alexander, is nearly ready; but the other two want Guns, Anchors and men.

At Baltimore there is a fine frigate wanting only an Anchor & some few men.

Besides these we have in the Public Service, the *Alfred Columbus* & *Reprisal*, from 24 to 16 Guns: The *Cabot*, *Camden* [*sic Hampden*], *Andrew Doria*, & *Lexington* from 16 to 12 Guns: The Sloops *Providence*, *Hornet*, *Fly*, *Independance*, & *Sachem*: And the Schooners *Wasp*, *Musquito* & *Georgia Packet*: We have besides two very fine Row Gallies of 90 feet Keel, built here, but they are not yet rigged – It has also been lately determined by Congress to build some Line of Battle Ships; and at all Events to push forward & pay the utmost attention to an American Navy; and I wish you to make Known throughout Europe that the greatest Encouragment is here given to Seamen; their pay in our Navy being eight Dollars p Month, with the best chance for Prize money that men ever had; together with the privilege of being discharged after each Cruize, if desired: In the Merchants Service Seamen now get from 30 to 40 Dollars p Month.

Respecting our Commerce, the Eastern States are so intent upon the business of privateering that they mind little else, however there is some exportation of Produce from thence, & their Imports with their Captures have been so considerable, that they are much better Supplied than any other part of America. New York is in the hands of the Enemy, and the Produce of New Jersey will be totally consumed by their Army & ours. In this State, we had last Season the worst Crop of Wheat ever Known both as to quantity and quality: this being our Staple commodity & Staves prohibited, our Merchants have been led to purchase Tobacco in Maryland and Virginia, & to employ their Ships in exporting it, with some Flour, Boards Bees Wax &c. We have imported considerable Quantities of Goods but as fast as they arrive they are bought up for the Army or for the use of the neighbouring States, & therefore Continue to bear high Prices.

The Value of Ships has also risen in the same enormous proportion with every thing else, & the scarcity & insolence of Seamen, are beyond bearing.

In Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina & Georgia, they have plenty of valuable produce on hand but no Ships to Carry it away; & the cruizers which are con-

stantly all along the Coast, make it dangerous to send Vessels from one Port to another: so that we are Surrounded by Difficulties in our Land & Sea Service & in our Commerce. Agriculture & Mechanic Arts have also their impediments by the Enlistments of Soldiers, & the frequent calls upon the Militia. In short nothing but the most arduous exertions & Virtuous Conduct in the Leaders, seconded by a spirited behaviour in the Army and a patient endurance of Hardship, by the people in general can long support the Contest. France should therefore strike with us at once & she will reap an immediate Harvest; her Manufactures will sell for almost any Price, & procure her in return Tobacco, Rice, Indigo, Deer Skins, Furs, Wheat, Flour, Iron, Bees Wax, Lumber, Fish, Oil, Whalebone, Pot & Pearl Ashes, with various other Articles; and she may here find an ample field to employ her Shipping and raise Seamen for her Navy; but she must put in for this Prize now or never.

I will enter no detail of our Proceedings in Congress, but you may depend upon this, that so long as that Respectable Body, persist in their attempt to execute, as well as deliberate on, their Business it never will be properly done, and this has been told them many, very many times, by myself and others, but some of them do not like to part with Power, or to pay others for doing what they cannot do themselves.

I have your favour of the 30th Sept^r now before me; the letter by the same Conveyance from Martinico, under the Cover of Mr Bingham, I have sent down to the Committe at Baltimore, & written them my opinion of the Justice of your Complaint for want of intelligence; I had often told it them before, and though, as you know, I was not put in to that Committe to Carry on, but forward the Correspondence, I have been obliged to write all the Letters which have been written for some time past; but as Col. [Richard Henry] Lee, Mr [William] Hooper, & Dr [John] Witherspoon are now added to the Committe, I shall hereafter excuse myself from that Task; thought it proper to give you this just state of our Affairs at present, because I suppose the Committe will not for some time get fairly in to their Guns at Baltimore and when they do, they probably may not be fond of laying things before you so fully as I have done. Some of us are indeed of very sanguine temperaments, and too apt to flatter ourselves that things are not so bad as they appear to be, or that they will soon mend &c; I however think that you should be fairly & fully informed of the state of our Affairs, that you may know how to act, & how to represent them; keeping secret what ought to be so, & promulgating what should be known. — You will shew this Scrawl to Dr Franklin for whose safe arrival my earnest Wishes have often gone forth &c &c —

My own Private affairs necessarily detained me here after the departure of Congress, & it is well that I staid; having set many things to rights, that would have otherwise been in the greatest Confusion: Indeed I find my presence, so very necessary that I shall remain here until the Enemy drive me away. I am Dear Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1397. Other copies of this long letter, with variances, are in Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1396, in Arthur Lee Papers, HU, and in Wharton, ed., *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States* (Washington, 1889), II,

231-38. Hereafter cited as Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*. In the last named source, the letter is dated December 21, 1776 and addressed to the Commissioners at Paris.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Philada Decr 20th 1776

I have some hopes of getting the Frigate *Delaware* away during the Winter & wish to have Mr Warwick Hale the Boat builder detained from Camp to finish her Boats & if one of his hands cou'd be ordered down it wou'd be very usefull. I am respectfully Gentn [&c.]

Rob^t Morris.

1. Society Collection, HSP.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decr 76

At single Anchor under C: May

Fridy 20th

At ½ past 9 heard the report of a Gun in the SE Qr under C: May. At 10 came round the Point of C: May a brig and a Snow, the Brig hoisted Rebel Coulers, the Snow french, hawled close under the Land to keep out of Gun shot, Weighed & Chaced the Brig observing her to be a privateer, the Brig & Snow making all possible sail up to Philadelphia. between 10 & 12 Fired several Six Pounds shotted at the Snow.

First part fresh breezes with rain. Mid. & latter strong Gales & heavy squals At ½ past 1 PM found the Privateer to go fast from the *Falcon* hawl'd up for the Snow that was carrying all sail to get clear. At ½ past 2 brought too the Snow a prize belonging to His Maj's Ship *Perseus*, which the Crew had retaken from the People put on board from the *Perseus* Came too with the Bt Br in 3½ veer'd ½ a Cable, sent the Lieutenant, Master & 7 Seamen on board to take charge of the Snow. she was from St Domingo & pretended to be bound to Marseilles fired at the Chace twenty one Six Pounders shotted & 2 Six Pound Grape At 4 PM Weigh'd & Sail'd in company with the snow. At 8 Anchor'd at the lower part of the Bradywine Bank in Delaware Bay with Small Br in 5 fm veer'd a Cable. Was lost of [f] the french snows fore yd & was drown'd Patrick Riley Seam[a]n

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Pearl*, CAPTAIN THOMAS WILKINSON ¹

Decr [1776]

[Off Coast of Delaware]

Friday 20

AM Close reef'd the Fore & Main topsails, handed Mizen Do at 7 saw a Brigg on the Lee Quarter. Wore & gave Chace fir'd several shot at her & brot her too. she proved to be the *Lexington* Brigg of 16 Guns & 80 Men belonging to Philadelphia.² ½ past Saw a Schooner bearing down on us, fir'd at and brot her too.

she proved to be the *Read* from St Eustatia bound to Philadelphia.³ At 11 close reef'd topsails.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/674.
2. Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain William Hallock.
3. Schooner *Read*, J. H. Bennet, master, with salt and dry goods, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO Admiralty 1/487.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday 20th December 1776. –

Edward Archer Esqr Produced to the Board a Resolution of the honble the house of Delegates appointing him a Commissioner of the Navy in the Room of George Webb esq. and having taken the usual Oath took his Seat at the Board accordingly.

1. Navy Board Journal, 143, VSL.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

No 185 Martinique

Mylord, English frigates cruising in these seas have been so bold as to act in a manner which is as injurious to our trade as it is contrary to our treaties and which constitutes an insult to our flag. They have searched and examined the cargoes in order to see if they included any powder; they have acted this way almost within the reach of our batteries. Having been informed of these perpetrations I gave order to M. Dorve [Thomas Dorves] ² to cruise off our coast for a few days. He has complied with my order and has just returned to his main station to windward of the island. I am with respect, Mylord [&c.]

D'Argout

Fort Royal, 20 December 1776

1. AN, Marine, B⁷, 458, 53, LC Photocopy.
2. Commander of the frigate *l'Aigrette*.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON ¹

Decemb 1776

Monte Christa SbW abt 8 Miles

Friday 20

Saw a Sail to the Wtwd made Sail & gave chace set Studdg Sails between 9 & 12 fird 8 Guns at the Chace Cape Francois SSE 7 Leagues the Chace NWbN 3 Miles – Moderate & Cloudy in Chace fird 2 Shott at the chace a Sloop from Cape Francois for Philadelphia took Possession of her took her Men on bd & sent 5 men On bd her ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.
2. Schooner *Thomas & Ann*, with a cargo of dry goods and sugar, Gayton's Prize List, February 26, 1778, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

21 Dec.

JOHN LANGDON TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE ¹

Dear Sir

Portsmo Decemr 21. '76 –

Your several favours of the 16 & 24th Ulto Ive just Received by which I

find that some of my Letters have miscarried (it is not my Friend thro' Forgetfulness by any means I think I've not omitted only one week since I first wrote []) Your two Letters have been on their way one Month which makes me think there is some interruption your Letters were brou't to me by a private Hand picked up in a Tavern at Newbury Port before this comes to hand you'll receive some of mine by which you'll See that the Schooner *Betsey* arrived Safe and hope that the Schooner *Friend's Adventure* is arrived with you for Flour & Iron ere this which you are to pay for as also Mr Wharton's accot as you'll see by my Letters, You'll see by my Former Letters to the Marine Committee the Sales of the Prize Ship [*Royal*] *Exchange* by which I Cr the Continent for about £5000 L My which is almost expended Mr [Joshua] Wentworth has not paid me any money as yet but what I shall have of him will not amount to more than two Thousand Dollars which is nothing – The *Betsey Frigate* Capt [Thomas] Palmer sailed few Days since for France I shall Charge that Ship one Thousand Pounds with the Repairs included on Hull Masts Yards &c. – which any person must think reasonable as I could have had three hundred pounds more for her

I shall make out the Secret Committee's accot soon by which they'll see the expenditure of the money & the Ballance due to me there is nothing for European Markett here except Masts & the want of Cordage prevents my sending away another

We are just beginning Cap. [John] Roche's Ship hope to have her raised soon the other being Launched by building this Ship in the Winter will cost one third more I observe you mention a 74 Gun Ship but why have I not Orders to cutt Timber the Time will be over for halling before I can hear from you as it will be two Month's before I have an Answer to this as the Post now goes – I shall at a venture Cutt & hall three or four Hundred Tonns of Timber more than I want for this Ship for Godsake let the orders come in Season as it will be impossible to do without let the Orders come from the Committee, or by their Order as it will not do for me to act from Private Letters least any Dispute –

If I had Orders now as the Snow is just now come could get all the Timber in the Yard this Winter Which is the main point but if the Orders does not come in few Days it will be impossible – by the Strength of Your Letter of the 24 Ultio shall have some Hundred Tonns at a venture as I said before. If our Schooner arrives & there should be an embargo at Philadelphia you can send her away as the Iron & flour is wanted in part for the Continent. Cap. Moffatt has mentioned his Vessels to me I should certainly take her but no Cargo can be got for her I am obliged to strip the [*Royal*] *Exchange* which belongs to the Continent for want of Cargo

I am now in the House as also your Bror Joseph for the upper Towns George Gains & John Pickering was chose, but the latter refuses – I observe what you mention of my Neighbour & shall take due notice off it if any Vessel could be fitted away he should do it takeing all Advantage & if you think of any thing let the order come to him who is as good a Man as can be [had] for that Business – If the order should come soon for the 74 I shall offer him to superintend the Yard & pay all monies if nothing better

Think of any thing my Friend & I am ready as I know of none I would sooner serve. – Inclosed you have a Sketch of the monies in my hands, by which you'll see the immediate necessity of sending me Twenty or Thirty Thousand Dollars more than what you have in Your Hands – The Ballance of which you'll also send as I shall draw no Orders, all the Gentlemen from the Southward who have had Prizes here lay out their money here & of Course will not buy Bills on Philadelphia – pray my Friend bear this in mind immediately on the receipt of this send off the money – otherwise I cant carry on Cap. Roches Ship, as I find Provisions & pay the men every Fortnight Let the order for the 74 come immediately if it comes at all, for without the Timber is in the Yard by the middle of February it cannot be got in & Twelve Hundred Tonns of Timber or more is no small piece of work to Cutt hew & hall This Timber must be paid for Down therefore Cash must follow ev'ry order or it may as well not never come – let me have Duplicates of all Letters & orders least any miscarry it is verry unaccountable that the order could not have come last Month the odds of it's not having come then & not till January will be at least Ten thousand Dollars

I've charged 2½ [per cent] on Prizes which no Doubt is the lo'vest as to building of Ships in the way I do it letting every thing pass thro' my hands & not Contracting makes much work & trouble the expence you'll easily see I've three Clerks which is great expence my Warehouse always like Tavern at great Expence in Treating Gentlemen who have business with me – These matters take the greatest part of my Profits therefore it cannot be done in this way without good Commission & unless I Contract with some Persons & take no Trouble about it which is not a good way –

As to surrender of Forts Washington & Lee are in my Opinion Trifles comp[are]d to the Grand Cause it ought to Inspire us to noble deeds am verry happy in what you mention of secret Intelligence No Guns from Connecticut the *Raleigh* must now lay 'till Spring must get out all her Water Ballast &c & must be hove Down & Cleaned before going to Sea – I expect the Assembly will go into Choice of Delegates next Week which will be immediately Transmitted you pray get us some money for our State that Wee may not omit any more –

I Intend writing you from Exeter relative to the Affairs of this State – beleive me my worthy Friend tho' you are in Philadelphia I am not unmindfull of our intimate & old acquaintance let me say – I am with Respect [&c.]

John Langdon

P S pray send me word how much money Iv'e had in all from the Marine Commee

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

SALE OF SHIP *Friends* TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

To All People unto whom this present Bill of Sale shall come John Coffin Jones & Joseph Marquand both of Newbury Port in the County of Essex and State of the Massachusetts Bay Merchants send Greeting Know ye That we the said John Coffin Jones and Joseph Marquand for and in consideration of the Sum of Two Thousand Six hundred and seven pounds, three shillings and eight pence Lawful money to us in hand paid by the Board of War for the State of Massachusetts

Bay aforesaid, The Receipt whereof we hereby Acknowledge Have Granted Bargained and Sold, And by these presents Do fully and Absolutely Grant Bargain and Sell unto the said Board of War, and their Successors in said Office to and for the use of said State The whole Hull or Body of the Ship named the *Friends* burthened about Two hundred and Twenty Tons whereof Tristram Coffin is Master, now lying in the Harbour of Newbury Port Together with all and Singular her Masts Yards, Boom, Bowsprit Sails Rigging Anchors Cables Tackle Apparrell Boats Furniture and Appurtenances whatsoever to her belonging Also fourteen Thousand of Bricks, One hundred and twelve thousand feet of boards Forty Hogsheads of fish Eighty Barrells Pickled fish, Ten and a half Thousand Hogsheads Hoops, Fifteen hundred feet of Heading Ninety five Thousand Shingles, Also Seven barrells Pork eight Barrells of Beef, Fifteen hundred of Bread, Pease, Beans and Rice, Also one Months Advanced Wages for the Master Mate and Men, and all charges in compleatly fixing said Ship for the Seas, until she is Ready to Sail from the Wharff To have and to hold the same unto the said Board of War or their Successors in said Office to and for the use of said State forever.

And we the said John Coffin Jones and Joseph Marquand four ourselves our heirs Executors and Administrators Do hereby Covenant with the said Board of War and their Successors in said office that We will Warrant and Defend the said Ship Furniture and Appurtenances whatsoever to her belonging, and also the Cargo and Provisions aforesaid, and the one months Advance Wages to the Ships People, and every other charge necessary in fitting her for the Seas, until she is ready to Sail from the Wharff as aforesaid unto the said Board of War and their Successors in said Office to and for the use of said State forever against the Claims of all persons, Peril of the Seas Fire Pirates and Enemies Excepted, In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the Twenty first day of December, In the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred & Seventy six.

Signed Sealed & delivd in the presence of

Nat Carter jr.

Jno Appleton

Joseph Marquand

Jn^o Coffin Jones

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 32.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN GILL, COMMANDING OFFICER AT
CASTLE ISLAND ¹

State of Massachusetts Bay

Council Chamber [Boston] Decr 21st 1776

To the Commanding Officer at Castle Island

You are hereby ordered not to suffer any Vessell to depart out of the Harbour of Boston unless the Commanding Officer of the Vessel departing produces a permit from the General Court or the Council, under the Signature of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of this State; Excepting, Open Boats, or small Fishing Vessels, which you are hereby directed to permit to pass and Repass as has been usual & Customary without any Regular clearance or permit whatever, And you are also to permit to depart this Port 11 such Coasting Vessels as may Obtain a regular

Clearance or permit from the Naval officer of the Port of Boston till further order of the Council.

And you are hereby further directed to hail all Vessels Entering this port Excepting Coasting Vessels and cause them to bring to unless you are satisfied they are friends, and in case a Flag of Truce should arrive you are to prevent such Flag of Truce from proceeding above the Castle & prevent any persons from going out of or on board such Vessels unless, such as are necessary to give proper Information, without the Order of the Council, and you are immediately upon the Arrival of such Flag to advise the Council thereof and in Case you are obliged to fire on any Vessel to bring her to you are not to demand any sum of money therefor, but to report the name of the Capt or Master with the name of the Vessel to this Council

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 138-38a.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 21st Decr 1776 [P.M.].

Resolved that the Ship *Bowdoin*, be henceforth named the *Genl Lincoln*. -

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 65.

JOHN BRADFORD TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE AND SECRET COMMITTEES ¹

[Extract]

Boston 21st Decemr 1776

I hope I may not be thought officious when I mention from good authority that Comodore Hopkins designs as soon as the Ice begins to make, to haul his frigates up to providence I take it when that takes place them cannon wou'd serve a good purpose if they where shifted on board the *Hancock*, as it is possible the Comodore may be supplied by the time the river opens.

. . . I am now come to the 22d Decemr and most heartily congratulate my Country on the Arrival of the *Alfreds* prize with a great quantity of soldiers cloathing, the *Alfred* arrived in this port 17th gave information of her taking this Ship, and parting from her five days before her arrival - ordering her to Rhode Island, I imediately sent an Express to Dartmouth, ordering an advice boat to be dispatch'd with utmost Expedition to speak the ship, I also dispatch'd one of our Schooners from hence to endeavour to speak her, And very fortunately the boat met her at a harbour in the Vineyard she arriv'd safe at Dartmouth last fryday, I sent orders by the return of the Express to unload her and convey the cloathing into safety imediately - Mr Livingston sets of[f] for Dartmouth this hour in order to receive what part of the cargo is wanted for the Army and to forward it - I most sincerely wish she may prove as valuable as Capt [John Paul] Jones imagines, he says she has 16000 suits Cloaths on board,² shall be able to furnish you with the particulars in my next. -

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

2. *Mellish*.

JOHN PROUD TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir

Bedford Decemr 21st 1776 -

Mr Leonard Jarvis being in Boston I have the pleasure of informing You of

the safe Arrival into this port of the *Alfreds* valuable prize Ship; ² she got in last evening. early this morning I dispatch'd an express to Mr Jarvis to acquaint him of this good Intelligence, that necessary measures may be taken for the security of her cargo. Mr Bucklin the mate of the ship will soon be in providence, who can give You An Account of her Loading. I am in Mr Leonard Jarvis's behalf [&c.]

John Proud

[P.S.] I expect to see Mr Jarvis or receive his directions about the ship Monday night

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. *Mellish*.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1776

Providence, December 21.

The *Alfred* Ship of War, in the Service of the United States, is arrived at an eastern Port: Besides the valuable Prizes lately mentioned to have been taken by her, she has captured three Coal Ships, that were bound for New-York, and a Ship and Brig bound to Halifax, with Provisions: She also took a new Brig with Provisions, bound to Quebec, which unfortunately ran ashore, and was burnt.

CAPTAIN SETH HARDING TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sr

Norwich Decemr 21st 1776

this is to inform your Honr. that as I am in a Very poor State of Health at present & it is Very unc[e]rtain – wheather I Shall be able to go to sea I therefore think it Highly Necessary to Send the Brigg to Sea ² I would Recomend Mr Smedly [Samuel Smedley] to take Comand of sd Brigg if I am not able to go which is Very uncertain if I am able to go I would Recomend Mr. Smedly to the Birth of a first Lieut –

I have nothing particular to Inform your Honr. – But Desire the favour of a Line as soon as Convenient I am Sr with Due Respect [&c.]

Seth Harding

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 86, ConnSL.

2. Connecticut state brig *Defence*.

ACCOUNT FOR CARE OF THE SICK FROM CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot* ¹

The Brig *Cabot* for Sik people Dr

1776

July	2	To pd Love Beebe for Boarding	
		Thos Dande Q Master	2.05..–
		4½ Weeks @ 10/	
		To pd Ditto for Boarding John	
		Dugins from the 12th July	3..2..0
		To pd ditto for boarding	
		James Ledle 1 Week 5 Days	0.17..–
		To pd ditto board Robt Miller	
		from Augt 2d	1.10..–

Love Beebe

		By Thos Dande's Board	2.05..0
		To Cash 10/ Cash 12/	
July	24	To do 30/ ditto 20/	£7..0..6
Augt	20	To Cash 68/6	
		To Cash in full	.14..4
			<hr/>
			7.14.10
		By boarding the above	5..9..0
1776			<hr/>
Octo	13	To Cash 40/	2..-..-
	17	To ditto 10/; To Cash 16/10	1..6.10
Nov	1	To Cash	2.14..-
			<hr/>
			6..0.10
	8	To Cash 42/; Ditto 36/	15.19..2
	29	To Cash 80/;	
Decr	5	To Ditto 42/	
	13	To ditto 36/	
	20	To ditto 42/	
		To Cash in full 4½	
			<hr/>
			22..0..0
		By Nursing 2 people	22..0..0
1776			
July		To pd Wm Colbert Nursing	0.11..5
		Joseph Dikes 8 Days	
		To pd Cleveland Nursing	2.14..7
		Raven Craft that died	
		To pd Plumb the Saxton	0..9..0
		To pd Owen for Coffin	
		To pd for sheet and Cap	
		To pd John Owen for Attendance &c on do	
		To pd Benja Mallison boarding	
		Antoney Dwyer 3 Weeks	1.10..0
		To pd a Man for attendance & Wine &c	15..-
		To pd ditto boarding John Hall Two Weeks @ 10/	1..0..-
		To pd James Robenson boarding	0.11..5
Died		John Cooper 8 Days	
		To pd Ditto for board a Man to attend	0.10..-
		To pd for a Coffin	
		To Sheet & cap	
		To pd the Saxton	

		To pd Deborah Colbert boarding		
		3 Men Viz Roger Taylor		
		Sharpe a Negro		1. 14. . 2
		& Robt Miller		
		To pd Jas Robeson boarding		
		Thos Dandy 1 Week 4 Days		1. 15. . 4
		To pd John Hews boarding		
		Jos Deleha 1 Week		0. 10. . -
		To pd Ditto boarding Thos Boyd		
		Wido[w] Jean Fox	Dr	
		To Cash 30/ Cash 48/ Cheese 4/9		4. . 2. . 9
		To Cash		4. 14. . 4
		.		<hr/>
				8. 17. . 1
		By boarding John Curtis	4	
1776		By board a Nurs for do	0. . 7. . 1	
		By boarding Ed Neal	4. 10. . -	8. 17. . 1
			<hr/>	
Octo	23	To Cash 60/, Ditto 120/		9. . - . . -
		By 1 Sheet 13/9, Rum 3/, do 4/		
		To 3 lb Coffee 3/6		1. 10. . 9
				<hr/>
				7. 19. . 3
Decr	21	To Cash 11. . 14/,		
		John Hews	Dr	
		To Cash 12/ ditto 18/, Cash 22/		2. 12. . -
		By boarding Jos Delike 1 Week		0. 10. . -
		By do of Thos Boyd from the 7th to the		
		17th		3. . 0. . -
		To Cash		18. . -
		To pd Malleson boarding Antony Divine		
		3 Weeks up to Aug 23rd		1. 10. . -
		To pd do boarding Job Hall		
		2 weeks to Aug 23d		1. . - . . -
		To pd do boarding Thos Reed 1 Week		0. 10. . -
		To pd do boarding Lewis Reding		0. 10. . -
		To pd ditto for Herbs		0. . 1. . 6
		To pd John Owen boarding		
		Partrick Burke		4. . 4. . 3
		To pd Joseph Owen boarding		
		Hugh McKewen & Jno Dunlap		2. . - . . -
		To pd Doc Robt Ushers Bill		0. 18. . 9
		To pd Jean Fox boarding		
		Ed Neal	4. 10. . -	

To pd Do for John Curtis	4. . - . -	
& a Nurs for do	7. . 1	8. 17. . 1
<hr/>		
To pd Malleson boarding	}	2. . - . -
Anto Divine 4 Week to 20th Sepr		
To pd ditto for ditto		10. . - . -
To pd Charles Jeffrey boarding	}	3. . 5. . 0
Lewis Reading 6½ Weeks		
To pd Nursing, Watchers, Candles &c	1. . 7. . 0	4. 12. . 0
<hr/>		
To pd Malleson for Boarding	}	
John Dunlap from 26th Sepr to Octo 7th		
To advance Malleson a Cheese 4/2		
To pd John Owen boarding Andw	}	3. 18. . 7
Elwell 7 Weeks 1 Day		
To pd ditto for a Nurse for do		0. 14. . 3
To pd do for Davd Roberts		4. . 8. . 3
To pd do for Patrick Burke	4. . 4. . 3	13. . 5. . 4
<hr/>		
		£97. 11. 10

1. Shaw Papers, 1775–1782, Ledger 9, YUL.

COLONEL JOHN CADWALADER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen –

Bristol 21st Decr 1776

The Ice has drove off the Gallies – They have been of great Use in keeping off the Enemy from Burlington, by which means we have a more easy & safe communication with that State, to procure information – we had good Intelligence, yesterday, that the Enemy were on their march to take possession of the Town – If the weather moderates I beg the Gallies may come up again, if it is only to shew themselves – To leave their Quarters after they are settled will distress them – If the weather should not moderate I beg you will be pleased to order the two 12 pounders, I sent you a few days ago, up again immediatly, as they will be sufficient to drive them out of their Quarters by a small Work being thrown up on McIlwaines Point – The Guns are heavy – Please to order a strong Team – I am Gent: with great Respt: [&c.]

John Cadwalader

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 724, Box 1, HCL.

BENJAMIN RUSH TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Near Bristol, December 21, 1776.

I have learnt from many people, and among others, from two New England officers, that the four eastern states will find great difficulty in raising their quota of men, owing to that excessive rage for privateering, which now prevails among them. Many of the continental troops now in our service, pant for the expiration of their enlistments, in order that they may partake of the spoils of the West Indies. At a moderate computation there are now not less than ten thousand

men belonging to New England on board privateers. New England, and the continent, cannot spare them. They have a right at this juncture, to their services, and to their blood. We must have an army; the fate of America must be decided by an Army. It must consist of seventy or eighty thousand men, and they must all be fit for the field before the first day of May next. Since the captivity of General Lee, a distrust has crept in among the troops, of the abilities of some of our general officers high in command. They expect nothing now from heaven taught and book taught generals.

1. Richard H. Lee, *The Memoirs of the Life of Richard Henry Lee and his Correspondence* (Philadelphia, 1825), II, 160-61.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Philada Decr 21st 1776.

. . . inform you, that the Sloop *Independence* Commanded by Lt Robinson [James Robertson], (Cap Young being left behind sick) pushed out from Chincoteague where she first put in, and notwithstanding she was chased by Six of the Enemys Cruizers at our Capes, She got safe up here & is now landing the Cargo. I have determined to send 856 Blankets that came in her, to Genl Washington and have informed him they were imported for the use of the New recruits, but as the Inclemency of the Weather and the exceeding Severe duty of the Troops now with him, entitles them to every comfort we can afford I submit to him whether to make use of them for their use or not.²

The cloths I will deliver to Mr [James] Mease with orders to have them made up fast as possible— 919 Muskets shall be delivered to Mr Commissary Towers to wait the orders of Genl Washington or of the Board of War and I hope one or other of them will send orders soon as possible—

The Council of Safety want Money and have sent an express for a Supply I have borrowed Sufficient for the Marine department altho the Disbursements are considerable. Capt Biddle will get more seamen than we expected. the *Delaware* is getting ready and I have ordered the *Fly* Capt Warner down the Bay to watch the Enemies Ships & bring us word if they shou'd quit that Station. I have sent an express across the Jerseys to Capt Baldwin of the *Wasp* to Cruize outside of them to give notice to inward bound Ships, and have Stationed the *Hornet* Capt [John] Nicholson (who attempted to get out to Sea but cou'd not) in Christeen Creeks Mouth to Act in Conjunction with a large Galley of this State in defence of that Creek as there are many Valuable Stores up it I shall get the sloop *Independence* hove down & some little damage she recd at Chincoteague repaired & then send her also to watch the Enemies Ships. . . . There are some Prisoners on board the Enemies Ships at our Capes that have wrote up to me to procure their release, Amongst the rest Capt Morgan of the Bermuda Sloop that carried Mr Deane to France, who was returning here with dispatches and some Goods and was unfortunately taken near Cape May. I will send a letter for Capt Hammond of the *Roebuck* open to Henry Fisher at Lewis Town to be sent off by a Flag, in

which I shall assure him that we have suffered great Numbers of Masters, Mates & Men belonging to Merchant Ships taken by our Cruizers to depart, without thinking of detaining them for an exchange & recommend his releasing these People or he will oblige us to alter that part of our Conduct as this is strictly true in a number of instances that have come under my Notice I hope Congress will approve the design. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 21–23, NA.
2. Morris to Washington, December 21, 1776, Washington Papers, LC.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Philada Decr 21st 1776

Capt Alexander of the *Delaware* Frigate informs me, that some few of the Tradesmen now at Camp are absolutely necessary to put his ship in a Condition to push down the Bay when the Enemies ships retire I think it will promote the Publick service very much to order them down immediat[ely] I have sent down a Sloop to watch the Men of War & doubt not we shall find an opportunity of gitting these ships to Sea. Capt Alexander will furnish the Council with the Names of the Tradesmen wanted & I submit to your determination being Gentn [&c.]
Rob^t Morris

1. Emmet Collection, NYPL.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In Council of Safety

Philadelphia December 21 1776 –

Mr Davis Bevan having informed the board that Captain Hamond commander of His Majestys Ship the *Roebuck* had a number of Prisoners on board His Ship that were taken out of Trading Vessels belonging to the United States of America, and that he was desirous of Exchanging them for an equal number of like prisoners, subjects of Great Britain. But it having been the uniform practice of this State to release all such prisoners immediately on their arrival in this City, leaving them to their Liberty to enter the Merchant service if they chose or otherwise dispose of themselves; this board therefore have it not in their power to make any such exchange, But it is Resolved.

That this Council will deliver over to the Order of Captain Hamond or any other officer of the King of Great Britain an equal number of such prisoners as he may release of the Subjects of these States whenever this Council shall have it in their power.

Extract from the Minutes

Jacob Howell Secretary

Mr Davis Bevan

1. Hamond, Orders issued, 1776–1777, UVL. This extract was supplied to Bevan to be delivered to Captain Hamond at the Delaware Capes.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SLOOP *Hornet*¹Sloop *Hornet*

John Nic[h]olson Esqr Commander

For Second Cruise

1776

Novr	12	To Cash paid John Hennesey's bill for days labour	8. 10. . 3
	18	" do ditto's for do	12. 14. . 9
	23	" do Sundrys	6. 14. . 2
	"	" 1 Piece Osnabrigs for mending sails 90 Yds	
Decemr	3	" Cash paid for a Rigging hyde	1. 10. . -
	"	" do for Sawing 2 Cords Hickory wood	1. . 4. . -
	10	" 1 Ps Russia Duck	
	"	" 1 Ps Osnabrigs 139 Ells	
	21	" Cash paid for Sundries P daybook	4. . 7. . 6

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FRIGATE *Delaware*¹The Frigate *Delaware* William [sic Charles] Alexander Commander

To the Commissioners of Naval Stores Dr

1776

August	To 35 Peices of French Canvass assorted			
	A	9 Peices 471	Ells is 611	yds
	B	16 Peices 845½	" 1099½	"
	C	2 Peices 107¼	" 140	"
	F	3 Peices 314	" 425½	"
	K	5 Peices 597	" 808¾	"

	"	"	"	Cash paid day Labour p J. Locktons Bill	2. 1
	"	31	"	do paid do p do	
September	6	"	"	do paid do p do	6
				Ct Qr lb	
	"	"	"	1 Peice 3½ Inch Rope Wt 2.. 0.. 16 @ 67/6d	
	"	16.	"	Cash paid days Labour p J. Locktons Bill	
	"	21	"	Cash paid for 1 Box of Candles 19/8—days labour p J Locktons Bill £14.. 7.. 6 & for 1/3 of 5¼ of Hickory Wood 67/5d	
	"	30.	"	do paid for hawling sawing & splitting 1/3 of 5¼ Cords Wood 22/0½ for days labour p Locktons Bill £6.. 18.. 9 for 2 hydes £3.. 0.. 0 & for 14 Mast hoops 28/	
October	3	"	"	9 Crews @ 3/ & 9 Canns @ 3/6 delivered Major Nicholas	2
	"	7.	"	Cash paid for 2 Branding Irons 42/ for days labour p Locktons Bill	11
	"	12.	"	do paid Porteradge 5/6 splitting & sawing 5 Cords Wood 45/ for 1/3 of hhd: of Lime 6/8 for a Hyde 00/ & for Plaistring Magazine 32/4	4.. 0
	"	21.	"	do paid Samuel Rhoads's Bill	5.. 2
	"	28.	"	do paid Portorage of Powder to prove her Guns 2/, Days labour p J. Locktons Bill 80/ Portorage of the Camboose 5/ & 1 Box Candes 84/7½	8. 11
November	6.	"	"	do paid for sawing 2 Cords of Wood 24/ & Paid Peter Fox for 23 days labour	6. 16. 2
	"	9	"	do paid for hawling two Gunns	
	"	22	"	2 Bolts of French Canvass B 106¼ Ells 137¼ yards	
December	3	"	"	2 Rigging Hydes £3.. 4.. 0 Cash paid for 1 Hyde & for Portorage	4. 16.. 6
	"	8	"	Cash paid for 1 Cord of Oak Wood	1. 10.. 0
	"	15	"	do paid Isaac Vannosts Pump Maker's Bill	
				To Amount brought forward	
	"	17	"	Robert Haddocks Bill for Pluming & for 1 Barrel Rum q. 33 Ga @ 10/	140. 19.. 3
	"	21	"	Cash paid for 2 Cords of Wood & Portorage	5. 17.. 8

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

2. Part of right side of document torn and missing to this point causing loss of some of the figures.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE ¹

[Extract]

Honourable Gentlemen

Baltimore in Maryland 21 Decemr 1776

After expressing our Hopes, that this will find you all three safely fixed at Paris, we proceed with Pleasure to acknowledge the Receipt of Mr [Silas] Deane's Letter of the 1st October – When we reflect on the Character & Views of the Court of London, it ceases to be a Wonder, that the British Ambassador, and all other British Agents, should employ every means that tended to prevent European Powers, but France more especially, from giving America Aid in this War – Prospects of Accomodation, it is well known, would effectually prevent foreign Interference, and therefore, without one serious Design of accomodating on any other Principles, but the absolute Submission of America, the delusive Idea of Conciliation hath been industriously suggested on both Sides the Water, that, under Cover of this dividing & aid-withholding Prospect, the vast British Force, sent to America, might have the fairest Chance of succeeding; And this Policy hath in fact done considerable Injury to the United States . . . ²

. . . If the great Land & Sea Force, with which we have been attacked, be compared with the feeble State, in which the Commencement of the War found us, with respect to Military Stores of all Kinds, Soldier's Cloathing, Navy, & Regular Force; and if the infinte Art be considered with which Great Britain hath endeavoured to prevent our getting these Necessaries from foreign Parts, which has in part prevailed, the Wonder will rather be, that our Enemies have made so little Progress, than that they have made so much –

All Views of Accomodation with Great Britain, but on Principles of Peace as Independent States and in a Manner perfectly consistent with the Treaties our Commissioners may make with foreign States, being totally at an End, since the Declaration of Independendce & the Embassy to the Court of France, Congress have directed the Raising of 94 Battalions of Infantry with some Cavalry – Thirteen Frigates from 24 to 36 Guns are already launched & fitting, and 2 Ships of the Line with 5 more Frigates are ordered to be put on the Stocks – We hear the Levies are going on well in the different States – Until the new Army is collected the Militia must curb the Enemies Progress – The very considerable Force that Great Britain has already in North America, the Possibility of recruiting it here within their own Quarters by Force & Fraud together, added to the Reinforcements, that may be sent from Europe, and the Difficulty of finding Funds in the present depressed State of American Commerce, all conspire to prove incontestibly, that if France desires to preclude the Possibility of North America's being ever reunited with Great Britain, now is the favourable Moment for establishing the Glory, Strength, & Commercial Greatness of the former Kingdom by the Ruin of her ancient Rival – A decided Part now taken by the Court of Versailles, and a vigorous Engagement in the War in Union with North America, would with Ease sacrifice the Fleet & Army of Great Britain, at this time chiefly collected about N York – The inevitable Consequence would be the quick Reduction of the British Islands in the West Indies, already bared of Defence by the Removal of their Troops to this Continent – For Reasons herein assigned, Gentn, you will readily

discern, how all important it is to the Security of American Independence, that France should enter the War, as soon as may be, and how necessary it is (if it be possible) to procure from her the Line of Battle Ships, you were desired in your Instructions to obtain for us, the speedy Arrival of which here, in the present State of Things, might decide the Contest at one Stroke . . .

. . . Congress approve of Armed Vessells being fitted out by you on Continental Account, provided the Court of France dislike not the Measure, and blank Commissions for this Purpose will be sent you by the next Opportunity – Private Ships of War, or Privateers, cannot be admitted where you are, because the Securities, necessary in such Cases to prevent irregular Practices, cannot be given by the Owners & Commanders of such Privateers . . .

Benj Harrison
Richard Henry Lee
Jn^o Witherspoon
Will Hooper

P.S. The American Captures of British Vessells at Sea have not been less numerous, or less valuable than before Dr Franklin left us – The Value of these Captures have been estimated at two Millions.

1. Lee Papers, UVL. Also Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 1399.
2. An account of events around New York, the retreat of Washington's Army through New Jersey, and movement of the British to Rhode Island follow in this long letter.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Mount Clare Dec 21st 1776.

. . . The last letters bring us a piece of Intelligence that it may be material for you to know one Mr [Davis] Bevan a person that may be depended on who was taken by Capt Hammond [Andrew Snape Hamond] informed Mr Morris that Hammond told him they were now determin'd to put a total stop to our trade, and for that purpose 6 Frigates were to be stationed off Georgia and the Carolinas, 6 off the Capes of Virginia and six off Delaware. Their signals and their stations were fixed so as to form a compleat line along the Coast and that they have determined to keep their Stations during the whole winter. This I fancy it will be difficult for them to do, however I thought it necessary the Board should know their plan.

