

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 4

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

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

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

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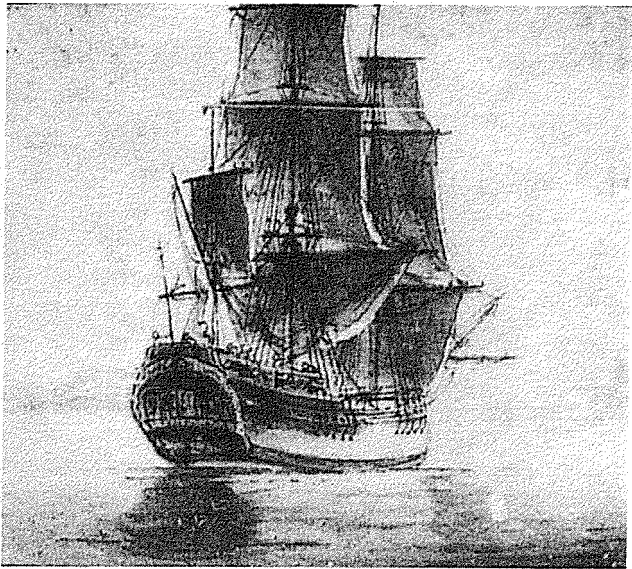
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AMERICAN THEATRE

From April 18, 1776, to May 8, 1776



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SUMMARY

Toward the end of April 1776, the war in America was at a pause – a lull before the storm. Admiral Shulldham had arrived at Halifax with Howe's dispirited army. The Massachusetts authorities were cleaning up the debris and appraising the damage wrought by the British before their departure from Boston. The siege of Quebec was at a stalemate. Commodore Hopkins' fleet lay in New London, its crews decimated by sickness, and about to seek a safer haven in the Providence River. Privateering, voted by the Continental Congress, had been too recently authorized to show results as yet. General Washington, at New York, was preparing defenses to receive the enemy attack, which he wisely anticipated. On the British side, General Sir Henry Clinton, off Cape Fear, impatiently awaited the arrival of the long expected fleet under Sir Peter Parker, and Lord Cornwallis' five thousand men, for the proposed invasion of North Carolina. There had been a few naval actions; John Barry's capture of the sloop *Edward*, and Captain James Nicholson's brush with the sloop *Otter* in the upper Chesapeake Bay. British frigates continued reaping a rich reward among the unarmed merchant vessels carrying the produce of the Colonies to Europe and the West Indies in exchange for war supplies. Thirteen frigates on the stocks, from Portsmouth to Baltimore, were yet to be launched, and desperate but largely futile efforts were being made to cast their guns. From Maine to Georgia a determined people awaited the opening of the spring campaign.

18 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹*Chatham* in Halifax Harbour, 18th April 1776.

Sir, General Howe having thought proper to send three Transports with a Re-inforcement of the 47th Regt to General Carleton at Quebec, and having made application to me for a Convoy to conduct them thither, I am to inform you that I have Ordered Captain [George] Talbot of the *Niger* to take the said Transports under his care, and proceed with them accordingly. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

[Endorsed] 18 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A.Shuldham R 6 June

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL'S NARRATIVE OF PAROLE EXTENDED
GOVERNOR MONTFORT BROWNE ¹

[Lebanon, April 18, 1776]

His Excellency Govr Brown of New Providence, came with Coll Stewart on Wednesday the 17th instant – the Governor desired to know whether he was considered a Prisoner – if so what was his Crime? – I shewed him Admiral Hopkins's Letter – & informed him that it is my duty to hold him in the same Character the Commander in Chief of the Continental Fleet delivered him, and could not recede from it – I desired him to sign the Parole prepared, he would meet kind treatment according to his rank and quality – Many things were said – the next Morning I offered Govr Brown the foregoing Parole to Sign ² – He declined it as being dishonorable – He offered to conform to my Orders and Directions – He would do what I ordered – I recited the Parole He said – upon the Honor of a Govr and a Gentleman he gave his Parole to abide at Windham & Conform to the things mentione[d] until I received the order and direction of Congress – being informed of my being absent at the Assembly he must abide such time as was convenient for me – to this he complied – He had wished me to write to the Congress, for their Opinion – I desired him to give the particulars to be communicated – I would comply with his request – He further mentioned his bodily indisposition – his baggage being at New London, and several things doing for him there – which made it convenient for him to return to that place, which was consented to on his Parole, to return to Windham Wednesday or Thursday of Next week.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, V, 393a, 393b, ConnSL.

2. *Ibid.*, 393a, preceding the narrative, Governor Trumbull had appended the parole Browne had refused to sign. It read:

I Montfort Brown Esqr Governor of New Providence, A Prisoner in the Power of the Governor and Council of Safety for the Colony of Connecticut, being delivered to them by the Commander in Chief of the Fleet of the United Colonies in America having been kindly treated and Protected by them and enlarged On Parole –

Do hereby Solemnly promise and engage on the Honor of a Gentleman – that I will not bear Arms against the American Colonies in any Manner Whatever for the Space of twelve Months or until I may be exchanged – nor during that Time take any Measures to give intelligence to the British Ministry or Ministerial Army or Navy – Or to any Person or persons whatsoever relative to the American Affairs – but will proceed with all convenient Speed to the Town of Windham in this Colony and peaceably abide within the limits of said Town ship – and submit myself to the further Directions of the said Governor and his Council of Safety. – That I will not directly or indirectly Attempt to procure an[y] pe[r]son or persons to rescue me – and that I will not go on [board] any British Ship of War during the Continuance of my Engagements not to bear Arms –
 Colony of Connecticut
 Lebanon 18th April 1776

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

Sir:

New York, April 18, 1776.

I received your Favour of the 11th. Inst In Answer to Colonel [John] Glover's Application to you, I am of Opinion, that all Accounts respecting the armed Vessels should be paid by the Agents only; and as the Trial of the Prizes cannot be much longer deferr'd, they will have Cash, for the Goods which may be condemned, in their Hands much more than sufficient to answer the Demands upon them. If there is not a Probability of this, you will be pleased to give a Warrant for as much as will pay the Wages due.

The Ship *Jenny* and the Brigantine [*Little Hannah*] both taken by Commodore Manley, the former from London, the latter from Antigua, bound to Boston; are by what I can learn proper Vessels to be fitted out as Cruizers. You will, therefore, Sir, have a Person of Knowledge and Trust sent on Board to examine them. If the Report of them is such as they have been represented to me, you must have them purchased for Account of the United Colonies.

If Commodore Manley is in your Neighbourhood his Opinion of them must have Weight, and if they are fit for the Purpose, he will of Course, have his Choice of them & attend the fixing one of them out. His first Lieutenant can command the *Hancock* in the mean Time. The sooner this is put in Execution the better.

Nothing material to inform you of from hence. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 490.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety New York April 18th 1776 –

Whereas the provincial Congress of this Colony by their Order of the 18th of february last did forbid all Communication between the Ships of War in the Port of New York and the Ship in which Governor Tryon resides on the one part and all the Inhabitants of the Colony on the other except for supplies of necessary Provisions for the use of the said Ships only, under certain restrictions therein mentiond

And Whereas the said Congress on the 8th day of March last did resolve and order further Regulations for furnishing such Supplies as aforesaid upon express proviso however; that the said Supplies were to take place and be continued on Condition, that there should be no Obstruction given to any Boats or Vessels bringing Provisions, Provender or fire Wood to this City; which Obstruction has nevertheless been repeatedly given and the benefit of such Supplies are thereby become forfeited:

And Whereas the said Congress by a Resolve of the 15th of March last did among other Things authorize this Committee to execute or cause to be executed, Orders, Resolves and recommendations as well of the Continental as of the said Provincial Congress and also to comply as far as this Committee shall think proper, with any requisition by the Generals of the Continental forces or any or either of them.

And Whereas his Excellency General Washington has in writing signified to this Committee that he conceives any intercourse whatsoever with the Enemies on board the said Ships is injurious to the common Cause, by enabling them, while they are furnished with provisions, to continue in our Harbours, and maintain a regular Channel of Intelligence advancive of their own Plans, and to our great disadvantage and injury And has thereby requested our Assistance in putting a stop to this Evil and to cooperate with him in such Measures as shall be effectual either to prevent any future Correspondence with the Enemy, or in bringing to condign Punishment such Persons as may be hardy and wicked enough to carry it on. It is therefore Resolved & Ordered that no Inhabitant of this Colony upon any pretence or for any purpose whatsoever either in Person or in writing directly or indirectly do presume to have or maintain any Intercourse whatsoever with any Ship or Vessel belonging to or employed in the service of the King of great Britain or any of his Officers or Ministers, or with any Person or Persons on board of the same upon pain of being dealt with in the severest Manner as Enemies to the Rights and Liberties of the united North American Colonies.

Resolved and Ordered that his Excellency General Washington be furnished with a Copy of this and the foregoing Order and Resolve and be assured that this Committee will cooperate with him in the execution of the same and any other Measure which may be judged by this Committee to be advancive of the salutary purposes of his Requisition.

Resolved and Ordered that a Copy of the two foregoing Resolves & Orders be immediately published in hand-Bills and in all the public News Papers of this Colony

A true Copy from the Minutes

Rob^t Benson Secy

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, A.M.

April 18th, 1776.

Messrs. [Abraham] Vanzandt and [Thomas] Randall, of the marine committee, informed the Committee of Safety that the pilot boat, the *Hamden*, belonging to the Provincial Congress of this Colony is at Philadelphia, in the Colony of Pennsylvania; that she can not, with safety, be brought from thence; and that it is their opinion that the said vessel should be sold.

Mr. Van Zandt further informed the Committee that a small quantity of goods which arrived in the said sloop *Hamden*, and belong to the Colony, are in his custody: Thereupon,

Ordered, That the marine committee appointed by the Provincial Congress of this Colony sell the said sloop at Philadelphia, and pay the amount of the sales to the Treasurer of the Provincial Congress of this Colony. And,

Ordered farther, That the said marine committee do sell and dispose of the said goods and merchandise which were imported in the said sloop, and pay the amount of the sales thereof to the said Treasurer; and that they deliver in to the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety, an account of the amount of the sales of the said sloop and goods.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 413.

LORD STIRLING TO WILLIAM PAULDING ¹

Sir –

New-York, April 18th, 1776.

Thomas Vernon was some time since made prisoner on the evidence of one Craig; a copy of which I now enclose you, and I think was then examined by the Committee of Safety. The General desires me to transmit to you the enclosed letter from Vernon,² and request that the Committee would make such further inquiry into the matter as will enable them to determine whether it be worth while to keep him any longer prisoner, or not. I am sir, [&c.]

Stirling.

[Enclosure]

Craig, lately a soldier in the first regiment of Yorkers, declared that he was employed by one Vernom, a hatter, of this city, to rig out a sloop, the said Vernon had lately purchased by order of Governor Tryon, to be employed by the Governor as a tender or cutter, and occasionally to cruise in the North and East rivers: that the said Vernom was to be supplied by the said Governor with swivels for the said sloop; and that the said Craig went on board with the said Vernom of the *Dutchess of Gordon*, and there conversed with the Governor and the Attorney-Generals Kemper and Skinner, who urged him to be active in procuring as many men as possible, not only for the said sloop, but for the *Asia*, and other men of war soon expected

here; that about 50 or 60 soldiers now in town in the Continental service were engaged by the said Vernom for the service of the Ministry.

March 12, 1776

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 188–89.
2. Of April 17, 1776.

MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM SMITH ¹

[Haverstraw] 18 April 1776

I recd a Summons to Council of the 11th but learnt that the Communication with the Ships was totally cut off by an Order from General Putman [*sic*] who had arrived in Town with Troops from Boston and afterwards by my Brother that no Council was held & I therefore conclude that the Assembly for want of a Prorogation 17 Inst is dissolved – He tells me that [Samuell] Bayard the Clerk of the Council was importunate with the Congress for Leave to go on Board with the Writ for deferring the Session – that [Alexander] McDougal pressed hard for it. That [John Morin] Scott was vehement in the Opposition and carried every Voice except McDougals. And upon this the Ships quitted the Harbour & fell down below the Narrows.

1. Sabine, ed., *Memoirs of William Smith*, 270.

New-York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1776

New-York, April 18.