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

STEPHEN STEWARD TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentel Men/

[West River] Desembr the 21 1776

agreabell to your order I have Sent an anker to Captain Martan [John Martin] of 517 lb I have no anker of 800 Wt Which Was the Sise he Sent for I have one of 1000 the anker I now Send him is full Large Enuf for the Brigg there is but fue Captains that now gos to Sea that Nose What Wait anker Suts them With out Seing the anker. I Detaind the Boat till the anker Was Stockt as thare Might be Sum Defekelty In giting it Stockt In anaplois – you are now Braking In on the Metearls I have Provided for your Littel Navei Which I have Spared no Pains to git and have got all most Evrey kind for them it Dont apear to Me that I am

like to be Rewarded for My trubell When Ever you Want Ship Brigg Schooner or Slup Boug[h]t for the use of the State the Comition is given to Sum bodey Else [who] Perhaps Dont Merit the advanteg More then MySelf Since I have undertaken this Busaeness for you I have been oferd a Comition from a Nabourring State a Comition to Buy three Ships Which Would ben to Me at Lest £150 in My Way the hole Reason My not Excepting at this Comition Was I was Employed by the Consell of Saftey for the Provence you have Employed three other yards to Do your Buseness In (have any one of them turnd you off one Singell vessll but My Self) I have Built Rebuilt Rigned fited and ben at all the trubell for fore fine Vessll for you With out the asistance of a Captain Even Provided Men and Prov[i]stions and have the fifth and Sixth vessll all Most Redey for you I Intend to baltimore Next tusday to atend Mr [William] Luxes Rope Walk for Cabeles and Som other Cordig I shall tak a Provence Boat with Me the finest In this Bay to Bring Down Metearils With Me If you have any Comands that Way I Shall C[a]ull on you on tusday I am Gentel Men [&c.]

Stephen Steward

Whare am I to Get Guns for the Galley itis Empos[a]bel to Make the Careges Without the Guns
Pr Mr Mideltons Boat

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday 21st December 1776. –

Orders sent to Lieut Thomas Commanding Officer on Board the *Protector* Galley now lying in Queens Creek to come up with his Vessel to Lewis's Landing and have the Galley prepared to Proceed up York River as far as New Castle with a Quantity of Gun powder. –

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Eliezer Callender for Two hundred pounds upon Account for Recruiting Seamen for the use of the Navy, who gave Bond for his faithfully applying the said Money & Rendering a Just and true Account thereof when required. –

Mr James Murdough appeared and Contracted to furnish this Board with Twenty thousand feet of two and a half Inch Oak Plank and three thousand feet of three and four Inch Oak Plank at the following Prices, to wit, the two and a half Inch Plank at Seventeen shillings and six pence p hundred and the three and four Inch Plank at Twenty five shillings p hundred, to be delivered at a Convenient Landing on or before the first day of April next and the money to be paid on the delivery thereof. –

Adjourned till Monday next. –

Signed, Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr

1. Navy Board Journal, 144–45, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[North Carolina]

[In Congress, December 21, 1776]

The Committee appointed to EXamine into the State or Scituation of the Brigg *Aurora* lately stranded on Core Bank and to Report what Cargo hath been saved,

and also the Number of Men belonging to said Vessel, having met and Chosen General Ashe Chairman Report as follows Vizt –

That the Brigantine *Aurora* John Bishop Commander Sailed from Portsmouth in England the 19th September last in the Service of the King of Great Britain as a Victualling Vessel in Company with Sixteen Sail in the same Business under the Convoy of the *Mermaid* Frigate and Two Armed Ships Bound for New York.²

That the Cargo of the said Brigg consisted of Beef Pork Bread Flour Peas Oatmeal Rice Raisons Rum Butter Vinegar &c for the Use of the Navy at New York –

That on the Night of the 11th November last the said Brigg was Stranded on the Sea Side about Twelve Miles to the So West of Ocacock Inlet where she Bilged and the Cargo greatly Damaged part whereof hath since been Collected together and is now stored at Beaufort under the Care of Capt Enoch Ward of the Independant Company Stationed there, That the Cargo saved agreeable to Invoice produced by Capt Ward Amounts in Value to near £1000 great part of which Articles are perishable and will require a Speedy Sale –

That the Master of the said Brigg is now in Hallifax under the Care of Capt Ward and the Mate and five men are at Beaufort Town in Cartaret County –

John Ashe Chair[man]

Resolved that the Court of admiralty proceed immediately to a tryal of the Brigantine herein mentioned & Cargo and that the Capt & such of the Mariners as refuse to enter into the Service of this State or any Mercht Vessel thereof be sent to Philadelphia after paymt of their Wages

1. Secretary of State Papers, Provincial Conventions and Congresses, 1774–1776, October–December, 1776, NCDAH.
2. See Lords Commissioners, Admiralty, to Captain James Hawker of H. M. S. *Mermaid*, August 31, 1776. Volume 6, 579–80.

GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF TO GOVERNOR THOMAS SHIRLEY¹

His Excellency Thomas Shirley Esqr his Brittannic
Majesty's Captain General & Commander in Cheaf &c. &c
of Dominica.

Sir St Eustatius December 21st 1776.

I have had the Honor of receiving your Excellency's very acceptable letter of the 5th Instant, with the inclosed memorial relative to the Capture of a Brigg, the property of Messrs Bendal Foster & McConnell of the Island under your Excellency's Command, haveing been taken by an Arm'd Sloop wch was said to have been fitted out here, and to be owned by an Inhabitant of the Island.

In ready Compliance with your Excellency's desire and recommendation of that matter to my particular attention, I have done every thing what laid in my Power to investigate the truth of the fact as represented, had immediately the Council assembled and brought such Persons upon Interrogatories upon [illegible] as Mr McConnell who had leave to be present desired to be called upon and had the Case been prov'd to be as was stated I wd not only have Caused ample damages to be given to the unhappy Sufferers in that Capture, but proceeded likewise to the Rigor of the Law against the Person or Persons found to be Concerned in such piratical Enterprizes: but after all the inquiries which were made nothing was proved upon the Persons

However should any proof here after appear or the Sufferers be able to discover any thing, I shall allways be ready to give them that justice which the nature of the thing requires, as I shall be happy upon every regular Complaint to render your Excellency and the Subjects under your Government any service in my Power I have the Honour to be with high Esteem & Regard Sir [&c.]

[Copy]

1. Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 940-41. .

22 Dec. (Sunday)

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO WILLIAM ELLERY ¹

[Extract]

Providence December 22d 1776

. . . We are at present employed in throwing up Intrinchments to secure this Town; the Possession of which we imagine is a grand Object with the Enemy. As from the Situation of the Country round, it might be fortified in such a Manner as to make the Expulsion of the Enemy a Work of extreme Difficulty, and from hence they might enter the very Heart of the Country. The *Warren*, *Providence*, *Columbus* the Brig. commanded by Capt. Weaver ² and Sloop *Providence* are all lying at Pawtuxet, having between Four and Five hundred Men on board.

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

2. The Continental brig *Hampden*, under temporary command of Lieutenant Thomas Weaver of the *Cabot*.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Number 17.

Eagle Off New York

Sir

December the 22d 1776.

Upon a Report from Captain Tollemache, of the Necessity for his presence in England, on Business that materially affects his private Concerns; And in consideration of the State of the *Scorpion*, which is such as will not admit of the Sloop being rendered fit for immediate Service at Sea; I have dispensed with his Attendance on his Duty here, and consented to his return to England: that he may receive the Commands of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, respecting his longer Absence from the Sloop: In the Care of which I have placed Lieutenant Reeve, until their Lordships further Pleasure therein is known. I am Sir

Howe

[Endorsed] 22 Decr 1776 off New York Lord Visct Howe R 23 Febyr at 11 P M

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER ¹

Copy

Eagle, off New York, Decr the 22d 1776.

Sir, By Captain Graeme who arrived the 17th I had the Satisfaction to receive your favor of the 12th giving account of the early and effectual Possession of Rhode Island; An Event which I esteem of great Importance towards a more speedy termination of the unhappy Contest maintained by the deluded People of this Continent.

In order to extend the Benefits of that important acquisition, it will be expedient to disengage as many of the Ships of War under your Command, as soon as they can be conveniently spared, from a longer Attendance on the Service for which they were placed under your separate Direction. Wherefore in consideration of the State of the *Asia*, subsequent to the late accident of grounding off Fisher's Island, on your junction with the Transports in the Sound; and the Condition of the *Experiment* caused by the Action in Charles Town Harbour; I am to desire that the earliest opportunity which a necessary Suspension of your operations with the Squadron for the further purpose of your former Instructions affords, may be taken, for having those two Ships cleaned and refitted. And that You will thereupon immediately direct the respective Commanders to repair forthwith to the Port they can first most conveniently gain in England; But to Plymouth in preference, if circumstances permit: Being o[f] such their Arrival to make the same known to the Secretary by express, that they may receive the earliest orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for their further proceedings. But before the dismissal of those Ships on that occasion, you will please to draft from one or both of them, such a Number of Marines as will complete the Complement of Marines on board each of the Ships remaining with You short thereof. The same resource is to be taken for furnishing the Naval or Ordnance Stores, which can be spared with propriety for supplying the Deficiencies of your Squadron in such respects. These two Ships should not be detained longer than the End of the first Week of the next Month, but from absolute Necessity, or some adequate benefit to the King's Service impending In order that they may be returned to this Coast early enough in the ensuing Spring, for the further purpose of this appointment.

You will likewise please in the same Circumstances, to deliver the Orders and separate Instructions enclosed herewith to Commodore Hotham. And as I conclude the *Emerald* and *Brune* may be spared for the same Service, I desire You will give the necessary directions to the Captains of those Ships to put themselves under the Command of Commodore Hotham accordingly; One condition however that they also are not wanted for any present occasion whereof I am not advised. And as the Harbour of Newport will become the chief Port of Rendezvous for the cruising Ships during the Severity of the ensuing Winter Season; You will be furnished with other Frigates from time to time, to act under your orders, as I have opportunity to make my intentions known therein to the several Commanders.

There was an original Mismanagement in the transaction with the Persons in Authority in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation, respecting the Mode of carrying the proposed Exchange of Prisoners into execution; By the appointment of Block Island for the Place of mutual delivery of the Prisoners to be there exchanged. Hence the pretension of Mr Benjamin Stelle cannot well be disputed. I therefore think it fit that he should be immediately dismissed; Having it made known to him that his detention has been occasioned by the want of timely notice from Capt'n Furneaux, who was prevented therein by the tempestuous Weather that succeeded the Agreement, and afterwards forced him back to this Port. Mr Stelle's fruitless attendance off of Block Island, has been an unavoidable effect of the same Cause. But in order to prevent such dis-

appointments in future, and (which of course it is desirable to conceal from him) to secure to the King's Service the benefits which were the primary objects of giving countenance to such an Intercourse with the King's rebellious Subjects, You will please to apprise him that the further Exchange which may be made of Prisoners on either Side hereafter, will be conducted under your direction: In manner as I shall have the honor to explain to You more fully in a separate Letter. You will please further to acquaint Mr Stelle for the Information of his Employers, that the 36 Prisoners as by the enclosed List have been set at liberty in Connecticut, in consequence of Advice I had received from one of the Persons discharged that several British Prisoners had enjoyed the same benefit in pursuance of the agreement with Capt'n Furneaux. The number so released not being then properly ascertained to me, I did not wait for that formality, and find by the List you have transmitted (which I therefore herewith return) that 11 are due on the Part of his Employers.

It is with much concern that I have been advised from the Contents of Captain Macartney's Letter of the necessity Captain Fielding deemed himself under to resent the Insult offered to the Flag of Truce he sent to Nashawn Island, in the manner therein stated. If the Inhabitants were conscious of the Deference paid by all civilized Nations to an Intercourse proffered under the Sanction of a Flag of Truce, they certainly merited the severest Treatment. But as I rather suppose they are of a Class wholly uninformed in such Distinctions, I much wish that other expedients had been taken to apprise them of their Misconduct; and that Extremities, which could have no immediate advantage to the King's Service attending them, had been at least postponed.

Nevertheless as things are now circumstanced it becomes necessary that the motives for proceeding to such severities, should be made generally known, Lest an impression should be taken of the King's intentions with regard to the ignorant and misguided part of his disaffected Subjects, different from His Majesty's most gracious purpose in such respects.

You are therefore requested to use every seasonable means, for making those motives, so generally known. And if the Circulation thereof cannot be advanced through the Channel of any intercourse which the Inhabitants of Block Island may probably hold with those of the Elizabeth Islands, and of the adjacent Coasts of the Continent, it is my earnest desire that it may be made an Object of particular Attention, and every requisite facility given to promote it.

And for the same beneficial purposes, You are at liberty, in respect of these Instructions, to grant, and it is advisable to take all suitable Opportunities to allow, the Inhabitants dwelling upon the Coasts adjacent to the Stations of the Ships under your command, the use of their ordinary Fishing-Craft or other means of providing for their daily Subsistence and Support; where the same does not seem liable to any material abuse. And in your Signification thereof to the several Captains, I must desire You will also recommend to them, to encourage and cultivate all amicable correspondence with the said Inhabitants, to gain their good Will and Confidence, whilst they demean themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner. And to grant them every other Indulgence which the Limitations upon their Trade specified in the Act passed the last Session of Parliament for re-

straining the Commerce of the rebellious Colonies therein mentioned, will consistently admit: In order to conciliate their friendly Dispositions and to detach them from the Prejudices they have imbibed to the Subversion of all legal Authority in the different Provinces concerned.

Having made, from the number of Frigates under your Orders, the dispositions requisite for blocking up the Ports of New London, Westward; Those in Buzzards Bay, Eastward; And the Channels from Providence and the adjacent parts communicating with your present Station; No means offering for getting possession of, or destroying the Armed Vessels of the Enemy, collected in those Retreats, It will be next incumbent to provide similar Restrictions on the New England Ports. In these several instances, I conceive it will be expedient to suggest proper places of Anchorage for the cruising Ships to retire to at times, for enabling them to keep at, or near their Stations, during the ensuing Winter Season.

In respect to a suitable Provision for the necessary restraint upon the New England Ports, Out of the Frigates You may have from time to time with you disengaged from the several Services previously noted in the preceeding paragraph, a sufficient number (I trust,) will remain, to be successively appointed for this important object. Very secure anchorage I am told, may be found for them in Cape Cod Bay; under Cat-Island, near Marblehead; As well as Mount Desert to the Northward, occasionally. It will become the several Captains to consider and avail themselves of the best Use to be made thereof, for intercepting the Armed Vessels fitted by the rebellious Colonists in their Passage to and from the adjacent Ports; and for the re-capture of the Prizes made on the property of His Majesty's faithful Subjects inhabiting other Parts of the British Dominions. A further care will be requisite in these last Appointments, that the Force of the Frigates may be sufficient to guard against the hazard of Insult, from a too superior Enemy; reduced as the Rebel Colonists are now become, to assemble their chief maritime Strength at Boston. In this view I shall submit to your Consideration the propriety of appointing two Frigates to keep together, nearer the Coast, for being able to secure a seasonable Retreat at all times either under Cape Cod, Cat-Island or the Isle of Shoals; on such appearance of bad Weather as threatens otherwise to force them from their Station. The other Frigates (whereof I judge that two at most will be a sufficient number) ordered for the same Service, may be stationed separately off St George's Bank in different Latitudes; Or from 20 to 30 Leagues Eastward of the former: The several Captains being advised of such their respective Appointments.

To correspond with this Intention, and to furnish more sufficient means for suitable Reliefs of the several stationed Ships acting under your Orders, directions will be sent for the Cruizers lately appointed from Halifax to the New England Coasts and assembling occasionally at that Port, to rendezvous during the ensuing Winter and repair for the necessary supplies of Provisions and Water, at Rhode Island. The Captains returning from those Coasts will furnish Lights for a better Choice of proper Stations (if necessary) for the several purposes aforesaid; and your Ability and Judgment will profit thereby, for amending the appointments accordingly.

In the attempts made to derive advantage from an Exchange of Prisoners, there is reason to suspect that the disaffected Americans with whom that matter has been hitherto transacted, have countenanced if not assisted, the escape of the returned British Prisoners. Wherefore I am to desire You will please to authorise and inform the several Captains of the cruising Ships; That in case by the capture of any Trading Ships of the Rebels, or Ships armed for War they shall be encumbered with a number of Prisoners not inclined to enter for the Service, they are permitted to exchange the same against any British Prisoners, Officer for Officer claiming equal Rank in the said Armed Vessels, and Sailor for Sailor, as by any communication for that purpose which they may have opportunity to open with the Inhabitants of the Provinces having such British Prisoners in possession, they are able to effect. But if being unable to make such advantageous exchange, they are likely to be forced to quit their Stations because of the number of Prisoners they may have on board, they are, in that case, equally permitted to land such of them as were not taken in Arms; in the Provinces to which they belong, or where more convenient with respect to the purpose of their cruising Instructions.

The nine victualling Transports named in the Margin have
Sally been sent under Convoy of the *Kingfisher* for the Supply of the
Betsey Ships arriving from time to time at Rhode Island. And that due
Active Care may be taken in the Conduct of the Issues and Receipts
Success thereof, and in other matters having reference thereto, the Agent
Nancy Victualler at this Port has been directed to forward by the same
Northam Conveyance, a particular of the several Articles in the said Vic-
John tualling Ships contained, with other needful Documents:
Triton Whereupon You are desired to cause proper regard to be paid
Generous Friends by such Deputy Agent, as, being hereby so impowered, You see
fit to charge with those several Authorities. And for his encour-
agement in a faithful Discharge of the Duties he shall so undertake, he will be
allowed five shillings a day during the time of his continuance in the management
thereof; upon the Certificate of the Agent Victualler, to whom he is to make report
of his proceedings from time to time.

And as the said Victualling Transports are taken up on monthly Pay, which is to be continued until their return to Deptford, unless the Masters shall desire to be discharged abroad; In which last Case they are to be respectively allowed one Month's Freight after their discharge; It will be for the Advantage of the King's Service that the Transports should be cleared of their Lading as soon as may be. Wherefore if any Stores can be provided on Shore wherein the several Articles of Provisions can be safely deposited and secured from Fire, or other such destructive Accidents, it is advisable to adopt that Expedient for the earlier Discharge of the Ships; Putting them under Convoy to be seen 50 Leagues into the Sea, and there left to prosecute their intended Voyages or to proceed on their return to Europe accordingly.

For supplying the Cruisers under your Orders with Naval Stores, the same Facilities do not offer. One Store-Ship may be daily expected to arrive from Hali-

fax. And I have already sent Directions for another to be appointed for this Port also; Whence I flatter myself I shall soon be sufficiently assisted in the Articles of Sails and Cordage. But of Masts, Plank and Spars of different Dimensions there is the greatest Want. I shall be glad to have Advice if any Provision can be made thereof at Rhode Island, and for the repairs that may be necessary to the Flat-Boats, the due care of which you will permit me to recommend to your particular Attention. I have the honor to be, with great regard [&c.]

Howe.

[Endorsed] Copy. Letter to Sir Peter Parker Dated 22d Decem: 1776. No 1. In Lord Howe's Letter of the 15 Janry 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COMMODORE THOMAS SEYMOUR ¹

In Council of Safety.

Sir, [Philadelphia] December 22d, 1776.

You are hereby directed to order four of the armed Boats, that have the best accommodations to Bristol; when they arrive there, they are to receive further Orders from the Commanding Officer of that place. If the Crew are not provided with Blankets and other necessities for that service, by applying to this Council they shall be supplied, and the Commissary is to supply the Crews with double allowance of Rum while they remain at that place. Care must be taken that the Boats be returned when they can no longer continue safe, on account of the Weather.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 129-30.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R. N., TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

My Lord *Roebuck* in Cape Henlopen Road the 22d Decr 1776.

As I send the *Perseus* to convoy two prizes within sight of New York, I have the opportunity to acquaint your Lordship.

That since my arrival here (which was on the 9th instant[]) 1st no event of any consequence concerning the Motions of the Rebels, or information has come to my knowledge, but from a little communication, I have had by Flags of Truce with Lewis Town; The People there seem much more friendly to Government, than they were some time ago: The Colonel of the Militia who commands in this district received the last proclamations from the officer, and said they should be dispersed.

I can assure your Lordship that all possible vigilance has been used to Stop the Navigation of this Port, and notwithstanding the *Perseus* and *Camilla* were driven off by the Northerly winds for near a week, our endeavours have not been ineffectual, for except one Vessel that the *Falcon* missed by her bad sailing, I know of none that has passed by us, which I must do Captain Linzee the justice to say, has been much owing to his diligence, as I have stationed the *Falcon* on the inside

of Cape May, which is the channel all the small Vessels frequent and which is so narrow that nothing can pass without being in reach of his Guns.

As the *Pearl* has never joined me and Captain [Thomas] Wilkinson informed me, he would be ready for sea in two or three Days after I sailed, I conclude your Lordship has detained him at New York. I have the honor to be &ca &ca &ca

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Letter Book, March 1776–December 1777, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Pearl*, CAPTAIN THOMAS WILKINSON ¹

Decr [1776]	[Off Coast of Delaware]
Saturday 21st	AM at 9 set the Mainsail & haul'd up the Mizen Strong gales and hazey. PM The Schooner Prize in Com- pany. ² at 11 More Moderate, Set the Foresail.
Sunday 22	AM Set the Topsails. Saw two strange Sail to Windward, out all reefs, Sway'd up topgallt Masts and Yards. at 10 hoist out the Barge arm'd, and sent her in pursuit of a Schooner. Light breezes. at 5 PM Bro't too, and sent our Boat with a petty Officer and 4 Men on board the <i>Betsey</i> Sloop from St Martins bound to Baltimore ³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/674.

2. Schooner *Read*, taken the day before.

3. With a cargo of salt, J. Hayman, master, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

23 Dec.

TRIAL IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT AT HALIFAX OF THE AMERICAN BRIG *Dolphin*
AND CARGO ¹

Nova Scotia	}	Cause
Court of		
Vice Admiralty		Charles Ford Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship <i>Unicorn</i> VS the Brig <i>Dolphin</i> and her Cargo –

2 Decr 1776 Libel filed & entred order made thereon as on file

Registers Office December 6th 1776.

William Roberts Seaman on board the Brig *Dolphin* being duly Sworne Deposeth, that the said Brig *Dolphin* was own'd in Falmouth New England, & was loaded there & Bound to the West Indies, that on or about the 19th Novr last, they was taken by his Majesty's Ship *Unicorn*, being then to the Southwd of Georges' Banks, & that said Brig was by said Ship *Unicorn* brought into this Port of Halifax.

William Roberts

Archibald Allardice Masters mate on Board his Majestys Ship *Unicorn*, being duly Sworne Deposeth that on the 19th of November last they fell in with and took the Brig *Dolphin* in the Lati-

tude 41..15. & Long. 68..22, that when they were Boarding the said Brig, the People from the Brig Fired upon the Boats, That the Papers were taken into Capt. Ford's Possession, & the Brig & Cargo brot into this Port of Halifax where she now is, loaded with Boards, Shingles, Staves & Hoops, & was Bound to the West Indies

Arch^d Allardice

Decr 23 } Court opened by making Proclamation as usual
1776 } Proclamation for all Claimers none appeared the advocate General moved for a Decree which the Judge ordered to be pronounced as on file – whereby the Brig *Dolphin* and Cargo were Condemned as Lawful Prize Court adjourned without Day –

1. Vice Admiralty Register, 1769–1777, vol. 5, 479, N. S. Arch.

SALEM COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honorable the Council of the State of the Massachusetts Bay
May it Please the Honble. Board

In compliance with an Order of Council of the 11th Instant, directed to this Committee, they have apprehended, and caused to be confined, all Masters Mariners and Seamen, taken on the High Seas, who have not entered into the Service of this or some of the united States and were Resident in this Town.

The Mariners and Seamen the Committee were under the disagreeable necessity of committing to the Common Goal; but the Masters, and one other Gentleman Vizt Mr Henry Seaton, who was Super Cargo on board the Vessell in which he was taken, the Committee thought themselves authorized by the order of Council to suffer to remain in their respective Lodgings, taking their word of honor that they would not go beyond the limits of the House and yard where they were so Lodged untill further order of Council: and as the Committee in this part of their conduct were actuated solely by principles of humanity they hope it will not be disapproved of by the Honorable Board. The Committee would observe to the Board that the reason why the number of persons, now apprehended and confined is so much less than the Return lately made to the Honorable Board is, as they suppose, that the order of Council for apprehending them was by some means or other known before the Committee could put it in execution.

By order of the Committee
Joshua Ward Chairman PT

Salem December 23rd. 1776

[Endorsed] In Council Dec. 24th 1776

Read & Ordered – That the above Return ² made by said Comittee be referr'd to the Comittee appointed to prepare Instructions to the Masters of the Cartel Vessels design'd for N York –

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 197.

2. See next entry.

RETURN OF BRITISH NAVAL PRISONERS IN SALEM ¹

Return of the Names of Masters, Mariners and Seamen taken on the High Seas and who have been apprehended by the Committee of Correspondence &c – of this Town agreeable to an order of the Council of this State Dated December 11th. 1776

Prisoners Names		Names of the Vessells In which they were taken	Names of the Vessells By wch. they were taken	Names of the Commanders of the Vessells, by which they were taken
Masters –	Mariners & Seamen			
John Bishop John Fletcher Benjamin Burton Henry Seaton	William Craven William Parrot John Tozer	<i>Sally</i> <i>Providence Success</i> <i>Amy</i> <i>Fanny</i> <i>Henry & Ann</i> <i>Sarah Ann</i> <i>Sarah Ann</i>	<i>True American</i> <i>True American</i> <i>True American</i> <i>Revenge</i> <i>Massachusetts</i> <i>Rover</i> <i>Rover</i>	Daniel Hathorne Daniel Hathorne Daniel Hathorne Joseph White Daniel Souther Simon Forrester Simon Forrester

Aaron Proudén	<i>Good Intent</i>	<i>Rover</i>	Simon Forrester
John Towers	<i>Henry & Ann</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Daniel Souther
Joseph Ward	<i>Henry & Ann</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Daniel Souther
William Moor	<i>Henry & Ann</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Daniel Souther
Joseph Harfield	<i>Good Intent</i>	<i>Rover</i>	Simon Forrester
George Bennison	<i>Garland</i>	<i>Polly</i>	[Isaac] Collier
Matthew Crozer	<i>Garland</i>	<i>Polly</i>	[Isaac] Collier
Timo. Williamson	<i>Henry & Ann</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Daniel Souther
Paul Postle	<i>Sally</i>	<i>Dolphin</i>	[John Leach]
Joseph Cidwell	<i>Alfred</i>	<i>Retaliation</i>	Eleazer Giles, Junr

Masters 4

Seamen 13

17 Total. All confined in this Town

Committee of Correspondence Inspection & Safety: Salem December 23d. 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 195.

By order of the Committee
Joshua Ward Chairman P T

PETITION OF GEORGE CROWNINSHIELD TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

State of the Massatusetts Bay

The Humble Petision of George Crowninshield of Salem Sheweth that He your Petisionor Had at the time of the imbargoes taking Plase A Shipp Called the *Bachaler* / William Gray Master Lying at Newbury Port All Loaded & Ready fitted for the Sea & was to Saile On the Aproach of the first fair wind from thence to the Westindies with A Cargoe of Lumber & thier to Dispose of the Same, to Some of the friends of theese States & then to Lay the Proceeds Oute in Salt Gunpowder & Brimstone &c Such Articalls As is Much wanted Heere, An As By the Order of this State your Petisioner Humbly Consives He Cannot Proceed On the Voige Aforesaide withoute Lieve – Begge your Honours would take the Same into your Serious Consideration & Grant Lieve for the Sd Shipp to Proscede On Her Voige As Above Mentioned, Or in Any other whey your Honours Shall think Meete & your Petisioner As in Duty Bound Shall Every Pray

G Crowninshield

To the Right Honorable the Counsill Now Setting in Boston

Salem Decembr 23 1776

[Endorsed] Council Chamber Decr 20d [*sic* 23] 1776

To the Naval Officer of the Port of Newbury Port – permit the Ship *Bachelor*, Burthen about 200 tons, bound to the west Indies, whereof William Gray is Master, to proceed on her sd Voyage with a Cargo of Lumber and Rice, the Owner of sd Ship making it appear that sd Ship was loaded & ready for Sea the 7th inst said Master giving Bond that he will import in sd Ship Molases, and Military Stores, the Dangers of the seas and Enemy excepted –

By order of Council

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 152, 152a.

MEMORIAL OF JOSIAH THROOP TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honourable the Council and Assembly of the State of the Massachusetts Bay

The Memorial of Josiah Throop in behalf of the County of Cumberland in Nova Scotia

Most Humbly Sheweth

That the Inhabitants of the District of Cumberland are Chiefly from New England and having to flee the Sweets of liberty cannot relish the bitter Potion prepared by the hand of Tyranny for them Implicitly to Swallow –

That after a Series of Arbitarry Impossissions Suffered from Government they with much difficulty and Secrecy Sent Capt Jonathan Eddy to represent their Case to this Honorable Court and if possible to procure Some means of redress

That the latter end of October last he arived in the Country with about fifty Volunteers from Machias and the river St Johns and took Capt John Walker with a party at Shepody about thirty miles down the Bay from Cumberland where he was Stationed to prevent any Communication with the American States; and then

proceeded to Cumberland and being Joyned by a few of the Inhabitants, they on the night of the Sixth of November took a Sloop of about a Hundred tons loaded Chiefly with Provisions for the Garrison, on board of which was a Guard almost equal in number to the party that boarded her, and Divine Providence as an Omen of our Success and to Encourage our hearts Sent numbers more of the Soldiers into their hands in ways truly remarkable on the news Spreading the Inhabitants on the eighth and ninth repaired to Eddy and his party to the number of about two hundred – and on the tenth a Summons was sent to Col [Joseph] Goreham to Surrender the fort – on the Eleventh they received his answer refusing to Surrender, together with a Manifesto to the Inhabitants, Declaring that his Most Gracious Majesty had Sent him there to defend and protect them if they would be Peacible and Loyal – But that if they Should aid or assist the party of Resistors that had come from the Rebelious Colonies he would put the laws in force and they might depend on an Immediate Military Execution – They returned him answer by a flag that they had rather die like Men than be hanged like dogs –

On the twelfth they prepared for Scaling the walls and made an attempt that night but found it Impracticable as they had nothing but Small arms – and the Fort was Piquetted in and the walls and Ramparts lately repaired they have Six Cannon about a Hundrd men and Six hundred Small arms – They on the thirteenth chose a Committee of Safety, ranged them Selves in Companies and began Such Measures of Self defence as appeared to them best in so Critical a Crisis – They then dispatched your Memorialist with advices to this Honourable Court – who left them Co[n]sisting of about three hundrd including Accadians without Cannon or other Military Articles Save their Small arms; without Commission for what they have already done or Orders from proper authority to do more – But with a Cheerful dependence on divine Providence; in high Spirits having Shut up the fort and cut off all Succour; They were Making a brave stand in the defence of liberty waiting for Assistance from your Honours on the return of your Memorialist

Who therefore Prays – That your Honours would take our Case into your wise Consideration and Grant –

That the Counties of Cumberland and Sunbury in Nova Scotia be taken under the Protection of this State till that Province can be Subdued

That Coasting vessels for the future may Clear out for Pasamaquady the river St Johns and Cumberland and that Certificates from them places to any Port in this State may Secure them from the American Privateers

That our army now in Cumberland be considered as part of the Continental Army and taken into Continental pay

That a Colonels Commission be Sent to Jonathan Eddy Esqr to command the forces now raised and to be raised for our purpose this winter –

That blank Commissions for Officers for about five hundred men be Sent to our Committee to fill up for Such men as Shall be chosen by the Soldiers –

That Machias be fortified and Garrisoned for a retreat or Asylum for Our women and Children if need be –

That Some Cannon Mortars and War like Stores be Sent to Machias this winter So that we may have them early in the Spring

That two or three armed vessels be ready very early in the Spring to proceed up the Bay Funday and if possible, five hundred Land Men

That Provisions Powder and ball may be Sent for those that are now there as early in the Spring as May be –

Or that Such other Methods may be taken for our Safety and Success in the Cause as Your Honours in Wisdom Shall think most Expedient

And we doubt not but by the Divine Blessing and Your friendly Assistance we Shall Soon add another Stripe to the American flagg – and another Colony to the United States –

And for Your Honours Your Memorialist as in Duty bound Shall Ever Pray
Josiah Throop

Boston December 23rd 1776

In the fifth Year of the Glorious American Era

[Endorsements]

In the House of Representatives Decr 25. 1776

Read with the other Papers accompanying it – and thereupon – Ordered – That Coll McIntosh Mr Gardner of Salem & Capt Batcheldor With such as the Hon Board shall join be a Committee to take the same under Consideration & – report

Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Speakr P–T

In Council Decr 27t 1776

Read & Concurr'd & John Winthrop & John Taylor Esqrs are joined on the Part of the Board –

Jno: Avery Dpy Secy

The Committee of both Houses appointed to consider the Memorial of Josiah Throop, and the Papers accompanying it, have attended that service, and beg leave to report as their opinion,

That coasting Vessels, under such restrictions as this Court shall direct, be permitted to clear out for Passamaquoddy, the river St John's and Cumberland in Nova Scotia; and that Certificates from those places may secure such Vessels from American Cruisers.

That a Colonel's Commission be sent to Jonathan Eddy, to command the forces raised, or which may be raised for the defence of the Eastern Frontiers of this State and the adjacent places, and the annoyance of the enemies of the United States.

That a Captains Commission be given to Josiah Throop, under Col. Eddy, – and that a Commission be given to Chaloner under Capt. Throop. These beforementioned Officers not to be entitled to pay, until further orders.

That 200 lb gunpowder, 600 lb leaden ball and 500 flints be delivered to Mr. Throop; he to be accountable to this Court for the same when called upon.

That a Letter be writ to Congress, inclosing the several Papers abovementioned, & recommending the same for their serious consideration.

All which is humbly submitted –

J Winthrop P order

Decr 28. 1776.

In Council Decr 28t 1776 Read & Sent down John Avery Dpy Secy

In the house of Representa[tives] Decr 28. 1776

Read and Accepted and thereupon Ordered That the Committee appointed to prepare a Letter to the Hon. Congress on the State of our Public Affairs be the Committee to write the Letter mentioned in said Report Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Speakr PT

In Council Decr 28t 1776 Read & Concurr'd Jno Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 434–37.

PETITION OF DANIEL FOX TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Hon. Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay.

Humbly Shews

Daniel Fox that he some time since arriv'd at Falmouth in Casco Bay in the Sloop called the *St Croix Packet* from the Island St Croix with a Cargo of Rum Sugar Salt Cloth Warlike Stores &c. – with a part of which Cargo he has procur'd a Cargo of Lumber & Fish for the Sloop *Friendship*, burthen about one hundred Tuns James Dilworth Master bound for St Croix, which Vessel was ready to sail clear'd out at the Naval Office in said Falmouth two Days before the Resolve of Court for the general Embargo arriv'd –

Also a Cargo of Masts Spars & some Boards for the Brigantine *Squirrel*, burthen about one hundred & forty Tons Jonathan Paine Master bound for France –

Also a Cargo of Boards & Hoops for the sd Sloop *St Croix Packet*, burthen about sixty Tons Seth Hinkley Master bound for St Croix – And humbly prays that the Hon Council wou'd permit the abovemention'd Vessels to sail with their respective Cargoes to the places of their destination. And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray –

Boston Decr 23. 1776

Daniel Fox

[Endorsed] Council Chamber Decr 23d 1776

To the Naval Officer of the Port of Falmouth permit the Sloop *Friendship*, of about one hundd tons Burthen, bound to St Croix, whereof James Dilworth is master, loaded with Lumber and Fish – also the Brigantine *Squirrel*, burthen about an hundd and forty tons loaded with Masts, Spars, and Boards, bound for France, of which Jonathan Paine is Master – also the Sloop *St Croix Packet*, whereof Seth Hinkley is Master loaded with Boards and Hoops, bound for St Croix to proceed on th[ei]r sd Voyages the Masters of wich giving Bond, that they will import in sd Vessels, West India Produce, Cloathing and military Stores the Dangers of the Seas and Enemy excepted. –

Jno. Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 149–49a.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO SAMUEL & ROBERT PURVIANCE ¹

Messrs. Saml. & Robt Purviance, War Office, Boston Decr: 23d: 1776
Gentlemen

The Board of War for the State of Massachusetts-Bay, having it in command among other things to procure a quantity of Flour & Iron, have taken the Liberty to inclose you Invoice & Bill Lading of Six Hogsheads of Sugar & Four Hogsheads of Rum, which wish safe to your hands; – You will dispose of the Rum & Sugar for the most you can obtain & dispatch the Schooner back with a full load of Common Flour, with the Addition of four Tons of Pig Iron – & two Tons of Bar Iron – ²

This Vessel the Board proposes shall be follow'd by several others under the like Address probably one or more of them large Vessels for Europe; not doubting from your well known establishd Character, that you will exert yourselves to give them all possible Dispatch – I am Genn. By order of the Board [&c.]

S. P. Savage Prest: P.T.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 13, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

2. Schooner *Ellen*, Captain Ichabod Morton, Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 393, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN HOLTON JOHNSON ¹

Capn. Holten Johnson, War-Office, Boston Decr. 23d. 1776 –
Sir,

The Board of War having consign'd the Brigg *Ann* Amos Mansfield Master to your Address, desire you on her Arrival in Baltimore to dispose of her Cargo to the best Advantage & with the proceeds to load her with Flour for France, & consign her to Lewis Poncet & Son in Bourdeaux on Acct. of the Board of War for the State of Massachusetts-Bay. – If you find it impracticable (but we beg you wou'd not give over till you have try'd every means) to persuade the hands to go to France, as they are ship'd for Baltimore only, you will load her with Flour, & Iron, & dispatch her for this Place; – If you find the Cargo we have ship'd on Bd. insufficient to load her home, you will advance for this Purpose, & draw upon the Board for it; – As an Inducement to the Crew to go the Voy[ag]e to France, you may engage them a passage back in one of the Vessels we shall have from there, & promise them they shall be in pay till their Return, unless captivated by the Enemy. – In Addition to yr Orders within; – Write to Lewis Poncet & Son to dispose of the Brig & Cargo to the Best Advantage, & pass the Proceeds to the Credit of the Board of War for the State of Massachusetts-Bay, By order of the Board,

S. P. Savage Prest. P.T.

[Endorsed] Boston Decr. 23d. 1776,

I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the orders I have rec'd from the Honble. Board of War, & promise to obey the same

Holton Johnson

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 151, 393, Letters from the Board of War, 1776–1780.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Sir

Boston December 23, 1776

Having been informed the Army were in distress for want of clothing and there being a quantity on board a Prize lately brought into this port by Captains Skimmer and Tucker, in the Service of the United States,² I have forwarded to the Army at or near New York the several articles contained in the enclosed Invoice. I should have had them appraised before they were forwarded but found they would not be without the States suffering thereby, therefore they were forwarded to the Quartermaster General with a desire he would have them appraised before they were made use of; which I hope will be agreeable to Congress.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress, 1775–89), 78, XXIII, 335, NA.

2. The brig *Lively*, taken by Washington's schooners *Franklin* and *Hancock*.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1776

Boston, December 23.

By a gentleman from Falmouth, we have collected a more particular account of what happened at the Elizabeth islands, on or about the 6th day of December the enemy made their appearance with two ships in the mouth of the Sound between Gay Head and the westernmost islands, after cruising two days some of the crew went ashore on the outermost island, where was a little hut, after buying a few turkeys, asking the price of sheep, and what force was at Tarpaulin Cove, on Naushon Island, they went on board ship again, came to sail and run into Robinson's-hole, near which place lived Mr. Jeremiah Robinson, a quaker, who made not the least opposition to their landing, but his family through fear, which consisted of his wife, an aged mother of 80 years, with 9 or 10 children, fled to the woods for safety. The enemy landed about 150 men, plundered and burnt the house in which was all the poor man's beef, pork, roots, butter, cheese, &c. together with all his furniture, not content with all this, they burnt his corn barn, in which was all his grain, killed and carried off two or three cattle and hogs, likewise killed and left dead on the ground some of his milch cows, and wounded and mangled others in the most cruel manner – Thus was a peaceable and good liver in a few hours reduced to the greatest distress, by worse than brutal enemies.

Capt. [Benjamin] Nye who was stationed at the Cove, with the help of the militia from the neighbouring towns very soon made a strong party, went up to the west end of the island, but they had gone on board the ships, and the next day stood out of the sound. We have not been able to learn who commanded the ships.

By a Vessel arriv'd at Cape-Ann from Guadaloupe in 19 Days, we learn, that before she sail'd six French men of war and some transports arriv'd there from France, who were part of a fleet that bro't 15,000 troops; and that the Captains of the men of war said they did not doubt but that war was declar'd in France against England before their arrival.

On Friday 3d of January next, at Eleven in the Morning, will be Sold by Public Vendue, at Bedford, in Dartmouth 1,400 Sacks of Oats, 30 Barrells of Beef, and Pork. And the Snow *Friendship*, about 250 Tons burthen, both River built Vessels and well found

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

To be sold at public Vendue, on Tuesday the 31st of December Instant, at Ten o'Clock, A.M. on *Richard Derby*, Esq's Wharff, in Salem:

The Prize Brigantine *Amy*, about 180 Tons burthen, about 6 Years old; together with her Appurtenances. She is a very burthensome Vessel extremely well calculated for the Lumber Trade.

Also to be sold at the same Time and Place, at Vendue,

The Prize Brigantine *Providence Success*, about 100 Tons Burthen, 5 Years old. Inventories to be seen, and Vessels and Appurtenances to be viewed any Time before the Sale, by applying to

Walter P. Bartlet, Auctioneer.

On Thursday the 2d of January next, Will be Sold by Public Auction, at Newbury Port, The Brigantine *Susannah*, burthen about 180 Tons. – Also –

About 300 Pipes and Hogsheads of genuine red and white Port Wine, a Quantity of Sheet Cork, and a Number of Boxes of Plumbs. Also –

Upon the same Day, at Newbury Port will be Sold The Snow *John*, burthen about 180 Tons, and the Brig *Lark*, burthen about 130 Tons.

The Sale will begin at Ten o'Clock, A. M.

J. Ingersoll, Auctioneer.

To be sold at Public Auction, on Tuesday the 7th Day of January next, 1777, at Salem;

The Prize Ship *Sally*, about 220 Tons Burthen, built at Philadelphia, well found with Sails, Rigging, Cables, Anchors, &c. Inventory to be seen by applying to Samuel Williams, any Time before the Sale.

Said Williams has for Sale, excellent Lisbon Wine, in Quantity or single Cask. Also one Cask of about 50 Gallons of very excellent Red Port Wine.

Should not the Wine be sold at private Sale before the Day appointed to sell the Ship, the remaining Part of [it will be sold at] Auction.

SAMUEL TUDER TO PETER R. LIVINGSTON¹

Gentlemen –

Poughkeepsie, December 23d, 1776.

As we are informed you have a quantity of tar at Fishkill Landing, and we are much in want of some for Mr. De Grushe to tar the rigging for the ships,² should be glad you would let Mr. De Grushe, the bearer, have some; he will inform you what quantity he will want. I am with great respect, gentlemen [&c.]

Saml. Tudor.

To the Honourable Peter R. Livingston, President of the Convention at Fishkill.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 261.

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

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM,
H. M. S. *Preston* ¹

Copy

Whereas a Chief Object in the appointment of the large naval Force destined to be employed in North America, has been for carrying into Execution the Provisions of an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament for preventing all Trade and Intercourse with the several Colonies and Provinces therein mentioned; And I have thought it necessary to put the Ships intended to be stationed on the Southern Parts of this Continent under your particular Direction for that Purpose, until further Order: You are therefore hereby directed to repair as soon as may be in His Majesty's Ship the *Preston* with the other Ships named in the Margin [*Brune* and *Emerald*] to Chesepeak Bay, where you are to establish your present Chief Station in the mean time, and in such part thereof as You see fit. And You are to appoint the said Ships, in conjunction with those you may find within the Limits of your command, or which may be hereafter sent to you, to such Stations between the Eastern Point of the River Delaware and Southern Extremity of the Province of Georgia & Coast of East Florida provisionally, as you shall judge from information obtained, and your further knowledge of the Ports and Shores thereof, they may be best employed on, correspondent to the intentions of the Legislature in the said Act expressed: And also to prevent the King's rebellious Subjects from succeeding in their endeavors to procure Supplies of Ammunition and other military Stores, And to take or destroy their Armed Vessels, by every Means in your power.

You are nevertheless at liberty in respect to these Instructions to grant, and it is advisable to take all suitable opportunities to allow, the Inhabitants dwelling upon the Coasts adjacent to the Stations of the Ships under your Orders, the use of their ordinary Fishing-Craft, or other means of providing for their daily subsistence and support; where the same does not seem liable to any material abuse. And in your Signification thereof to the several Captains You are to recommend to them to encourage and cultivate all amicable Correspondence with the said Inhabitants to gain their good will and confidence, whilst they demean themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner; And to grant them every other Indulgence which the necessary Restrictions from their Trade conformable to the Tenor of the before recited Act, will admit: In order to conciliate their friendly Dispositions, and to detach them from the Prejudices they have imbibed, to the subversion of all legal authority in the different Provinces concerned.

If by the Capture of any Trading Ships of the Rebels, or Ships armed for War, the Ships of the Squadron under your Command should be encumbered with a number of Prisoners not inclined to enter for the Service; You are permitted to cause and direct an Exchange to be made of the same, against any British Prisoners, Officer for Officer, claiming equal Rank in the said Armed Ships, and Sailor for Sailor, as by any communication for that purpose, which the Captains may have opportunity to open with the Inhabitants of the Provinces having such British Pris-

oners in Possession, they are able to effect, But if being unable to make such advantageous Exchange, they are likely to be forced to quit their Stations because of the number of prisoners they may have on board, You are in that Case equally permitted to direct the landing of such Prisoners as were not taken in Arms; In the provinces to which they belong, or where more convenient with respect to the purpose of the cruising Instructions which shall have been given to the Captains subject to that Inconvenience.

You are to co-operate with the Commander in Chief or other General Officer commanding His Majesty's Land Forces by every means suggested to you, wherein you are able to promote the King's Service, and for restoring Order and legal Government in the Colonies and Provinces in which the re-establishment thereof is still opposed.

And You are finally to transmit by every safe Conveyance, the most particular account of your proceedings in the employment of the Ships under your Direction, the incidents that occur, and the Stations on which they are placed from time to time, with the Condition of them, as Change of Circumstances may require. And you are to communicate by such Opportunities all Intelligence you may be able to gain of the practices and design of the Rebels for strengthening themselves in their illegal Resistance; With the measures that in your judgment appear most effectual for preventing the Success of their hostile purposes. That I may be better able to suit the general Arrangement of the Ships of the Squadron to provide accordingly for these and the several other equally important services which I have in charge.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship *Eagle* off New York the 23d Day of December 1776.

Howe.

[Endorsed] No 2 In Lord Howe's Lre of the 15 Janry 77

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO COMMODORE WILLIAM HOTHAM ¹

Secret.

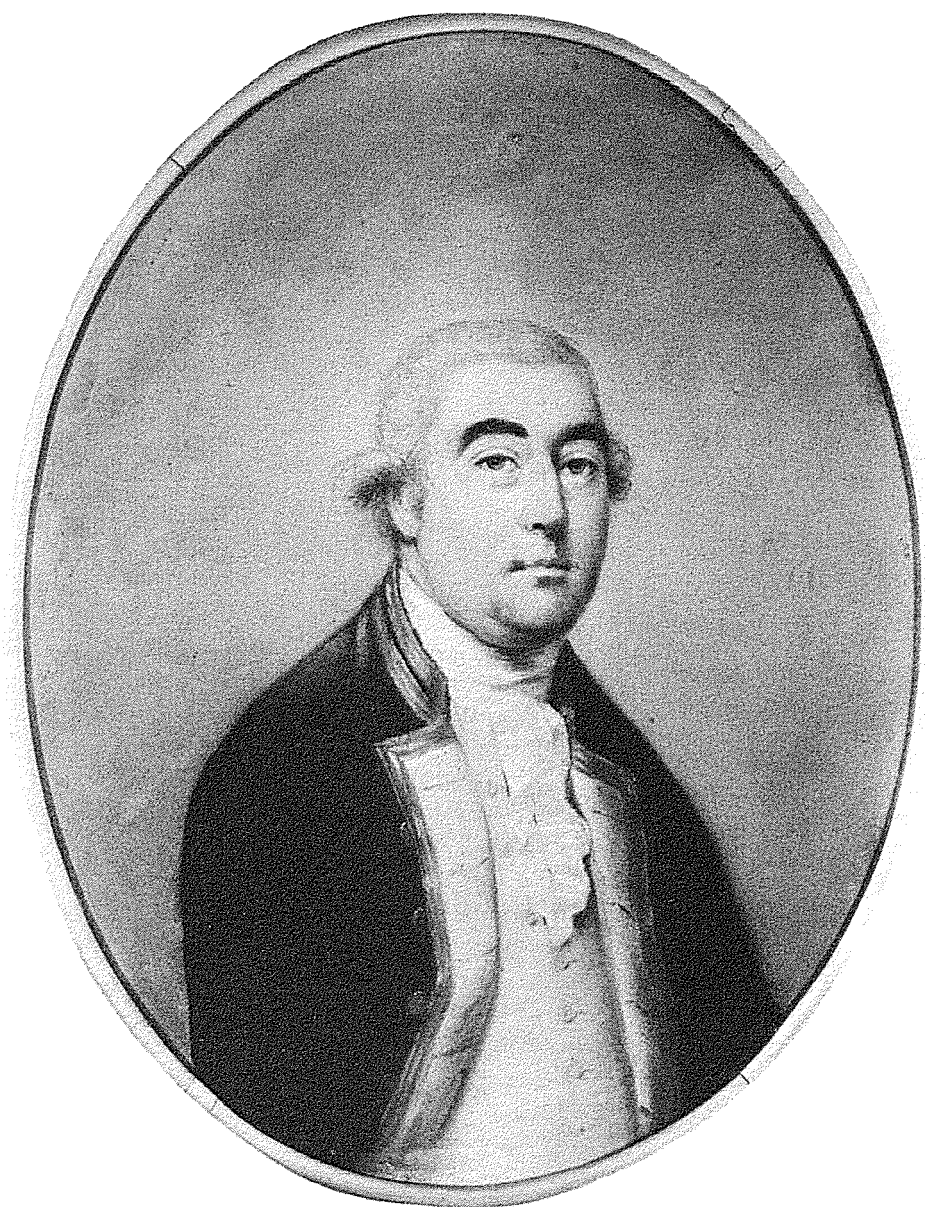
Eagle Off New York

Copy.

December the 23d 1776.

Sir In Addition to the Orders of the same Date which You will receive herewith, I have thought it necessary to communicate in this separate Instruction, for your further Government and private Information alone, some Particulars that will require your earliest Attention, respecting the more general Employment of the Naval and other Military Force sent to this Country.

Many Opportunities may probably offer in the course of the Service you have been appointed to conduct, for collecting material Intelligence and making useful Discoveries; Not only of the Preparations for further Resistance of the King's Authority by His Majesty's disaffected Subjects, but also of the Pilotage and Navigation on the most accessible parts of the Coasts within the Limits of your Station: Likewise of the Means it may be expedient to adopt, in case it should become necessary to press the Inhabitants of the delinquent Colonies with severer Hostilities; Either by Descents upon the Coasts to ravage the interior parts of the Country, or by making Seizures of Cattle and other Refreshments for the Fleet and Army.



William Hotham

But to facilitate the Acquisition of such useful Knowledge, as well as the Concealment of the purpose, those Methods and Opportunities should only be taken for Sounding or other Examination of the Coasts, that will testify the least apparent Intention of that Nature. Hence it becomes necessary to desist from all partial Attempts that may have been proposed, for weakening the Defences of the Enemy or obtaining a limited and temporary Advantage over them: As they would be thereby led to the Discovery of more effectual Measures for resisting the Military Operations it may become expedient to prosecute in great Extent hereafter, in case the Signification of the King's most gracious Intentions with which I have the Honor to be charged in Conjunction with General Howe, for restoring Peace to the Colonies, should yet fail of that happy consequence.

For your further Information therein, I forward herewith Copies of the late Declaration made expressive of His Majesty's benevolent purpose, and of the Proclamation subsequently issued: That the Contents thereof may be circulated by You amongst the Inhabitants of the Southern Provinces in such Manner as you have Opportunity to do with most Effect.

You will nevertheless continue, pursuant to the Tenor of your General Orders, to use every sufficient Means for preventing all Trade and Intercourse with the several Colonies within the Limits of your Appointed Station, according to the Intent and Meaning of the Act of the last Session of Parliament referred to therein.

For the purpose of that Act, as well as to prevent the Armed Vessels of the Enemy from putting to Sea and molesting the Trade of His Majesty's faithful Subjects inhabiting other parts of the British Dominions, or procuring Supplies of Ammunition or other Military Stores; proper Stations should be chosen for anchoring the Ships of your Division in Security, when rendered necessary by Stress of Weather, and in the ensuing Winter-Season: So that they may be soonest enabled to resume their different Stations, in the Delaware more especially, when the Navigation thereof is open in the Spring, and on the other parts of the Coast, from which they may be otherwise forced by the tempestuous Weather to be now expected in Continuance for some Length of time.

It will likewise be requisite to consider the best Means practicable for providing the Squadron with Water occasionally from some Part of the Southern Coast: That the Stationed Ships (when You are provided with a sufficient Number to extend your Care further Southward) may not be drawn away too far from those principal Channels of Communication, by which the Enemy are furnished with their chief Resources for carrying on the War. And as the possession of Rhode Island will facilitate that purpose greatly, You will profit thereby, as You see necessary.

I have added hereto a Chart of the Delaware, the Part of your present Charge to which your principal Attention, and your Presence also, will be most necessary, whilst the Rebel Forces continue in the Town of Philadelphia. The Chart is probably imperfect: Especially in the Degree of Accuracy the purpose of this Instruction requires; But it is deemed the best extant. If it is at all correct, there should be tenable Anchorage to the Westward of the Shoals forming the Pass

named the Narrows, too far distant to be incommoded from either Shore, and sufficiently extensive to prevent Molestation from the Pontoons or floating Batteries the Enemy are said to have provided for obstructing the Passage of Ships of Force higher up the River.

Tho' I would still postpone every Attempt upon those Pontoons or Floating Batteries, under such Circumstances as would lead, if suitably provided, to engage in a regular Attack of the principal Defences on which the Enemy rely for being able to protect the Town of Philadelphia from Insult; I do not therefore mean that the Ships should neglect any favorable Opportunity that may present for getting possession of, or destroying, any such Pontoons and Armed Vessels as shall be in all other Situations exposed to Capture or Annoyance.

By the Copies herewith enclosed of the Orders given to Captain Hamond, you will be fully acquainted with the Measures taken for securing the Passage of the Delaware until the Navigation is rendered impracticable, according to the general Experience, early in the next Month. You will see therein the Provision which has been made for commanding that passage in like manner later in the Spring, when the River may be cleared of Ice: This Event is said to happen at different Periods: Sometimes so early as the beginning of the second Week in February. It is therefore desirable that You should be attentive to seize the earliest Opportunity to have possession taken of the Entrance of the River, that the change of Circumstances will admit, and to repair thither yourself as soon after as may be: Taking care to leave suitable Provision for commanding the Passage in Chesapeake Bay. The Orders given to Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.], of which You are likewise furnished with a Copy, will instruct You in the Steps it has appeared expedient to pursue for the same End, prior to your Arrival on that Station. You are further provided with a Copy of the Instructions given to Captain Davis for the Conduct of a small Detachment of Ships appointed to a more distant Station, generally; But in which, by the Latitude it has been thought fit to give that discreet and diligent Officer, you may possibly have occasion to interfere. You will therefore be governed in those several Instances, and make such Alterations in the general Appointment of the different Ships, as You see to be of more immediate and effectual Benefit for His Majesty's Service. The same Liberty is given to You with respect to the Orders which (as I am at present informed) I may think fit to give to the Commanders of the other Frigates intended for the more Southern Coasts; To restrain the Commerce and Intercourse with the principal Ports on that part of the Continent also.

The Rebels having been preparing to put to Sea in Armed Ships, two or more together, of greater Force than usual, it may be proper that the Cruizers You detach for a Continuance on such distant Service as affords no Opportunity of finding Support in case of being attacked by a much superior Enemy, should not be less than two to act in Conjunction.

These different Objects will afford sufficient Occasion for the Exercise of your approved Ability and Judgment. And whilst I am therein providing for the Benefit of the public Service, I have the Satisfaction of being able with equal Propriety,

to indulge the Sentiments of Esteem with which, I have the Honor to be,
Sir [&c.]

Howe.

[Endorsed] Copy. Secret Instructions to the Commodore Hotham

Dated 23d Decemr 1776. No 3 In Lord Howe's Letr of the 15 Jany 1777

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Philada Decr 23d 1776

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Continental Fleet in this Port is increased by the arrival of the *Andrew Doria* Capt Isaiah Robi[n]son from St Eustatia which place she left the beginning of this Month & next day fell in with a British Sloop of War of 12 Guns ² which she took after a very obstinate engagement in which the *Andrew Doria* had two men killed, some Wounded, the Main Mast shot through & some other damage, The Sloop had many Men Wounded, Three shot through her Mast, her sails shot to pieces & much damage done to her, this is one of the Sloops the Lds of the Admiralty ordered Admiral Gayton to fit out at Jamaica, & Mr [William] Jones who commanded her has the Kings Commission as Master & Commander, he defended her obstinately & is certainly a brave Man. I will desire the Council of Safety to take his Parole & send him to some safe Place, Capt Robi[n]son manned this Prize & ordered her in for this Port. he also took a Snow from Jama Loaden with Mahogany & Logwood and ordered her for this Port but it is next to an impossibility for them to get in.³ Nothing but the fast Sailing of the *Andrew Doria* & the extream vigilance of the Captain brought her safe past the Enemies Ships, one of which lies in the Cape May Channelle.

The Cargo on bd this Brig Consists of 208 Dozen pair of Woolen Stockings, 106 Dozn pair of Worsted Stockings 215 Sailors Jackets, 23 Great Coats, 50 ps Dutch plains – 30 ps 900 yds Flannell, 45 ps blue, Brown & white Cloth, 463 Blankets, 218 ps 7/8 linens, Contg 6795 Dutch Ells, 496 Muskets 326 pair of Pistols 100 bbls Powder & 14101 lb of lead, for Acct of the Continent. I recd a letter last night from Genl Washington by Colo [Stephen] Moylan, requesting me to hurry Mr [James] Mease to have Soldiers Cloaths made up with all possible diligence, he says Muskets are not wanted there but that comfortable Cloathing is exceedingly wanted. Colo Moylan advises by all means to send up the Stockings and great Coats now arrived, which I think to do, but shall tell the Genl they were intended for the New Levies and leave him to dispose of them as he may think most beneficial to the Service. The Linens, Plains & Cloths I will deliver to Mr Mease with orders to have them made up, but he will find much difficulty as all the Taylors or near all, are at the Camp & the Council of Safety dare not order them down for fear the rest will follow. The Blankets shall also go to the General to be disposed of as he may think proper The Pistols Muskets, Powder & Lead, I think had best be sent to Lancaster but wish to hear from the Board of War in answer to what I wrote before on this subject The Sailors Jackets must be put onboard the Fleet being much wanted there. I propose that Captn Robi[n]son shoud put all the Seamen Prisoners on board the *Randolph* Capt Biddle & that the

latter shou'd Compell them to do duty whether they enter or not, only following the example set us by the British Act of Parliament

Mr Davis Bevan of this City was taken about five weeks ago coming into our Capes & carried to New York from thence brought round in the *Roebuck* and suffered to Land at Cape Henlopen under a promise to return. he told me that he heard Capt Hammond & other Officers say they are now determined to put a total Stop to our Trade. Six Frigates were sent to Cruize of[f] Georgia & Carolina, six of[f] the Capes of Virginia, & six of[f] our Capes. they have fixed signals & stations so as to keep a compleat line along the Coast and are determined to keep these Stations throughout the Winter if possible, he says only part of the Troops Sent to Rhode Island are to remain there, the remainder are going for Carolina, Bevan is an intelligent Man, & had an opportunity of hearing and learning these things from Lord Howes under Secretary or Clerk with whom he ingratiated himself & was employed in writing for him onbd the *Eagle*. I have sent Mr Bevan down with the letter mentioned in my last to Capt Morgan and the Prisoners on board that Fleet. The Schooner *Wasp* commanded by Lieutt [John] Baldwin has brought into Egg Harbour a Schooner loaded with Indian Corn & Oats, bound from the Lower Countys to New York, he has sent up the Master & five or six other prisoners here. they had been on board the *Falcon* Man of War Capt Linzie, & subscribed the oaths of allegiance Certificates of which were found on them, I sent these Papers to the Council of Safety who Committed the Men to Goal, as there is no Judge of the Admiralty in the Jerseys, & Judge Ross is at Lancaster, I think it advisable to send Waggon to Egg Harbour for the Corn & Oats to feed the Continental Horses in this City. these articles are very scarce here & will bear the Carriage, but I will consult Genl Putnam and the Waggon Master on this Subject as to the Vessell I am of opinion it would be best to sell her without waiting for Condemnation as the Proofs of her Guilt are clear & incontestable and she lies in too much danger to wait patiently for the usual forms. however Congress or the Marine Committee will please to give a positive order what must be done in this respect. Baldwin had retaken a French Schooner that had been taken going out of our Capes by one of the Men of War cruizing there, he was bringing her into Egg Harbour when a Fleet of 15 Sail hove in sight, two of which were two Deckers, one or two Frigates, and an Armed brige pursued him so close that he was obliged to abandon his Prize & get into the inlet fast as he cou'd. this happened last Wednesday being short of Provisions he intends coming in here and I wish he may escape the Enemy

You will perceive Sir, that our Fleet will be pretty Numerous here, altho their Force but small compared to the Dangers that surround them, I have conversed with several of the Captains & formed a plan for their getting safe out to Sea & taking such Merchantmen with them as may be ready, they approve the plan and I hope will execute it but, we must have time to get ready & they must act with great Vigilance & Spirit to effect it Upon this occasion I cannot help saying that I am very uneasy, as I am neither instructed what to do nor vested with proper Powers to act as may appear best, I must therefore request that Congress or the Marine Committee will either instruct me pointedly what to do, or give me proper Authority to Act for the best for the object is important and if misfortunes hap-

pen which is very probable it would be hard that I should hereafter be blamed when the event is known, for measures that appear previously to be well Calculated for the Publick Good – The Vessels to be got out, are the *Randolph, Delaware, Andrew Doria, Independence, Hornet, Fly & Musquito* With many Valuable Merchantmen. the *Lexington, Sachem, & Wasp* may be hourly expected in if they escape the Enemy. Sailors are Scarce, tradesmen at the Camp, and a kind of stupor seems to have seized every body that ought to give us assistance, so that it is inconceivable how slowly all work goes on & with how much difficulty we can get any thing done. I have applied to the Council of Safety to order down some Tradesmen to finish the *Delaware*, if possible, they wish but fear to Comply and if they do not she must after all remain here. Genl Washington desires me to remain here as long as possible & promises to give me notice if any immediate danger he thinks the Enemy are only waiting two events & when they happen, they will prosecute their designs against this City. that is, for ice to cross the River, & for the 1st Jany, when most of his Army will disband & he says you might as well attempt to stop the Winds from blowing or the Sun in its diurnal as to stop them from going when their time is up. General Sullivan brought him about 2000 Men, Genl Gates about 600 & his whole Force now Consists of about 5000 Men beside the City Militia, its true the Country Militia are coming in, but I suppose as many will leave him the 1st Jany as will join before that time, & if so it will not be possible for him to save this City out of the hands of the Enemy after they cross the Delaware. on this view of things, I think we ought to hazard every thing to get the Ships out & I shall advise Mr Mease, Mr Tod & all others that have Continental Stores to be prepared for removing them –

It is very mortifying to me, when I am obliged to tell you disagreeable things, but I am compelled to inform Congress that the Continental Currency keeps losing its Credit, many People refuse openly & avowedly to receive it, and several Citizens that retired into the Country must have starved if their own private Credit had not procured them the common necessarys of life, when nothing cou'd be got for Your Money, some effectual remedy should be speedily applyed to this evil or the Game will be up. Mr Commissary Wharton has told the General that the Mills refuse to Grind for him either from disaffection or dislike to the Money, be that as it may the consequences are terrible, for I do suppose the Army will not consent to starve. At present I dont recollect any thing to add to this letter but as other occurrences happen I shall give you the trouble of more letters. I think it is time that Mr Pluckrose the Express I sent down with letters to you last Tuesday shou'd return, unless detained for some purpose of Congress. by him I sent a number of French letters &c I am with Great respect Sir

Rob^t Morris

PS I am informed by Mr Moylan that Colo Guyon (I think that is the name) was taken prisoner with General Lee. he is the Colo that came over in the *Hancock & Adams* Capt Smith from Nantes –

To The Honble John Hancock Esqr President of Congress Baltimore ⁴

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 24–31, NA.

2. H. M. Sloop *Racehorse*.

3. In his autobiography, Joshua Barney prize master of the snow *Thomas*, taken by the *Andrew Doria*, wrote:

we fell in [with] & took a snow from Jamaica on board of which I went as prize master; I parted with the Brig having encountered bad weather, we were twelve days on the coast in which time we experienced 8 gales of wind; on Christmas night 1776 got among the breakers on Chincoteague shoals with a gale at East; I was obliged to anchor in that dreadful situation, every sea broke over our vessel, my crew & self were obliged to get into the tops to prevent being washed overboard, where we remained several hours waiting for day light, at length the long-wished day appeared, when we discovered the land right astern of us, at a short distance; the breakers mountains high; we expected every moment that our Cable would break & nothing but death stared us in the face; about ten O'Clock we saw a Sloop near us, bound in, & in a few minutes she struck the ground; went to pieces & we saw no more of her or her crew, in the afternoon the wind changed & became moderate, we then got under way & the next day got into the harbour of Chincoteague, here I remained several days.

Manuscript Autobiography, DARL.

4. Morris wrote a similar letter to General Washington this date, Washington Papers, LC.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] Decem. 23d, 1776.

Mr. [John Maxwell] Nesbitt order'd to pay Jno. Brown for services in sinking the Chevaux de Frize at Billingsport, Fifty-four Pounds five shillings & six pence, to be charged to Congress.

J. M. Nesbitt order'd to pay Benjamin Croffts Five Pounds on acco't for Painting the Gallies.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 60.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Honrble Gent –

Philedelphia Decr 23d 1776

I wrote you from Christiana Bridge on the 19 Inst and on the 21st arive at this Place, where I waited on General Putnam for orders he directed me to the Marine Board; on waiting on them my People were desired to Assist in fitting out the *Delaware* – There is nothing at this time appears alarming the Enemy are retreating its Supposed to Winters Quarters I am Extremeley willing to do every thing in my Power to Serve our Country but it appears to me from what intelligence we have, that we shall not be wanting, in that Case it will be better to be fitting out the *Defence*, I have inclosed you a List of the Officers and men now with me, they are in high Spirits and are very desirous of Engageing the Ennemey, and I am satisfy'd would have Endeavour'd to Excell each other in being of most service to their Country, I had not time before I set of[f] to make mention of those Gentlemen who are worthy of Preferment, I now will use the freedom of mentioning My first Lieutt Mr [Henry] Auchenlick Likewise my Second Mr [John] Burnell both these Gentlemen are very deserving, and none more worthy within the Circle of my Acquaintance in the State of Maryland, I am Honrble Gent [&c.]

Geo Cook

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

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

Sir.

Roebuck off the Delaware the 23d Decr [17]76 –

It is my desire and direction to you, that you proceed with His Majestys Ship under your command to New York, in order to Convoy there, the *Two Friends* Brig a Prize taken this morning from the Rebels, and having seen her in safely, you are to take the officer and people out of her, and return to join me here with the utmost expedition. I am Sir Your &ca &ca

A S Hamond

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, *Roebuck*, 1775–1778, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD
HOWE¹

My Lord.

Roebuck off the Delaware 23d Decr 1776

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that I have this morning taken a Philadelphia Vessel, that came from Cape Francoi's with a quantity of Gunpowder, small Arms, Sulphur, and coarse Linnens intendd for the use of the Rebel Army. I have taken the Powder out of her, but as what remains are Articles of Great consequence to the Rebels, I have ordered Captain Phipps in the *Camilla* to see the prize safe to New York, and to bring my people back to me. I have the honor to be Your Lordships [&c.]

A S Hamond

Lord Vct Howe &ca &ca &ca

Eagle New York

1. Hamond, Letter Book, March 1776–December 1777, UVL.

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

Decr 76

At single Anchor under C: May EBS3/4S Lt House
S1½ Wt

Mondy 23nd

At 8 AM sent the Master & 11 Men in the Prize Sloop to get the Bt Br Anchor & part of the Cable The *Roebuck* & *Camilla* in sight in the So Qr The Brig *two friends* belonging to Philadelphia with Arms, Powder, Rum, Molasses &ca &ca from C: Francois was taken in sight of the *Falcon* by H: M: Ship *Roebuck* Fresh breezes & fair Wr At 5 PM The Master return'd with the Sloops Anchor & Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Baltimore] Monday, December 23, 1776

Resolved, That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be directed to inform the Commissioners at the Court of France, that Congress have received no advices concerning the proceedings of Portugal but what they have seen in the news papers, the authenticity of which may be doubtful. That Congress desire exact

information from the Commissioners, whether any American vessels have been prohibited entering, or have been confiscated, in the dominions of Portugal, and on what principles.

That they be directed to remonstrate in the firmest tone with the Portuguese Ambassador on these subjects, so soon as they shall have well informed themselves of the facts above mentioned.

That the Commissioners be authorised to arm and fit for war any number of vessels not exceeding six, at the expence of the United States, to war upon British property, and that commissions and warrants be for this purpose sent to the Commissioners, provided the Commissioners be well satisfied this measure will not be disagreeable to the court of France.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1034, 1035–36.

“A LIST OF MEN BELONGING TO THE SHIP *Defence* OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND
NOW AT PHILADELPHIA UNDER THE COMMAND OF GEO. COOK, ESQR DECEMR
23D 1776”¹

Henry Auchenlick Lieutt	William Granthum
William Morris Lieut Marines	William Huggard
Frans Muir, Purser	Moses Gear
Nathanl Cooper, Mate	John Barr
Levin Langrel Mate	Philip Henley
George Rowen, Mastr at Arms	David Primrose
John Berryman, Gunner.	Robert Conner
Doctr Nathan Dawsey [Dorsey]	John Lemmon
Surgeon	John Grant
John Hall. 1st Mate	Dennis Foolse
Benjamin Simpson. Boats Mate	John Kerr
Robert Fassitt	Thomas Tivey
John Knight	William Judges
Thoms Crow	Robert Wallace
John Vaughan	William Prince
William Davis	Moses Scott
Nicholas McGough	William Piercey
Matthew Clinton	Benj Thompson
Joshua Hozier	James Brown
Danl Nevin	Thomas Gibby
Thomas Hanes	John McIntyre
Robert Hope	Frans Jackquelin
John McKinnie	James Codey
John Squib	Henry Kerr
Charles Chamberlane	Simon Trainor
James Gifford	Jos Jones
Charles McNelus	William Trott
Conrad McGuire	John Donavin
James McGill	Michl Conaway
John Garvey	James Gaggan

Charles Blunt
 John Redman
 Morgan Murphe
 Saml Murphe
 William Gaggan
 James Armstrong
 Walter Lemasters
 Nathan Ross

Jos Walpole
 Jacob Sutton
 Benj Sutton
 Marshall Williams
 John Chaise
 William Beauchamp Carpr
 Richard Cockey
 Alexander Duffey

1. Revolutionary Collection (Ms. 1814), MdHS.

NORTH CAROLINA MEMORIAL TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax, North Carolina, December 23, 1776]

The Memorial of the State of North Carolina To the Delegates of the united States of America in Congress Assembled.

Sheweth

That about twelve Months past Joseph Hewes and Robert Smith Esquires of Edenton, Merchants and free Citizens of this State loaded a Certain Brigantine called the *Joseph* under the command of Emperor Moseley, and sent her to Cadiz in Spain, where she was detained until the Ninth day of October by British Ships of War which Cruized off the said Port

That on the Eleventh day of November last the said Brigantine being on her return to Edenton with Two Thousand bushels of Salt, a quantity of Wine, Jesuits bark and other Articles of very considerable value was Seized and made a Prize of by a Privateer belonging to Boston in the state of Massachusetts Bay Named the *Eagle*, and Commanded by Brazilla Smith and said to be the property of Elijah Freeman Paine, as by the Deposition hereto Annexed will appear.

That the said Capture appears to this State to be a direct Violation of the peace and union of the united States, and Contrary to the Laws of all Civilized Nations in general, and to the rights of the Citizens of this State in particular.

This state ever watchful over the Rights of its Members, expects that Strict justice will be done in the premisses either by the Captors, or the State of Massachusetts Bay, and have no doubt, but the Delegates of the united States will effectually interpose to have Justice done to injured Citizens, and to punish those atrocious Violators of all Law and Justice, whose Avarice and rapacity if not timely checked, cannot fail to be attended with the most fatal consequence to the American union

Corn^s Hartnett President

By Order

Ja^s Green jun Secy

[Deposition annexed]

Before us Thomas Jones & Thomas Benbury Esquires Members of the Congress for the State of North Carolina, specially appointed by the said Congress to take depositions relative to the Capture of the Brigantine *Joseph*

Personally appeared Emperor Mosely late Master of the said Brigantine

and being sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth & Saith that he this deponent was master of the said Brigantine *Joseph*, that he sailed with the said Brigantine under his command from the Port of Edenton in the said state on the twenty second day of January One thousand seven hundred & seventy five with a Cargo of Pipe Staves & Tar the property of Joseph Hewes & Robert Smith Esquires, Merchants in Edenton in the said State on a Voyage to Cadiz in Spain, that the said Cargo was Consign'd to Messrs Duff & Welch in the said Port of Cadiz, that he arrived at the said Port of Cadiz on the twenty third day of February following and delivered his said Cargo to the said Duff & Welch, and received from them & others a Quantity of Salt, Wine & other Articles as by an Invoice hereto Annexed will more fully appear and was ready to sail from the said Port of Cadiz for the said Port of Edenton in the state of North Carolina aforesaid on the twenty third day of March following that on the said twenty third day of March Three British Ships of War appeared off the said Harbour of Cadiz; where they continued to Cruise, and some of them were seen almost every day till on or about the seventh day of October following, so that this deponent could not get out of the said Port during all that time with any Probability of escaping them, that on the ninth of the said Month of October having a fair Wind and being informed by Messrs Duff & Welch that the said British Ships were gone to Gibraltar, he sailed from the said Port of Cadiz for the said Port of Edenton in the state of North Carolina aforesaid, that he proceeded on the said Voyage till the tenth day of November being then in or near the Latitude of 35.39. Longitude 57.0. he spoke with a Schooner called the *Eagle*, that he this deponent was ordered to heave too that the Schooner might send her Boat on board his said Brigantine that soon after the Lieutenant and two men came on board his said Vessel and told this deponent that his said Schooner was a Privateer, that she was called the *Eagle*, commanded by Brazilla Smith and that he this deponent must go on board the said Schooner with his Papers, that this deponent went on board the said Schooner & carried with him the Register of his said Brigantine, a Bill of Health & Certificate of the landing his Cargo in Spain also several Letters for his said Owners and for Persons in several other States, that the officers of the said Schooner broke open all the said Letters and carelessly threw them and the Invoice & other Papers about the Cabin of the said Schooner, that this deponent afterwards took up such of them as he could find and took care of them, that the said officers told him this deponent he ought to have a Proper clearance from Spain, that they must carry his said Brigantine into Boston, that on the eleventh day of November they took possession of his said Brigantine and put a Prize Master and six men on board and took out of the said Brigantine the Mate and two hands and carried them on board the said Privatier, that they the said officers then put him this deponent on board the said Brigantine, that the Prize Master told him this deponent the said Privatier belonged to Elijah Freeman Payne of Boston, that soon after the Prize Master and his men had taken possession of the said Brigantine they unstowed the Wine, put one cask of it on board the Privatier and brought another cask up into the Brigantines Cabin broached it, and suffered the People to draw out when they pleased, that on the seventeenth day of Novemr at twelve oClock this deponent took an observation and found the

Brigantine was then in the Latitude of 33.0. North, that he then desired the Prize Master who had the charge of the said Brigantine to take care he did not get on the rocks of Bermuda before morning that this deponent thought they must be near the said Island to which the said Prize Master replied he was seven or eight degrees to the eastward of the said Island, this deponent further saith that at two o'Clock in the morning of the eighteenth of November the said Brigantine *Joseph* struck on the Rocks of the said Island, that the said Brigantine was among the Rocks a considerable time and struck very hard many times, that the said Brigantine beat over several Rocks at length they came to an Anchor in Ten fathom Water and lay till about Ten o'Clock when several Boats came from the shore and the People conducted the said Vessel clear of the said Island, This deponent further saith that the Prize Master and his men appeared to him, this deponent to be very little acquainted with the management of square rigged Vessels that they took little or no care of the Provisions on board that he saw great waste committed, that he this deponent offered several times to conduct the Vessel for them into any Port they chose, if they would give him leave, that the Prize Master refused and said he could carry her in. This deponent further saith that when he considered how severely the Brigantine had Struck on the rocks, that the Prize Master and his Crew were very ignorant, that the Provisions on board were wasting very fast, that the Brigantine was going on a Winter's coast he thought it prudent and necessary for his own safety to leave the said Brigantine, that he applied to the Prize Master and obtained his leave to go on shore in one of the Boats that came off from the said Island of Bermuda, that he landed on the said Island in the afternoon of the eighteenth of November from whence he got a passage to this State and further this deponent saith not.

Emperor Moseley

Sworn to the 23d day of December 1776 before us

Thos Jones Thos Benbury

[Invoice enclosed]

Invoice of Sundry Goods on board the Brigantine *Joseph* Emperor Mosely Master, at the time She was Taken by the Schooner *Eagle* Brazilla Smith Commander – Viz.