The *Roebuck* man of war was at the Capes of Delaware last Friday week; put to sea that day, returned the next, with a schooner commanded by Seymour Hood, from North-Carolina, for Philadelphia: – They took 30 barrels of naval stores out of the schooner, then scuttled her, and gave the boat to the crew to go ashore in.¹

1. "Sally, Seymour Hood, master; E. Bachelor, owner; from Ocaisock [Ocracoke], North Carolina, to Philadelphia; with tar and turpentine; destroyed off Cape Hinlopen," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

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

April 1776

Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House EBN
Distance 1 Mile

Thursday 18th AM came in & Acnhd here the Brigg *Amazone*² from Guardalupe nothing in but Ballast, Sent in by the *Shulldham* Tender.

PM compleated our Water Cleard Hawse, employed Watering the Tender and Prizes³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.
2. The brig *Amazon*, John Clark, master, from Guadeloupe, "Said to be bound to Saint Peter[s]." She was sent to Halifax, Shulldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. *Ibid.*, two other prizes not mentioned in the journal are included at that time in the same list; the sloop *Diana*, Jonathan Haddon, master and owner, from Barnegat to Amboy, with a cargo of cedar rails; and the sloop *Industry*, William Roach, master, and James Wells, owner, bound from Barnegat to Stonington, Connecticut, with lumber. The *Diana* was listed as taken April 15, and the *Industry*, April 17, 1776. Both were sent to Halifax.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 18, 1776

A letter from General Washington of the 15th . . .

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three;

The members chosen, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [George] Clinton, and Mr. [Carter] Braxton.

A letter from Elizabeth Seymour, widow of the late master of the *Cabot*, was presented to Congress, and read:*Resolved*, That the same be referred to the Marine Committee.

The Committee of Claims reported, that there is due,

To Timothy Shalor for expences in bringing prisoners from Egg Harbour, the sum of £ 14.1.1 – 37.5 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.The Marine Committee having recommended gentlemen for captains of the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, the Congress proceeded to an election, and the ballots being taken, and examined,Mr. [William] Hallock was elected captain of the *Hornet*; and,[Charles] Alexander captain of the *Wasp*.²1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 291–93.2. Hallock had formerly commanded the *Wasp*, and Alexander was elected from the Pennsylvania fleet.PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPE MAY COMMITTEE ¹

[Philadelphia] In Committee of Safety

April 18th, 1776

Gentlemen Your resolve of the 6th Instant has been laid before this board by Mr Thomas Leaming junr complaining of the practice of Pilots from this port boarding inward bound Vessels, for which we cannot account as it is not only contrary to the best regulations in our power, but also very improbable, as we do not suffer them to take their pilot boats with them and it is very unlikely they should accomplish such a design by means of a Skiff therefore we apprehend you must be misinformed by your Pilots as an Apology for infringing on the General Regulations, however this board sensible of the danger of such a practice to the safety of the Navigation of this river as set forth in your resolve, and desirous to guard against such a practice, request that you will use your best Endeavours to detect any delinquent and upon conviction we will cheerfully pay the Expence attending it.

1. HM 1579, HUL.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee on Thursday Morning 18 April 1776

Lieutenant [David] Plunket returned from Philadelphia, & brought a Letter from the President of the Continental Congress to this Committee, of which the following is a Copy –

[Here is inserted Hancock's letter of April 16, 1776, and the resolution of April 15 of the Continental Congress.]

Agreeable to the Intimation contained in the Resolution of Congress respecting Mr Alexander Ross & his Papers, Messrs Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Nicholson, & John Smith were ordered to enquire for, and secure said Ross's Papers, which they accordingly did, and report, that Mr Grant informed them, the said Papers were deposited in a Closet in his House, which he shewed to them, and which these Gentlemen then sealed up without seeing or examining said Papers –

A Copy of said Resolution was also sent to the Committee of Frederick County by the Post –

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CHARLES CARROLL, BARRISTER, TO GOVERNOR ROBERT EDEN ¹

Sir In Times of public Distress and Convulsion when a free People are threatened with a deprivation of their civil Liberty, Exertions for its Preservation influenced by its purest Principles, and conducted with all possible Attention to Form and Ceremony we hope will not be considered, as an Indignity or Insult to any Rank or Station in the Community. The Proceedings, which your Excellency reprehends in your Letter addressed to Chs Carroll, John Hall & Wm Paca Esqrs and communicated by them to our Board, arose from an Impression, that we, who are entrusted with the public Safety, should pursue with Vigilance every effectual Measure, tho' the Danger to be guarded against, may rest only in Possibility. The intercepted Letters from Administration to your Excellency,² we own, furnish grounds for conjecture, and Apprehension only of your having held an injurious Correspondence; and whilst we reflect on the general Tenor of your Excellency's Conduct, the friendly Disposition you have often manifested and the several favourable and impartial Represen[tat]ions you have made to Administration of the Temper, and Principles of the People of this Province, we sincerely lament the Necessity of the Times, which urging us to guard against every Possibility of Danger, forced us to a Measure disagreeable to [us], and which may prove an unmerited Treatment of your Excellency. – We acknowledge, Sir we know of no Information you have given Administration countenancing or encouraging the Introduction of Troops into this Province: nor do we know of any measures whatever to have been concerted, or pursued by your Excellency injurious to this Province or America.

We thank your Excellency for your Resolution of continuing in your Station, as long as permitted, or the ostensible Form of the established Government can contribute to preserve the Peace of the Province, and we cheerfully acquiesce in your Excellency's Assurance, that as the Convention is shortly to meet, they shall find you here. As far as our Influence extends with that respectable Body, it shall not be wanting to remove every Obstruction to your peaceable Departure, whenever your Excellency's Continuance here shall become inconsistent with your Instructions, or your private Affairs shall demand your Return.

With ardent Wishes for a speedy Reconciliation upon honorable and constitutional Terms, We have the Honour to be [&c.]

Charles Carroll, V.P.³

[Annapolis] 18th Apl. 1776.—

1. Council of Safety Letter Book, No. 1, Md. Arch.
2. See Volume 3, 444 and 446.
3. Governor Eden's explanation to his Royal Council, June 7, 1776, reads:

Afterwards, the gentlemen waited on his Excellency, with Mr. Hancock's Letter and the Resolve of the Congress . . . Mr. Hancock's letter, accompanying and enforcing the said earnest request, was to the same amount; but the Governor not being favoured with copies of the letter or resolve, which he wished to have had, can only communicate this from memory.

The gentlemen then told his Excellency that the Virginia and Baltimore proceedings had been such towards them, that they looked on them to be at the bottom of this; that they were satisfied with what he had said, and in that reliance declined complying with the said resolve, intending to write fully to the Congress thereon. His Excellency gave them thanks for their good opinion of him, hoping they would not have any cause to repent it.

Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 735.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

No 123.

Sir

[Annapolis] April 18th 1776

Your Letter ² enclosing the Resolves of Congress was this Day delivered to us: we were furnished with the intercepted Letters some Time before the Receipt of yours, & had taken such Measures, as in our Judgment were competent to the Occasion. To dissolve the Government & subvert the Constitution by the Seizure & Imprisonment of the Governor, we conceived to be a Measure of too much Delicacy and Magnitude to be adopted without calling & consulting the Convention of the Province: we saw no Necessity urging us to such an Extreme, and were therefore determined not to expose the Province to immediate Anarchy and Convulsion, if an Assurance could be obtained from the Governor, that he would not depart before our Convention met to decide upon this important Business — He cheerfully gave us this Assurance and that we feel no apprehensions of Danger from him. Under those Circumstances we cannot comply with the Request of Congress in any other Manner than we have done, and flatter ourselves they will rest satisfied and consider us excusable.

We have apprehended Mr. Ross and shall keep him in Custody and examine him fully.³

Permit us, Sir, to assure you that we are determined to maintain the Rights and Liberties of this Country at every Hazard of Life and Property, and will vigorously pursue every Measure which the defence of America shall require.

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.
2. See Hancock to Maryland Council of Safety, April 16.
3. This date Colonel William Smallwood notified the Council of Safety: "Colonel [Peter] Adams yesterday morning took Alexander Ross at Chester Town." Browne, ed., *Arch. of Md.*, XI, 352, 353.

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

April 1776 [Cape Fear River] Fort Johns[t]on N N Wt
 Thursday 18th AM: at 2 fired 2 Guns & made the Sigl for unmooring at
 1/2 past weighed & came to Sail in Co the *Mercury* & two
 Tenders, at 7 saw a Sail in the Offing, at 11 spoke the *Anna*
Issabella Transpt with part of the 57th Regt sent a Pilot
 on board of her & the *Cruizers* Tender to see her in,² at
 Noon the *Mercury* & Tender in Co
 Cape Fear NNE 1/2 E Oak Island N 1/2 Wt 3 Leagues
 Light breezes & Cloudy with Thunder, Lightning & heavy
 Rain - P:M at 4 Cape Fear NEt 15 Lgs, at 6 Singl Reef
 TSlS at 8 shortned Sail for the *Mercury*, at 10 dble Reef
 TSlS

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

2. First of Sir Peter Parker's vessels to arrive.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Caro-
 lina.
 Tuesday 16 Fresh breezes and fair. Fir'd at a Mark. fir'd a Six poundr
 & several Musquets at the Rebels
 Wednesday 17 Modr & Cloudy Fir'd 2 Six poundrs at the Rebels
 Thursday 18 Fir'd a Six poundr at the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Bristol at Sea the 18th April 1776

Latt: 22° 50' No Longt: 60° 00' Wt from London

Sir Since my last Letter of the 7th past, by the *Cleveland* Brig, nothing
 material has happen'd; the Wind sprung up fair within a few hours after I
 wrote and continued 'till we got into the Trade, when it fell almost Calm,
 and we have had ever since only light Airs and mostly at No Wt which I
 never met with before, in these Latitudes. The *Actaeon* join'd us the 4t
 instt with two Ships of the Convoy, so that we are now Eighteen sail, includ-
 ing the three Men of War - I send this by the *Betty* Brig, Jos Brice Masr
 from Barbadoes to Londonderry, she saild from Barbadoes the 6h
 instt they have not had any account for some time past from America, he
 says that Capt [William] Garnier has taken four or five Prizes, two or three
 of them are Dutch Vessels. I am Sir [&c.]

P: Parker

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/486.

LORD CHARLES CORNWALLIS TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

On Board the *Bristol* April 18th 1776

Latt: 22:50 North Long: 60:00 West from London

My Lord I have nothing to inform Your Lordship of but that our passage

has been very tedious, & that we are still about 370 leagues from our rendezvous at Cape Fear; we have with us twenty Company's besides two Artillery ships & four Victuallers. I hope the rest of the Fleet will not be long after us; I hope your Lordship received my letter of the 7th of March; This goes by a ship bound to Londonderry. The troops are in general healthy, I most heartily wish that I could be a more agreeable correspondent, & am with great regard Your Lordships [&c.]

Cornwallis

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 865-66.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT FRANCIS MONTAIS ¹

April 1776

[Off Jamaica]

Thursday 18 at 8 Am East end Jam[aic]a N $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 4 Leagues at noon Et end do WNW 2 Leagues saw a sail in the N.E gave chase to do

Modt Breezes & clear Wr at 1 Pm fired a Shot at the Chace brought too & hoisted out Boat & sent her onboard the Sloop $\frac{1}{2}$ past the Boat ret[urne]d with the Master & Men belong[in]g to her Do sent a Petty Officer with 3 Men to take possession of the Sloop as belonging to Philadelphia ² at 2 the Boat retd hoisted her in & bore away for Port Royal with the Prize in Company at 6 the east end of Jamaica N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 4 or 5 Leagues.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4293.

2. Probably the schooner *Friends Adventure*, — Ross, master, with a cargo of shingles, Gayton's Prize List, PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

19 Apr.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir

Chatham Halifax Harbour 19th April 1776.

I am sorry to acquaint you that yesterday Captain Howe arrived here very unexpectedly in His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* having on the 6th Instant off Rhode Island fallen in with and been attack'd by several Armed Vessels of the Rebels, in which Action she received so much damage that she was thought unfit to proceed on the execution of the Orders Captain Howe had received for carrying General [William] Howe's and my Dispatches to the Southward, which were unluckily thrown into the Sea; Herewith I transmit to you a Copy of Captain Howes Account of that Action together with a Copy of Captian Wallaces Letter to me on the Same subject, and as I find the *Glasgow* is in so shattered a Condition, and would require so much time, and more Stores than there is in this Yard to put her into proper repair, I intend sending her to Plymouth as soon as she can be got ready. I am [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

[Endorsed] 19 Apl 1776 Halifax V.A. Shuldhham R 6 June (2 Inclosures)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

From several Remarks and Informations, the following is the State of the Rebel Armed Vessels which attacked the Glasgow
 of the 27th Feb^r 1862. 16. 1862.