2080 Bushels of Salt	20/	2080 -
50 Quarter Butts of fine old Sherry	£20	1000 -
2 Casks contg 200 lbs Jesuits Bark	80/	800 -
3 Jars Raisons	50/	7.10 . . .
9 Barcelona Handkerchiefs		6.10 . . .
1 Cask Brandy 10 gallons	15/	7.10 . . .
8 gallons rum	15/	6 -
3 doz botled Wine		10 -
20 lb Powder	12/	12 -
1 Jar sweet Oyl		3 -
1 Case containging 15 Bottles		2 -
2 Bolts Canvas		16 -

2 bbls Bread	4. . . . -
2 ditto Pork & Beef	10. . . . -
Sundry Cabin & other Stores	10. . . . -
Brigantine <i>Joseph</i> valued at, and if she had arived in North Carolina would have sold for	1500. . . . -
Equal to 13686¼ Dollars	£5474. 10. . . -

Before us Thomas Jones & Thomas Benbury Esquires

Personally appeared Emperor Mosely late master of the Brigantine *Joseph*, and being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God depose & saith, that at the time he was taken by the Privatier *Eagle*, commanded by Brazilla Smith all the Articles above mentioned to the best of his knowledge & belief were on board the Said Brigantine *Joseph* accept Two Quarter Butts of the Wine which he believes were leaked out, and further this deponent saith not.

Sworn to this 23d day of

Emperor Mosely

December 1776 before us

Tho: Jones Thos Benbury

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases (Miscellaneous Case Papers), Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA.

GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF TO GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD ¹

(Copy.)

St Eustatius Decembr 23d 1776.

Sir, I have duly received from the hand of Mr Stanley your Honour's Letter of the 17th Inst the contents whereof I found to be Such as apparently concerned the intire Government of this Island.

When Vague, general and uncircumstanced report prevail tending to disturb that Harmony which ought to subsist between the commanding officers of the respective Governments, reports perhaps industriously propagated to undermine (if possible) that Friendship and cordiality, which have long Subsisted and I hope will long continue to Subsist, between His Brittanick Majesty, and Their High Mightinesses the Lords States General of the united Netherlands, my Masters; when I Say Such Reports prevail it might be expected that one commander in chief Should mention them to another, always in hope that Facts have not been represented in their true Light and a reasonable Expectation of having every Just cause of National offence prevented or removed; But that Such an application Should be ushered in with assurances of it's being in every respect founded upon the most authentick Informations is a Subject demanding very particular consideration.

The Government of this Island disavows being in any wise acquainted which [*sic* with] such unwarrantable Proceedings as the following, namely, that the Inhabitants are daily and openly employed in furnishing warlike Stores and other materials for offensive and piratical purposes: That warlike and piratical Vessels are either owned or fitted out and equipped in this port for the declared purpose of piratically cruizing against and making captures of the Ships and Properties of the peaceable Subjects of His Brittanick Majesty or in short, that the daily and pub-

lick Business transacted here is for the avowed Intent of carrying on a Scene of piracy and depredation such as it has been described.

And as the Same Government is entirely Ignorant of Such criminal practices prevailing here, and is not only disposed to prevent them, but likewise offers upon every regular and well founded application to punish the Persons, who upon a legal Trial should be found guilty of the charge, it is by, and with the advice of the Council of the Island, that I beg leave to require the Proofs from the most authentic Information of such illicit proceedings to be particularized, the Facts stated, and well attested against Such Individuals as may have been or are censureable, which I must to be allowed to say, ought in this respect to have accompanied your Honour's application, Since it is impossible for me to proceed against any part of the community upon a general charge, and neither my Commission nor the Laws of the Land allow me to prosecute without Evidence or to condemn Without Proofs.

And your Honour may be perfectly assured that as soon as the Government of this Island should receive such complete Information touching any illegal Proceedings as may be Sufficient for a Discovery and conviction of the Supposed offenders, all the Satisfaction which the Nature of the complaint require, shall be given.

With respect to the capture of a Brigantine by an armed Sloop called the *Baltimore Hero*; as upon friendly application I had the honour of receiving from his Excellency Governor [Thomas] Shirley in behalf of the Sufferers, I had their case brought before the Council for the purpose of making the strictest Enquiries in order to investigate the Truth. I flatter my Self that I have it in my power to inform my Lord and masters upon how slender a foundation that affair, with all its circumstances hath been represented in the light we have Seen, But there is another particular touching which, I beg leave to request Proofs, from the most authentick information your honour is pleased to mention namely; that the Government of this Island hath openly and publicly allowed, countenanced, abetted and promoted such illicit proceedings as are before mentioned. – This I apprehend to be a Piece of Justice due from one private man to another, much more have I cause to expect it from a Commander in Chief, of whom I have had the honour of receiving heretofore the assurances of his reciprocal endeavours for promoting a good understanding between the respective Governments.

Not concious of having in any respect Violated the Treaties, or that knowingly and willfully any indignities have been offered to the king your master; I don't know of any attonement I have to make, and I always have been, and am still so far from betraying any partiality upon the occasion of these unhappy Disturbances between Great Britain & her North American Colonies, that I sincerely wish they were happily terminated to the Satisfaction of both. But it must not therefore be expected that without receiving any express orders from the Power under whom I preside, I should take upon me to lay any restraints upon such a Trade and Navigation as I am confident their High Mightinesses will not suffer to be interrupted and thus injure the Colonies under my Direction and that part of the commercial Interest of the Dutch Nation committed to my care by the Lords Directors of the Honble West India Company.

As to the Treatment or Reception which the Fortresses of the Island under my command have given to any Vessels whatsoever I flatter my Self that when my Masters require it, I shall be able to render such an account as will show how far the Informations your Honour may have received are authentick, or founded upon matter of fact.

And here I cannot avoid mentioning to your Honour the Liberties which a noted publisher of many kinds of Informations has of late taken, not only with my Person and this Government, but likewise with a Nation from which I shall ever deem it an Honour to be sprung, I mean in a Paper, printed in an Island under your Honor's Command, and of your constant residence – Knowing that the Liberty of the Press in no other civilized Government tolerated to Such a degree, is the usual plea upon Such occasion. I have hitherto been Silent, though not insensible to Such injurious and unmerited reproaches; but an illiberality of this kind hath been aggravated by the addition of Threats and menances of Hostilities against a settlement of the Dutch Nation in a time of profound peace and amity: I shall Submit to the wisdom of my Masters, when their Lordships are duly informed of it, for curbing Such Insolencies offered, I may Say without provocation.

Before I conclude, I must observe that as I don't recollect ever to have been backward, or to have refused giving your honour satisfaction upon a regular and well founded application, I have preferred the mode of transmitting your Honour my answer in writing only to that of entering with Mr Stanley (without any disparagement to the respectableness of that Gentleman's character and Station in your Government) in to any discussion touching either the subject matter of your Honor's letter, or my conduct in any shape; choosing to say no more about the propriety or impropriety of this Step, as having relation to the tenor of the latter part of your honour's Letter, which I conceive to have the appearance of calling me to an account within my own Government, which none upon Earth but my Lords and Masters have a right to do. I am &ca

(Signed) Johannes de Graaff.

1. Admiraliteits Colleges, No. 487, Neth. Arch. A second copy is in Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 208–11, Neth. Arch.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ABRAHAM RAVENÉ'S TESTIMONY ¹

Copy.

We, Johannes Heyliger and Pieter Rúnnels, Councilmen of these Islands

Document and acknowledge the testimony of Mr. Abraham Ravené, Commandant of the Fortress and Militia of the Island of St. Eustatius in the service of the Honorable General Chartered Netherlands West Indies Company, who declared on his oath and his commission, at the request of the Honorable Johannes De Graaff, Governor of this Island, and the dependent Islands of Saba and St. Martin,

That the ships or vessels of war of any recognized power which salute the Fort are answered shot for shot, whereas all Merchantmen from what ever nation are answered with two shots less.

St. Eustatius 23 December 1776

With knowledge of Johannes Heyliger
Pieter Runnels

Alexander le Jeune
Secretary

Abraham Ravené Commandant

1. Tweede West-Indische Compagnie, No. 639, 293, Neth. Arch.

CAPTAIN JOHN COLPOYS, R. N., TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG¹

(Copy) *Seaford* English harbour Decr the 23rd, 1776.

Sir, In obedience to your orders of the 14th Instant, delivered to me by Lieut Tinsley of the *Endeavour*, I immediately proceeded to the Island of St Eustatia, where, at my arrival, I sent an Officer, to wait on Governor de Graaf, with a Letter, a Copy of which, with his answer, I herewith inclose you.²

His Answer was brought on board to me by one of his Aid de Camps who informed me, that the Governor hoped I wou'd Salute the Fort, and that an equal number of Guns shou'd be returned, upon the Perusal of the Governors letter, I found an evasive answer was given on the Subject of the Forts returning Salutes to Vessels, wearing the Colours, of the American Rebels. I desired to know of the Aid de Camp, whether he had authority to talk to me on that Subject, his answer was in the Negative, I then, desired him to acquaint the Governor, that till I had a more positive Answer to my Question, I must decline Saluteing the Fort, and that, when I waited on his Excellency (which I purposed having the Honor of doing the next Morning, with the Admirals dispatches) I then did not doubt, his elucidating my suspicions, so far, as to enable me to Salute the Fort; The following was the purport of our Interview, and which past (partly in French) the Governor not being (as he told me) so perfect in the English language, as he cou'd wish, and for which reason I read over, your remonstrance to him, more than once, & 'till he told me, that he perfectly comprehended every part of it, & I really believe he did; for some Words, which a Foreigner might not so well understand, the full force of, he particularly requested an Explanation of.

His Excellency first hinted to me how Happy he shou'd be, to return Gun for Gun, if I did his Fort the Honor of Saluting it, upon which I told him, that before I did my self that Honor, I must have a clear explanation of that part of my letter (which I sent his Excellency on my Arrival) relative to their High Mightinesses Fort receiving and returning the Salutes of Vessels Sailing under the Colours of Pirates and Rebels. His answer was, that Statia was a Free Port, of course all Vessels under whatsoever Colours, were at Liberty to come in there, and if the Fort was Saluted, 2 Guns less was returned to all Mercht Vessels, to Kings Ships an equal Number, I then desired to know, whether, upon a Vessel coming in under Colours that were not known and, Saluting the Fort, whether Curiosity (or in my opinion common prudence) did not lead him to ask, what State they belonged to, before the Fort returned the Salute, and that I apprehended, a Vessel coming into

St Eustatia Road, with what was now called American Colours, must fall under that predicament. His answer was – As to his Fort returning Salutes to a Vessel under Provincial Colours, that was what he cou'd account for only to his Masters. I then told him that I must consider his Excellencys Answer as an avowal of the Fact, and that we must drop all thoughts of any Salutes passing between us in Future, for if their High Mightinesses, suffered their Flag to be so far degraded, as to return Salutes to the Colours of a Set of People who bid defiance to all Law, that I cou'd never think of degrading the Flag of the King my Master so much as either to give, or receive Salutes, from the Forts, of a State, who made no distinction between the Flag, of a Lawful Sovereign, or that of a Set of Pirates, & Rebels, which was the only light the King of Great Britains Subjects, who had taken up Arms against him cou'd be considered in, by any State, or Country, that wished to continue in Amity with him. – This was all that passed on the Subject of Saluting the Fort, except the Governor saying, that he was sorry to see, I was inclineable to give Ear to the Reports which were every day propagated to the prejudice of his Government. We then proceeded to discuss the different Heads of your remonstrance & the Memorial of Messrs Bendall & McConnell – His Excellency told me at large, that it always had been his wishes, & Study, to keep up the good understanding which had so long subsisted between the King of Great Britain & their High Mightinesses, and that with regard to the Americans, he never had, nor never wou'd give 'em any Countenance, or Protection, but what he was directed to, by his Orders, That in a Free Port like St Eustatia there must of course be many People, who wou'd do irregular things, and that whenever any came to his Knowledge, he wou'd exert himself in Punishing the Offenders, As to American Armed Vessels sending their Prizes into any part of his Government its what he never means to offer, nor had he ever countenanced any Armed Vessels coming in there, & that had hitherto come (except the Sloop which had taken Messrs Bendall and McConnells Brigg) under Provincial Colours, came there as Merchant Men, and that on the arrival of the abovementioned Armed Sloop, he directly gave directions, for her quitting the Port, which She did accordingly. – I then told the Governor that the Memorialists Bendall and McConnell, thought they could bring sufficient Evidence to prove, that Persons in St Eustatia were, either the sole Proprietors, or part Owners of the Armed Sloop that had taken their Brig, and requested him to call a Council, and let the Memorialists produce their Evidence, and that the Persons accused, by said Evidence might be sent for, he then told me my Request shou'd be complied with in every respect, of which I gave notice to the Memorialists, who were accordingly, with their Witnesses summoned to attend the Council the next morning, The result of which was, as I have heard, (and of which the Governor has given you a full Acct in his Letter) that a Mr Vanbibber a Mercht in St Eustatia was the Person accused of fitting the said Privateer, but I dont find that there were sufficient Evidence to prove it, Vanbibber said, that he neither was directly, or indirectly, concerned in the Vessel, of which he was ready to give his Oath, that he had (by Order) supplied the Master of her with 50 Johannises, how he disposed of them, he cou'd not say, by what I cou'd learn the reports of Vanbibber's having any concern in the Vessel, proceeded from a conversation (which was overheard) of some Sailors who had been entered for her, They were not then in Statia, but the Gov-

ernor gave me the most Positive Assurances, that he wou'd, if possible, find them out in order to come at the Truth, and that if any body, under his Government cou'd be found out, to have any concern in said Privateer, that they shou'd be punished with the utmost severity, & full restitution made to the sufferers.

All this seemed very candid and fair, nevertheless, I must beg leave to observe to you, that Governor De Graaf is well known to have given more Aid, and Assistance, to the American Rebels than any other Man in his Government, being by far, the most Wealthy, & considerable Merchant in St Eustatia, he of course, has been the best able to carry on the most extensive Illicit Trade with the Rebellious Colonists. —

I cou'd get no acct of the Schooner called the *Gunticanute*, but I learnt that many Vessels under like circumstances, had come out from Holland, & sent their Cargoes from St Eustatia to North America.

I made enquiry about some three pound Guns, but was informed that there was no Man in Statia dared sell me one, I went to different places where there were some, and was told, that they were all bespoke.

I beg leave to acquaint you of my having taken on the 15th Instant a Schooner called the *Driver*, from Philadelphia bound to St Eustatia, three Weeks out, the Master and people quitted her, & got on shore at St Eustatia. I am Sir [&c.]

John Colpoys. —

[Endorsed] In V. A. Young's Letter Dated 31st Decr 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

2. See Colpoys to de Graaff and de Graaff's answer, December 16.

COUNT D'ARGOUT TO GABRIEL DE SARTINE ¹

[Extract]

Martinique

No. 187

Mylord, Since it is undoubtedly important for the interest of France to know exactly the real state of affairs in New England, I have deemed necessary to send you, Mylord, M. de Ksain, commanding the King's frigate *Favorite*. I do not doubt for a single moment that you are informed of these events by way of England, but the intelligence which I have the honor to forward to you has been sent to me by reliable persons who, moreover, are on the scene of the revolution.²

If it is the future policy of France to take sides in this war, an exact knowledge of the present state of affairs would undoubtedly become the base and the decisive factor for any resolutions which might be made in this matter.

The situation of the Americans, Mylord, is almost desperate. The defeats that they have suffered are far more injurious in their effects than they are in themselves. They have spread discouragement among the troops and made the future uncertain, unless General Washington is fortunate enough to take advantage of the last spark of enthusiasm and gathers as many troops as possible in order to fight a pitched battle with decisive results. In my opinion, it is the only thing he can do in view of his present position: any rebellion which suffers repeated defeats loses

its dash by presenting to every individual and consequently, and in this case especially, to the whole the consideration of a future full of the worst woes.

On the other hand, Mylord, this pitched battle which, as I dare assure you, is General Washington's only resort would be extremely dangerous any way you look at it.

He will lead undisciplined soldiers against experienced troops, people who are either carried away by blind fury or crushed under an overwhelming consternation against firm and already victorious men. He can only fight at a great disadvantage against the superiority already gained by His British Majesty's army.

We can only hope for the effectiveness of a last effort which, I confess, sometimes produces marvelous results but on which we can count only to a certain point.

I had the honor to inform you that a number of transport vessels had arrived at Antigua and that four small frigates from General Howe's army³ had arrived at Dominica and Grenada to spend the winter in these ports. I am with respect etc.

D'Argout

Fort Royal, 23 December 1776.

1. AN, Marine, B⁷, 458, 54, LC Photocopy.

2. Letters of November 23, 1776 from Cotiney de Prejent and M. Pliarne were enclosed with this letter.

3. From Admiral Howe's fleet, not from the army.

24 Dec.

WILLIAM GARDNER TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Sir

Portsmo Decemr 24. 1776 –

By desire of Collo Langdon, (he being absent on Publick Business) I now inform you that the Captor's part of the Nt proceeds of the Prize Ship *Royal Exchange* is ready in his Hands (as Captors Agent) to pay them on Demand, the amot of which is £2800.8.9¼ Lawf. money, he therefore begs you would cause a list of the Officers, Seamen &c to be sent him as soon as may be in order that he may know who is intituled to receive it, as he would not wish to protract the payment thereof on their applying for the same. – In the Interim I am Sir [&c.]

William Gardner

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

WILLIAM GARDNER TO ARCHIBALD MERCER, BOSTON MERCHANT¹

Sir

Portsmouth Decem, 24th 1776

Capt. John Hart waits on you for what Guns is wanted for the Ship *Portsmouth*,² let them be of such Size as you can procure – either 4, 6 or 9 pound[er]s or part of each, he will acquaint you of what is now here. – She was launched on Saturday last & is now equipping with all expedition –

Colo Langdon being absent on Public Business prevents his writing you, but desir'd I would (previous to his leaving Town) acquaint you of his being disappointed in Monies he expected to receive, therefore requests you would be pleas'd to send him P Return of the Bearer 1500 or £2,000 L My – as he is in much need

thereof, which request hope you'l grant that he may not be further disappointed.
In the interim I am Sir [&c.]

Wm Gardner

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

SUNDRIES TAKEN FROM PRIZE SHIP *Royal Exchange* FOR USE OF CONTINENTAL
FRIGATE *Raleigh* ¹

1776	Ship <i>Raleigh</i> to Ship <i>Royal Excha</i>	Dr
	For Sunds Dld Mr [Hopley] Yeaton ² Viz	
	1 Hanging Compass	2 Ensigns
	1 Brass Do	1 Loggerhead
	1 Glass Globe	1 Top Mall
	1 pr Man ropes	1 Boats Chain
	5 Cutt Lasses	2 hand Leads
	1 large Oil Kanister	2 Cartouch Boxes
	3 Time Glasses	4 Small Arms
	1 large Speakg Trumpet	1 pitch Pot
	1 Hand Do	1 Copper Kettle
	1 Lanthorn	1 Do Stewpan
	1 Shark Hook	1 Water Jarr
	7 Large Water Butts	

Portsmo Decr 24th 1776 Errors Excepted p George Libbey
[Endorsed] not Enter'd – Ship *Roy Exchge* being bot for benefit of Continent

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.
2. Lieutenant on board the *Raleigh*.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXCHANGE OF NAVAL PRISONERS AT NEW YORK ¹

Instructions for the Commissary appointed to settle the Exchange of Prisoners at New York. –

- 1st. – You are to Hoist a White Flag at the Fore Mast Head of the and to continue it abroad Night and Day 'till you return again to this Port. –
- 2d – You are to be particularly Careful that no Cannon, Musket Pistol, or Fire Arm of any kind be received into the Vessel whilst she is considered as a Cartel a Violation of this Order may Possibly occasion the detention of the and furnish a pretence to do an Act of Violence under the Assertion that the Vessel is fitted for War –
- 3d – The Prisoners are to be Victualled at Two Thirds Allowance
- 4th – A Quiet peaceable demeanour towards the Prisoners is particularly recommended, and to avoid a[ll] dissentions on Board – You are enjoined not to make the present unhappy dispute the Subject of your Conversation with them. –
- 5th – It will be difficult on many Accounts to lay down the exac Mode you are to follow in the Exchange – That must be left to your own Judgment, – only this you will Observe, that the Prisoners are to be exchanged for a like number of Persons belonging to the New England States (giving preference however to this

State) if to be had, if not, to any other of the American States, who are Prisoners under the direction of Lord Howe –

6th – You are to make all the Dispatch, that the Nature of the Service will permit, in returning to this Port with those Faithful Subjects of the States of America whom you may receive in Exchange, and have a Written Certificate from the Commissary or other Officer appointed to conduct the exchange of Prisoners that in Case there are not Sufficient faithful Subjects of the States of America at present Prisoners in New York, he will cause a Number equal to the Deficiency in Rank and Numbers to be Released in future, in case it shall Please the Ruler of all Human Events to permit so many more of the faithfull Subjects of the States of America, to be at the disposition of the Commander in Chief of the British Forces. –

7th – On your arrival at New York you are forthwith to apply to Lord Howe or some proper Officer and present the Letter herewith deliver'd you directed to him, and exhibit a Copy of the Instructions, and also a List of your Prisoners, to the End they may be exchanged as above –

[Endorsed] Instructions for the Commissary respecting the Exchange of Prisoners Decembr 24t 1776 –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 158–59.

PETITION OF EDWARD SOUTHOUSE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

To the Honble the Council of the State
of the Massachusetts in North America

Edward Southouse Attorney General of the Province of Quebeck having sundry Goods and Effects on Board the British Cloathing Ship lately brought into Dartmouth and being advised by the Captain of the *Alfred* Ship of Warr to go down there to look after his said Goods takes the Liberty of requesting this Honourable Board to give him Leave to go to Dartmouth for the purposes aforesaid and to take a Servant with him –

Edwd Southouse

Milk Street – Boston 24th Decr 1776

[Endorsed] State of Massachusetts-Bay

In Council Chamber Decr. 25th 1776 – On the Petition of Edwd. Southouse

Ordered that the said Edwd. Southouse be and he hereby is permitted to go from the Town of Boston to Dartmouth in this State for the purpose of looking after and collecting together his Effects taken on board the Prize Ship *Mellish* lately carried into that Port and depositing them in some safe place, provided he obtains the consent of the Capt: of the Continental Armed Ship *Alfred* or any person having the care of the said Prize Ship & Cargo, so to do – The said Southouse is constantly to continue in the Custody of Mr. Jeremiah Belknap of Boston during his absence from thence And the said Belknap is authorized and directed to take the said Southouse into his Custody for the purpose aforesaid and to return with him to Boston within Eight Days at furthest, or sooner if he shall have compleated his business abovementioned, or shall not be permitted by the said Capt: [John Paul] Jones or the Person having the care of the said Prize Ship or Cargo to meddle with his Effects –

Provided that the said Southouse shall pay the said Belknap his reasonable [demands for attending]² as above – The said Belknap is not to permit the said Southouse to converse with any Person but in his presence and hearing – And upon their return to Boston the said Belknap is to make a report to the Council
In Council Dec 25t 1776

Read & Accepted

Jn^o Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 164, 165.

2. A crease in the page had obliterated the three words, which were supplied by another copy of the order, Mass. Arch., vol. 8, 182.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR¹

Boston 24th Decr 1776. [A. M.]

Order'd That Colo [Thomas] Crafts supply Capt McNeil [Hector McNeill]² with such Boats as he may need to weigh his Cannon. –

Order'd, that Colo [Paul] Revere purchase a quantity of Shruff, of Mr Gray & Mr Wendall, for the purpose of Carting Brass Cannon. –

Voted, that Capt Cleuston [John Clouston] of the Briga *Freedom*, fit her for Sea immediately, and that he keep as many of his hands, as is possible. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 69.

2. Commanding the Continental frigate *Boston*.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentn

Philada. Decr. 24th, 1776

This will be presented by Isaiah Robinson, Esqr. Commander of the Continental Brigt *Andrew Doria* he waits on you with [William] Jones Esq. late Commander of a British Sloop of War² which Capt Robinson has lately made Prize of, Capt. Jones behaved very bravely during a long engagement and appears to be a man of honor, it is a pity such Men are our Enemies & when they fall into our hands they merit the best treatment that Prisoners can receive.

You will please to put this Gentleman on his Parole & assign the place where he must reside & extent of his priviledge ground and I dare say he will faithfully keep the one and comply with the other untill exchanged –

If Capt Robinson carrys before you any of the other officers it will be for the same purpose. I have the honor to be Gentn. [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 21, HSP.

2. H. M. Sloop *Racehorse*.

PETITION OF THOMAS SLATER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Honbl Gentlemen

Baltimore Decr 24th 1776 –

Your Petitioner was Taken in Delawair River in may last by Capt Alexander in the Contenantel Armed Schooner *Wasp* & Confined in Philadelphia State Prison till removed to this Town which I would now take the liberty to beg that Your Honours would Grant me the Indulgence of a Parole – if Admitted I will Strictly

Comply with and I flatter myself that I Can Give Security for my Performance if required —

This Shall be Asteemed as a pertickluar favour by Your Most Obedient [&c.]
Thos^s Slater

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 19, NA.

25 Dec.

PETITION OF BRITISH PRISONERS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Unto the Members of the Honble House of Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay in Council assembled at Boston,

The Petition of Thomas Roberts chief Mate, Robert Watson Carpenter, Sam Smith Steward, of the Ship *Pecarry* [*Picary*], Breholt Cleveland Commander from Tobago to London taken 29th Agt. 1776

As Also Nicholas Pundy chief Mate Thomas Moore Carpenter, Sam. Short Carpenters Mate, Wm Clewnis, Mathew Jones, John Curie Seamen of the Ship, *Sarah*, & *Elizabeth*, Jas Foot Commdr. from Jaimaca to London, taken 18th Sept. 1776

As Also Henry Upton Seaman of the Schoor. *Petroclas* Wm Gill Comdr. taken Decr, 1st. Inst.
Humbly Sheweth

That where your Petitrs all being taken by the Schooner *Warren* Capt. Coos [William Coas] Commander, and brought into Cape Ann upward of twelve Weeks ago, your, Petitrs meantime while there behaving themselves as prisoners, and also Mantaing themselves in Board, & Lodging, &c, Your Petitrs begs to observe that, when taken they were all deprived of their private Interest in the said different Ships, which by Law ought not to fall in the Capture of said Vessells, even to upwards of £ 300 sterling being also deprived of an Opportunity of getting home to their Native Country in his Majesties Cartell Ships then lying at Marblehead, altogether owing to the ownors of the said Schooner *Warren* Building up your Petitrs with false Notions of restoring us some of our Private properties, and most of your, Honours Petitrs having Wives and families at home, and having Nothing to Subsit on but our Labour, with the sweat of our Brow, and now by one Unfortunate Stroke lost our All, By which your Petitrs families must come to utter and inevitable ruin;

Your Petitrs. not only being treated in said Manner which must of Consequence strike the dictates of Humanity itself Was upon the 17th. Decr, Current, was by Violence taken Prisoners at said place and Carried to the fort, like Felons, where upon the 18th Inst. being Escorted by Military Force, was carried to Ipswich Goal, & Immediately Clapt up in closs goal where your Petitrs now remain without the benefit of Fire, Candle or any other Conveniency for our Comfortable Support,

Your Petitrs begs leave to observe to the Honourable House that their treatment is against the Rules of all Kingdoms Nations, and all other, Suit or Constitution, formd or established by any powers upon earth; even against the Laws of Humanity And more so by all who profess that great and Glorious Name of Christianity, and particularly of the protestant Religion, upon the other hand your

Petits would not be understood to lay this depravity of Humanity for which America is pointed out the Contrary, but only to some private individuals and prejudiced minds glorious in committing such inhumane Works. –

But your Petits being confident of the Humanity of the Honble Gentlemen of the House that the[y] apply to, that it was done entirely without their knowledge, as your Pettits was not found in Arms against those States, only upon their own private trading and therefore ought not in your Petits opinion to be used in such Cruel Manner, not only as Prisoners of War but as Felons.

May it Therefore, please your Honours to take the above into your serious Consideration and to direct some proper Method for your Petits Liberty in due season, and further that if there may be any Crime charged Against your Petits. one and all of them is willing to stand Trial for the same but being Confident of their own Innoceny makes your Petits. the more willing to apply to the Honble House, Praying that your Honours. Would Answer the Above and in so doing Your Petitioners will pray for your Honours Safety and Success. –

Ipswich Goal } Nicholas Purdye
Decr 25th 1776 } Thomas Roberts
 Thomas Moore
 Robert Watson
 Samuel Smith

Matthew Jones
William Clunes
Henry Upton
John Currie
Samuel Short

[Endorsed] State of Massachusetts Bay Council Chamber Jan'y 17th. 1777.

The Committee to whom was Referred the Petition of Thomas Roberts & others Prisoners In Ipswich Goal Give it as their Opinion that Said Prisoners together with Those in Salem Goal And as Many Others as can conveniently be conveyed in One Vessel be immediately Sent to Providence in the State of Rhode Island to be exchanged for the like Number of Prisoners of the Same Rank & Condition now at Hallifax belonging to this State in the hands of the Enemy

J: Cushing Pr. Order Jno Avery Dpy Secy

In Council Jan'y 17, 1777 Read & Accepted

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 166, 167–68.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Boston] Wednesday December 25th. 1776.

Petition of Jonathan Waldo of Salem – setting forth – That he supply'd Capt Jeremiah Obrien. of the Sloop *Machias Liberty* in the service of the State. with a Chest of Medicines. & Surgeons Instruments, amounting to £ 45.16.10 –

And praying for allowance, & payment. –

In the House of Representatives. Resolved, that there be paid out of the public Treasury of this State to Jonathan Waldo the Sum of Forty five Pounds sixteen shillings, & ten pence in full of his Account for Medicine, Instruments, &c. supplied the Sloop *Machias Liberty* the sixth of July last. –

In Council. Read, & Concurred –

Consented to by 15 of the Council. –

Petition of Jackson, Tracy, & Tracy of Newbury Port. Merchants. — setting forth — that a Ship owned by them. called the *Montgomery* had, before the present Embargo took place, sailed from hence bound to Bourdeaux in France, with part of her Loading, & with all her Provisions in, but was to call into Sheeps-cut at the Eastward, there to compleat her loading with Spars, & other Lumber. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 328, 335, 339.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 25th Decemr 1776. A. M.

Upon a representation of Capt Cleuston [John Clouston], that the Continental Ships are Inlisting his Men, —

Resolved, that Capt Cleuston enquire the names of the Captains, in whose Ships his men have inlisted, and report to this Board. —

Resolved, that the President be a Committee to go to the house, and procure the Establishment for the Navy of this State: and if any alterations may be found necessary, that a motion be made for such alterations. —

The President Reported, that he had purchased the Schooner *Tryal* for £ 165: — Chartered the Schoon[er]s *Dolphin*, *Eliz[abe]th*, & *Elen* (the last now Sail'd for Baltimore) for the use of this Board. — That he also purchased a quantity of Lumber, Oyl & Gurry; Some Cod fish, & pickled fish; and Contracted for some Spears & Shot, — the Vouchers &ca. for which, are lodg'd with the Board. —

Voted that it be accepted by the Board. —

Voted that Capt Bartlett be offer'd, as Commander of the *Charming Sally*,² £10 P Mo — £50 in full of Primeage & Commission, & 6, Or 7 Hhds priviledge, with ¾ allowance P day, on Shore. —

Resolved, that the Briga. *Isabella* be purchased of Colo [Jonathan] Glover at £1333 . . 6 . . 8, having every Store return'd, excepting 1 Cable. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 71–73.

2. Bartlett accepted the command on December 26. *Charming Sally* was taken by the Connecticut privateer *Broome*, Captain William Nott. See Volume 6.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE ¹

December 1776 The No most Land [of New Jersey] NbW 4 Leags
Wednesday 25th (AM) Tack'd and Wore p: Signals with Guns.
Fresh breezes and Cloudy. at 2 (P M) saw a Sail to the
Wtwd gave Chace; fir'd several Nine Pound Shot at do and
brot her too the *Seahorse* Brig from Turk's Island for Mar-
tha's Vinyard. took charge of her.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

2. *Seahorse*, Thomas Coffin, master, with a cargo of salt, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Head Quarters [Bucks County], December 25, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have your obliging favors of the 21st. and 23d. the Blankets are come to hand, but I would not have any of the other Goods sent on, till you hear again from me.

I agree with you, that it is in vain to ruminate upon, or even reflect upon the Authors or Causes of our present Misfortunes, we should rather exert ourselves, and look forward with Hopes, that some lucky Chance may yet turn up in our Favour. Bad as our prospects are, I should not have the least doubt of Success in the End, did not the late Treachery and defection of those who stood foremost in the Opposition, while Fortune smiled upon us, make me fearful that many more will follow their Example, who by using their Influence with some, and working upon the Fears of others, may extend the Circle so as to take in whole Towns, Counties, nay Provinces. Of this we have a recent Instance in Jersey, and I wish many parts of Pennsylvania may not be ready to receive the Yoke.

The Security of the Continental Ships of War in Delaware is certainly a capital Object, and yet to draft, the many hands necessary to fit them out, from the Militia, might be dangerous just now, perhaps in a little time hence, their places may be supplied with Country Militia, and then if the exigency of Affairs requires it, they certainly ought to be spared.

I will just hint to you a proposition that was made or rather talked of a few days ago by the Officers of two New England Regiments whose time of Service will expire on the first of January. They are most of them Watermen, and they said their Men would willingly go on Board the Frigates and navigate them round to any of the ports in New England, if it was thought they would be safer there than in Delaware. You may think of this, and let me hear from you on the Subject, if the proposition pleases you. Lieutenant [Richard] Boger of the Navy is already gone in and I have made a demand of Lieutenant [James] Josiah in Exchange, but I have not heard whether Lord Howe accedes to it. I will procure the Release of Docr. [Hugh] Hodge as soon as it can be done without injuring others by giving him the preference, as I have always made it a rule to demand those first who have been longest in Captivity. I will take the same Steps in regard to Mr. [William] Jones, commander of the Ship taken by the *Andrew Doria*.

I shall take the earliest Opportunity of sending in your Letter to Genl. Lee with the Bill drawn upon Major Small.

From an intercepted Letter from a person in the Secrets of the Enemy, I find their Intentions are to cross Delaware as soon as the Ice is sufficiently strong. I mention this that you may take the necessary Steps for the Security of such public and private property as ought not to fall into their hands, should they make themselves Masters of Philada. of which they do not seem to entertain the least doubt.

I hope the next Christmas will prove happier than the present to you and to Dear Sir, etc.

P.S. I would just ask whether you think Christeen a safe Place for our Stores? do not you think they would be safer at Lancaster or somewhere inland.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, VI, 436–38.

ROBERT MORRIS TO CAPTAIN JOHN NICHOLSON, CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Hornet* ¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] December 25th 1776

As this severe weather is like to make ice, Captain [Nicholas] Biddle will try to make a push with the *Randolph* and as it is of the utmost consequence that you should get to Carolina if possible I think it most [advantageous] for the public serv-

ice that you should go down the Bay in company with him and I hope this will find you in readiness. You will see the Ship as she comes down, and must join her as soon as you can, and you must concert with Captain Biddle the best plan you can think of for getting out. I am fearful an expedition is gone or will soon go against Charles Town, therefore you must proceed cautiously and get into the first safe harbour in that State that you can & give immediate notice to the president and the Continental Agents of your Arrival. I am Sir by Order of the M: Committee [&c.]

Robert Morris V:P:

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 48, NA.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Sir

Baltimore Decr25th1776

Congress are in immediate Want of a fast sailing Vessell. Every Endeavor has been used to procure one without Success nor have they least Chance left of getting one unless your honorable Board will spare Capt [John] Martin's Brig.² I should by no Means ask the Favor, knowing how necessary this Vessel is to the State of Maryland, if the Occasion was not of the most pressing Nature. Should the Board be so obliging as to part with her, Congress expects to pay what the Vessel & Cargo cost with every Charge of Wages & Outfit. You'l please to lay this Matter before the Board and favor me with their Answer by the Express. I have the Honor to be [&c.]

Benj Harrison

1. Papers CC (Reports of the Marine Committee), 37, 101-02, NA.

2. The Maryland armed brig *Friendship*.

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

December 1776

Bermudas So 69.20 Et 95 Miles

Wednesday 25th

at 3 AM Saw a Sail do gave Chace At 4 brot too the Schooner *Betsey* from New London bound to Hispaniola loaded with Provisions & Lumber At 7 Saw a Sail to the WSW do gave Chace At 10 AM fired two Shot and brot too the *Buckskin* pravateer from Maryland At Noon in Company with the 3 Schooner Prizes Strong Gales and Squally Wear At 1 PM hoisted out the Cutter and sent on board the privateer at 3 the Cutter return'd much damaged in boarding the Schooner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Boreas*, CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMPSON¹

Decemb 1776

Monte Christa So Abt 3 Miles.

Wednesday 25

Moderate & Clear at 3 AM saw a Sail to the Nowd Tackd at 5 [A]M gave chace to a Sloop to the Etwd fir'd ten Shot at the Chace Brot her too the *Polly* from Boston laden wt lumber took her men onbd & put 8 of our Men Onbd her at ½ past 10 made Sail at noon Monte Christa SbE 5 Leagues -

Fresh Breezes & Squally. Pass'd a french Frigate Close reeft the
 Topsails at PM lay too for the prize the Wt end of Tortuda
 SbW 4 Leagues at 6 the Prize Join'd Co

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.

26 Dec.

JAMES WARREN TO TRISTRAM COFFIN¹

Capt Tristram Coffin, War-Office, Boston Decr 26th 1776
 Sir, The Board of War having purchas'd the ship *Paris*,² & her Cargo of which
 Ship you are Master; Your orders are to proceed direct for St Peters in the Island
 of Guadaloupe where you are to dispose of both Ship & Cargo for the most you
 can obtain, and invest the proceeds in the several Articles mention'd in the annex'd
 Schedule, or a proportion of each, giving the preference however to good effective
 Fire Arms, as it is probable they may be most wanted; –

If Military Stores are not to be procur'd at Guadaloupe you will proceed with
 your Money or Bills (but be sure in some French Vessel) for St Eustatia, Mar-
 tinico, or Cape Francois, where you will make the necessary purchases, and if you
 could possibly Charter a small French Vessel to bring home your effects, you are
 to do it, – engaging to them that they shall be allow'd to purchase any produce
 this Country affords, and be entitled to every indulgence. –

The Vessel must be clear'd for Mi[c]quelon or St Peters, you will make the
 first Port or Harbour in this State, or New-Hampshire, that you can; –

The Board do not lay you under any Restrictions or Limitations as to the
 price of your Ship, or chartering Vessels, but submit the whole to your best Care,
 and Prudent Management – Should you find it impracticable to hire a French
 Vessel, you will then take your Passage; and bring home your effects in some small
 Vessel or Vessels we shall send after you, of which we shall give you due Notice; –

The Board consent to allow you five pr Cent Commissions on the Sales, and
 2½ pr Cent. on the Return of your Cargo. – Five pr Cent on the Sale & Return
 of the Sale of your Ship. – Six pounds pr Month, Ten Hogsds Priviledge out,
 and a customary priviledge home, in proportion to the Burthen of the Vessel you
 may come in. –

We would have you take the best Methods in your Power to leave the West-
 Indies by the 20th. Feby whether you hear from us or not. – We wish you a good
 Voyage –

By Order of the Board

J Warren, Presidt

[Endorsed] I acknowledge the above to be a true Copy of the Orders I have
 received from the Board of War & which I promise to follow

Newbury Port. 29th December 1776

Tristram Coffin

[annexed schedule]

Fire Arms, strong, plain, fit for Soldiers to carry an Ounce Ball
 if such are to be had

Powder

4 brass Field Pieces 3 or 4 Pounders

10 Tuns Lead
 50m French Flints
 Russia & Ravens Duck
 Ticklinburgh
 Cordage
 Coarse Linnens
 Coarse Cloths
 Blankets

You will destroy your Papers if you find you must be taken

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 366-67.