Ship or Vessels Name	Commanders Name	Number of Guns and Men						On what Deck	Men in each	Remarks
		Guns								
		Pounders								
		32	24	18	9	6	Swivel			
Alfred	Hopkins	"	"	"	{ 20	10	"	Lower upper	220 Including 60 Marines	A figure head and Yellow Sides, her lower Deck Ports not at the eighteen inches from the Water. Mizen T. & G. sail.
Columbus	Whipple	"	"	"	{ 18	10	"	Ditto	220 Including 60 Marines	Black sides without a head. Mizen Sep. G. sail.
Annadonay Brig	Biddle	"	"	"	"	16	12	Upper	130 Including 30 Marines	Black sides without a head.
Cabinet Brig Capt.	Hopkins Jun.	"	"	"	"	11	12	Ditto	120 Including 30 Marines	A small white figure head, and yellow sides with hanging Ports.
Providence Sloop	Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10	Ditto	90 Including 28 Marines	Black Sloop without a head.

"LIST OF THE REBEL FRIGATES &C THAT ATTACK'D THE *Glasgow*"¹

From several Remarks and Informations, the following is the State of the Rebel Armed Vessels which attacked the *Glasgow*
off Rhode Island 6th April 1776

Ship or Vessels Name	Commanders Name	Number of Guns and Men					On what Deck	Men in each	Remarks	
		Guns								
		32	24	18	9	6				Swivels
<i>Alfred</i>	Hopkins	"	"	"	{ 20	"	"	Lower Upper	220 Including 60 Marines	} A Figure head and Yellow Sides, her lower Deck Ports not above eighteen Inches from the Water, Mizen T. G. Sail.
					" 10	"				
<i>Columbus</i>	Whipple	"	"	"	{ 18	"	"	" Ditto	220 Including 60 Marines	} Black sides without a head, Mizen Top Gt Sail.
					" 10	"				
<i>Annadona</i> Brig ²	Biddle	"	"	"	"	16	12	Upper	130 Including 30 Marines	} Black sides without a head.
<i>Cabinet</i> Brig ³	Hopkins Junr	"	"	"	"	14	12	Ditto	120 Including 30 Marines	} A small white Figure head and Yellow Sides with hanging Ports.
<i>Cabot</i> <i>Providence</i> Sloop	Hazard	"	"	"	"	12	10	Ditto	90 Including 28 Marines	} Black Sloop without a head.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484, enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, April 19.

2. *Andrew Doria*.

3. *Cabot*.

TRIAL OF SUNDRY GOODS SEIZED ON BOARD THE SCHOONER *Tartar* ¹

Cause

Thomas Bishop Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship *Lively*

VS

Sundry Goods seiz'd on Board the Schooner *Tartar* ²

Thursday 15th April 1776	}	Libel filed and entred—15th April Order made thereon as on file; Court to set for the Preparatory examination on Friday 19th April 12 o'Clock—
Friday 19th April 1776		}

Wyndham Bryer.

19th April 1776 —	}	Sworn before me Charles Morris junr Regr
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1. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, 1769–1777, N.S. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, the cargo was declared a lawful prize and awarded to the captors May 4, 1776.3. The *Tartar* was taken February 19, 1776, see journal of the *Lively* that date.PETITION OF JAMES JORDAN TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay	}	To the Honl the Council, and the Honl the House of Representatives in General Court, assembled at Watertown. April 1776. —
------------------------------------	---	--

The Petition of James Jordan humbly shews —

That on the Twenty eighth Day of June last being then Master of the Sloop *Sally*, and riding at Anchor in the Harbour of Cape-Ann was suddenly attacked by an armed Tender belonging to the British navy under the Command of Capt [George] Dawson, taken & carried with his said Sloop into Boston, where he was detained as a Prisoner untill he found means to effect his Escape. Since which, the said Sloop has been taken up by a number of the Tories & Enemies to America to transport them & their Effects from Boston to Hallifax, but in the course of their Voyage they were fortunately drove ashore on Cape Cod where the said Sloop was stranded. — The Persons,

who secured and Captured the said Sloop have informed your Memorialist, that they do not intend to Libel the same in the Admiralty, & they are willing the same should be returned to the rightful owner thereof, as appears by the Certificate herewith exhibited. – The said Sloop belongs to David Pearce of Gloucester who has impowered your Memorialist to make this application to your Honors – Your Petitioner therefore in behalf of the said David Pearce prays your Honors, that the remnant of the said Vessel Sails & the rigging & any other thing belonging to the sd Vessel may be ordered by this Honbl Court to be delivered to him he paying the necessary Charges which have accrued for the taking care of the said Articles & other incidental Expences – And as in Duty bound shall ever pray –

James Jordan Attorney to David Pearce

[Enclosure]

Provence Town April the 19th 1776

This is to Certify all Persons to Whome It may Concern that James Jordan hath appeared and Layd Claim to the Sloop that is Now on Shore here and hath Given Marks Suficient to Prove her To be the Sloop he was taking and Carried to Boston the 28th of June Last Which is the Property of Capt David Pearse of Gloucester the Sloop Sail'd from Boston With the Fleet, Commanded By Capt Cammell or Jollay Allen.

Nehemiah Nickerson
Select Man
Stephen Atwood

[Endorsements]

The Committee for taking under Consideration the within Petition Beg leave to Report by way of Resolve
In the House of Representatives Novr 14th 1776.

Resolved that the Select Men of Province Town be and hereby are Directed to Deliver the said David Pearce the Remnant of the Sloop *Sally* (within mentioned) consisting of Sails, Rigging &c He paying the necessary Charges that have arisen or may Arise by taking Care of the same.

Sent up for Concurrence
J Warren Spkr

In Council Novr 15. 1776
Read & Concurr'd

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 211, 108–10. The reason why about six months elapsed before action was taken upon the petition is left unexplained. Presumably it was mislaid in the moving of the General Court from Watertown to Boston.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Friday, April 19, 1776

The House made choice of Richard Weldon as Captain of armed Brigantine building at Dartmouth, for the service of this Colony.

In Council: Read and concurred.

Ordered, That Captain [John] Fisk be appointed to take the command of the armed Sloop building at Salisbury, by Mr. [Richard] Derby and Captain [Samuel] Batchelder, for the service of this Colony.

The committee appointed to report suitable names for the five armed Vessels now building by this Colony, reported; That the Brigantine building at Kingston be called the *Independence*; that the Brigantine building at Dartmouth be called the *Rising Empire*; that the sloop building at Salisbury be called the *Tyrannicide*; that one of the Sloops building at Swansea be called the *Republic*, and the other the *Freedom*.

Read, and concurred.

The Committee appointed to examine sundry Persons taken on board the Brig *Sally* bound to Hallifax, & sent to the Council by the Committee of Marblehead have attended that service & upon examination find that Dr [Arthur] Spencer is a native of Ireland that he was several years a Surgeon in the Navy, that about three years since he married in Boston where he has resided, untill the removal of the troops when he left Boston with his family in order to proceed to Hallifax for the recovery of Monies due to him from some of the troops & that he was not an associator while in Boston nor has discovered himself to be inimical to the Country – Your Committee also examined [John] Hill who informs your Committee that he is a native of Ireland that he came to New York three or four years since that he came to Boston about ten months ago on the removal of the troops from New York to Boston for the recovery of monies due to him from them and that for the same purpose he was going to Hallifax having acted as a Sutler among the troops. Your Committee are of opinion that the said Doctor Spencer and Hill be liberated on giving their written parole not to bear arms against the United Colonies, nor in any way aid or assist the Enemies of the said Colonies.²

By the House of Representatives: Ordered, That Colonel Grout, Major Goodman, and Mr. Bent, with Benjamin Chadbourn and Joseph Gerrish Esquires, be a Committee to examine Caleb Wheaton and others, lately taken prisoners on board the Brig *Sally* by Captain Manly.³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 164, 314, 315 for paroles of Arthur Spencer and John Hill.

3. *Ibid.*, vol. 164, 312 contains examination of Caleb Wheaton and others on board the *Sally*.

BRIG *Georgia Packet* AND SLOOP *Speedwell's* CARGOS¹

[Providence] Apl 19th 1776

Present at Oppening the Hold of the Brig *Georgia Packett* — George Bunner Commr.

Capt George Corlis
 Capt Christophr Ellery
 Capt John Burroughs
 John Jenkins

Judged to be on board Vizt –

Abt: 400 bl flour and Bread a few Boxes Soap
 A small Quantity Caggs of Crackers ²
 8 Small Arms
 5 Bayonetts
 11 Cartouch Boxes
 5 Pistols
 11 Cutlasses
 2 Setts Chaise harnesses
 4 Cart Sadles
 24 Collars and harnes
 2 Chaise horse Collars
 7 Pump Bitts
 1 do Auger
 1 Block makers Knife
 On Board the sloop *Speedwell* Levi Carman Master
 Abt 2500 Bushell Salt
 4 Casks Coffee

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R.I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, a more detailed inventory was taken on April 24.

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

[April, 1776] [New London Harbor]
 Friday 19th Moderate Breezes & Clear, Gott a Liftenant & 17 Private,
 Marines from the *Alfred*,
 At 10 AM Weigh'd from New London, with the Fleet, At
 Meridian the Comodore gott a ground on a Ledge of rocks
 to the So East of the light, which oblig'd all the Fleet to
 come too
 Moderate Breezes & Cloudy Weather
 At 5 P M the Comodore gott off after getting out all his
 guns, & starting his Water and run in the Harbour

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

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1776

New-London, April 19.

By Capt. Bell, in 11 Days from St. Martin's, we learn, that fifteen Sail of French Ships of the Line, and several Frigates, had arrived at Martinico, from Old France, a few Days before he sailed.

Last Lord's Day [April 14] Capt. Biddle, in one of the Continental Brigs, returned here from a Cruise, in which he retook, and has bro't in a Schooner,¹ which a few Days before had been taken by the *Scarborough* Man of War, and was then bound into Newport. The people had been all taken out of the Schooner, and [put] on board the *Scarborough*. By various Circumstances it appears, that the said Schooner was bound into this Port from

the West-Indies, commanded by Daniel Deshon: She is deep laden with West-India Goods and some Powder.

Wednesday last, Montfort Brown, Esq; Governor of New-Providence, Mr. Babbage, Secretary of that Province, Mr. Irving, one of the Council of South Carolina, and a Number of other Prisoners, brought in by Commodore Hopkins, were carried from hence to Windham, under an Escort.

1. The schooner *John and Joseph*, Hispaniola to New London, taken by the *Scarborough* March 8, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Veneris, A.M.

April 19th, 1776.

Benjamin Waldo, late a mariner and carpenter on board of the armed schooner *Schuylcr*, James Smith commander, was admitted, he complains in substance,

1st. That Capt. Smith having discharged him, and knowing that he had refused to go to sea with him, Capt. Smith had prevented him from being employed as a carpenter on board of the armed vessel, commanded by Capt. Rodgers.

2d. That Capt. Smith had violently beat and abused him very much, without any just provocation.

Ordered, That the doorkeeper summon Capt. Smith to attend at 5 o'clock, and the complainant attend at that time.²

A draft of instructions to Capt. William Rodgers, commander of the armed sloop *Montgomery*, was reported by Mr.[Thomas] Randall, and read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir – As the armed Sloop *Montgomerie*, whereof you are commander, is now completely fitted in a warlike manner, our orders are that you repair on board with your officers and men, and proceed to sea and act against the enemies of the United Colonies, agreeable to your instructions from the Congress.

You are to cruise along shore on our coasts, any where between Sandy Hook and Cape May, or from Sandy Hook to the east end of Long island. You are always too keep some inlet under your lee, so that you may secure a retreat from a superior force. Be careful to send such prizes as you may take, into some place of safety in the United Colonies. It is very necessary to have a good pilot on board, and also that you make yourself well acquainted on the coast. You are to assist any of the friends of the United Colonies by every means in your power, and assist to carry them in some place of safety; and where different objects for assistance offer at the same time, you are to give the preference to the vessels and inhabitants of this Colony. You are always and by every opportunity, to advise the Provincial Congress, or Committee of Safety of this Colony, of your proceedings.

We wish you success, and remain [&c.]