2. Formerly the ship *Friends*. See Minutes of the Massachusetts Board of War, December 27.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1776

Boston, December 26.

The following is a List of the Naval Officers lately appointed by the General Assembly of this State.

Port of Boston, Nathaniel Barber, Esq;
 Salem, Warwich Palfry, Esq;
 Gloucester, Samuel Whittmore, Esq;
 Newbury-Port, Capt. Michael Hodge,
 York, Capt. Richard Trevet,
 Pepperrelboro', Tristram Jordan, Esq;
 Falmouth, Mr. Thomas Child,
 Townsend, Mr. John Bea[illegible],
 Penobscott, Capt. Jonathan Lowder,
 Goldsborough, Capt. William Nichols,
 Machias, Capt. Stephen Smith,
 Plymouth, Thomas Mayhew, Esq;
 Barnstable, Joseph Otis, Esq;
 Dartmouth, Edward Pope, Esq;
 Nantucket, Mr. Ichabod Plaisted.

The Prize Ship *Mellish*, lately taken by the Ship *Alfred*, in the Service of the United States, is safe arrived at Bedford, in Dartmouth. — She has, it is said, on board, upwards ten Thousand Suits of Cloathing, four Thousand Stands of Arms, a large Quantity Gold Lace, some Bale Goods, Camp Furniture, and Sea Coal, designed for the Ministerial Mercenaries and other Hirelings, at New-York.

Last Friday 37 Prisoners, lately taken by Captain [Jonathan] Eddy, at Fort-Cumberland, were brought to Town, and committed to safe Keeping. — Among whom are, a Captain, a Chaplain, and a Doctor.

LIBELS FILED AGAINST PRIZE VESSELS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS ADMIRALTY COURT ¹

State of Massachusetts-Bay, }
 Southern District. } To all whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, That Libels are filed before me, against the following Vessels and their Cargoes and Appurtenances, viz. In Behalf of Capt. Joseph

Jauncey and his Company, and the Owners of the armed Sloop called the *Washington*, against the Schooner *Halifax Packet*, of about 70 Tons burthen, Eliphalet Smith late Master: In Behalf of James Megree [Magee] and his Company, and the Owners of the Sloop *Independence*, against the Schooner *Sally*, of about 50 Tons burthen, John Stone late Master: Against the Schooner *Sally*, of about 70 Tons burthen, George Elliot late Master: And against the Brigantine *Desire*, of about 90 Tons burthen, Joseph Jackson late Master: In Behalf of Simeon Sampson, Commander of the armed Brig *Independence*, owned by the State of Massachusetts-Bay, and of his Company on board her, against the Brigantine called the *Nancy*, of about 140 Tons burthen, John Churchill late Master: In Behalf of John Paul Jones, Commander of the Ship *Alfred*, in the Service of the United States of America, and his Company on board her, against the Brigantine *Active*, of 150 Tons burthen, Isaac Fox late Master: And against the Ship *Mellish*, of 350 Tons burthen, Joseph Stevenson late Master. All which Vessels, so libelled, are said to have been taken and brought into the Southern District aforesaid. And for the Trial of the Justice of these Captures, the Maritime Court for the said District, will be held at Plymouth, in the County of Plymouth, on Tuesday the Fourteenth Day of January, 1777, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, when and where the Owners of said Captures, and any Persons concerned, may appear and shew Cause (if any they have) why the same, or any of them, should not be condemned.

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court.

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, December 26, 1776.

ROBERT MORRIS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Philada Decemr 26th 1776

. . . Capt Charles Alexander whom I sent up to Colo Cadwallader for a few Tradesmen necessary to finish his ship the *Delaware* is just returned and says that whilst he was with the Col a Note came in from Trenton giving an acct that Genl Washington is now Master of that place, that he had sent down to the Ferry 300 Prisoners, had taken all the Enemies baggage & stores at that place, that the Action had been pretty hot for an hour or an hour & a half, that the British then run away toward Bordentown & our People after them, this acct is just confirmed by a letter from Mr Barkly to Mr Mease who says Mr Tilghman had come down to the Ferry & gave him the Acct This Manoeuvre of the Genl had been determined on some days ago but he kept it Secret as the Nature of the Service would admit. . . .

Capt Robison [Isaiah Robinson] of the *Andrew Doria* tells me just now that he hears his Prize Sloop is got up to the Chevaux de Frize and I hope it is true & as this is the first of King George's Own Vessells that we have taken, I should be glad the Congress wou'd order her into their Service and give the Command to Lieutt [Benjamin] Dunn of the *Andw Doria* who has been in the service from the first & is said to be an officer of Merit. Shou'd Genl Washington follow up his blow we may get time to fit out all these Vessells, but if Howe comes here we cannot do it for want of Trades men. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters and Reports from Robert Morris), 137, Appendix, 33-36, NA.

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

Remarks on Thursday 26th Decmr 1776

- 3 [A.M.] Saw a Sail to the westward gave chase at 5 Spake her the Schooner from Newbury for St Eustatia 21 Days out Zebulon Babson Master put on board 2 prisoners & parted
- 11 [A.M.] Fresh gale and Squally
Lattd in 16^d38^m Longd in 52^d46^m
- 1 [P.M.] Fresh breeze and fair weather
- 11 [P.M.] Variable Winds

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.

GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD TO GOVERNOR JOHANNES DE GRAAFF ¹

Copy.

St Christophers 26th Decembr 1776.

Sir, The Letter which I had the honour to receive from you of the 23d in reply to mine of the 17th Inst. make it necessary that I should once more trouble your Honour on the same subject.

On a reperusal of my former letter I am insensible of any Expression in it heightened beyond the Duty I owe my Royal Master, or incompatible with the respect due to your Honours Station, & the Decorum to be observed in Representations of this Nature. Had your Honour condescended to a personal conference with the Gentleman who presented you my letter & to have required from him the nature of the Informations which I had received, I presume that, instead of Vague, general & uncircumstanced reports the[y] would have appeared to you to have merited from me, the Epithet which I bestowed upon them; that their Extent warranted the use to which I had applied them, and that my application to you, Sir, was neither irregular, nor illfounded.

Your Honour disavows any acquaintance in the Government of your Island with the unwarrantable Practices of its Inhabitants: my Letter insinuated no such Charge against the Government in this particular, and althow in the Investigation of the capture of the Brigantine, the Proprietor who appeared before your Honour and the Council may have been deficient for the present, in that Strict legal Proof, essential by your Laws to the Conviction of certain Individuals of St Eustatius, as participating in that Transaction, yet I flatter my Self I Shall Stand Justifiable in the Eys of my Royal Master in my Specifick Charges against the Inhabitants of your Island.

Your Honour too is unconscious of any Partiallity or Violation of Treaties, or of any Indignities willfully offered by the Government of St Eustatius to the King my Master—The impartial World will Judge between us, whether a Salute deliberately returned by a Dutch Fort to the Rebel Brigantine *Andrew Doria*, under Colours known by the Commandant of the Fort, to be those of His Majesty's rebellious Subjects, be, or be not, a Partiality in Favour of those Rebels and a flagrant Indignity offered to his Majesty's Flag: wether the rebel Brigantine Saluted with Thirteen or Eleven Guns, or the Salute was returned with a Like or an inferior Number, will not I apprehend invalidate the Material Ground of my complaint on that Head, nor do I find in any part of your

Honour's Letter which bears the least affinity to a Denial of the Instance of that express matter of Fact. In this Particular my remonstrance does indeed affect the Dutch Government and as your Honour refers to your Lords and Masters, your conduct as well respecting this Charge "as a Trade and navigation which you are confident T[heir] H[igh] M[ightinesses] will not Suffer to be interrupted" it naturally precludes in me, every Expectation that any future application of mine, on this Subject should meet a more favourable Reception from your Honour.

The Controversy therefore necessarily resolves it Self into a matter of State, to be determined by the king my master and their High Mightinesses whose wisdom will at once discern how Just a Conduct is reconcilable with the Treaties existing between the Two Powers.

Altho, Sir, the personal Insolences of a Printer of which your Honour complains affects not the merits of our publick Correspondence, I could not close this without taking Notice of that part of your Honour's Letter. Your Honour will I hope do me the Justice to believe that I cordially disclaim all Countenance of such Injuries and that I abhor the Licentiousness of the Press equally with yourself. But as by the Constitution of this free Country the Libelous Emanations of Calumny and Detraction can meet their Punishment only in the ordinary and established Course of it's civil Justice, So is it out of the Power of any British Magistrate to dispense or point out to your Honour any other mode of Satisfaction. I have the Honour to be &ca

(Sighn'd)

Craister Greathead

To the Hble Johannes de Graaff, Govr of St Eustatius &c. &c.

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

27 Dec.

PROTEST OF JOHN HITCH AGAINST CAPTURE OF BRITISH SLOOP *Success*¹

Province of Nova scotia

To all whom it may Concern By this publick Instrument of Protest Be it Known and made manifest that on the twenty Seventh day of December One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six before me James Brenton Notary and Tabellion publick by Royal Authority Admitted and Sworn and now dwelling at Halifax in the province aforesd personally Came John Hitch late master of the Sloop *success* and made this his protest in manner and form following vizt That on the Sixteenth day of September AD 1775. he sailed from Boston in New England for the province of Nova scotia in the service of Government and that on the thirtieth day of November following being on his return from Nova Scotia with refreshments for the Garrison at Boston he was attackt and taken off Boston Lighthouse by an armed American Schooner and carried into Salem in the province of the Massachusetts bay. where his sd Vessell and her Cargo were taken from him² and himself detained a prisoner at Northampton in said province untill the fourteenth of December instant at which time he sailed in a Cartel Sloop bound to Halifax in Nova scotia. where he arrived on the twenty Sixth Instant of all which matters and things the said master hath desired me to make a publick Act.

Wherefore I the said Notary have and do hereby Solemnly protest against the sd armed Schooner her Commander and Crew for the Seizing taking and detaining sd Sloop and her Cargo. and for all Costs Damages and expenses that hav[e] or may Accrue by reason thereof –

Seal
John Hitch
James Piper
John siplin

This Done and Protested at
Halifax aforesaid the day and
Year above written In presence of
John Hitch the said Master
James Piper and John Siplin
Mariners –
each making Oath to the truth
of the Premises and hereunto
Subscribing their names –

J Brenton . Notr Publ

1. BPL.

2. See Volume 4.

COLONEL PIERSE LONG TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

Gent –

Portsmo, Decr 27th, 1776.

This morning I Received advice of one of the Enemies Tenders being drove into our Harbour.² I thought it my duty to secure her; being apprehensive that the prisoners might attempt an escape with the prize, I immediately ordered a number of soldiers to embark on board boats to take possession of her, and in the interim prepared others to follow: In one of which I went myself; when I came on board I found Capt. [Hercules] Mooney and Major [Caleb] Hodgdon, with a sufficiency of men to bring her to town. We hove her from off the shore and proceeded as far up the River as the tide would permit before it was spent. After which I gave orders for the prisoners to be brought to town, who are now, to the number I think, 43 or 45, under a proper guard, exclusive of five officers who were brought up by Capt. Pinkham (the person who brought her in) and put to Lodge at a public house. The Capt. of the *Raleigh* ³ order'd a guard on them, for which I am much obliged. This night Capt. [Titus] Salter, in conjunction with Capt. Robt Parker, who I have appointed pilote of her, will bring her to her mooring. I shall be obliged for an order for the Disposition of all the prisoners, excepting those who will be accompanied to Exeter to morrow by Capt. [Ebenezer] Deering to be examined and disposed of as you may judge proper. I am, Gentlemen with due respect [&c.]

Pierse Long.

P. S. I beg leave to observe that Capt. Pinkham had this vessel delivered to him by the officers and people belonging to her, to do with her as he thought proper, which induced him to make this push. He has libelled her, and applied to a friend to transact his business.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 443–44.

2. Schooner *George*, a tender to H. M. S. *Milford*, and formerly Washington's schooner *Warren*.

3. Captain Thomas Thompson.

CAPTAIN THOMAS THOMPSON TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

Portsmo Decemr 27, 1776.

Gentn – I have to inform you that the Schooner lately commanded by Capt. [William] Burke now a Tender to the *Milford*,² was run on shore last night at Little Harbour; She has four officers passengers, besides that one that commands & about Fifty men, the Officers shall be sent off early to morrow morning; should be glad of your further directions in behalf of the United States, for the disposal of the Prisoners who are now in custody of Colo [Pierse] Long, – all but the Officers who are in my Care ³ Your [&c.]

Thos Thompson.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 444.

2. *George*. See footnote 2 preceding entry.

3. The Assembly responded on January 1, 1777 that the officers were to be given their parole in Concord, and "the Privates have liberty to place themselves with any person to work at any Lawfull calling to gain their subsistence within fifteen miles of Portsmouth within the limits of this State," Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 447.

PETITION OF ISAAC SEARS AND PASCHAL N. SMITH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL COURT ¹

State of Massa- } To the Honoble the Council & the Honoble the General
chusetts Bay } Assembly of sd. State

Humbly Shew Isaac Sears & Paschal N. Smith both of Boston in the
County of Suffolk Merchants –

That your Petitioners being Inhabitants of sd Town of Boston, & there being a scarcity of Flour, Rice & Bar Iron in sd Town, & a probability of a still greater scarcity; unless some Adventurers are found & permitted to endeavour to Import the same Articles from our Sister States: And your Petitioners having two Sloops lying at Dartmouth in sd. State, & being willing to risque a Share of their property to remedy such inconveniences as will arise from said scarcity, humbly beg permission to Load & take on board one of the said Sloops called the *Abby* of Ninety Tons burthen John Aikins Master, such Quantities of Rum & Sugar, as the proceeds of which will be sufficient to procure a Load of Flour & Bar Iron & proceed therewith to Philadelphia, or Baltimore in Maryland, there to purchase the same & return to this State. And also to Load & take on board the other of the sd Sloops called the *Expedition*, Eliphalet Ripley Master, burthen about fifty tons, so much of the same Articles as the proceeds whereof will be sufficient to purchase a Load of Rice & proceed therewith to South Carolina, & there to purchase the same & return to this Place therewith. Your Petitioners presume that the advantages, which will accrue to this State by Individuals risquing their property in order to introduce a plenty of these Articles, will counterbalance all disadvantages that may accrue from such permission as they Pray for, they therefore hope the Honoble Board will grant them the Prayer of their Petition. And your Petitioners beg leave farther to [illegible] that your Petitioners some months past purchas'd at Dartmouth in sd State a Cargo suitable for the Markets in France, and also purchased the Briggantine *General Wolfe* of about

150 Tons Burthen, with an intention of Loading sd Cargo on board sd Brig., & proceeding therewith to France, there to dispose of the same, & take on board, German Steel, Sail Duck, Cordage, Woollens & Linens &c, & to proceed therewith to this State – And also that your Petitioners have two Armed Ships, one of Twenty nine Pounders, the other of Eighteen nine Pounders, the former being about half planked up, the latter may be ready to Sail in about three months, but both of them will be prevented Sailing, for want of Sail Cloth & Cordage, unless your Petitioners are permitted to send the sd. Briggantine to France (William Ritchie Commander) with the Cargo aforesaid, consisting of Oil, SpermaCeti Candles, Tobacco, Potash, Fustick & Mahogany; they therefore humbly pray your Honors, & you Gentlemen of the General Assembly, will take this their Petition into Consideration, & grant them leave to Load the said Briggantine as aforesaid, & to dispatch her to Bordeaux in France, & your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

Isaac Sears Paschal N. Smith

Boston 27th. Decemr 1776

[Endorsements]

In the House of Representa[tives] Decemr 27, 1776

Read and Committed to the Comtee on Similar Petitions

Sent up for Concurrence

Sam^l Freeman Speakr P.T.

In Council Dec. 27. 1776

Read & Concurr'd and the same Committee are joined on the Part of the Board

Jn^o Avery Dpy Secy

Decr 1776 The Comtee of both Houses on the foregoing petition Beg leave to report as their opinion that the prayer thereof be so far Granted That the two Sloops & Brigg Mentioned in said petition be permitted to proceed on their several voyages provided they carry none of the articles enumerated in a Resolve of the General Court passed the 10th Instant Prohibiting the same Excepting: Nineteen hhds of sugar & six hhds of Rum which said sloops are permitted to Carry out, viz Twelve hhds in the Largest sloop & seven in the small one

Jabez Fisher pr order

In Council Decr 31st 1776

Read & Accepted

Sent down for Concurrence

Jn^o Avery Dpy Secy

In the House of Representa[tives] Janry 1 1777

Read and Concurred

Sam^l Freeman Speakr PT

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 463–64.

MINUTES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR ¹

Boston 27th Decr 1776.

a Marcelles.

Resolved, that the Ship *Julias Caesar*, be named the *Bourbon*; the Ship *Venus*,

the *Versailles*; The Ship *Friends*, the *Paris*; the Briga *Charming Sally*, the *Penet*; the Briga *Isabella*, the *Count D'Estaing*. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 148, 76–78.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE PRIZE SCHOONER *Two Brothers* ¹

	Schooner <i>Two Brothers</i>	Dr	Pr. Contra Credit
December	To 1 Swivel Gun		6 Hampers of potatoes
the 27th	to 2 pound of powder		1 Bolt of English Duck (No. 7) 36 Yards
1776	to 2 Small Arms		Twenty four Cags of Pickled Salmon
	to 2 Catouch Boxes		ten Cags of butter
	to 1 Cutlass		two Boxes of Linen 14 ps
	to 72 Lb of Sugar		6 Terses of Bread
	to 54 Lb of Coffee		1 Barl of Do
			two Barrels of powder 4 Cwt Each
			1 English Ensign
			Eight half Barrels of Beef
			Five Ditto
			Nine Skanes of twine
			1 Barrel of Tar
			half a Side of Soul Leather ²

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

2. *Two Brothers* was a prize of the Connecticut privateer sloop *American Revenue*. Shaw's account against the *American Revenue* this date, Shaw Papers, 1775–1782, Ledger 7, YUL.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1776

New-London, December 27.

The Captains Godwin and Howard, from Connecticut-River, who sailed from this Port for the West-Indies about three Weeks ago, are both taken and carried into New-York.

Last Wednesday Noon thirteen Ships from the Eastward went by this Harbour, and proceeded up Sound; they are supposed to be from Newport, and bound to New-York.

A Flag of Truce, with a Number of Masters of Vessels, &c. that were taken in Prizes that have been brought into this Port, will sail from hence, the first fair Wind, for New-York, to be exchanged for an equal Number of American Prisoners there.

Deserted from the Privateer Sloop *Lyon*, commanded by Timothy Shaler, on the Night next after the 25th of December Inst. one Samuel Smith, jun. of Worthington, a Parish of Middletown, he is about five Feet ten Inches high, dark Complexion, has long black Hair, had on when he went away, a redish Surtout Coat and striped Trowsers with a Blanket rolled round for a Pack. Whoever shall

take up said Runaway and confine him so that he may be had on board said Privateer, lying at New-London, by the first Day of January next, shall have a handsome Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by
New-London, Dec. 26, 1776. Timothy Shaler

ORDER OF NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety for the State
of New York Fishkill Decr 27th 1776

Ordered, that the Treasurer of this State advance on the Credit of the united States to Lieutenant Victor Bicker, nominated and appointed to raise 30 Marines by Order of the continental Marine Committee, for the purpose of guarding the continental Frigates, *Congress* & *Montgomerie* & such other Vessels & Stores as may be laid up with them during the Winter, the Sum of two hundred Dollars for the recruiting Service of the said Marines

200 Dollars By Order Ab^m Ten Broeck [illegible]

Attest Rob^t Benson, Secry

[Endorsed] Recd December 28th 1776. from P. V. B. Livingston by the hand of Gerard Bancker two hundred Dollars – pursuant to the above Written Order
200 Dollars P Victor Bicker Liet

1. FDRL.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM,
H. M. S. *Bristol* ¹

Copy

Whereas there is not any apparent Necessity for the longer detention of His Majesty's Ship the *Bristol* in which Your Lordship is embarked, with respect to the military operations impending, or proposed to be undertaken for the King's Service, by His Majesty's Land Forces in this and the adjacent Provinces; You are therefore to repair in the said Ship with all convenient diligence to Portsmouth. Being upon your arrival there, to make the same known to the Secretary, that You may receive Orders from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for your future Conduct, and the further Appointment of the Ship.

Your Lordship is at the same time to direct Captain [John] Raynor to forward in the charge of a trusty Officer, by Express, the several Dispatches for the Admiralty and Secretary of States Offices, transmitted herewith; to be delivered as they are respectively addressed.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship the *Eagle* at New York the 27th day of December 1776.

Howe

By Command of the Vice Admiral Josh^h Davies.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn,

Philada. Decr 27th, 1776

Capt. [George] Cook, Commander of the Maryland Ship-of-War *Defence*, is the bearer of this Note, he came up with upwards of 70 men to assist in defence of this City, as the Gondolos are going on Service he offers to go in them as a reinforcement, & if need be at the place of action he and his men will assist the artillery. I doubt not this offer will be acceptable, & if so, the Council will give their officers suitable directions. I have the honour to be Gentn, [&c.]

Robert Morris.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 138.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE IN PHILADELPHIA ¹

Philadelphia, Dec. 27, 1776

The Honorable Congress have appointed a Committee of their body to transact such Continental business in this city as may be proper and necessary, the said Committee give this public notice, that they meet every day, and sit from ten to three o'clock, at their office in Front-street, where Messrs. Barclay and Mitchell lately dwelt, opposite to Messrs. Conyngham, Nesbit and Company. All persons charged with public letters for the Congress, Board of War, Marine, or other Committees, are desired to take notice hereof, as such letters will be opened or forwarded by the Committee as the case may require. —

Robert Morris, George Clymer, George Walton.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, December 31, 1776.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FRIGATE *Randolph*¹

Frigat *Randolph* Nicholas Biddle Esqr Commander.

For First Cruise

1776				
July	17	To Amount Sundrys furnish'd while Buildg		
"	"	To Cash paid Jacob Keilmhle for Lime juice		5..-.-
"	23	" do " Days labour pr Jno Locktons bill		6..1..-
"	24	" do " Mrs Mason for makg Colrs		6..-.-
"	28	" do " Days labour as P Capt Locktons bill		5.19..-
August	13	" do " ditto as P do		9.15..-
"	15	" 1 Bolt No 1 Canvass 40 Yds		
"	24	" 46 Pieces French Canvass Vizt -		
		19 pieces A.1001½ ells is 1300½ yds @		
		16 do B...845½ " is 1099½ "		
		5 do C...214¼ " 278¼ "		
		2 do H...197 " 277 "		
		3 do K...318 " 431 "		
		1 do E....41 " 55 "		
"	"	" Cash paid days labour as Pr J: Lockton		5..6..-
"	27	" 25½ Yds Osnabrigs for the Awning		
"	"	" 40 lb Sewing Twine	@ 3/	6..-
"	"	" 36 lb do	2/6	4.10..-
				<hr/>
"	31	" Cash paid Patrick Byrne for Shrubb		1.10..-
"	"	" do " Days labour as Pr J: Locktons bill		4.18..-
				6..8..-

DECEMBER 1776

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FRIGATE *Randolph* [continued]

For First Cruise [continued]

Septemr	2	"	22 Yds Osnabrigs for the Awning			
"	6	"	Cash paid for hawling 3 cords wood	7..6		
"	"	"	do " Days labour as Pr John Locktons bill	4..2..-		
"	"	"	do " Sawing and splitting 3 cords wood	1..2..6		
"	"	"	do " George Eller for 3 cords wood	2.17..6	8..9..6	
"	16	"	do " days labour Pr J: Locktons bill	8..-		
"	"	"	do " Do	4.14..-	5..2..-	
"	21	"	do " Dean Timmonds for a Box Candles	19..8		
"	"	"	do " ditto for 200 lbs soap	1.13..4		
"	"	"	do " Thomas Fitzgerald for hawlg 4 loads Gravel	15..-		
"	"	"	do " Days labour as Pr Jno Locktons bill	8.15..9		
"	"	"	do " Samuel Rhodes's bill	19..6		
"	"	"	do " for 1/3 of 5 3/4 cord hickory wood	3..7..5	16.10..8	
"	30	"	do " for hawling ditto	4..9 1/2		
"	"	"	do " Days labour Pr J: Locktons bill	10.16..6		
"	"	"	do " Sawing and Splitting 1/3 of 5 3/4 cord wood	17..3	11.18..6	
Octor	3	"	9 Crews @ 3/.. & 9 Canns	@ 3/6	2.18..6	
"	12	"	Cash paid Benj: Crafts for paintg 58 water casks		7..5	
"	"	"	" " James Fulton for Portorage		13..6	
Carried Forward					7.18..6	
Brought Forward				£	7.18..6	

October	12	To	Cash	paid	James Fulton for portge	13..6	
	"	"	do	"	for ½ Hhd Lime to Jos: Cooper	6..8	
	"	"	do	"	Fincher Hellings for plaist'ring	1..19.10	10..5..-
	"	"	do	"	John Paterson for makg 2 Brandg Irons	2..2..-	
	"	"	do	"	Days labour Pr John Locktons bill	5.13..6	7.15..6
	21	"	do	"	Samuel Rhodes's bill		2..9..-
	28	"	do	"	Days labour	2..8..-	
	"	"	do	"	Dean Timmonds for 1 box Candles	4..4..7½	6.12..7½
	31	"	1	Bolt	Russia Duck		7.10..-
Novemr	6	"	Cash	paid	for white washing the magazine		5..6
"	9	"	do	"	James Fulton for portge	1.10..-	
"	"	"	do	"	Hawling 2 Twelve pound Canon	7..6	1.17..6
"	18	"	do	"	Martin Wert for hawlg Cannon	5..-	
"	"	"	do	"	Martin Brooke for hawlg 2 do	10..-	
"	"	"	do	"	Patrick Vaughs bill for fixing the camboose	3.10..-	4..5..-
"	21	"	do	"	for 1 Ps Osnabrigs 102 Yds		
"	23	"	54¼	Yards	F @		
"	"	"	90	Yards	Dutch Osnabrigs		
"	"	"	Cash	paid	Sundries		7.19..6
"	28	"	1	Barrell	Country Rum 33 Gals	8..5..-	
"	"	"	1	Keg	West India do 5	2.10	10.15..-

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE FRIGATE *Randolph* [continued]

For First Cruise [continued]				
Decemr	3	"	Cash paid for 3 Large half tann'd hydes @ 44/	6.12..-
"	"	"	do " Sundrys	4.12..9
"	10	"	2 Pieces G Canvass 196 Ells is 264 Yds @	
"	"	"	1 Piece B ditto 44¼ " " 57¼ "	
"	15	"	Cash paid Michl Visinger for weaving a wire for the Magazine Lanthorn	3..-..-
"	"	"	do " Benjamin Davis's bill for a Drum	5..-..-
"	"	"	do " John Weismans Bill	17.17..6
"	"	"	do " Jno Mease for 6 hhds Co Rum	268..-..-
"	"	"	do " Jno Duffield for 4 hhds do	187..4..-
"	"	"	do " Isaac Snowdens Bill	13.17..6
"	"	"	do " Thomas Hollinsworths 2 bills for 25 Barrls Flour	55.15..6
"	"	"	do " for Sundry Vegetables	12..-
"	"	"	do " John Purdon for 2 Tierces Tallow	36.10..8
				587.17..2
"	17	"	238 Hammocks	
"	"	"	Cash paid Robert Haddocks accot for plumbing	107.16..2¼

Carried Forward

Brought Forward

Decr	17	To 2 Hhds & 1 Keg West India Rum	235 Gals	@ 10/	117.10..-	
"	"	" 2 Barrells Country Rum	66 "	5/	16.10..-	134..-.-
						<hr/>
"	21	" Cash paid William Evans for alterg 36 Gun			24..2..-	
			carrges		35..3..4	
"	"	" ditto Hercules Courtney for candles			1..4..-	
"	"	" ditto John Elmslie for 16 Trucks			7..6	
"	"	" ditto for a Drumhead			11..4..-	
"	"	" ditto James Fultons Bill [porterage]			10..9	72..7.11
"	"	" ditto James Allenby Bill				<hr/>
"	27	" 1 Hhd West India Rum	120 Galls	@ 10/		60..-.-
"	"	" 50 Cutlasses		@ 15/	37.10..-	
"	"	" 36 Pikes		5/9d	10..7..-	
"	"	" 36 Poleaxes		3/	5..8..-	53..5..-
						<hr/>

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

DECEMBER 1776

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR., BALTIMORE ¹

Dear Sir

Philad Decr 27th 1776

An hour's detainment of the Tide gives me an opportunity of writing the particulars of yesterday's action at Trenton – Genl Washington with about four thousand Men crossed on the Christmas night and surrounded the town; the enemy was surprised, and collected confusedly; after a short resistance they grounded their arms and surrendered to the amount of 750 (Hessians solely); they lost 30 killed and wounded, and we 2 killed, and 3 or 4 wounded; Capt [William] Washington among the last, who commanded the advanced party, but not mortally. Had the weather proved favorable, and the other three divisions got over, there would (I have no doubt) the whole of them shared the same fate with these – Their light horse scampered away on the first alarm, and all those on the outskirts of the town made their escape about as many as were taken – There are 1 Col, 2 Majors, 4 Captains, 7 Lieutenants and 8 ensigns – prisoners, with 6 field pieces, 2 Standards and 1000 stand of arms, 20 Drums one Col wounded and left on his parole at Trenton – Our people having returned to this side again we should have whipped them in the same manner at Bordentown could our men under Col [John] Cadwalader have crossed, but the weather and ice made it impossible – This affair has given such amazing spirit to our people, that you might do any thing, or go any where with them – We have vast numbers of fine militia coming in momentarily – but none from our Province – I believe an attack is intended tomorrow upon the Hessians [main] body at Bordentown; in which I intend serving with my people as artillery men, and are embarked for that purpose on board the gallies – Immediately its over (please God) I intend down, and am doubtful if I can bring an anchor with me, but more of that hereafter (I am not pleased about it) I am yours [&c.]

James Nicholson

1. Robert Purviance, *A Narrative of Events which occurred in Baltimore Town During the Revolutionary War* (Baltimore, 1849), 208–09.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JONES, R. N., TO VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE ¹

Copy

My Lord/

Philadelphia 27th Decr 1776

I beg leave to acquaint you that having been in His Majestys Sloop *Racehorse* under my Command to see the Jamaica Convoy under the Convoy of Captain Douglass [Stair Douglas] in His Majestys Ship *Squirrel* as far as Lattitude 31. And in returning in pursuance of orders received from Vice Admiral Gayton, to Turks Islands in the Lattitude between 22 & 23 North, I met the Brig *Andrew Doria* the 8th instant, and after an Engagement of two Hours and three Quarters, being myself wounded in the Right Arm and Rigging & Sails much damaged, I was obliged to submit, and am now a prisoner at this Place, of which I must beg the favor of You, that you will be pleased to advise Admiral Gayton. The Men taken

with me are also Prisoners here, and are much in want of Woolen Cloathing suitable to this cold Climate. I am My Lord Your Lordships [&c.]

W^m Jones

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

FRANCIS LEWIS TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Baltimore, 27th Decemr. 1776.

Gentlemen – Your favour of the 5th instant, per Lieut. Brit, I have received, with your resolves relative to the frigate[s] in Hudson's river, which I this day laid before the marine committee, and meet their entire approbation. They are of opinion that whatever vessels belonging to the Continent, and are now in Hudson's river, should be also secured in Esopus creek, or some other place of safety. The people belonging to the brigantine and sloop may be disposed of at the discretion of your Convention.

Congress approves of your recommendation of Lieut. Victor Bicker, Junr. for the marines, and as soon as the blank commissions are received from Philadelphia, one shall be filled up for him and forwarded to you.

Your letter, directed to Captain [Patrick] Dennis, I thought it proper to return you; his last place of residence was in Brunswick, which is now in General Howe's possession. Perhaps you may hear of Captain Dennis some where in your State. The rigging, &c. that belonged to those vessels sunk into the North and East river[s], and now in the possession of Captain Dennis, it is imagined may be of singular service at Ticonderoga, of which General Schuyler should be informed. I am also directed to inform you that Congress much approves of the frigates being fitted out against the spring, and of your directing a sufficient number of cannon to be cast at Sal[i]sbury, as none for your purposes can be procured from these parts. . . .

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 763–64.

GEORGE WELLS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore Decr 27th 1776

I take this Opportunity of Informing You that I have Launchd One of the Row Gallies & that I Shall push on the Other as fast as possible, . Please to let Me know, how She is to be Masted – As I am Informed that there is Some Sheet lead In this town belonging to You, Id be obligd to You to Send Me An Order for Some, as I want it for Scupers, & Magazine, Please to Send Me per Bearer Mr. Barry, Any further Directions or Commands You May have for me, Which Shall be punctually Observed, By Gentlemen [&c.]

George Wells

Gentlemen Please to Send Me per Bearer Mr John Barry the Sum of Seven Hundred Pounds on Acct of the Rowe Gallies – & Alsoe the Amt of the Accts for repairing the Old Vessells belonging to You Which Accts he Carries & Y'l Oblige [&c.]

George Wells

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOHN HALL TO BENJAMIN HARRISON ¹

In Council of Safety

[Annapolis] Decr 27th 1776

Benja Harrison Esqr President of The Board of War

Sir We are greatly embarrassed by your request to part with Capt [John] Martin's Vessel, she was purchased by our Agent in the West Indies, and is now claimed by Capt [William] Stone who hath replevied her, and we have undertaken to indemnify the Sheriff – if we part with her Congress must take the risque off our hands.

Should you want a fast sailing Vessel there is a Brigg at Baltimore taken by the Ship *Defence* which we ordered our Agent to buy for this State – that Vessel you may have if she will suit Congress – We are unwilling to part with Martins' Vessel, she being now loaden, and we expect her cargo of Coarse Woolens &c is now ready at Martinique or Eustatia – however if the Honble Congress cannot supply themselves otherwise, we must let them have the Brigg and Cargoe upon the terms they request, with the addition that the State ought to be indemnified – We shall keep Martin a day or two in expectation of hearing from you again. for and on behalf of the Council I have the honor to be [&c.]

J. Hall

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 109, NA. The draft in Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 2, Md. Arch., is dated December 26, and has slight variations.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WELLS ¹

No. 73.

Sir, Your's by Mr [John] Barry we have received, and are glad to hear you have launched one of the Row Gallies, and that you are pushing the other on, as fast as possible. – As to the masting we must refer you to Mr Stephen Steward, who is now in your Town. – Inclosed is an order on the commissary for Sheet Lead for the purposes you mention. – Mr Barry brings the Amount of the Account for the repairs of the old Vessels, but we cannot be justified in advancing the seven hundred Pounds, on Account of Row-Gallies without an Account of the Expenditure of the Money before advanced for that business, which you will please to forward to us, and the further advance shall be immediately made.

[Annapolis] Decr 27th 1776.

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

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1776

Williamsburg, December 27.

By a St. Kitt's paper, we learn, that the governour of St. Eustatia lately gave an entertainment for capt. [Isaiah] Robinson, commander of the continental vessel of war the *Andrew Doria*, to which all the American merchants and provincial agents were invited; also, that one of our privateers had taken a brig belonging to Dominica, and carried her into that Dutch free port.

Col. [Edward] Carrington, of the artillery, just arrived from Hampton, brings us the agreeable intelligence of a most valuable cargo being gone up to Baltimore

from Cape Francois, which comes in a brig that was sent out by Congress, and has on board 800 stand of arms, 15 tuns of gunpowder, a quantity of sulphur, and a very large assortment of blanketing and coarse clothes for the soldiery. A number of French passengers came in the vessel, one of them an officer of rank. The captain of her says, that the French show the utmost civility and give every encouragement to the Americans, and have cruizers out to protect their trade; also, that a declaration of war was every moment expected from the French court, And that gunpowder, woollens, and almost every other kind of goods, were in great plenty at the Cape, and to be bought on good terms.

28 Dec.

CAPTAIN THOMAS THOMPSON TO CAPTAIN HECTOR McNEILL ¹

[Extract]

Sir

Portsmouth Decemr 28th 1776

I am now going to ask your Opinion of an Affair which lately happn'd here; as it Concerns the whole Navy, I should wish to have it set in a proper light in case of future Accidents or Occurrences of this Nature. – One day this Week a Tender belonging to the *Milford* (late Burk's [William Burke] Schooner) having Cruized three Weeks in this Bay without Success, in order to meet the above Ship for which She was loaded with Provisions, Run on Shore in a By Harbour close to the mouth of our Main Harbour. – The manner was thus – Being close in with York Ledge, night coming on & a heavy Gale at N.E, thick of Snow themselves unacquainted – therefore in order to save their Lives, the Commander desired one Pinkum (who was then on board) to Run the Schooner into some safe Harbour & there take their Chance of being made Prisoners of War, rather than perish in the Storm. – In short; on Tuesday Morning [December 24] she was discovered high & dry on shore Close by a Fort – at the same time Pinkum appear'd in Town with the Officers that Commanded & three more belonging to other Ships, who were Passengers – I received the Information in the Street by Accident, immediately sent down Boats and Officers &c & order'd them to take Command of the Vessel & apply to the Officers of the Continental Troops to Assist & bring the Prisoners 50 in Number; but previous to my Lieut getting on board the Prisoners were Secured on Shore, & the Vessel was in possession of the Soldier Officers, who absolutely refused my Lieut taking the Command & was determined to Oppose at all Events – to prevent dispute, the Lieut joined by mutual consent Assisted to do what was necessary to Secure the [Prisoners and] lighten the Schooner, & get her afloat & safe moor'd [which] they effected, & she is now up at Town – This [Pinkum] conceives himself the Captor; The Officers & Soldiers conceive they are the Captors & I think my Authority [Su]percedes them both, & that we are the Captors, as [myself] being the only Commanding Officer in the Navy at this Port, in which department this matter certainly belongs & the dignity of which I shall Endeavour to Sup[port] In short Pinkum has libelled the Schooner on the [strength] of a Resolve of Congress,² which while it is in being I shall consider it as an Injurious Indignity to the Navy, 'tis on Page 12 where the Congress have wisely given the whole of Vesels & their Cargo's to Non-Comba[tant] Persons (which is always accounted Piracy) while at the same time they gave us but one third – This Resolve

also includes detachments from the Army; on the Strength of which the Officers & Soldiers mean to establish their Claim – altho nothing is done in it yet, nor shall I, untill I have your Opinion & the other Gentlemen belonging to the Navy who are now in Boston, which I wo[uld] beg you to send soon as may be; – would have you make my Compliments to Mr [John] Adams & ask his opinion This Resolve must be done away, for as it now stands, if a Vessel by Accident was to be dismantled, & driving on the Shore (as 'tis possible some time may happen) I [pursuing] the Ship, & a fellow Living on the Sea Shore, see the Vessel at one & the Same time, but he being nearer the Ship than us, gets on board first perhaps a few minutes; by the Strength of that Resolve he holds the Vessel and deprives . . .³

1. FDRL.

2. Resolve of March 23, 1776. See Volume 4, 479–80.

3. Final page of this damaged letter is illegible.

LOG OF THE BRITISH SCHOONER TENDER *George*¹

Portsmouth, Decemb. 28 1776.