Ordered, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Chairman, and delivered to the said Wm. Rogers.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 413, 414.
2. The minutes are silent on the outcome of the summons to Captain Smith.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO DAVID MATTHEWS ¹

Ship Dutchess of Gordon, Sandy-Hook,
April 19, 1776.

Sir, As the Commander of his Majesty's Ships on this Station, found it expedient for his Majesty's Service to burn down the Pilot-House, at the Hook, I am to acquaint you, all possible Care has been taken of Mr. Adam Dobbs, and his Property; and that if you will send down a Sloop to the Hook, it will be suffered to bring up to New-York, Mr. Dobbs, his Servants, and Effects. I am, with Regard, Sir [&c.]

Wm. Tryon.

To David Matthews, Esq; Mayor of the City of New-York
(Copy) Received the 25th.

1. *New-York Gazette*, Monday, May 6, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 19, 1776

The committee to whom General Washington's letter of the 15th Inst., as well as other letters, were referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to: Whereupon,

Resolved, That General Washington may order as many of the cannon and military stores as are not necessary for the continental fleet, and which were lately brought into New London, by the commander thereof, to any other place he may think proper; having regard only to the permission of Congress relative to the defence of the harbour of New London, a copy of which ought to be sent to General Washington, and also a list of the cannon and stores as transmitted to Congress.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 293, 295-96.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a., 19th April, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver to Capt. Thomas Forrest, for the use of his Marine Comp'y on Board the Floating Battery, Thirty Firelocks, with twenty-three Rounds of Cartridges.

The sub-Committee appointed to consider what further defences are necessary for the River, agreed in opinion that a Floating Battery of a similar, or nearly similar Construction with the one now in service, be immediately built; not doubting but the Committee, from their different

Contracts, will be speedily supplied with a sufficient Number of suitable Canon to mount thereon.

The Board taking the above Report of the sub-Committee into Consideration, do

Resolve, That a floating Battery be immediately Built, under the direction of Sam'l Howell, Robert Whyte, & George Clymer, a Committee hereby appointed for the purpose.

A Letter was this day wrote, By order of the Board, to Doct'r Chas. Bennett [Bensell] of Germantown, acquainting him that L't [Richard] Boger & Mr. Jno. Draper, two Prisoners on their Parole, were going to reside at Germantown, & that their allowance was 15s each per week, which would be paid by this Board.²

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 547.

2. *Ibid.*, 551, the Committee ordered Boger and Draper to appear before the Admiralty Court on April 29.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO DR. CHARLES BENSELL,
GERMANTOWN ¹

Sir: –

[Philadelphia] 19th April, 1776.

Lieut Boger and Mr. John Draper, who are Prisoners of war,² being suffered to reside in Germantown, on their Parole, a Copy of which is inclosed, we request you will endeavour to procure them Lodgings on the most reasonable Terms. They will be allowed fifteen shillings each, for their subsistence. Your order on this Board for that amount, from time to time, on their behalf, will be paid. The Gentlemen of the Committee in your Town, will see that those officers conduct themselves agreeable to the terms of their Parole. Any letters they choose to write, must be delivered open to some of your Committee to be shown to this board before they are sent away.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 444.

2. Boger was commander, and Draper, moster's mate of the British tender *Edward*, taken April 7, 1776, by Captain John Barry in the Continental brig *Lexington*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD HARRISON ¹

No 124

To Mr Richard Harrison (Martinico)

Sir Capt [Thomas] Conway of the Sloop *Molly* will deliver you this – In the disposition of the Cargo you will please observe our former Instructions, and send us any Returns by this Vessel you may have to make, as she is a prime Sailer.

[Annapolis] 19th April 1776.

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

JENIFER & HOOE'S ACCOUNT WITH THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND FOR THE SLOOP *Molly* ¹

Dr The Province of Maryland In Account with Jenifer & Hooe

		Maryld Curry			Cr
					Maryld Curry
1776			1776		
March 16.	To Cash paid Adrien Lemaitre for 2 Casks Medicine p Rect	200..-.-	March 16	By Cash in Gold to purchase Medicine with	200..-.-
Ap[r]il 15	To Cargoe p the Sloop <i>Molly</i> as p Acct rendd	810..7..-		By ditto	900..-.-
	To Sloop <i>Molly</i> p Accot render'd ²	345.14..8¼	April 15	By Ballance due as p debit	256..1..8¼
1776		<u>£ 1356..1..8¼</u>			<u>£ 1356..1..8¼</u>
April 15	To Ballance	£ 256..1..8¼			

[Endorsed]

Apl 19th 1776 Recd from the Council of Safety
and Order on the Treasurer of the Western Shore
for above Balance

R^d Hooe

1. Revolutionary Papers, Box 1, Accounts, 1775-1776, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, a detailed account.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 19 April 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Captain Thomas Conway twenty five Pounds Currency as a Gratuity for his Diligence and Care in importing Powder.

Ordered That the said Treasurer pay to Messrs Jenifer and Hooe two hundred and fifty six Pounds one Shilling and eight Pence, being the Balance of their Account in Consequence of an Adventure by the Sloop *Molly*, Thomas Conway Master.

Copy of Letter No 124 was sent to Mr Richard Harrison, Martinico

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

COST OF ADVENTURES FOR POWDER FROM MARYLAND ¹

Adventures P drgt Vessells

1776				
Jan'y 2d	Pr Brigt <i>Sam</i>	Forsythe	2058.19.6	
12	Schooner <i>Dolphin</i>	Kell	626..2.6	
1775				
Dcr 23	Sloop <i>Molly</i>	Conway	1016.13.3	
Nov 3	<i>Seaflower</i>	Waters	1991.19.2	
1775				
Dc[r] 22	Sloop <i>Batchelor</i>	Scott	230.19.-	R H ²
1776				
Jan'y 1	Schooner <i>John</i>	Spiake	994.17.31/2	R H
Feb'y 20	Brig <i>Nancy</i>	Wise	1735.13.7	R H
	Brig <i>Fortune</i>	Moore	1919.5..5	V ³
	Sloop <i>Two Sisters</i>	Oakum	930..7.1	R H
Apl 19	Sloop <i>Molly</i> 2d Voyage	Conway	1856..1.8	R H
	Her Cost		875	
1776				
Jan'y 9	Brig <i>Hannah</i>	Luce	1360..7.71/2	V
	Brig <i>Rachel</i>	Tibbit	1583.13.11	V
	To Abram Vanbebber ³ for <i>Wicked Dick</i>		1788..7.4	
	To Do Goods over Shipped		1218	
	10 P Ct on 3006. 8. 31/2		300.12.9	
	Brig <i>Friendship</i> Capt Martin			
	Boat <i>Chatham</i> 100 Bars Flour—Russell			
	Schooner <i>92</i> . loaded by H Y			

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

2. Richard Harrison, agent at Martinique.

3. Isaac Van Bebber, agent at St. Eustatius.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1776

Williamsburg, April 19.