Extracts from the Log-Book of the *George*-Schooner, a Tender to the *Milford* (formerly the *Warren* commanded by Capt. Burke) which was run on shore in this harbour in the Snow-Storm the 26th instant.

Halifax, Saturday 26th October 1776. Weigh'd, sail'd in company with his majesty's ship *Milford*.

Saturday, Nov. 2, The *Milford* re-took a brig and sent her to Halifax.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, Took a schooner within Thatcher's island, loaded with wood, &c. were fir'd at from the shore by several people – return'd them great guns & small arms.

Thursday, Nov. 7, Stowed away what wood we could from on board the schooner – scutled and set her on fire – sail'd in company with the *Milford*.

Wednesday, Nov. 13. The *Milford*'s boat came on board – weigh'd and work'd into Cape-Cod harbour – a boat came on board with two men, &c.

Thursday, Nov. 21, Took a schooner within Thatcher's island loaded with fish & lumber, put an officer and 3 men on board and sent her to the *Milford*.

Friday Nov. 22, Took a wood sloop in Ipswich Bay, and run down to the *Milford*; took necessaries out of her, & set her on fire – The *Milford* scutled one sloop and sent two schooners to Halifax.

Sund. Nov. 24, Fired two guns & brought a Brig too, which had been taken by a Marblehead Schooner – sent an officer and four men on board, the *Milford* took the Brig in tow. N.B. The aforementioned two Brigs, were prizes of the *true Blue*; The latter was from the Streights, said to be worth 30,000 l. Sterling.

Tuesday Nov. 26, Join'd the *Milford*, took the Brig in tow, parted with the *Milford*, bound for Halifax.

Saturday Dec. 1, Came into Halifax harbour – found riding here, his majesty's Ships *Rainbow*, *Amerson* [*Amazon*], *Flora*, *Liverpool*, *Richmond*, *Lizard*, *Judo* [*Juno*], *Scarborough*, with several other sail.

Friday Dec. 7, Received on board the *Milford's* provisions. Sailed hence the *Amerson* with a fleet of transports for New York.

Saturday Dec. 8, Weigh'd and came to sail out of Halifax harbour.

Friday Dec. 20, Saw a sail to the Westward – hoisted a boat out sent an officer and men on board a Sloop from Portsmo. bound to Sheeps Gut – Pinkum, master.

Saturday Dec. 21, Got the sloop's sail &c. on board and set her on fire.

The officers taken in the above schooner say, That the day before they left Halifax an armed Brig named the *Independance* was taken by [George] Dawson² and a transport ship and carried to fort Cumberland – The Brig engag'd Dawson some time, but the ship running up along side, having soldiers on board conceal'd, who instantly rose up and fired a volley of small arms into the Brig, oblig'd her to strike.

This schooner belonged to the infamous Henry Mowat, well known at the Eastward, who takes every cruel method to distress the good people of these states, in return for the many civilities he had formerly receiv'd from them – she was employ'd as a tender to the *Milford*, and was cruising in this bay in order to join the said ship which Mowat now commands.

1. *The Freeman's Journal*, January 7, 1777.

2. Dawson commanded H. M. Sloop *Hope*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Boston] Saturday. December 28th. 1776.

Petition of Archd Mercer. setting forth, that three Ships which he has loaded were charter'd by Nathl. Falkner [Falconer] in behalf of the secret Comtee. of Congress to proceed from Boston to Virginia there to load with Tobacco for France, are now ready to proceed to Sea. –

And praying, that said Vessels may have liberty to depart under Convoy of the Brig: *Rising States* commanded by Capt James Thompson, and the Brig. *Hancock*, Capt Danl. McNeal [McNeill] it being unsafe for said Ships to proceed without them – &c &c

In Council. – Read, & Committed to the Committee on similar Petitions. –

In the House of Representatives – Read, & Concurred. –

Petition of John Anthony Marion of Port au Prince setting forth, that he arrived in New London the 22d. of July last with a large Cargo of Powder, Arms, & other warlike Stores for the United States of America, and his own Account the proceed of which he has invested in a Ship called the *Camden*, and a Cargo consisting of Lumber, & dry Fish, previous to the Act for preventing Vessels departing this State –

And praying for liberty to proceed on a Voyage to the West Indies. –

In Council. Read, & Committed to the Committee on similar Petitions.

In the House of Representatives. Read & Concurred. –

1. *Mass. Arch.*, vol. 36, 353, 358–59.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN LANGDON ¹Onboard the *Warren* between Providence & Newport

Sir

December 28. 1776 –

Captn Whipple late of the *Columbus*, his Officers and Men understand you have Sold and Collected the Money for the Prize Ship *Royal Exchange* – and as the Service of the States will not permit the Officers and People to go to the different States to collect their Prize Money they have Sent Mr Joseph Hardy Clerk of the *Columbus* to bring it onboard to be distributed – I think it will be for the General Good that you pay him the Captors part, first deducting your Commissions and his Receipt will be your discharge for said part – I am with great Regard Sir [&c.]

E. H –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD ¹Onboard the *Warren* between Providence

Sir

and Newport Decemb. 28th 1776 –

I received your favour of the 24th instt – am glad that Care is taken to unload the *Mellish*, which by a Letter rece'd from Mr [Leonard] Jarvis I believe is done – I am extremely oblig'd to you for the favour done me by Supplying my Son with £30 – which was Sufficient for him – but am at a loss how you should think my Prize Money was Connected with the Companys – as the Congress have Settled my part at one twentieth of the Captors part –

I have applied to Captn Whipple in Respect to Sending you a List of the Men Concern'd, but as the greatest part of the Officers and Men are now on duty onboard the Several Vessels in this Harbour the General Interest of the Country will not permit their applying in Person to the several Agents for their Money – So that if it can't be distributed to them onboard they must go without it – to Remedy which Captn Whipple, his Officers and People have Sent Mr [Joseph] Hardy Clerk of the *Columbus* to bring the Money onboard which I hope will be agreeable – You first taking out your Commissions & the Money you advanc'd my Son – and Mr Hardys Receipt will be your discharge – Capt Whipple would not have taken this Step if there was any other way to Satisfy his Officers and People – ²

Shall be greatly Obligated to you if you will take Care of my part of the other Prizes within your Jurisdiction untill you Receive my Orders to Send it me. I am with Esteem Sir [&c.]

E H

P S. Inclosed you have a Copy of the Resolve of Congress in respect of my Share of Prize Money –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Prize money from sale of captured brigantine *Lord Lifford*.DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[Rhode Island] 28th Decr

Frost, and some Snow.

A boat with a Lieutenant and 5 men belonging to a Rebel Privateer Sloop

of 10 Guns, came on shore this morning on part of Brenton's neck. They were immediately seized by some of the troops quartered there, and brought to Headquarters. The vessel They belong to is off the point of the Eastern Main, and they were sent on shore by the Captain of her to obtain intelligence of the British, but did not know the town was in our possession. Orders were immediately sent to The *Cerberus* Frigate, which lay off Fogland Ferry in the Seconnet passage, to go in quest of her; and accordingly she slipt her Cable and went to Sea.

As the *Alfred* and her prizes are daily expected in, orders have been given to hoist the Rebel Colours upon the appearance of any vessels. The Ships in the harbour have struck their Colours, and the Commodores their broad pendants.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 131–32.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE IN PHILADELPHIA TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Philada Decemr 28th 1776

. . . We have considered that part of your Excellencys letter of the 25th Inst to Mr Morris that relates to the Seamen in the Two New England Battalions, whose times expire with this Year, and shou'd any of them obstinately persist in being discharged from your Service on New Years day We think it adviseable to prevail on them to come down here & assist in getting the Frigates out, when they come we will make the best bargain we can with them & if nothing else will do, We will engage to send them home in one or two of those Ships – if they come on these terms we think Capt [Thomas] Read & his officers shou'd come with them that we may if possible get away the *Washington* as well as the *Delaware*, Congress are very anxious to have these Ships out & will be pleased if this measure is pursu[ed.] . . .

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Baltimore] Saturday, December 28, 1776

That two large floating batteries be built on Lake Champlain, to cover the boom and the bridge; and that General Schuyler be desired to contract with builders for this purpose in New York, or Massachusetts bay, or both, and that General Schuyler provide the materials:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1047, 1048.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Baltimore Decmbr 28 – 1776

Sirs/

I have Bought the Brig² a greeable to your Orders at a Very Great Prise the People all Seemd Determind to have her shee Cost 2550 Pounds I Sopose shee is a fine See Vesell But shee is Not Worth that Mony But I Beleve it Was the Congrase a gainst the Province I Was Very Canded a Bout the Matter I here the[y] intend to Apply to you for her I think you had Best Spare her to them I Dont think her the Vesell that shee Was Represented. I have her hald to a Warf and hands at Work to Get her Ballase Out, I have Bought a Good Deall of Pork

for the *Defence* and shall, have the Brig Red for See as Soon as I Can, if you Dont Spar her to Congrase, Mr [Samuel] Chase told Mee to Night that Congrase Must have her, I have Put her under the Care of Capt Forsith to Put in Order a Very Good Man from your [&c.]

JeSse Hollingsworth

1. Red Book, XIII, Md.Arch.

2. The brig *Brothers* taken by Captain George Cook in the Maryland state ship *Defence*.

29 Dec. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN ¹

Decmr 1776 Moored off the Town of New York
 Saturday 28th At 7 AM the *Amazon* Anchord in the Et River, At [sic]
 Sailed hence his Majesty's Ship *Greyhound*.
 Sunday 29th The first part fresh Breezes & hazey Middle Cloudy, latter Clear
 with hard frost 2 PM came in a Flag a Truce from New Lon-
 don At 5 made the Parole Sigl with a Red & White Striped
 pend[ant]

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

ROBERT MORRIS TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Philada Decr 29th 1776

You cannot conceive how I am vexed & mortified to find after the deal of pains & trouble I have taken that the *Randolph* Frigate is still at the Pier & Ice making in the River but the Officers of that Ship show great reluctance to go away without being compleatly manned & that is not possible, She might have been at Sea before now had they exerted themselves for that purpose but they have had constantly in View to wait for more Men, this has its foundation in a Noble principle which has hindered me from complaining to the Marine Committee, altho I have scolded the Officers like a Buster-Whore for their dilatoriness: they say they wish to Fight & not to run. I tell them they must run untill they can fight –

There are a Number of Soldiers in the two New England Regiments now with Genl Washington whose time expire with this year & will not reinlist. they are chiefly Fishermen or Sea faring People, and I have wrote the General to prevail on all that will not Continue with him to come down here to Man our Frigates & they shall carry them home. I think [this] a good plan as we shall by that me[ans get] some of the Frigates Manned for [Sea] & before they carry the others home they may pick up Seamen from Prizes &c. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decr 76 At single Anchor under C: Henlopen
 Sundy 29th At 7 AM The *Roebuck* weigh'd & stood to a Sloop in the SE Qr
 At 10 AM Saw a Sail at Anchor under C: May & one the *Roebuck*
 Chacing in the SE Qr At Noon The *Roebuck* still in Chace.

Light Airs & fair Wr At $\frac{1}{2}$ past Noon weigh'd & came to sail Pr Signal of the *Roebuck*. All Sails out, At 2 Bore away to speak the *Roebuck* Pr Signal, Set steering Sails. Sent the Longboat to speak a Brig, but the *Roebucks* Boats getting on board her, made the Signal for the Boat to return. At 4 PM The Brig *N. York* was taken by His Majs Ships *Roebuck* & *Falcon*, made the Signal for a Sail in the NW down steering Sails & gave Chace. The *Roebuck* made the Signal for all Chaces in the NW. bore away to speak the *Roebuck*. C: Henlopen light $W\frac{1}{4}N$ 4 Leags C: May NBW $\frac{1}{2}W$ 5 Leags At 11 Wore Ship At 12 Saw a Sail under the Leebow which we took to be the *Roebuck* steer'd after her Lt House WNW 3 or 4 Leags

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Sir

Balt[imo]re Decr 29th 1776

It is the Wish of the Committee of secret Correspondence to avoid as much as possible doing Injury to the State of Maryland, for which Reason they return you many Thanks for your obliging Compliance with their Request as to the Brig ² but seeing the great Prejudice their taking of her would be to the State most willingly give her up, provided the Council will favor them with a small armed Schooner ³ now in this Port, which they hope will answer their Purpose. The Price will be left to your honorable Board which it is expected will be what she cost the State. Your immediate Answer will much oblige Your [&c.]

To the Presidt of the

Council of Safety of Maryland

1. Papers CC (Reports of the Marine Committee), 37, 103, NA.

2. Brig *Friendship*.

3. Schooner *Jenifer*.

BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honourable the Councill of Safety of Maryland

I do hereby certify that I am and have been for a Number of Years acquainted with Captn Bennett Mathews that during a great Part of that Time he followed the Sea and commanded a Ship of which he was as I understood half Owner, that I have always heard that he had served a regular Apprentiship to the Sea and followed it 'till a few Years ago when he retired to a paternal Estate, he has always bore the Character of an expert and able Seaman and on Shore of an honest Man and if the Councill of Safety will give him the Command of a Galley I am convinced he will acquit himself with such Spirit Skill and Honour as not to discredit or bring Disgrace on those who appointed him and that he will do his Country all the Service in his Power

Benjamin Rumsey

29th Decr 1776

Joppa

1. Conarroe Papers, HSP.

30 Dec.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Liverpool*, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH BROWN ¹

December 1776

C. Sable No 37 W. 12 Lgs

Monday 30

at ½ past 3 AM brot too a sail, sent our Boat on board her, found her from Cork to Cadiz, taken off Lisbon Rock by a Rebel Privateer, took Possession of her ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548. Captain Henry Bellew and four men had been sent ashore sick at Halifax on December 9.
2. "The *Providence*, Penlerick, from Corke to Lisbon, is re-taken by the *Liverpoole* Man of War, and carried into Halifax," *Public Advertiser*, London, March 26, 1777.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Boston] Monday December 30th. 1776.

Petition of Enoch Ilsley of Falmouth – setting forth

That he in Company with others fitted out the Sloop *Putnam* as a privateer to Cruize against the Enemies of these States, and the said Sloop having return'd without meeting with Success – he proposes to Arm said Sloop at St Croix in the West Indies as a Letter of Marque –

And praying for a Commission for that purpose –

In the House of Representatives. Resolved that the prayer of the Petition be granted, provided the Petitioner does not carry from this State more than six Men in the said Vessel – And the Council are accordingly hereby impowered to grant a Commission under this Restriction.

In Council. Read, & Concurred.

Consented to by 15 of the Council.

Petition of John Emery setting forth, That under the encouragement given by the honble. Congress he engaged in a foreign Voyage to France, & Spain, and has lately imported into this State a considerable quantity of Linnen. & Woolen Goods which upon his Arrival he offer'd to the Committee of Cloathing for the Continent, who received to the amount of near seven thousand pounds. – that while in Spain he communicated the Resolves of Congress respecting a free Trade to Messrs. Gardoqui. & Sons at Bilboa, and obtained a Credit from them for a large Sum. upon his Contract to repay them in Rice, that upon his Arrival at Newbury Port he found the Embargo laid upon all Vessels prevented the performance of his Agreement, without he can have aid from the Honble. Court. – That besides the great Inconvenience to himself from this Restraint the Credit of other Americans will doubtless be greatly affected. not only with that respectable House at Bilboa, but with the other Merchts. in Spain, who are now disposed to serve the American Cause, if they find there can be no Faith put in their Contracts – he therefore prays for permission to send two Vessels from Newbury Port to Carolina, there to purchase Cargos of Rice, and thence to proceed to Bilboa and a recommendation to the Committee at Carolina to permit him under these Circumstances to load from thence for the purpose aforesaid.

In the House of Representatives. Read, & Committed to the Committee on similar petitions –

In Council. Read, & Concurred.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 36, 361, 362–63.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1776

Boston, December 30.

By a gentleman of veracity who left London the 24th of September, we learn, That the merchants were very much alarmed at so many captures being taken from them, and were petitioning for an accomodation with the Colonists upon commercial principles only; that the court of Britain had demanded a catagorical answer from France where her fleet and troops were destined; but that an evasive answer was returned from that court, implying, they should know in due season.

The Honorable Nathan Cushing, Esq: is appointed Judge of the Maritime Court, for the Middle District, in the Absence of the Honorable Timothy Pickering, Esq: who set out from this Town Yesterday Morning, to join the Forces of the United States of America.

Arrived in York River, in Virginia, the Sloop *Jane*, Booker, Schooner *Success*, Hill, and Schooner *Rambler*, Buffington, all from St. Eustatia, with 600 Casks of Gunpowder, considerable Cargoes of Salt, Cordage, and dry Goods.

To be sold at private Sale at Plimouth, The Ship *Betsey*, a prime Sailer, Burthen about 340 Tons, three Years old, well found; and also her Cargo, consisting of the following Articles, viz.

110,000 Feet Mahogany,
35 Tons Logwood, mostly chipt;
18 or 20 Tons Sarsaperilla.

Whoever hath a Mind to purchase, may have an Opportunity, by applying to Ephraim Spooner.

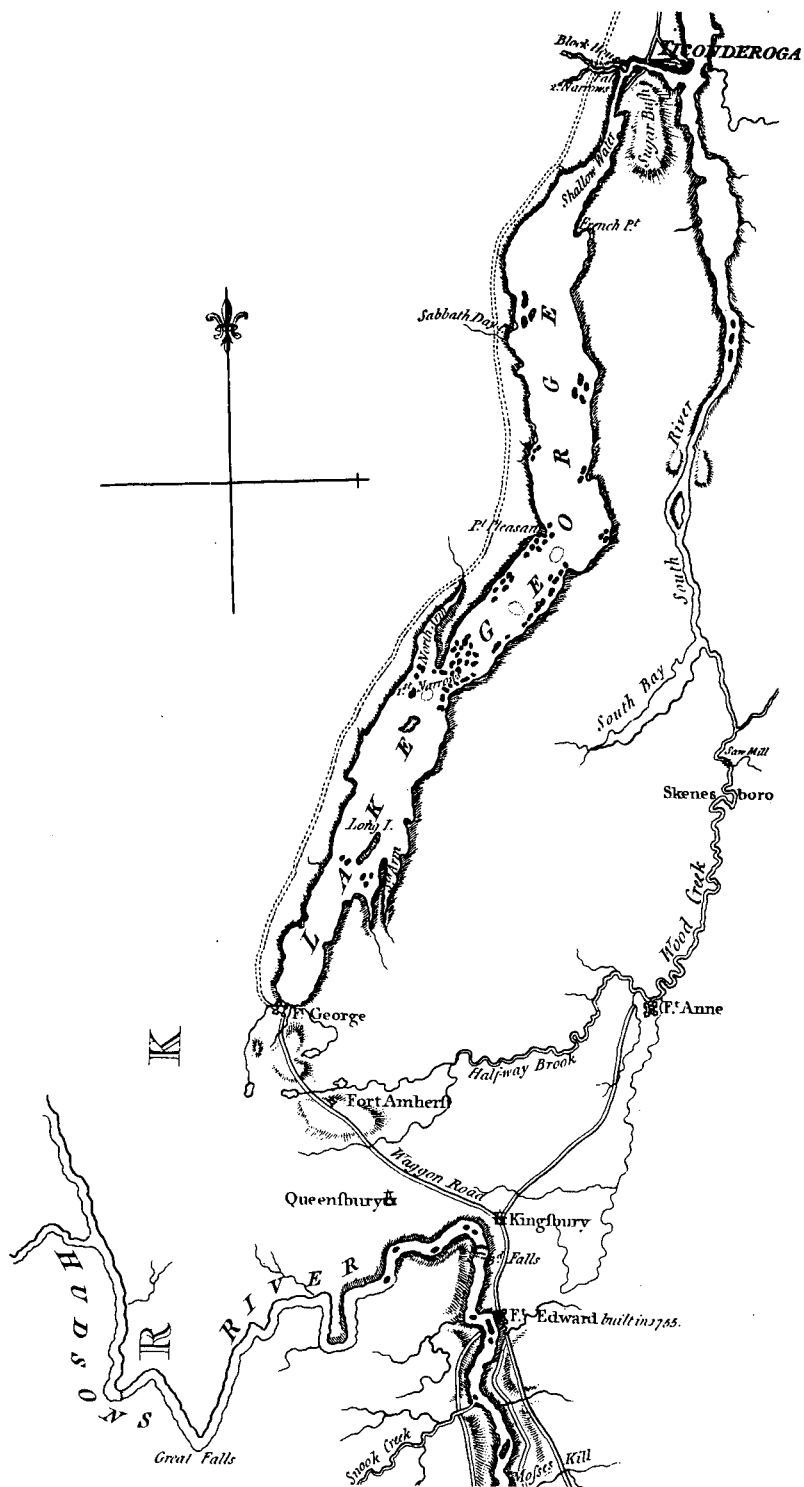
Plimouth, December 21, 1776.

To be Sold at Public Auction, on Tuesday
the [7th] of January, 1777, at Salem,

The Prize Sloop *Speedwell*, formerly the Property of Henry Lloyd of Boston, and commonly called the *York-Packet*. She has a high Deck, and Beams below, good Sails, &c. is well known, and needs no Recommendation.

On Tuesday the 7th Day of January 1777, will be sold at Vendue, at the Store of Joseph Blaney, Esq: in Salem; The Remainder of the Prize Brig *Mary and James's* Cargo, consisting of the following Articles, viz. – Shoes and Knee Buckles, Coat and Breast Buttons, Finger Rings, a great Variety of Deck Furniture, Brass Doors-Locks, Hinges, Screws, &c., Printed Linen Handkerchiefs, Silver Shoe and Knee Buckles, Stock Buckles, Cane Heads, Knee Chapes, white Beaver Hats, Breeches Patterns, Flannel, Watch Chains, Sword Hangers, Womens Shoes, Tread Hose, Lead Ashes, R[ed] Lead, a Quantity Cream-colour'd Ware, &c.

W. P. Bartlet



Lake George and Wood Creek

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany December 30th 1776 –

Directions are given for repairing the Batteaus in Lake Champlain and Lake George and for building one hundred and fifty adapted to the Navigation of Hudson's and the Mohawks Rivers and Wood Creek.

Should the Enemy be able to force us from Tyonderoga, it will be possible for them, altho' we keep possession of Mount Independence to get into Lake George by drawing their Batteaus over Land from below Tyonderoga, for altho' the Task would be arduous yet it is feasible and ought to be guarded against. I therefore propose to build five or six flat Bottomed Vessels of considerable Force on Lake George, and shall begin to prepare the necessary Articles in the Beginning of February unless Congress should please to direct otherwise, and about the same Time I propose to begin the necessary Work of obstructing the Navigation of Lake Champlain between Tyonderoga and Mount Independence, which I hope to execute so effectually as not to leave a possibility for any Kind of Craft to pass whilst we keep possession of the latter place, and which I think we can do against any Force whatever, provided we have a sufficient Garrison properly supplied with Cannon, Ammunition & provision.

A considerable Quantity of Cordage and Oakham is wanted – If it cannot be supplied in this State, I shall send to the Eastern ones, and so indeed I must for many Articles that will be wanted – I wish therefor a Resolution of Congress, directing every State to comply with my applications in whatever they can.

. . . For three Weeks or perhaps a Month to come we have little to fear from our Enemy, but as after that Lake Champlain will be passable, it is probable they will make an Attempt as I am well informed, that they have two Regiments at St Johns, three at Isle au Noix, and a small Body, as an advanced post on Isle-la-motte, and I conjecture that they would hardly keep so many Troops at those places, if they did not meditate a Winter's Expedition – It is therefore of Importance that the Garrison should be strengthened and have therefore repeated my former application for assistance to the Eastern States.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 513–20, NA. This letter was not completed until January 1, 1777.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1776

New-York, Dec. 30.

Several of the Rebel Privateers, in order to intimidate the Merchant Ships, have placed Wooden Guns of a considerable Size upon their Decks. One of these lately taken had but four real Guns, and those very indifferent, with 12 or 14 of the other kind, which, all together gave the Vessel a very formidable Appearance.

AMERICAN PRISONERS LANDED AT CAPE HENLOPEN FOR AN EXCHANGE ¹

A List of *Fifty Prisoners taken in American Trading Vessels Set on Shore or to be set on Shore from His Majesty's Ships Stationed off the Capes of Delaware, by Order of Andrew Snape Hamond, Esquire, commander of the Roebuck and Senior Officer, to be exchanged for the like Number of Prisoners By the Committee of Safety at Philadelphia this 30 Day Dec'r, 1776, Viz't:*

Sloop <i>Schoolkill</i> , Wm. M'Culley,	Seaman.
Schooner <i>Nancy</i> , John Robinnett,	do.
Do. Wm. Kensel,	do.
Do. Jacob Trump,	do.
Brigg <i>Sally</i> , John Hart,	do.
Thos. Fulton.	
<i>Heart of Oak</i> , Sloop, Jno. Middleton,	Seaman.
Do. Thos. English,	do.
Brig <i>Brittania</i> , John Fowler,	do.
Do. Isaac Gooding,	do.
Do. Geo. Harding,	do.
Do. Hugh Dillon,	do.
Col'l <i>Perry</i> , Sloop, John Cross,	do.
<i>Two Brothers</i> , Schooner, James Gilbert,	do.
Do. Thos. Armstrong,	Supercargo.
<i>Fanny</i> , Sloop, Dan'l M'Kay,	Master.
Sloop <i>Greenwich</i> , (Packet,) Jacob Grantham,	Supercargo.
Sloop <i>Schoolkill</i> , Benj'n Camby,	Master.
Schooner <i>Nancy</i> , Dav'd Bevan,	Master.
<i>Greenwich</i> , Packet, Dav'd Coney,	Part Owner.
<i>Schoolkill</i> , Sloop, Rob't Wilton,	Boy.
<i>Heart of Oak</i> , Sloop, Mich'l Butler,	Supercargo.
Do. Josh. Taylor,	Seaman.
Do. Thos. Fleming,	Owner & Supercargo
John Langford.	
Sloop, <i>two Brothers</i> , Wm. Blake Russel,	Passenger.
N.B. To be received from H. M's Ship, <i>Falcon</i> , the undermentioned:	
<i>Falcon</i> , Wm. Elbuoy.	[<i>Falcon</i>]
Do. Chas. Walker.	Do. Chris'r Seymour.
Do. Alex'r Storey.	Do. John Cochran.
Do. Gideon Stebbins.	Do. Neh'ah Taylor.
Do. Thos. Ene'y.	Do. James Boyd.
Do. Jerem'h Morgan.	Do. Fred'k Baker.
<i>Sucsess</i> , Schooner, Henry Coles,	Seaman.
Brig <i>Two Friends</i> , Rich'd Butler,	Mate.
Do. Peter Vancleck,	Seaman.
Do. Conroyd Wey,	do.
Do. John Lindley,	do.
<i>Delight</i> , Sloop, Wm. Church,	Master.
Do. Nicholas Davis,	Mate.

Do.	John Baker,	Seamen.
	Josa. Leveridge,	do.
	Thomas Mash,	do.
Brigg <i>New York</i> ,	John Walker,	Mate.
Do.	John Hardjohn,	Seaman.
Do.	John Columbo,	do.
<i>Adventure</i> , Schooner,	Will'm Pile,	Master to whom I have given the schooner.

Victualued on board His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck*, off Cape Henlopen, this 30 Day December, 1776.

A. S. Hamond.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2d series, I, 657–58.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Copy
Sir

Roe Buck off Lewis Town
30th Decemr 1776 –

The Assurances that you have been pleased to give me “that the Officers and Men taken onboard British Merchant Ships and carried into Philadelphia have not been detained as Prisoners of War, but permitted to depart as opportunities offered” together with an extract I have at the same time received from the Minutes of the Council of Safety at Philadelphia “that an equal number of Such Prisoners being Subjects of the King, Shall be delivered to me, or some other of His Majesty's Officers, when the Council have it in their power” has induced me to give immediate orders that every Prisoner now on board the Ships under my Command here Shall be Set at liberty without delay; being of nothing more ambitious than to prove myself upon All occasions desirous of releaving the distressed – I have the Honor to be sir [&c.]

A S Hamond

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 117, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Baltimore] Monday, December 30, 1776

It appearing to Congress that it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to supply the army of the United States with bacon, salted beef, pork, soap, tallow and candles, unless the exportation thereof be prohibited; therefore,

Resolved, That none of the said articles, except such as may be necessary for the crew of any ship or vessel, be exported from any of the United States after the 5th day of January next, until the first day of November next, or until Congress shall take further order therein. And it is earnestly recommended to the executive powers of the several United States, to see that this resolution be strictly complied with.

Resolved, That Commissioners be forth with sent to the Courts of Vienna, Spain, Prussia and the grand Duke of Tuscany.

That the several Commissioners of the United States be instructed to assure the respective Courts, that notwithstanding the artful and insidious endeavours of the Court of Great Britain to represent the Congress and inhabitants of these

states to the European powers, as having a disposition again to submit to the sovereignty of the crown of Great Britain, it is their determination at all events to maintain their independence.

That the Commissioners be respectively directed to use every means in their power to procure the assistance of the Emperor of Germany, and of their most Christian, Catholic and Prussian Majesties, for preventing German, Russian, or other foreign troops, from being sent to America for hostile purposes against these United States, and for obtaining a recall of those already sent.

That his most Christian Majesty be induced, if possible, to assist the United States in the present war with Great Britain, by attacking the Electorate of Hanover, or any part of the dominions of Great Britain in Europe, the East or West Indies.

That to this purpose the Ambassadors be instructed to represent to the Court of France, that in Case G. Britain should succeed against America, a military Government will be established here, and the Americans already trained to arms will, however unwilling, be forced into the Service of his britannic Majesty, whereby his power will be greatly augmented, and may hereafter be employed to reduce to his Government the french and spanish Islands in the West Indies.

That, should the Independance of America be supported, Great Britain, on the Contrary, would at once be deprived of one third of her power and Commerce; that this in a great Measure would be added to the Kingdom of France, whose Territories in the West Indies would be less liable to Molestation from G. Britain and probably enlarged.

That the Commissioners be farther impowered to stipulate with the court of France, that all the trade between the United States and the West India islands shall be carried on by vessels, either belonging to the subjects of his most Christian Majesty, or of these states, each having free Liberty to carry on such trade.

That the Commissioners be likewise instructed to assure his most Christian Majesty, that should his forces be employed in conjunction with the United States to exclude his Britannic Majesty from any share in the cod fishery of America, by reducing the islands of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and ships of war be furnished when required by the United States to reduce Nova Scotia, the fishery shall be enjoyed equally and in common by the subjects of his most Christian Majesty and these states, to the exclusion of all other nations and people whatever; and half the island of Newfoundland shall be owned by and subject to the jurisdiction of his most Christian Majesty; provided, the province of Nova Scotia, island of Cape Breton, and the remaining part of Newfoundland, be annexed to the territory and government of the United States.

That should the proposals already made be insufficient to produce the proposed declaration of war, and the Commissioners are convinced that it cannot be otherwise accomplished, they assure his most Christian Majesty that such of the British West India islands, as in the course of the war shall be reduced by the united force of France and these states, shall be yielded in absolute property to his most Christian Majesty. And the United States engage on timely notice to furnish at their expence, and deliver at some convenient port or ports in the said

United States, provisions for carrying on expeditions against the said islands, to the amount of two millions of dollars, and six frigates mounting not less than 24 guns each, manned and fitted for the sea, And to render any other assistance which may be in their power as becomes good allies.

That the Commissioners for the Court of France and Spain consult together, and prepare a treaty of commerce and alliance, as near as may be similar to the first proposed to the Court of France, not inconsistent therewith nor disagreeable to his most Christian Majesty, to be proposed to the Court of Spain; adding thereto, "that if his Catholic Majesty will join with the United States in a war against Great Britain, they will assist in reducing to the possession of Spain the town and harbour of Pensacola, provided the citizens and inhabitants of the United States shall have the free and uninterrupted navigation of the Mississippi and use of the harbour of Pensacola, and will, provided it shall be true, that his Portuguese Majesty has insultingly expelled the vessels of these states from his ports, or hath confiscated any such vessels, declare war against the said king, if that measure shall be agreeable to and supported by the Courts of France and Spain.

That the Commissioners for the Court of Berlin consult with the Commissioners at the Court of France, and prepare such a treaty or treaties of friendship and Commerce, to be proposed to the King of Prussia, as shall not be disagreeable to their most Christian or Catholic Majesties.

That the Commissioners at the Court of France be informed of the designs of Congress to send Commissioners to the Courts of Vienna and the grand Duke of Tuscany, to cultivate the friendship of those princes, and to form such treaties of commerce as may be beneficial to those countries and the United States, and directed to acquaint the Ambassadors from their courts to that of France with this design; and in the meantime to solicit thro' those Ambassadors the interference of the Emperor and the Duke of Tuscany, to prevent G. Britain from sending foreign troops to this Country, and to procure a recall of such foreign troops as are already here.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1050, 1054-58.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE TO THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
IN FRANCE ¹

Honble Gentlemen

Baltimore 30 Decemr 1776

You will be pleased to receive herewith copies of our letter of the 21st instant, and of it's inclosures, which we recommend to your attention - Since that letter was written, General Washington, having been reinforced by the Troops lately commanded by General Lee & by some Corps of Militia, crossed the Delaware with 2500 Men, and attacked a body of the enemy, posted at Trenton, with the success, that you will see related in the inclosed hand bill - We hope this blow will be followed by others, that may leave the enemy not so much to boast of, as they some days ago expected, and we had reason to apprehend -

Upon mature deliberation of all circumstances, Congress deem the speedy declaration of France and European Assistance so indispensibly necessary to secure

the Independence of these States, that they have authorized you to make such tenders to France & Spain, as, they hope, will prevent any longer delay of an event, that is judged so essential to the well being of North America – Your Wisdom, we know, will direct you to make such use of these powers, as will procure the thing desired on terms as much short of the concessions now offered as possible; but no advantages of this kind are proposed at the risk of a delay, that may prove dangerous to the end in view – It must be very obvious to the Court of France, that, if Great Britain should succeed in her design of subjugating these States, their Inhabitants, now well trained to arms, might be compelled to become Instruments for making conquest of the French Possessions in the West Indies; which would be a sad contrast to that security & commercial benefit, that would result to France from the Independence of North America –

By some accident, in removing the papers from Philadelphia to this place, the Secretary of Congress has mislaid the additional instructions formerly given you, by which you were empowered to negotiate with other Courts besides France – We think it necessary to mention this to you, lest the papers should have got into wrong hands, and because we wish to have a copy sent us by the first good opportunity –

We observe that Mr Deane sent his dispatches for this Committee open to Mr [William] Bingham, but, though we have a good opinion of that Gentlemen, yet we think him rather too young to be made acquainted with the business passing between you and us, and therefore wish, this may not be done in cases of much importance –

The next opportunity will bring you the determination of Congress concerning the persons, that are to be sent to the Courts of Vienna, Prussia, Spain, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany – In the meantime, it is hoped, that, through the medium of the Ambassadors from those Courts to that of France, you may be so fortunate as to procure their friendly mediation for the purposes proposed by Congress – Our *Andrew Doria* of 14 Guns has taken a King's Sloop of War of 12 Guns after a smart engagement – ² In our last we say, the Enemy made near 3000 Prisoners at Fort Washington, but the number is fixed at 2634 – The West India-men, taken by our Cruisers, amount to 250 Sail –

The Scarcity of Ships here is so great, that we shall find much difficulty in making the extensive remittances to France, that we ought, in due season, and therefore it will, in our opinion, be an object of great importance to obtain the consent of the Farmers General to send to Virginia & Maryland for any quantity of Tobacco, they may chuse, or to the State of North Carolina for any quantity of Naval Stores, which may be wanted for publick use, or to supply the demands of private Merchants – The terms, both as to quantity & price you will endeavour to learn and let it be made known to us with all possible expedition, that you may receive an answer thereon –

The Captain of the Armed Vessel, that carries these dispatches has orders to deliver them himself to you in Paris, and his vessel will expect his return in a different Port from the one he arrives at – He will take your directions about his return, and receive your letters, but the anxiety prevailing here to know your success, renders it proper, that he should return with all possible dispatch – ³

Wishing you health, success, and many happy years we remain Honble Gentlemen [&c.]

Benja Harrison Jn^o Witherspoon
Richard Henry Lee Will Hooper

P.S. The number of prisoners lately taken in the Jersies amounts to about 1100 and Gen. Washington is advancing upon the enemy who are retreating thro the Jersies towards New York.

1. Charles Roberts Autograph Collection, 720, Box 1, HCL.
2. H. M. Sloop *Racehorse*.
3. This dispatch was carried by Captain Larkin Hammond of the Maryland armed schooner *Jenifer*. See next entry.

JOHN HALL, FOR THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY, TO BENJAMIN HARRISON ¹

In Council of Safety

Sir

Annapolis – December 30th 1776

Considering the State of Maryland to be embarked in the same cause with the Honble Congress, we readily and chearfully agree that you should have the small armed Schooner now in your Port,² which we hope, will answer the Purpose intended, nothing more will be asked for her in Point of Price, but what she cost the State; we expect not to gain, nor would you wish, we are persuaded, that the State of Maryland should loose any thing by the vessel. – We let you have her in the public cause to oblige Congress. – be pleased to notify this to the Commander, and direct him to return a Schedule or Memorandum of Guns and other effects on board, the Price we will send hereafter. – Blankets we have none, but we will furnish Mr Griffin with Cotton to make them, which may be easily done, 'tis the shift we are forced to make for our own Hospital, as also enough to make two for your servant, which may be returned in kind, when convenient. We are Sir [&c.]

J Hall V.P.

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XI, 113, NA; copy in Council of Safety Letter Book, Md. Arch.
2. The armed schooner *Jenifer* at Baltimore.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday 30th December 1776. –

Present Mr [Thomas] Whiting, Mr [Champion] Travis & Mr Edward Archer –

Ordered that the Commanding officers on Board the *Safeguard*, *Page & Lewis* Gallies apply to Mr Thomas Archer at York Town and take on Board of their Respective Vessels such a Quantity of Shot as they can carry with safety up to Fraizers Ferry and when they arrive there lodge the Shot with Mr Fraizer taking a Receipt for the same mentioning the number and size thereof and Return to Queens Creek as soon as Possible and wait on the Board for further Orders.

Jesse George is Recommended to his excellency the Governor and the honble the Council as a proper person to be appointed second Lieut of the *Lewis* Galley. –

Adjourned till tomorrow Morning Ten of the Clock. –

Signed, Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr

1. Navy Board Journal, 146–47, VSL.

THOMAS WHITING TO WILLIAM FRAZER ¹

Navy Board [Williamsburg] 30th. Decr. 1776

Ordered that William Frazer furnish the Commanding Officer on Board the *Safe-Guard* Galley with such Necessaries as he may be in need of

By Order of the Board

Thoms Whiting 1st Comr

[Endorsed] Recd of Mr Wm Frazer in Consequence of the Above order 1 quarter Beef wt 96 lb 1 Cask butter 82 Neat 23 gallon Whiskey 1 Hogg wt 70 lb And 6 Bushell potatos for the use of the *Safe Guard* Gallie of War George Elliot Commander Swd Henry Stuart ²

1. Papers concerning the State Navy, vol. 1, 370b, VSL.

2. Orders were also sent to Frazer this date to supply the galleys *Lewis* and *Page*, Papers concerning the State Navy, vol. 2, 158a, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD ¹

Navy Board [Charleston]

Monday 30th Decemr 1776 –

The Board mett according to Adjournment

Present Edward Blake Esqr. first Commissioner

Thos Savage Thos Corbett Josiah Smith Geo Smith Esqrs. The Clerk Reported he had paid the armed Schooner *Rattle Snake* Stationed at Geo Town to the 20th Instant Inclusive Amounting to £1881.8. 8 –

Agreed that Capt. Edward Allen should Open a Rendevous and to Advance a Months pay to Every man that will Inlist in the service of the state for six months

The first Commissioner is desired to write to Mr. Elder surgeon of the *Comet* and request that he will give his attendance on board the said Vessell Once Every day while in Harbour

Agreed that Mr. Stephen Duval do purchase a small Boat from Capt. Francis Morgan for the use of the Pilot Boat *Eagle* and that the first Commissioner do pay for the same

Agreed to draw on the Treasury for amot of the *Comets* Pay bill to the 27th Inst being 3 Months Amot. £2906.18 – for the Detachment of Soldiers on board the said Brig 383 12

Adjourned to next Thursday Eveng 6 oClock

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 31.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Galatea*, CAPTAIN THOMAS JORDAN ¹

December 1776 Bermuda N22.00 Et 124 Miles
 Monday 30th At 8 AM Saw a sail to the Noward do made Sail and gave
 Chace, At 10 fired a Swivel and brot too the Sloop *Union* ²
 from New London bound to Guadaloupe Laden with Lumber
 & 4 Horses, At 12 Wore Ship and made Sail in Company
 with 4 Prizes.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.
2. Sloop *Union*, Eba Waters, master, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

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

Remarks on Monday 30th Decemr 1776 [St. Pierre, Martinique]
 Pleasant weather employd in fixing our Vessel part of my Crew demanded their discharge I told them it was not in my power to discharge them in a Foreign port. they told me they would desert. I acquainted them that if they did I should do all in my power to catch them & should confine them until I was ready to leave the port & then take them on board. they apply'd to the Continental Agent ² to enter on board his Schooner Privateer he refus'd them. they then apply'd to the Intendant, he told them they wer Subject to their Captn & none else and that there Capt was not Subject to any body but the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay. therefore he advised them to repair on board & do their duty. they told me that they would not do their duty that they had no Officers & they were very troublesome and made much uneasiness on board

1. John Fisk Journal, AAS.
2. William Bingham.

31 Dec.

JOHN LANGDON'S ACCOUNTS WITH THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Portsmouth, December 31, 1776] ²

Sketch of Marine & Secret Committees Accots vizt			
To the Debit of Secret Committee for sundry Cargo[es] Vessels &c - say	}	£ 9600	By Cash recd from Secret Committee & returns fm W Indies P Greenough - Say Ballance to Debit of Marine Committee -
			£ 8276
			1324
			£ 9600
Dr Marine Committee		Contra	Cr
To Ballice of Secret Committee -		By Cash recd from Committee	
	£1324 -		£12000

JOHN LANGDON'S ACCOUNTS WITH THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS [continued]

To purchase of Ship	}	460 -	By <i>Royl Exchge</i> Nt	5600 -
<i>Royal Exchge</i> -				
To sundy Charges	}	150 -	Say Ballance	17600 -
in Accot -				4334 -
Ship <i>Raleigh</i> say		20000 -		
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		£21934 -		£21934 -

N B. The 20,000 Dollars recd by W Whipple is not included in the above— Adding which to their Cr leaves £1666 due the Committee & is all I have to carry on the buildg of Capt [John] Roches ship -

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

2. Date is approximated. It seems likely that Langdon would "sketch" out his accounts at the end of the year.

The Freeman's Journal, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1776

Portsmouth, Dec. 31, 1776.

Last Wednesday night, in a severe storm, by the skill of Capt. Pinkham, was steer'd safe into this harbour, the schooner *George*, of about 80 tons, being the *Milford's* Tender of 8 carriage guns, having a considerable quantity of provisions on board for her. - Captain Pinkham, the 19th instant, sail'd from this port for the Eastward, after having deliver'd a Load of Wood; the 20th he was taken by the above Tender, the 21st they burnt his vessel, with about 100 l. in stores on board, and kept Capt. Pinkham and his two men he had with him, in pursuit of more prizes, but by reason of the violence of the above storm, they begg'd of Pinkham to take the helm at York ledge, and save their lives if he could, & he should be welcome to the vessel, which he at first steer'd into Little Harbour, and is now at Moffatt's wharfe - She had 51 officers and privates on board, who are all safe under guard in this town. - The above was a continental vessel, and commanded by Capt. Burk, as a privateer,¹ but now by one Richard Willis.

1. Formerly Washington's schooner *Warren* which had been taken by H. M. S. *Liverpool*. See Volume 6.

"A RETURN OF THE PRISONERS CONFINED AT NEWBY PORT DECR 31. 1776 - " 1

Prisoners Names	Stations	Vessels belongg to	by whom Taken.		Where Confined,
Peter Rigan	Capt	<i>Georgia Diana</i>	<i>Washington</i>	Nath Odiorne	Wm. Atkins Esqrs
James Simonet	Capt		<i>Hawk & Success</i>	Lee & Fletcher	Capt James Brown's
John Flea -	Mate	Brign <i>Billy</i>	<i>Ranger</i>	Peter Roberts	Mr Samll Pilburys
Philip Wheaton	Mate	Snow <i>John</i>	<i>Cival Usage</i>	Andw Giddings	Mr Wm Price,
Thos Thompson	Do		<i>Hawk</i>	John Lee	Nathan Hoyts
Robt Overstone	Do		Do	Do	
Peter McFarland	Do		<i>Hancock</i>	Wingate Newman	Thos Merrill
Henry Rachley	Do		<i>Hawk</i>	Jno Lee	Majr Ralph Cross
Dennis Leonard	Do		Do	Do	Mr Jarrod,
James Corbet	Do	Brig <i>Susannah</i>	Do	Do	Goal -
Geo Stewart	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
Thos Gordon	passengr	Ship <i>Nancy</i>	<i>Hancock</i>	Wingate Newman	Do
Joseph Randal	Do	Brig <i>Billy</i>	<i>Ranger,</i>	Peter Roberts	Do

DECEMBER 1776

“A RETURN OF THE PRISONERS CONFIN'D AT NEWBY PORT DECR 31. 1776—”—[continued]

Prisoners Names	Stations	Vessels belongg to		by whom Taken.	Where Confined,	
	[passengr]	[brig <i>Billy</i>]		[<i>Ranger</i>]	[Peter Roberts]	[Goal]
Edwd Payne	Do	Do Do		Do	Ditto	Do
Wm Payne	Do	Do		Do	Do	Do
John Blewer	Do	Do		Do	Do	Do
Charles Hide	Do	Do		Do	Do	Do
John Rose	Do	Do		Do.	Do	Do
Charles Grover						Do
Thos Kerselon						Do
Moses Lewis						Do
John Fidding						Do

In Committee of Correspondence &c, Newbyport 31st Decemr 1776

This may Certify, that the above is a True Return of the Masters, Marriners & Seamen, who have been Confin'd, by the Comittee of Newbury port, in Obediance to an Order, of the Honle Council of the 11th Instant, those Confin'd to the several private places Markt against their Names, have Bondsmen to Appear when Called for, and are att their own Expençe, —

By Order of the Committee
Mich^l Hodge Clerk

ADAM BABCOCK TO JOHN BROWN¹

Sir

Bedford 31st Decr 1776 –

This informs You of the arrival of the prize *Brigt Countess of Eglinton*, from Glasgow bound to Antigua, her cargo amounting Pr Invoice to 4582.17..6 Sterlg mostly in Check Linnens, Thread Hose Shoes &c also 200 Firkins Butter &c 160 Bbbs Bread &c &c The Brigantine of about 160 Tons is full She was taken by Capt Wm Dennis in the privateer Sloop *America*. Your Privateer *Retaliation* Capt. [Isaac] Jones, was in sight, when the Brig struck. Capt. Dennis's prize Master Mr [Noble] Wood delivered me the Brig papers & I have libel'd the prize in the Maritime Court of this District – at which time Your Claim must be settled — on board of this prize it appears by a letter from both Captains of the privateers, they agreed to Share in each others Captures equally whether Seperate or together for the whole of the Cruize for the future does this meet with your approbation, In other Words are you content to share equally with us in all prizes that both Privateers take after that Agreement – the one half to go to the owners & officers & men of your Privateer the other half to the owner officers & men of the Other — To prevent all disputes hereafter I should be glad of your Answer hereto, in behalf of myself & the other owners of the Privateer Sloop *America* –

You have a Copy of the Libel inclosed & shall have a Copy of the Invoice; the Cargo appears to have been all shipt by one House at Glasgow — but Capt Wood in his haste gave me the first & third Sheet but the Second I suppose is still in his Chest — when he returns which will be in a Day or two I will Send You a Copy — there is also an adventure of the Cpts amounting to near £200 Sterling—I think it best to have the Goods immediately unladed, as doubtless Some of them may be wet, by bad Weather on a Winters passage – The whole I shall deposit in a Safe Store till the Court have decreed the Prize to Some one or both & the Proportion – which I dare Say will meet with your approbation I am

[Endorsed] True Copy Attest Bartlett Le Baron Regr

A True Copy Attest: Chas Cushing Cler

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, No. 9, Court of Appeals, 1776–1787, NA. Neither the writer nor the recipient is named but can be determined from the content. Adam Babcock was agent for the Rhode Island privateer *America*, and John Brown was the principal owner of Rhode Island privateer *Retaliation*.

TRIAL AND ACQUITTAL IN RHODE ISLAND ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE
SCHOONER *Frank*¹

Thomas Rutenbrough Libellant } Decr 16.. 1776 adjourned
vs }
Schooner *Frank* &c } to Decemr 31: 1776 –

Decemr. 31: The Court is in being according to Adjournment.— The said Schooner her Appurtenanc[e]s and Cargo having been captured on the high Seas and brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled in this Court, and public Notice thereof having been given in the News Papers according to law for the Owner or Owners of the said Schooner her Appurtenanc[e]s and Cargo or any Person or persons concerned therein to appear in this Court and shew Cause if any they have why the same should not be condemned: And thereupon Mary Alsop of Middle-

ton in the County of Hartford in the State of Connecticut Administrat[r]ix of all and singular the Goods and Chattels Rights and Credits which wereof Richard Alsop Esquire deceased and Sylvanus Waterman of Chatham in said County of Hartford Mariner, by Henry Marchant Esqr as their Attor[ney] came into Court and Claimed the said Schooner her Appurtenances together with Seventy Two Casks of dry Fish Twenty nine Quintals of Fish and Five Barrels of Herrings as their Property, they the said Mary and Sylvanus being Good Subjects of the united States of America. wher[e]upon John Cole Esqr as Proctor for the Libellant now proceeded and adduced all the Pleas Allegations and Prooffs in Support of the Facts alledged in the Libel; And the said Henry Marchant as Attorney to the Claimants also adduced all the Pleas allegations and Proofs relative to the said Claim, and the whole being fully heard and committed to the Jury duly impaneled and sworn to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the said Bill and to Return a true Verdict thereof according to Law and Evidence whereupon they the said Jurors return their Verdict in the following Words "We find that the Schooner *Frank* and her Cargo at the Time of Capture by the private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery* were the Property of Mary Alsop as Administratix of the Estate of Richard Alsop deceased, and the property of Sylvanus Waterman, as set forth in their Claim." – which Verdict is now read and accepted, and thereupon the said Schooner *Frank* her Appurtenances and Cargo are acquitted and ordered to be restored and delivered up to the said Mary and Sylvanus the Claimants. –

Decree –

I John Foster Esqr Judge of the Court aforesd having heard Read in open Court, a Bill or Information exhibited by Thomas Rutenburgh of Providence in said State Commander of the private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery* of the Port of Providence duly Commissioned agreeable to the orders of the Honble the Continental Congress to Cruise against the Enemies of the united States of America in Behalf of himself the Owners of and the Officers & Men belonging to the said Sloop of War, seting forth, "that on the Twenty Ninth Day of October AD: 1776, he the said Thomas together with his said Officers and men belonging to the said Sloop of War being upon the High Seas, and on a Cruise against the said Enemies, Captured and took the Schooner *Frank* Commanded by one Sylvanus Waterman together with her Cargo consisting of Ninety One Casks of dry Fish about Forty Quintals of Ditto in Bulk Eleven Tierces and Five Barrels of Oyle and Five Barrels of Herrings bound from the Port of Ferryland in the Island of Newfoundland to the Island of Jamaica in the West Indies, and that the said Schooner with her Appurtenances and Cargo at and before the Time of Capture belonged to and were the Property of some of the Subjects of the King of Great Britain whose Fleets and Armies are now acting in an hostile manner against the aforesd united States of America, other than the Inhabitants of Bermuda or New Providence or the Bahamma Islands; And that he the said Thomas had sent the said Schooner with her Appurtenances and Cargo into the Port of said Providence for Adjudication, praying that such proper Process and Monitions might be granted as in such Cases are Required by Law." And public Notice having been given for the Owner or Owners of the said Schooner *Frank* her Appurtenances and Cargo,

or any person or Persons concerned therein to appear in this Court and shew Cause, if any they have why the same should not be condemned. Whereupon Mary Alsop of Middle Town in the County of Hartford and State of Connecticut widow and Administratrix of all and Singular the Goods and Chattels Rights and Credits of Richard Alsop late of said Middletown Esqr deceased and Sylvanus Waterman of Chatham in said County of Hartford Mariner exhibited their Claim setting forth that the said Schooner *Frank* with her Appurtenances and Cargo at and before the Time of said Capture were the property of and belonged to the Inhabitants of and the good Subjects of the united States of America and were designed for the Use Benefit and Support of the good Subjects of the united States aforesaid; That is to say the aforesaid Schooner with her Tackle Apparel and Appurtenances together with Seventy Two Casks of dry Fish and Twenty Nine Quintals of Fish and Five Barrels of Herrings were at the Time aforesaid the Property of the said Mary as Administratrix as aforesd and the remaining Part of the Cargo aforesd at said Time the Property of the said Sylvanus Waterman and the Mariners on board the said Schooner who were the Good Subjects of the States aforesaid, and that not any part of the said Schooner or her Cargo were the Property of any of the Subjects of the King of Great Britain neither was the aforesaid schooner in the Employ or Service of the Enemies of the united States neither was the Cargo of the said Schooner designed to Supply the Fleet or Armies of the King of Great Britain or any of the Enemies of the united States but was for the Advantage and Benefit of the good Subjects of the united States of America, and this the said Mary and Sylvanus prayed might be inquired into by the Country.” Whereupon John Cole Esqr as Proctor for the said Thomas & the Libellants, now proceeded and adduced all the Pleas Allegations and Proofs relative to the Truth and Justice of the said Capture and other Facts alledged in the said Bill, after which in Reply Henry Marchant Esqr as Proctor for the said Mary and Sylvanus proceeded and adduced all the Pleas Allegations and Evidences in Support of their said Claim and the Matters alledged therein, and after a full hearing the whole was committed to the Jury impaneled according to Law and sworn to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the said Bill and to return a true Verdict thereon according to Law and Evidence – And thereupon they the said Jurors Return their Verdict in the following Words. – [“]We find That the Schooner *Frank* and her Cargo at the Time of Capture by the private Sloop of War called the *Montgomery* were the Property of Mary Alsop as Administratrix of the Estate of Richard Alsop Deceased, and the Property of Sylvanus Waterman as set forth in their Claim.” – which Verdict being read accepted and Recorded, I do thereupon adjudge and decree that the said Schooner *Frank* her Appurtenances and Cargo be and the same are hereby acquitted and dischargd from the Process upon the Bill aforesaid, and hereby order that the same be forthwith delivered up and restored to the said Mary and Sylvanus the Claimants. –

The Libellants by John Cole Esqr their Proctor prayed an Appeal from the aforesd Decree to the Honble the Continental Congress, which is granted upon their Giving Bond according to Law.²

1. Admiralty Court Minute Book, vol. 2, R. I. Arch.

2. The decision was reversed by another trial in the Rhode Island Admiralty Court on January 27, 1777, Admiralty Court Minute Book, vol. 2, R. I. Arch.

"LIST OF ALL THE VESSELS CARGOES &C BROUGHT INTO THE
IN THE MARITIME

Reed Cost	No.	Libellants.	Names of the Prizes taken	Tonage of the Prizes	Names of the Captains of the prizes	Names of the Vessels which took the prizes	Commanders of the Privateers which took the Prizes	When the Prizes were taken
	1.	John Grimes and John Hyers	Brig <i>Georgia Packet</i>	90	George Bunner	<i>Spitfire</i> <i>Washington</i> Row-Gallies	John Grimes & John Hyers	1776 April 11th
Do	2.	Ditto	Sloop <i>Speed- well</i>	80	Levi Carman	Ditto-	Ditto	Do
Do	3.		Sloop <i>Two Friends</i>	90	Abraham Cope- land	<i>Andrew Doria</i>	[Nicholas Biddle]	
Do	4.		Ship <i>True Blue</i>	200	James Stable	<i>The Cabot</i>	[Elisha Hinman]	
Do	5.		Brig <i>Roeer</i>	140	John Hunter	<i>Montgomery</i>		
Do	6.		Brig <i>Harlequin</i>	130		Do		
Do	7.		Brig <i>Mary</i>	200		Sloop <i>Hancock</i>		
Do	8.		Ship <i>Jane</i>	220		<i>Diamond</i>		
Do	9.		Ship <i>Eagle</i>	280		<i>Montgomery</i>		
Do	10.		Ship <i>Star & Garter</i>	200		<i>Diamond</i>		
Do	11.		Ship <i>Friend- ship</i>	230		Do		
	12.		Brig <i>Lawrence</i>	110		<i>Andrew Doria</i>		
	13.		Brig <i>Elizabeth</i>	110		Do		
Do	14.		Ship <i>Aurora</i>	210		Sloop <i>Indepen- dence</i>		
Do	15.		Brig. <i>Fanny</i>	146		Do		
Do	16.		Brig <i>Sally</i>	130		<i>Montgomery & Yankey Ranger</i>		
Do	17.		Sloop <i>Char- lotte</i>	40		<i>York Montgomery Genl Schuyler</i>		
	18.	John Cole vs.	3 Cables 2 Anchors-		Belonged to the <i>Scarborough</i>	<i>Spit-fire</i> Row-Gally	John Grimes	April 20
	19.		7 Negro Men			Continental Fleet		
	20.		191 Small Arms &c			<i>Andrew Doria</i>		
Do	21.		Brig <i>Bee</i>	140		<i>Yankey Ranger & Montgomery</i>		
Do	22.		Brig. <i>Triton</i>	140		<i>Montgomery</i>		
	23.		Brig. <i>John</i>	150		<i>Yankey Ranger & Montgomery</i>		
Do	24.		Ship <i>Betsy</i>	210		<i>Montgomery</i>		
Do	25.		<i>St James</i>	310		<i>Genl Greene & Harlequin-</i>		
Reed Cost	26.		Ship <i>Blaze Castle</i>	360		Sloop <i>Sally</i>		Sept 23
	27.		Schooner <i>Sally</i>	60		Sloop <i>Joseph</i>		"
Do	28.		Brig. <i>Minerva</i>	70		Brig <i>Industry</i>		
Do	29.		Ship <i>Thomas</i>	220		Sloop <i>Hawk</i>		
Do	30.		Ship <i>Peggy</i>	230		Sloop <i>Favourite</i>		
Do	31.		Ship <i>Union</i>	200		Sloop <i>Hawke</i>		
Do	32.		Schooner <i>Hannah</i>	40		Sloop <i>Favourite</i>		

PORT OF PROVIDENCE AND LIBELLED TRIED AND CONDEMNED
COURT AD 1776''¹

When the Prizes were Libelled	When the Prizes were tried -	Where the Prizes were bound from	To what Places the Prizes were bound	Cargoes of the Prizes	Owners of the Prizes	Officer who sold the Prizes	Amount Sales
1776 April 19th	1776 May 21st	bound from Philadelphia to Georgia and in her Passage taken by the <i>Scarborough</i> Man of War Brought into Newport and Retaken		400 Barrils of Flour Soap and Small Arms	Christopher Peessin Jacob Wright of the city of Philadelphia	Paul Tew Sheriff	1555. 3. 6
Do	Do	Bound from Turks Island to some Port in Massachusetts Bay -taken as the <i>Georgia Packet</i>		4 Casks of Coffee 2500 Bushels of Salt	Thomas Follansbee and Wm. Morland of New-Bury Port.	Ditto	1132. 13. 11
	June 17th					Ditto	1403. 18. 8
	July 4th					Ditto	12, 691. 12. 0
	July 22d					Do	4, 960. 5. 7
July 30	August 19th					Do	7, 418. 3. 1
Do	Sept 2d					John Lawrence	6, 781. 13. 6
Aug 8	August 26					Paul Tew	8, 188. 4. 6
Do	Do					Ditto	12, 138. 18. 0
Aug 13	Sept 2d					Ditto	7, 907. 3. 4
Aug 15	Sept 2d					Ditto	10, 191. 18. 0
Sept 9	Octr 1st						
Sept 10	Octr 1st						
Sept 10	Do					Ezekiel Burr	14, 242. 0. 0
Sept 11	Do						
Sept 11	Do						
Sept 12	Do						
Do	Do	These Cables and Anchors	belonged to the <i>Scarborough</i> Man of War	and were left in the Harbour of Newport	and were Left there when she was driven from thence		
Do	Do						
July	July 22d						
Sept 13	Octr 1st						
Sept 13	Octr 7th						
Do	Do						
Do	Do						
Sept 20	Octr 10th						
Sept 23	Octr 14th						
Octr 4.	Octr 21st						
Do	Do						
Octr 9.	Octr 28th						
Do	Do						
Octr 16.	Novr 4th						
Oct 18	Novr 11th						

"LIST OF ALL THE VESSELS CARGOES &C BROUGHT INTO THE
THE MARITIME COURT

No.	Libellants.	Names of the Prizes taken	Tonage of the Prizes	Names of the Captains of the prizes	Names of the Vessels which took the prizes	Commanders of the Privateers which took the Prizes	When the Prizes were taken
33	Esek Hopkins Esq	Ship <i>Louther</i>	200	Basil McConnel	<i>Cabot</i>	Elisha Hinman	Sept 26
34	Ditto-	Brig. <i>Success</i>	130		Sloop <i>Providence</i>	[John Paul Jones]	
35.		Sloop <i>Portland</i>	70		Do		
Do	36 Joseph Jauncey vs	Snow <i>Friendship</i>	270	Richard Sainthill	Sloop <i>Washington</i>	Joseph Jauncey	Octr. 12th
	37 Thomas Stacy vs	Ship <i>Woodcock</i>	300	Wm Richardson	Sloop <i>Diamond</i>	Thomas Stacy	Sept 22
	38	Ship <i>Belle</i>	300		Sloop <i>Greenwich</i>		
	39	Brig. <i>Kingston Packet</i>	110		Sloop <i>Providence</i>		
Do	40	Brig. <i>Mary & Joseph</i>	80		<i>Diamond</i>		
Do	41 Thomas Rutenbor vs	Schooner <i>Property</i>	90	William Freeman	Sloop <i>Montgomery</i>	Thomas Rutenbor & Isaac Field	Octr 10.
	42 Job Peirce	Brig. <i>Pasley</i>	100	Tunis Montanie	Schooner <i>Eagle</i> Sloop <i>Greenwich</i>	Job Peirce	Octr 7th
	43	Ship <i>Westmoreland</i>	300		<i>Cabot</i>		
Do	44	Brig. <i>Live-Oak</i>	260		Sloop <i>Diamond</i>		
Do	45	3 Cannon 100 Arms &c			Sloop <i>Sally</i>		

PORT OF PROVIDENCE AND LIBELLED TRIED AND CONDEMNED IN
AD 1776"—[continued]

When the Prizes were Libelled	When the Prizes were tried -	Where the Prizes were bound from	To what Places the Prizes were bound	Cargoes of the Prizes	Owners of the Prizes	Officer who sold the Prizes	Amount Sales
Oct 22	Do	Jamaica -	London -	Sugar, Rum	Indigo &c		
Do	Do						
Do	Do						
Do.	Do.	Victualling Office London-	To the Army of the King at New York	Bread, Beef, Pork, Peas, Oat meal, Flour, Rice, Raisins, Oil, Vinegar, Spirits, Butter &c	His Britanick Majesty		
Do.	Do.	Quebeck	Spithead in Great Britain	30 Chaldrons of Sea-Coal 160 Butts: Copper Kettls &c		John Lawrence	6670..0..0
Do	Novr. 9th						
Octr 17	Novr 4th						
Octr 26	Novr 18						
Oct 31	Do	Cape Nichola Mole	Liverpool in Nova Scotia				
Oct 30	Novr 16th	Tortola -	Liverpool in Great Britain	28 Casks Sugar. 15 Hhds Rum 5 Bales Cotton and about 50 Tons of Fustick	Thomas & John Buchanan of Scotland own the Brig & the Cargo is owned by Thomas York and Walter Buchanan of Setd		
Nov 7.	Novr 27						
Do	Do						
Do	Do						

"LIST OF ALL THE VESSELS CARGOES &C BROUGHT INTO THE
THE MARITIME COURT

No.	Libellants.	Names of the Prizes taken	Tonage of the Prizes	Names of the Captains of the prizes	Names of the Vessels which took the prizes	Commanders of the Privateers which took the Prizes	When the Prizes were taken
46	Job Peirce vs	Brig. <i>Pheniz</i>	150	John Darrell	Sloop <i>Greenwich</i>	Job Peirce	Novr 7
Do	47	Schooner <i>Endeavour</i>	125		Sloop <i>Montgomery</i>		
	48 John Tilling- hast vs	Ship <i>Friend- ship</i>	300	Samuel Brom- stone	Sloop <i>Independence</i>	John Tilling- hast	
	49 Thomas Ruten- bourgh	Schooner <i>Frank</i>	65	Sylvanus Waterman	Sloop <i>Montgomery</i>	Thomas Rutenbourgh	
	50 Israel Ambrose	Sloop <i>Swallow</i>	60	Edward Moffat	Sloop <i>Snow-Bird</i>	Israel Ambrose	
	51 Barzillai Smith	<i>Rio Pongo</i>		Walter Cherry	<i>Eagle</i>	Barzilla Smith	

1. Manuscript Collection, vol. 6, 61-62, RIHS.

2. At this point in the manuscript the column headings change slightly in wording but not in substance.

PORT OF PROVIDENCE AND LIBELLED TRIED AND CONDEMNED IN
AD 1776"—[continued]

When the Prizes were Libelled	When the Prizes were tried -	Where the Prizes were bound from	To what Places the Prizes were bound	Cargoes of the Prizes	Owners of the Prizes	Officer who sold the Prizes	Amount Sales
Do	Novr 25	Quebeck	to Granada-	175 Empty Casks & 1000 Quin- tals of Dry Fish	Edward Darker Daniel Attwood Joseph Hin- son &c owners of the Vessel of Bermuda Todd & Magill owners of Cargo		
Novr 12. Nov 21.	Novr 30 Deer 9	Victualing Office London	To the Armies of the King New York	11,970 lb Beef 47830 lb Pork 14,627 lb Butter 4875 lb Oat meal 140,730 lb Flour &c Fish & Oil	His Britannick Majesty		
Nov 28	Deer 16.	Newfound- land	to Jamaica				
Do	Do	Mississippi	to Senegal-	Lumber Pitch & Tar			
	Deer 21st	Jamaica	to Liverpool England	Ivory Cam- wood Small Arms &c			

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'s ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*
FOR 1776 ¹

[December 31, 1776] ²

1776		The Brig <i>Cabot</i>	Dr
June	28	To Cash	£150..--
		To ditto	30..--
July	8	To ditto	39..--
		To ditto pd the Doc	8.14..
	22	To ditto	30..--
		To ditto	3. 6..
	26	To ditto	30..--
Aug	14	To ditto	19..--
	17	To ditto	45..--
	20	To ditto	25.16..
	21	To ditto	60..--
		To ditto	99.12..
		To ditto pd P Richards	12.00..
<hr/>			
July	13	To 39 frocks 8/6	16.11..6
		To 44 shirts 14/4	31.10..8
		To 81 pr Trousers 6/8	27. 8..0
		To 2 Shirts & 3 pr trousers	2. 7..4
		To 8 Shirts from Pool	6. 6..2
		To 50 pr Shoes Richd Douglass.	17.15..0
		To 26 p ditto Robt Manwaring	9.15..0
		To 1 p trousers	-- 6..6
Augt	21	To 6 White Shirts	7. 4..--
		To 44 pr Striped Cotton trousers	39.12..--
		To 9 pr Striped Towcloth do	3..3..0
		To 20 fine Check Shirts	24..--
		To 30 Coarse ditto	25.10..0
		To 4 Coarse Boys do	2.16..--
		To pd George Rogers Bill }	213.17..2
		for 38 p Shoes }	15.10..6
		To pd Ros Saltonstall for June Tobacco	9..6.00
		To 2 doz Felt Hatts @ 36/	3.12..--
		To Capt Elisha Hinman's }	14.15.10
		order pd John Owen }	
		for Supplying the <i>Cabots</i> }	
		People }	

To 19 p shoes @ 8/6	from Richd	12.06.. 6
To 10 p ditto @ 8/6	Douglass	
As p Capt Hinmans Rect on the back of his Accot		809..9.. 6
		<hr/> £821.16.. 0

July	To 68 Gal	<i>Cabots Prize</i> Jamica Rum	} @ 6/6	£22.. 2.. 0	
	To 338 Gal NE ditto Wm Coit		} 4/3	71..16.. 6	
	To pd frt from Norwich			9.. 6	
	To 65 Gal	<i>And Dorias Prize</i> Jamica Rum	} @ 6/6	21.. 1.. 6	
	To Thos Mumfords Bill for Rum &c			38.. 0.. 6	153.10.. 0
	To 7 bar beef Thos Morgan @ 51/6			18.. 0.. 6	
	To 13 bar ditto N S @ 51/6			33.. 9.. 6	
Augt 21	To 3 bar ditto N S @ 51/6			7..14.. 6	
July 8	To 2 bar pork Thos Morgan		} @ 76/6	7..13.. 0	
	14 To 4 bar pork N S @ 80/			16.. 0.. 0	
	To 6 bar do E Ledyard @ 80/			24.. 0.. 0	
	To 6 bar do J Alcott @ 80/			24.. 0.. 0	
Augt 21	To 11 bar do A. Beebe @ 80/			44.. 0.. 0	174.17.. 6
July 8	To 10 bar flour	18..1..0	} @ 15/	24..00.. 0	
Augt 21	To 8 bar ditto	13..3.10			
	To 13. 2. 3 Bread from Shepherd		} 24/	50.. 7.. 7	
	To 7. 0. 6 ditto from Charles				
	To 21. 1. 17 ditto from Bradly				

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*
FOR 1776—[continued]

1776		The Brig <i>Cabot</i>	Dr
		To 56½ lb Candles from Howland	[£]2..7.. 1
		To 169 lb do from Robeson	} as p Bill 7.12.. 9½
		To 46 lb Sope from do	
		To 13 bus Pease from R Saltonstall	} 5.14.. 0
		To 300 bunches Onions from A Beebe	} 3.15.. 0
		To 1 bus corn ½ bus do ½ bus do	} 0.15.. 0
		To 3 bus ditto @ 3	0.18.. 0
		6 bus p Rice 3/	
		To 27 lb Butter 27/ & poultry from Ezekeil Fox	} 3.11.. 0
		To 1 firkin butter 89 lb	} @ /10 6.17.. 6
		To 1 ditto 76	
		To 1 Tub hogs Lard 49 lb @ 7	1.. 8.. 7 [107.. 6.6½]
		To 3 Doz Wine	5.. 8.. 0
		To 1 Demi John Wine	2.. 8.. 0
		To 105 lb Mutton at Stonington p Hinmans Bill	1.. 6.. 3 } 9.. 2.. 3
Aug	3	To 2 boxes Claret	} @ 90/ 18..-.. -
	21	To 2 boxes ditto	
		To 2 bar Sugar 2..3..2	} @ 61/ 7.. 6.. 3
		<i>Cabots Prize</i>	
Augt	3	To 12½ Cheese	} 422 lb @16 £ 10..11.. 0
		18½ ditto	
		26 ditto	
		15 do	
14		14 do	
21		336 lb do	

Augt	3	To 1 gal Melasses			
		1½ Gal do			
		½ do ½ do	116½	/3	[£]17.. 9.. 6
	16	1½ do ½ do			
	21	111 Gal ditto			
Augt	3	To 6 lb Coffee			
		To 8 lb ditto			
	14	To 4 lb ditto	202 lb	1/	10.. 2.. 0
	16	To 4 lb ditto			
	21	To 180 lb ditto			
		pd for Soft Bread			.. 4.. 0
		To 1 bundle Hay 610	a4/	1.. 4.. 0	
		To 10 sheep	a9/	4. 10.. 0	[1335.19. 0½]
		To Guy Richards Bill for		5. 12.. 0	
		Wine &c			
		To Noble Hinmans Bill			
		boarding Lieut		3.. 8.. 6	
		Thos Weaver			
		To Thos Miners Bill for		2.. 6.. 8	
		Vinigar			
		To Jas Penemans Bill for		2. 14.. 1	
		Poultry			
		To Roger Gibson Bill for		2.. 2.. 0	[21. 17.. 3]
		Crockery			
		To Jas Penemans Bill for			11. 17
		Loaf Sugr &c			
Augt	7	To pd Wheeler Brown for			2.. 17
		Passangers p Capt			
		Hinmans order			
	15	To pd Daniel Latham for			2.. 8
		Pilotage			
		To pd do for			3.. 0.. 0
		ditto to N.port			
		To 6 ps Red Cedar			
		To 138 Yd Tickling			
		burge	@	2/4	
		To 1 Reem paper		15	
		To 1 Qr ditto do		1 8	0. 16.. 8
		the Doc			
		To 4 Cords Wood	a	12/	2.. 8.. 0
		To pd William Brooks the			68. 17.. 9½
		butchers Bill			

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'s ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*
FOR 1776—[continued]

1776		The Brig <i>Cabot</i>		Dr
[Augt 15]		To Jona Starr's Bill for } Wine &c		[£]10.. 5.. 0
				[1471. 11.. 9]
June 28		To 1 barrel } tallow 212	434 @ 8d	
Augt 7		To 1 barrel } ditto 222		14.. 9.. 4
June 28		To 1 bar pitch } 1½ bar 30/		2.. 5..
Aug 7		To ½ bar ditto }		
		To Use of Scow in } Landing Stores & } carring of stores } Water &c }	1.. 4.. 0	
		To Storage Stores Cables		
		&c	3.. 0.. 0	
		To Warfage Brig Guns &c	3.. 0.. 0	
		To 3 Days Use fall Blocks }	1.. 10.. -	
		Capstern Kettles &c }		
				8. 14.. -
		To 3 Days Stage 2/		6.. -
		To 88 lb Oakham from R		
		Mumford		1.. 3.. 4
		To 386 ft pine boards }	@ 1d	
		To 100 ft ditto }		2.. 0.. 6
July 8		To 5¼ Gal Oile }	7/6	
30		To ½ Gal 1 Gal do }		2. 10.. 7½
		To 6 Kegs Lampblack @ 2/		12.. -
		To 2 Small Kegs do /6		1.. -
		To Rus Hubbards Bill Ship		
		Chandler Stores		3.. 8.. 7
		To Jas Owens Bill for paint &c		1.. 4.. 6
		To ditto Bill for Lampblack &c		3.. 8.. 6
		To John Ways Bill Cooper		1. 14.. 1
		To ditto Bill for do		2.. 7.. 1
		To 20 feet plank for the Boat		0.. 3.. 4
		To 3 Qr Cask Iron Bound		
		for Rum 15/		2.. 5.. 0
		To 28 Sq Glass 10 by 8 @ 7d		0. 16.. 4
		To pd Clark Elliotts Bill		1. 18.. 6
		To 20 lb 20d Nails @ 1/		1.. 0.. 0
		To 1 Sett Coopers Tool as p Bill		2. 19.. 6
		To 1 lb 4d Nails		0.. 1.. 6

	To David Gardiners Bill		1.. 3.. 8
	To Nathan Baley's Bill		5.. 0.. 1
		[1531.. 4.. 2]	
Augt 21	To Joshua Starrs Bill		4.. 9.. 2
	To pd John Owens Bill for a House Rendezvous }		5. 16.. 8
	To James Tilley's Bill		64. 16.. 4
	To Samuel Latimers Bill		11.. 1.. 9
	To 3 Double Headed Shot Wt 27		
	To 22 Hand granadoes $\frac{1..2..25}{1..3..24}$ }	18/	1. 15.. 4
Augt 30	To pd Robt Holladay the ballance of his Wages as p accot & Rect }		5.. 4.. 2
	To pd Davd Roberts the Gunner as p Rect }		6.. 0.. 0
	To paid John Cole a Sailor Capt Hinman Shipt in N London }		2.. 0.. 0
	To pd Lewis Riding }		1.. 0.. 0
	To 1 p Shoes 8/, Shirt 14/6, deld ditto }		1.. 2.. 6
	To Cash deld do 24/, Cash 6/ }		1. 10.. 0
	To pd Charles Dents the ballance of his Wages on board the <i>Cabot</i> p Capt Hinmans Order }		17. 14.. 10
	To 3 bar beef from the <i>And Dorias</i> Prize }		7. 10.. -
	To 1 Shirt & pr Shoes deld Jas Lesbeth Sik at Cloe Coits }		1. 10.. 6
	To pd Oliver Smith for boarding Charles Dent }		4. 16.. 9
	To pd Ephr Miner the ballance of John Sterlings Wages }		11. 18.. 1
Carried forward			1677. 10.. 3
1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i> Elisha Hinman Esq Com- mander	Dr	
Nov	To Sum brot forward	1677. 10.. 3	
	To Advance John Dunlap &c	4. 16. 00	
	To Advance Peter Richards	27. 18 -	

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*
FOR 1776—[continued]

1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i>	Dr
[Nov]	To Advance Guy Brooks	9 - -
	To do to Sund people as p Accot	33 - -
Dec	To do to ditto as p ditto	38.. 8 -
	To Capt Hinmans Bill	49. 12.. 10½
	To Advance Guy Brooks	6.. 4.. 4
	To Advance Sund Sailors } as p Accot }	67. 16.. 6
	Coppy Gave in To Capt Hinman Decr 30 1776	£1914.. 5. 11½
	To paid Jona Chester for } Load ballast omitted }	1. 10.. 0
	To 28 lb White Line 1.. 17.. 6	57. 18.. 6
	To 7 ton & 14 lb Pigg	
	Iron 56.. 1.. 0	
	as p Capt Hinmans Vandue Bill	
	To pd Edmond French the } ballance of Ephraim Goldsmiths Wages }	6.. 5.. 0
	To Amo Charges of the } Sick &c as p Accot }	97.. 11.. 10
	To pd John Owen the } ballance of Joseph Antoneys Wages }	8.. 15.. 3
		£2086.. 6.. 6

1. Nathaniel Shaw Papers, Ledger 9, 1-6, and Ledger 39, 14, 22, YUL. This account is a composite from both referenced ledgers.
2. Undated; placed at end of year by the editor.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Alfred*
FOR 1776¹

[December 31, 1776]²

1776	Ship <i>Alfred</i>	Dr
Apr		
10	To Cash deld Commodore for 2 Sailors	£0..12.. 0
	To do the ditto Recd of Capt Harding	3.. 0.. 0
	To do deld ditto for a Sailor	1..16.. 0
	To do advanced John Winter of the <i>Alfred</i> } as p ord in favr Thos Miner being Sick } at his house }	2.. 0.. 0
	To do advanced Wm Hambleton of the <i>Alfred</i>	0.. 3.. 0
	To do do George May of do	2.. 8.. 0
	To 1 p Shoes do Samel Fearguson of the <i>Provi-</i> } <i>dence</i> }	0.. 7.. 0
	To 1 p do do Samel Williams of the <i>Alfred</i>	0.. 7.. 0
	To Sundries advanced a Number of Invalids } to Inable them to go to Providence as p } Rect }	18..15..11
	To Cash deld Hambleton & McNeil to bear } there expences to Providence as p Rect }	15.. 0.. 0
	To Cash & sundries advanced a Number of In- } valids to sett out with Jones in the Sloop } <i>Providence</i> to Providence as p Rect. }	15.. 1.. 4
	To 2 p Shoes deld John Gaillard in the } <i>Columbus</i> }	0..16.. 0
	To Cash advanced ditto	3.. 6.. 0
	To ditto advanced ditto	3..12.. 0
	To 1 Shirt deld Wm Brooks of the <i>Columbus</i>	0..14.. 0
	To 1 do to Jos Gordon of do	0.. 7..10
	To 1 do to Wm Stewart of the <i>Andr Doria</i>	0.. 7..10
	To 1 do to Jas Williams do	0.. 7..10
	To 1 p trouser to Richd Owen do	0.. 7.. 3
	To Cash advanced James Robeson of } the <i>Alfred</i> a Marine }	5..14.. 0
	To 1 p Shoes to Wm Brooks <i>Columbus</i>	0.. 8.. 0
	To Cash to Will Peirse of do Sailor	0..18.. 0
	To do to Ed Balerige <i>Alfred</i> do	0..18.. 0
	To p Shoes to do	0.. 8.. 0
	To advanced Sundry Invalids to go to } Providence wth Spooner as p Rect }	7..17.. 6
	To advanced Richd. Steward Sailor <i>Columbus</i>	0..12.. 0
	To do Walter Spooner	5..10.. 0

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Alfred*
FOR 1776—[continued]

1776	Ship <i>Alfred</i>	Dr
[Apr]	To do Gideon Whitfield	4..10.. 0
[10]	To do to ditto	1..10.. 0
	Carried over	£97..14.. 6
	The Ship <i>Alfred</i> to sum brot over	97..14.. 6
	To Cash advanced Joseph Crage of <i>Alfred</i>	0..14.. 0
	To ditto to George Robeson of <i>Providence</i>	0..17.. 4
	To Sundry Slops taken out of the Bomb Brig as p Accot } £ 108..9..4 Phila Cury }	86..16.. 6
	To 66 bus potatoes @ 1/6	4..19.. 0
	To 6 boxes Candles Amo	11..16..10
	To 701 Gal Rum Amo	106.. 1.. 0
	To 578 Gal Melasses @ 3/	86..14.. —
	To 1702 lb Coffee 1/,	85.. 2
	To pd John Braddick's Bill assisting the Schooner with Prissioners to Norwich. }	1.. 4.. 0
	To pd John Griffing Piloting do to do	1.. 0.. 0
	To pd Braddick for Passage of 4 Prissioners up to Norwich }	0.. 5.. 0
	To pd ditto going up to the Govr with an express p commodors order }	0..12.. 0
	To pd the Butchers Bill for Fresh Beef from April 10th to 25th }	140.. 6..11½
	To pd the Baker for soft Bread	1..12.. 7½
	Carried over	£625..15.. 9
1776	The Ship <i>Alfred</i> to sum brot over	625..15.. 9
Apr	To 109 feet pine plank @ /2	0..18.. 2
	To 6 qt Spirits Turpentine	0..12.. 9
	To 5 Days Scow Hire in Stocking Shott holes &c	0..15.. 0
	To 90 feet boards of arm Chest	0.. 7.. 6
	To John Bolles the Smiths Bill	0..12.. 0
	To pd John Champlen for mending the Boatswain call }	0.. 6.. 0
	To pd Samel Latimer the Smiths Bill	2..18.. 8
	To pd do for ditto	0..18.. 0
	To pd Davd Gardiner for 26 feet Oars	0.. 6.. 6
	To pd John Coles Wife the ballance of his Wages as p accot }	9.. 9.. 4
	To pd Mich Melallys Accot against Govr Brown, Babbage Erving & Servents &c — }	35.. 0.. 1

To pd Jas Holts Accot being ballance his Wages	6..12.. 4
To pd Jona Maltbie the ballance of his Wages as } pr accot	46.. 6.. 0
To pd Peter Holt ballance of his Wages p Accot	10.. 4.. 2
To pd John Chester ballance of his Wages as p } Accot	9..18..10
To pd Wm Fagan ballance of his Wages as p Accot	6..10.. 8
To pd James Palmer ballance of his Wages as p } Accot	9.. 4.. 3
To pd Geo Colfax ballance of his Wages as p Accot	13.. 6.. 8
To pd Alex Adams ballance of his Wages as p Accot	24.. 6.. 4
<hr/>	
	£804.. 8.. 11

1. Nathaniel Shaw Papers, Ledger 39, 1-3, YUL.

2. Undated; placed at end of year by the editor.

NARRATIVE OF MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON¹

[November 26 to December 31, 1776]

On the 26th of November Sir William Howe delivered to me his final instructions, to proceed to Rhode Island "and in conjunction with the officer who should be appointed to command the naval part of the expedition, to make a descent on that island in the most effectual manner for the full possession of it, and for the security of the town and harbor of Newport; and to take such other posts as should be necessary for its preservation, and for other purposes I might judge expedient for the advancement of His Majesty's service and for distressing the enemy."

Accordingly we sailed from New York on the 1st of December with two brigades of British and two of Hessian troops, under convoy of a squadron of His Majesty's ships commanded by Commodore Sir Peter Parker; and on the evening of the 7th we anchored in Weaver's Bay on the west side of that island. The Troops being disembarked the next morning without the least opposition, Major General Prescott [Richard Prescott] with the grenadiers and light infantry, was immediately sent forward with a view of intercepting a body of rebels who had fled from the works in and about Newport toward Bristol Ferry, and Lieutenant General Earl [Hugh] Percy followed at the head of the heavy battalions to sustain him; but the rebels, who retired with precipitancy, had abandoned their fort at the ferry and crossed over to the continent before the King's troops could overtake them, so that only two pieces of cannon and a few prisoners fell into our hands. A battalion had been also detached to take possession of Newport, where we found some artillery and stores which the rebels had not time to remove. But the most material prize unluckily escaped us, as the rebel privateers under Hopkins, consisting of three large ships and several other armed vessels, had run up Providence River on the first appearance of our fleet.

The facility with which we had obtained this important acquisition might have tempted me to have proceeded further. But I was aware of the great risk I should run should I place large waters between divisions of my little army at that time of year in so rigorous a climate, wherein a violent snowstorm or frost, catching me suddenly in the midst of a move, might have put it out of my power either

to advance or fall back. For, though report magnified the number of the rebels collected at Providence and Bristol to several thousands, yet, as I knew they were mostly militia except two or three artillery companies, no apprehension from them would have withheld me had the season been less critical. These considerations induced me, therefore, to lose no time in putting the troops under cover and laying in magazines of fuel, which the severity of the cold began already to make necessary.

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

JOURNAL OF BARTHOLOMEW JAMES ¹

[On board the Prize Sloop *Colonel Parry*]

[New York, November 29 to December 31, 1776]

Here commences the most agreeable time I have experienced during my servitude as a midshipman, as I was in possession of almost every luxury of life, without one anxious care, one unhappy moment to embitter it. I had a most elegant cabin with a comfortable stove, and the additional happiness of seven messmates who was in some of the other prizes, where, solely clear of all the little snubs we are so accustomed to in the navy, we smiled at fortune and defied its frowns.

The 29th, the *Orpheus* sent in a sloop with cordage and canvas; December 2nd, one with sugar and rum; the 5th another with flour; the 10th, a schooner with pepper and sugar; the 12th, a brig with tobacco; and on the 14th ² arrived with two sloops with bread and flour. Several of my messmates were immediately ordered on board, while from great good fortune I remained with the charge of the prizes; and as some of our orlopian manoeuvres were not a little various, I shall mention a few of them.

Among the innumerable good things I was in possession of, there was on board one of the prizes three cases of the best Bordeaux claret, which Captain [Charles] Hudson ³ had directed to be sent to him and Captain [St. John] Chinnery of the *Daphne*. We were keeping as usual Christmas Day, and were desirous to drink good wine; we therefore drank the three cases out, and the following day filled them with claret of a very inferior sort out of the casks, corking them with the same long corks, and sealing them all over with a deal of attention and care; which answered every purpose, as the captains, on drinking the wine, observed, 'It might be very good claret, but for their parts they found very little difference in that and the cask claret.' The second business we performed was taking the limes out of sixteen casks, and after heaving water and rotten limes among the stuff they were packed in, reported them all unfit for use to the captains, who, lamenting the loss, observed, 'It was generally the case with fruit that had remained any time in the ship.'

Thus we passed our jovial days, till in an evil hour our summons came to join the ship, and I do not remember a greater change than to be transported in a second from those luxurious scenes to a cold, distressed midshipman's habitation, and to be subject to the variety of causes that make them lead an unpleasing life.

1. Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*, 37-38.

2. H. M. S. *Orpheus* actually arrived at New York on December 18. *Journal of the Orpheus*, PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

3. Captain of the *Orpheus*.

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

December 1776 – Sandy Hook No 5W Distance 50 Leags
 Tuesday 31st 7 AM out Reefs
 Fresh Breezes & Cloudy at 2 P:M set Topgt & Studing
 sails and gave Chace to a Sail to the Westward at 7 Fir'd a
 6 Pr & brot too the Chace, A Sloop from Demerada [Demera-
 ara] bound to New London² sent a Midshipman & five
 Men onbd At 9 Sounded 18 fm fine White Sand Wore
 Ship and made Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

2. Sloop *York*, Samuel Talman, master, from British Guiana, Howe's Prize List, May 22, 1777, *London Gazette*, July 8 to July 12, 1777.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Hond Gent.

Philedelphia December 31st 1776 –

I wrote you on Tuesday last, and since that time the greatest part of the people I brought here is inlisted in the Land Service for the sake Of the Twenty dollars Bounty, and gone to the Camp. those who were Sailors have enter'd in Merchantmen Wages being Extravagently high – Since our Arival here have been helping to fitt out the *Deleware* two days past, Mr Morris [Robert Morris] desired we should repair on board of one of the row Gallies & follow that part of the Armye thats gone into the Jerseys. We made the Attempt but the Ice prevented us from proceeding, upon which we were oblidged to return, I have used every persuasive Argument in my power to keep them together but they Complain of the want of Cloths and off their time being Expir'd, I have not over twelve men with Officers that is now willing to go to Camp; I informed Mr Morris a few days agoe of my Peoples [e]ntring and going off, as there was no Immediate Call at Philedelphia, I wanted permission to return to the Ship with what men I had left,² he did not approve of it but signifies what did not return to Advertise, I shall at my return give you a list of those who are gone and those who returns with me – I confess had I Known we was to have had a Winters Campaign I would have provided Cloths for them – all that I Expected was to have done what was in my power for the present occasion, & to have return'd to the Ship in a Short time; agreeable to your Instructions I wait the Pleasure of the Congress or Marine board to return, or your orders for that Purpose, yesterday there was 950 Hessens come to this Town, Prissoners Exclusive Commissioned Officers & it is reported since there being taken there is about 300 men with a Hessi[a]n Brigr Genl made Prissoners. I am Hond Gent [&c.]

Geo: Cook

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

2. One of those who stayed with Captain Cook was Dr. Nathan Dorsey, who presented a bill to the Council: "Decembr 31, 1776 To My boarding at Philadelphia as Surgeon to the Ship's Company 12 Days at 5/. pr Day 3-0-0," Revolutionary Papers, Box 2, Folder 1, Md. Arch.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SHIP *Reprisal*¹

[Philadelphia] December 31, 1776

Ship *Reprisal*

Lambert Wicks Esqr Commander

— For Second Cruise —

1776			
Sept	21	To Cash paid Sawing & Splitting 1½ Cord wood	13..6
"	"	" 5 Bolts Russia @ £7/10	37.10..-
"	"	" 5 Pieces B French contg 260¾ ells is 336¾ yds @	
"	"	" 2 Pieces D do " 109½ " 141	
"	"	" 1 Piece H do " 89 " 121	
"	"	" 1 Piece G do " 103 " 139½	
			<hr/>
"	28	" 1 Bolt Russia	7.10..-
		" 1 ps G Fr: contg 101 Ells is 136 Yards @	
			<hr/>
"	31	" Cash paid George Eller for 1½ cord Wood	2.12..9

Octor	7	“	do	“	John Taylor for Cleang arms	2.16..6		
	“	“	do	“	Mary Manna for makg An Ensign	1.15..—		
	“	“	do	“	Sawing & Splitting 5 cord wood	2..5..—	9..9..3	
	12	“	do	“	Porterage of sundries	1.12..4		
	“	“	do	“	Henry Linch for 20 Bushls potatoes	3.10..—	5..2..4	
	19	“	10	“	Hammocks @			
	21	“	Cash paid	“	William Shute for 3 boxes Candles	5.12..6		
	“	“	do	“	Henry Lisle for 9 bars Ship & 2 bs pilot bread	12.18.10		
	“	“	do	“	Philip Flick for toasting bread	1.15..6		
	“	“	do	“	James Allenby cooper's bill	15..6	21..2..4	
	28	“	do	“	James Hann for repairing compasses		7..6	
Novemr	6	“	do	“	Thomas Hollinsworth for 47 bars bread	37.12..9		
	“	“	do	“	Philip Hall & Co Butchers bill	78.19.10	116.12..7	
	23	“	do	“	Anthony Morris Brewers bill		20.16.—	
Decemr	15	“	do	“	John Appowens sailmakers bill		20.10..9	
	31	“	do	“	Selwood Griffins bill		6..1.10	
	“				Amot Sundry Ship Chandy comprehending Boatswain, Gunner, Carpenter, Stewards Stores &c		134..0..2	
					C qr lb			
	“	“			Amot Sundry Cordge wte 6..2..12 @			

DECEMBER 1776

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

COMMISSIONERS OF NAVAL STORES IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Effingham*¹Frigate *Effingham* John Barry Esqr Commander

To the Commissioners of Naval Stores

Dr

— For Outfit —

1776
March

27 To 57 Bolts of Canvass vizt

17 Bolts holland Duck @ £9 153..0..0

10 Bolts do £8. 10 85..0..0

21 Bolts Russia do £8 168..0..0

9 Bolts do £7. 10 67.10..0

April

22 " 5. doz Twine - Wt 62 lb @ 2/6 7.15..0 481..5..0

" Cash paid Nathaniel Donnell for a Grindstone 18..9

June

5 " 4891 feet Scantling deliver'd Colleday & Worrall for Gun Carriages } 26.18..0
@ 11 PC

7 " 42 Peices of Canvass assorted Vizt

No 4...4 Peices..164¼ yds @

5...8 329

8...15 636¼

L .10 448¼

AMERICAN THEATRE

		French	5	753		
				2331	yards	
		"		66 lb fine Sewing Twine	@ 2/6	8..5..0
				Ct Qr lb		
"	10	"		0..3..13 Junk @ 15/PCt & 12 doz. points	@ 4/	3..1..0
"	17	"		2 Pair of Brass Pump Chambers		20..0..0
July	4	"		1 hhd of Barbadoes Rum q 112 Ga	@ 7/3	42..0..0
"	11	"		Cash paid Wetherill & Cresson for Boards		3.19..5½
August	24	"		55 Peices of Canvass Vizt		
				20 Peices	No 1	801½ Yds
				2 "	2	82¼ "
		A.	23	"	French 1204¼ Ells is	1564 "
		C	3	"	do 159¼	207 "
		F	7	"	" 686	929 "
October	3	"		9 Crews @ 3/. & 9 Canns @ 3/6 delivered Major Nicholas		2.18..6
November	6	"		Cash paid for 8 Gallons of Spirit £6..4..0, 2/3 d Gallons of Wine & Keg £5..6..8, 200 of Limes 20/ & days work 11/3		13..1.11
"	9	"		Cash paid James Fulton for Porteridge		1..0
"	18	"		do paid Caleb Ash for Beef for Launch		5.16..1
"	23	"		do paid for 1½ load of Boards		10..-
December	21	"		do paid James Fulto'n James Allenby's Bills		1..7..0
	31	"		do paid Selwood Griffin Blockmaker's Bill		13.12..0

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 31st, 1776.

Mr. [John Maxwell] Nesbitt was directed to pay Dunn & Hale £ 5 4 0, for 208 feet of oars for the floating Battery *Putnam*.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Robert Fitzgerald £ 11 2 0, for sundries for Armed Schooner *Delaware*, to be charged to this State, & £ 5 9 4 for port Fire Stocks, &ca., to be charged to Congress.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, XI, 68, 69.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. S. *Roebuck* ¹

Decr 1776	Cape May SBE $\frac{3}{4}$ E 1 mile
Sunday 29th	at 12 Clear'd the Prize sloop & turn'd her adrift after Scuttling her,
Monday 30th	AM at 8 Anchor'd in 7 fath in Old Kiln Road, The Light house SBE $\frac{3}{4}$ E 1 mile from the Beach, at 10 Sent an Officer a shore with a flag of Truce First part Modt & fair latter fresh gales & fair P.M. at 1. the Flag of Truce return'd at 3 Sent some prisoners on shore at 4 Sent the Pilot to Assist the <i>Pearl</i> in the Offing at 11 a Boat came with some fresh stock from the Shore at 12 the <i>Pearl</i> Anchor'd here.
Tuesday 31st	A M. at 7 a Boat with stock came of[f], at 8 Employd in sending the Cargo of the sloop that was Scuttled on Board of the Brig First and latter fresh gales and fair P.M at 3 Saw a Sail in the Offing and made the <i>Falcon</i> 's Signl to chace, soon after she weigh'd and made sail, at 7 heard the Report of two Guns in the offing at 9 the <i>Falcon</i> return'd with a brig from Hispaniola

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Falcon*, CAPTAIN JOHN LINZEE ¹

Decr 76	At single Anchor under C: Henlopen
Tuesdy 31st	At 4 AM Out 1st reef of TS. Bore away. At 6 Shorten'd Sail & brought too on Larbd Tacks. At 7 Wore Ship. Made sail. Lt house 3 or 4 Leags At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 Came too under C: Henlopen with the Bt Br in 6 fm veer'd $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable. Lt house SE $\frac{1}{2}$ E 4 miles. Found here H: Majs Ships, <i>Roebuck</i> & <i>Pearle</i> with a Brig a Prize. Bent a new small Br Sent the 12 Rebels ashore. Light Winds & Cloudy. At 3 PM Saw a Sail in the East. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 weigh'd & Came to sail under single reef TS Pr Order. Gave Chace to the Sail At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 fired 2 Six Pounders shotted at the Chace to bring her too which we did. It was the brig <i>Kitty</i> belonging to Philadelphia from C: Fran-

cois, with Rum, Molasses &ca &ca sent a Lieut Midshipman & 3 Men on board her. Bore away for C: Henlopen. At ½ past 8 Came too under C: henlopen with the small Br in 6 fm veer'd ½ a Cable. Anchor'd also the Brig Lt house SSE 4 Miles.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/336.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, off New York and in Delaware Bay,
November 25 to December 31]

1776
Novr 25th

The Rebel army being in a manner broke up & dispersed, The two Forts in the North River taken, and Lord Cornwallis in the Jerseys driving the Enemy every where before him, The service for all the Ships in the North River became unnecessary: The *Roebuck* was therefore ordered to join the Admiral at New York. This was a measure so perfectly agreeable to me after so long a confinement in the River (wch became intolerably tiresome after the Army left us) that no time was lost in obeying the order; and except stopping to sound the channel where the Enemy had sunk their Vessels & Machines, and just taking a look at the Forts that had so much annoyed us on our passage up the River, I delayed not a Moment untill I dropped my Anchor close to the Admirals Ship at New York; and having hitherto defered heeling the Ship, least the Enemy should have imagined they had done us much mischief, I took the opportunity of doing it the next day, when to my great astonishment I found two Shot had pierced the Ships side full four feet under water. This had been done from the Jerseys side, where the Guns were 32 pounders placed full 300 feet above the Water.

27th Novr
New York

The great success the Rebel small Privatiers had met with last winter, flattered the congress so much that they began to conceive ideas of becoming formidable at Sea; and Mr Adams [*sic*], in his pamphlet of *Common sense*, having shewn the Americans how easily they might establish a Navy, orders were given as early as March last for building 13 Frigates of 32 Guns each, which were to be imediately followed by as many to carry 44. The first Number were actually built in different Ports on the Continent, and some of them being said to be nearly fit for sea, the looking after them became now An object of the Admirals attention, and therefore stationed his Ships in the way he thought most likely to fall in with them in case they should put to sea. Several of them being said to be ready to sail from Philadelphia, and General Howe not having entirely layed aside the design of attacking that place this year; but was pushing his Troops on to the banks of the Delaware, in order to see how such a measure would operate on the Minds of the Rebels when they saw their principal City in danger; Lord

Roebuck
Pearl
Perseus
Camilla
Falcon

1776

Decr

Delaware
 Bay.

Howe gave me the Command of 5 Ships to cruize off that Port; as well to intercept their armed Vessels & supplies, as to be ready to cooperate with the General Lord Cornwallis in the Delaware in case he should resolve on crossing the River & Attacking the Town of Philadelphia. I recieved this honorable mark of his Lordships kindness to me on the 1st of Decr and after waiting a few days to take in Stores & Provisions I left New-York the 5th and arrived on my Station the 7th following; where I placed the Ships in the way I thought most proper for blocking up the Port: which having two channels into it, was guarded chiefly by the *Falcon* in one, & the *Roebuck* in the other; while the other Ships were cruizing off at a little distance on each side. By this disposition it was scarcely possible for any Vessel to get in or come out: nor did I hear that any more than 2 Vessels escaped us during the whole time we continued there which happened in a fog: So that not withstanding positive orders had been given from the Congress for three of the Frigates to sail; and being Short of seamen they had directed the Captain of the Frigate at Baltimore to bring all his Men over land to put on board the ships at Philadelphia, where they actually arrived; yet, upon finding the Port was stoped up, they gave over their design, and ordered the Baltimore Captain & his Men back again.

Soon after my Arrival in the Delaware I began a Negociation to establish a Cartel for the exchange of Prisoners, which although I did not effect untill the 3d Jany Yet as I frequently sent my boat ashore with a Flag of Truce on that business, I was not at all dissatisfied with the delay; as it not only gave me an opp[or]tunity of distributing the Commissioners proclamations among the People of the lower Counties (who I found were at least three to one in favor of Government, of which I gave the Admiral & General the fullest information) but it also furnished me with the News of every thing that the Rebels were doing at Philadelphia.

All the month of December passed without hearing any thing from Lord Cornwallis or from General Howe, but from my other intelligence I learnt that the former was gone to his winter Quarters at Brunswick: and that a Brigade of Hessians which he had left as an out guard near Trentown on the Delaware, under the Command of Colonel Rhole [Johann Rall], had been surprized by the Enemy; and that 700 Men, with all their Baggage Camp Equipage & several Feild Pieces had fallen into the Rebels hands. A most sad blot! This unfortunate piece of misconduct of the Hessian Colonel's, being the only circumstance in favor of the Rebels during the whole Campaign, General Washington published an account of it, which, though much embellished, yet was not greatly exaggerated; any further than by saying it had been effected with

much fewer Men on his part than was actually there. The circumstances of the Number taken Prisoners, and the artillery & stores which had fallen into their hands, was pretty fairly stated, in order to regain a credit with the Publick, which they had before entirely lost: For as the Press at Philadelphia is altogether in the hands of the Congress, the news papers had constantly related the great successes their army had gained over the British & Foreign Troops in every action in which they had been engaged during the whole summers Campaign: and when at the end of it they found how much they had been decieved, & kept in ignorance, and that General Howe was marching on towards the City, Parties run so high there, that it was with the utmost difficulty they could keep the inhabitants quiet: and nothing can be more convincing of the general consternation they were in, and the danger they thought themselves exposed to at that time, than the Proclamations they published, and the rewards they offered for Men that would enlist only for one Month to defend the city, assuring each Man that he should be provided with a Blanket & shoes & stockings: at the same time giving authority to the officers to press for those articles wherever they could be found. To which I may add, the abdication of the Congress, who all retired to Baltimore, where they kept a ship ready to carry them off. It is therefore much to be lamented that this favorable moment had not been embraced, which in all probability would effectually have put an end to this terrible war; or at least prevented their ever raising another Army; and nothing I believe prevented the General from doing it but the difficulty of crossing the River so late in the Season.

1. Hamond, No. 6, UVL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Baltimore] Tuesday, December 31, 1776

An appeal being lodged against the judgment of the court of admiralty for the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, on the libel, Eseck Hopkins *vs.* Richard Derby:

Ordered, That it be received, that it may be prosecuted before the committee on appeals.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 1058, 1060.

LUX & BOWLY TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Sir,

Baltimore 31st Decemr 1776

We made the Cable agreeable to your order and had it down upon the Wharf, but the Congress having taken [Larkin] Hammonds Schooner for some dispatches,² seized upon the Cable for him, as she is to sail immediately and we cannot make another for some days -- Dont blame us for this, We really cannot help it -- We

I N C O N G R E S S.

DECEMBER 31, 1776.

RESOLVED,

THAT any Restrictions heretofore imposed upon the Exportation of Staves, or other Lumber, except to Great-Britain, Ireland and the British Islands, or any Place under the Dominion of Great-Britain, cease.

By Order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Baltimore: Printed by JOHN DUNLAP.

have sent the other Riging you ordered and will make the Cable as soon as we possibly can & forward it to Annapolis – We are Sir [&c.]

Lux & Bowly.

1 coil 2¼ inch	}	2 . . 0 .	15
2 coils Ratline			
2 Ps 3 inch		2 . . 2 . .	1
		<hr/> 4 . . 2 .	16

1. Red Book, XVII, 86, Md. Arch.

2. The schooner *Jenifer*.

TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION IN MARYLAND ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE PRIZE SHIP
Lydia ¹

Baltimore County ss At a Court of Admiralty held at the Court House in Baltimore Town the 31st day of December 1776 for the State of Maryland

Present the Honble Benja Nicholson Esqr judge

The Schooner *Harlequin* James Handy Commander
agst

The Ship *Lydia*/Thomas Dean Commander

Libell filed

11th Novr [*sic*

December] 1776

Monition iss[ue]d

Same day

Register filed ²

Schooner <i>Harlequin</i>	}	By Interrogatories the Examination of James Handy
vs		Master of Schooner <i>Harlequin</i>
Ship <i>Lydia</i>		in Open Court this 31st Decr by the Judge as follows –
		Vizt

Question did you make Prize of the Ship *Lydia* Commanded by Thomas Dean on the high Seas

Ansr – he did

Question did you take the Register of the Ship *Lydia* now in Court aboard her at the time you made Prize of her and was it then produced to you as the Register of said Ship

Ansr – it was –

Question was there any other papers taken on board the Ship *Lydia* at the time you made Prize of her

Ansr – No – that the Captain Dean informed him he had thrown all the Other papers overboard

Ja Handy

By Interrogatories the Affirmation of Thomas Dean Captain of the Ship *Lydia* in Court.

Question is the Register of the Ship *Lydia* now in Court the proper Register of said Ship

Ansr – it is the Present Register of the Ship *Lydia*

Questn has the property of the Ship *Lydia* been changed since the taking of said Register & before the Capture

Ansr – She has not

Question is there no Other papers belonging to the Ship *Lydia*

Ansr he had but threw them overboard
 Question in whom was the Property of the Cargo on board the Ship *Lydia* at the
 time of the Capture
 Ansr the Property of Sundry Subjects of the King of Great Britain and In-
 habitants thereof but their names he Cannot recollect.

Tho^s Dean

Court Adjourns till tomorrow Morning 8 OClock

Court met According to Adjournment

Present as on Yesterday

Condemnation entered

day of Sale Ordered to be on Thursday the 9th of Janry 1777

1. Interrogations are in Admiralty Court Papers, 1776–1781, Box 1, Folder 4, Md. Arch., and remainder of entry in Minutes of the Court of Admiralty, 1776–1778, Md. Arch.
2. The register was entered at Liverpool, November 25, 1775, and showed that the *Lydia*, 150 tons, was built in Philadelphia in 1771. Admiralty Court Papers, 1776–1781, Box 1, Folder 3, Md. Arch.

Maryland Gazette, JANUARY 2, 1777

Baltimore, December 31, 1776.

Two Hundred and Sixty Pounds Reward.

Made their escape on the night of the 29th inst. from the prison of Baltimore, the six following prisoners, enemies to the United States, viz.

William Goodridge and Bridger Goodridge,¹ both born in Virginia, and two of the most noted traitors in America; being both partisans of lord Dunmore, and very active agents for him in all the piracies and depredations committed by him in Chasapeake Bay.

William Goodridge is a well made lusty man, about 34 years of age, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, stoop shoulder'd, smooth faced, full eyed, and sometimes looks redish about the eyes, generally wears short light or yellow coloured curly hair. He got a black coat made before he escaped from prison, but had a dark brown coat before.

Bridger Goodridge is about 5 feet 10 inches high, stoop shoulder'd, a genteel well looking young man, about 24 years of age, of a daring bold countenance, light colour'd hair, his face a little freckled

Kenneth M'Donald, Alexander M'Cleod, Daniel M'Cleod, and Murdock M'Castle, four of the Scots tories, belonging to North Carolina.

Kenneth M'Donald is about 5 feet 7 inches high, 30 years of age, wears his own hair black and long, generally tied behind; had on a blue coat and breeches.

Alexander M'Cleod, about 30 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, with short black hair, a light blue coat, other dress unknown.

Daniel M'Cleod, about 23 years of age, middle size; had on a blue coat.

Murdock M'Castle, about 28 or 30 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, a slender made man, had on a green coat, other cloaths uncertain.

Whoever apprehends any of the said persons and delivers them to the committee of Baltimore, shall receive for William and Bridger Goodridge, One Hundred

Pounds current money for each, and for each of the others Fifteen Pounds current money.

1. The name was Goodrich; two sons of John Goodrich.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH ¹

Sir,

We received two Letters from you, one by Mr S: Steward the other by Mr [John] Crockett. — 'tis very well, that you purchased the Brigg,² two thirds of her belongs to the State of Maryland, as also two thirds of all the other money the Prizes sold for, and so you may inform the Marshall, therefore we have sent only 2,000 Pounds Currency for her loading and Outfit, we do not expect Congress will want her, as they have wrote only for a Small armed schooner, which we have let them have. —

Get the Brigg ready, as fast as possible, and let her be loaded with best Flour, some bread, and thirty or Forty Hogsheads of Tobo, if to be got on tolerable Terms; your militia we hear are marching, but we think you ought to be excused, as you are much engaged in the Service of the State; should you go, you will leave our business we expect in good hands. —

[Annapolis] Decr 31st 1776.

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

2. The brig *Brothers*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday 31st December 1776. —

Present Mr [Thomas] Whiting, Mr [Champion] Travis and Mr [Edward] Archer

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt William Skinner One Claw Hammer, one Rule, four Gimblets, one side of Pump Leather, three hundred Pump Nails one Deep Sea Line, one hand Line and six hanks of Marling for the use of the Sloop *Congress*. —

Ordered that William Holt deliver unto Capt William Skinner seven Barrells of Beef, sixteen Barrells of Bread, two Barrells of Flour, two Barrells of Peas, one Box of Candles, fifty Gallons of Spirits and fifteen Gallons of Vinegar for the use of the Sloop *Congress*. —

Ordered that Mr Thomas Archer deliver unto Capt [William] Skinner one Barrell of Tarr, seven Barrells of Pork and what Cordage he may want for the use of the Sloop *Congress*. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Capt Edward Travis ² for Three hundred Pounds, upon Acct, to Recruit Seamen for the use of the Navy. who gave Bond for his faithfully applying the Said Money and Rendering a Just and true and Account thereof when Required. —

Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr

1. Navy Board Journal, 147–48, VSL.

2. Galley *Manley*.

SOUTH CAROLINA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN EDWARD ALLEN ¹

Captain Edward Allen Sir

The Commissioners of the Navy Desire that you will Immediately Open a House of Rendevouz under the Direction of a proper Officer and that you do make use of your best Endeavours to Inlist as many Seamen as will Compleat the Number allowed to the Brig *Comet*, and for their Encouragement, you are Authorized to Engage One Month pay Advance to Every Seaman that shall Enter into the Service of this state on board said Brigg for six Months

Edward Blake first Commissioner

[Charleston] 31st. Decemr 1776

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina Navy Board*, 32.

LIBEL IN EAST FLORIDA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY AGAINST THE AMERICAN PRIZE SHIP *Friendship* ¹

[December 31, 1776] ²

East-Florida ss

To the Honorable Robert Catherwood sole Judge of that Court
The Libel of Arthur Gordon His Majestys Advocate General in and for the province of East-Florida aforesaid who for and on Behalf of Our Sovereign Lord the King in this Behalf prosecutes humbly Sheweth unto Your Honor, that a certain Ship or Vessel called the *Friendship* of the Burthen of One Hundred and Twenty Tons or thereabouts whereof Mark Powell lately was or is Master after the First Day of January which was in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven Hundd and Seventy Six to wit on First Day of December Instant was found on a Voyage From the port of Boston in the Massachusett's Bay to the port of Charles Town in the province of South Carolina with a Cargo of Onions Cranberries, Tobacco Apples, Cabbages and other Articles; the said Ship and Cargo being the property of some of the Inhabitants of those provinces or one of them That the same was taken on the Day above-mentioned by His Majestys armed Brigantine called the *Hinchinbrook* under the Command of Alexander Ellis Esquire and as lawful prize brought within the Jurisdiction of this Court where the same now remains under prosecution For Condemnation For that the said Ship and Cargo are of the property of the Inhabitants of the provinces of Massachusett's Bay or South Carolina or some of them, who were therewith coming From Trading and going to trade with the Inhabitants of those provinces they being Two of His Majestys Colonies then and now in open Rebellion against his Majesty and His legal Government, contrary to the Form and true Intent and Meaning of the Statute in such Cases lately made and provided. And thereupon the said Advocate General prays the advisement of this Court and that the said Ship *Friendship* together with the Cargo apparel and Furniture thereof or thereunto in any Wise belonging by the Decree of this Court May be condemned as forfeit to the Use of His Majesty as the Ship of Open Enemies in Terms of the said Statute.

Gordon Ad Genl

1. Hubert C. Smith Collection, CL.

2. Date is approximated. *Friendship* was captured on December 1.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Winchelsea*, CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BATEMAN¹

December [1776] Cape Nicola Mole EbN 10 Leas
 Monday 30 PM went thro' the Turks Island passage
 Tuesday 31 AM took an American [illegible] fm Cape Francois to Balti-
 more sent a petty offr & 2 men on Bd

1. PRO, Admiralty 31/1067.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Portland*, CAPTAIN THOMAS DUMARESQ¹

Decr [1776] Wtermost part of Bonaire NEbN 2 or 3 Leagues.
 Tuesday 31st at 11 Saw a Sail to the Noward wore Ship and gave Chace.
 Fresh breezes and squally at 2 TKd Ship ½ past fired 2
 Shott to bring too the Chace at 4 she Brot too Hoisted out
 the yawl and sent on board her she prov'd a Schooner from
 So Carolina bound to Curasso sent a Mate & Midshipman & 6
 Men on board and brought her Crew on board us hoisted in
 the boat TKd Ship and brot too her head to the Noward.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/711.

GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

Copy. Extract of a Letter from President Greathead to Lord George
 Germain dated St Christophers 31th Decr 1776.

I have the honour of forwarding to your Lordship Copies of my Letters to the Governor of St Eustatius, his answer and my reply, with Copies of Depositions taken in this Island, respecting the flagrant Indignity offered to His Majesty's Colours, in the Publick Honour paid by the Principal Dutch Fort to an American Privateer, and the notorious assistance afforded in that Island to His Majesty's Rebel Subjects. With regard to the specifick Charge of the British Brigantine [taken] by an armed Sloop fitted out at St Eustatius, I must beg leave to refer your Lordship to the representation which you will, I presume, recive from Governor Shirley, who sent down a Letter to the Dutch Governor on this subject by Mr Forster McConnell, the Proprietor of the Vessel and Cargo; and altho I had no direct positive Evidence on Oath laid before me of the Ownership of the Privateer by Dutch Subjects, nor of the specific nature of the supplies daily sent from St Eustatius to North America (the Difficulty of obtaining which will, I flatter my Self at once suggest it Self to your Lordship) yet I hope that my Zeal for His Majesty's Service will not be found by your Lordship to have transported me beyond the strict Line of my Duty; and that as the Capture of the Brigantine was seen from this Island, the Identity of her clearly established to my Satisfaction, and the Fact of the almost daily unrestrained Commerce between North America and St Eustatius too notorious to be contradicted, I shall not fall under His Majesty's Displeasure for making my representation and remonstrance to the Dutch Governor so full.

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

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Antigua 31st December 1776. —

Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 14th Instant; Messrs Bendall & Foster McConnel Merchants belonging to His Majesty's Island of Dominica, represented to me by Memorial; that a Vessel belonging to them had been Practically Seized the 21st day of Novemr last, between the Islands of St Christophers & St Eustatia by a Vessel under American Colours, fitted out, and said to be partly Owned at the Island of Eustatia: I therefore immediately wrote to Mynheer De Graaf Governor of St Eustatia; and inclosed Him Copy of the aforesaid Memorial, and Ordered Captain Colpoys of His Majesty's Ship *Seaford* to carry the same, and to take with him Mr McConnel (one of the Owners of the Vessel taken) down to St Eustatia; and there make the Strictest Enquiry possible, into that, and sundry other Complaints I had received, of the very affrontive partiality shewn, and the open and avowed Assistance given by the People and Government of St Eustatia to the North American Rebels. The inclosed Papers marked No 1, 2, 3 & 4 are Copies of the Letters from me and Captain Colpoys and of the Memorial sent on that occasion to Governor De Graaf; and likewise His Letters in Answer, which I request you may lay before their Lordships for His Majesty's information. I am Sir [&c.]

Jam^s Young.

[Endorsed] Rd 26 Apr 1777 (4 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309.