Yesterday a couple of tenders went up James river, as far as Sandy point, and fired several shot at a guard of men stationed at that place; and early this morning they returned, with a prize, supposed to be a vessel with about 200 barrels of flour on board. As they passed Jamestown, they were saluted with a few shot from some cannon which had been placed there.

20 Apr.

LETTER OF AGENCY, OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Chatham* ¹

No. 8. Know all Men by these presents that we the Captn and Officers of his Majestys Ship *Chatham* have Constituted and appointed and in their stead and place put Alexander Brymer Merchant & Edward Bragg Gentleman at present of Halifax in Nova Scotia, our lawfull agents and Attornies jointly and severally for us & in our Names to ask Claim demand and recover all prize money Share or Shares of Prize money which by any ways or means may become due to us and to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make and to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty & generally to do act and transact in all things respecting the premisses, as fully amply and Effectually to all intents and purposes as we might or could do if personally present, hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all and whatsoever our said Agents or either of them may lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premisses with full power to make and Substitute jointly or severally one or more Attornies under our said Agents and the same again at pleasure to revoke. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the 20th Day of April 1776 on Board his Majestys Ship *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour & in the 16th year of his Majestys Reign –

Sign'd, Seal'd & Deliver'd	}	J Raynor	
in Presence of		Lewis Robertson	S Dickson
Tho ^s Freeman		Rob ^t Sutton	Tho ^s Messeley
		W ^m Kelly	Ch. Elliot

[Endorsed] Rec[orde]d 2d Octr 1776

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

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

April 1776
 Saturday 20th AM at Moord off the Dockyard in Halifax Harbr
 at 7 weighd and came to sail as did the Convoy 3 sail Viz [2] ships and 1 Brigg ² run out of the Harbour at Noon Convoy in Company Moderate and Cloudy Wear at 7 [P]M the 4 White Islands NbE 3 Leagues

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

2. Transports carrying troops for the relief of Quebec.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April 1776

Cape Ann NWBW 7 or 8 Ls

Saturday 20

Exercised Great Guns & Small Arms Served the last of the Spirits to the Ships Company –

at 4 P M saw a Sail to the Northwd made Sail & gave Chace
 at 7 P M came up with the Chace she proved to be a schooner
 from Salem bound to Guadeloupe ² took her hands out
 & put a Petty officer & men onboard her Made Sail & Tackd –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. The schooner *Lydia*.CAPTAIN JOHN AYRES TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD ¹

General Ward

Portsmouth Febry [sic April] 20th 1776

Sr I think it my duty, to inclose the deposition, of John Cochran, Boat-
 swains Mate of the Continental Arm'd Schooner the *Lynch* under My Com-
 mand, to You, as Capt [Samuel] Perkins is now in Salem. – Your most [&c.]

John Ayres

[Enclosure]

I, John Cochran now boatswains mate of the Continental armed schooner called the *Lynch*, commanded by Captain John Ayres, testify that I was a seaman on board the *Fowey*, man-of-war, four months immediately preceding the departure of the troops from Boston, and while the *Fowey* lay at her station by Cat-Island the last Winter two men came in a row-boat alongside the *Fowey*, & brought with them a quarter of beef weighing about one hundred and eighty pounds which was received on board the *Fowey* the Captain of which paid them therefor.

About a fortnight after this, & while the *Fowey* lay at her station off Baker's Island, the same two men came again in a row-boat to the *Fowey*, and brought with them three quarters of beef and several quarters of mutton, which the Captain of the *Fowey* bought of them.

It was now said, on board, that one of the said two men was Captain, and the other Mate of a sloop or schooner belonging to Salem, and that the Captain's name was Perkins. I saw him each time of his bringing the beef. I judge he was about twenty seven years of age. He wore a brown surtout, & appeared to be about five feet nine or ten inches high. Each time the beef was brought in the night. The first time they brought a compass with them, which I saw, I think also that they brought a compass the second time with them in the boat.

About three weeks after bringing the last beef a sloop came in the night up towards the *Fowey* as she lay off Baker's Island.² All hands were ordered to their quarters; but, before a gun was fired the Captain hailed the sloop & ordered her to bring to. The sloop answered that she was coming with design to bring to. And then dropped anchor alongside the *Fowey* (as I heard a Midshipman say) that he sd Perkins was going to the east-sloop, and proceeded with her to Boston.

When Captain Perkins brought the last beef, he told the Captain of the *Fowey* (as I heard a Midshipman say) that he sd Perkins was going to the eastward for wood to carry to Boston, that he would come up towards the *Fowey* with it, & upon the firing a gun from the *Fowey* he would bring to. When Perkins came with his sloop alongside the *Fowey* it was about midnight, He came on board the *Fowey*, and afterwards the midshipman said in my hearing that the sloop had on board her fifty cords of woods, & I saw one goose and about fifty pounds of beef, which were the same night brought on board the *Fowey*. The sloop was almost new, & I heard the midshipman say that Perkins said he went into Cape Ann harbour with the privateers which the *Fowey* chased into Cape Ann near about a week before, and would then have followed the *Fowey*, but that Capt. Manly ordered him into Cape Ann

John Cochran

Essex, ss., April 12, 1776

Then John Cochran above named, made oath to the truth of the foregoing deposition by him subscribed Before

Timothy Pickering, Junr Justice of the Peace.³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 263, 264, 265, NA Photocopy.
2. See journal of the *Fowey*, February 3, 1776, Vol. 3, 1107.
3. General Ward forwarded letter and deposition to Massachusetts Council, April 25. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 263.

COMMITMENT OF FOUR PRISONERS TAKEN IN THE SCHOONER *Valient*¹

Colony of the }
Massachusetts Bay } The Major part of the Council

To the Keeper of the Goal at Concord in the County of
Middlesex – Greeting

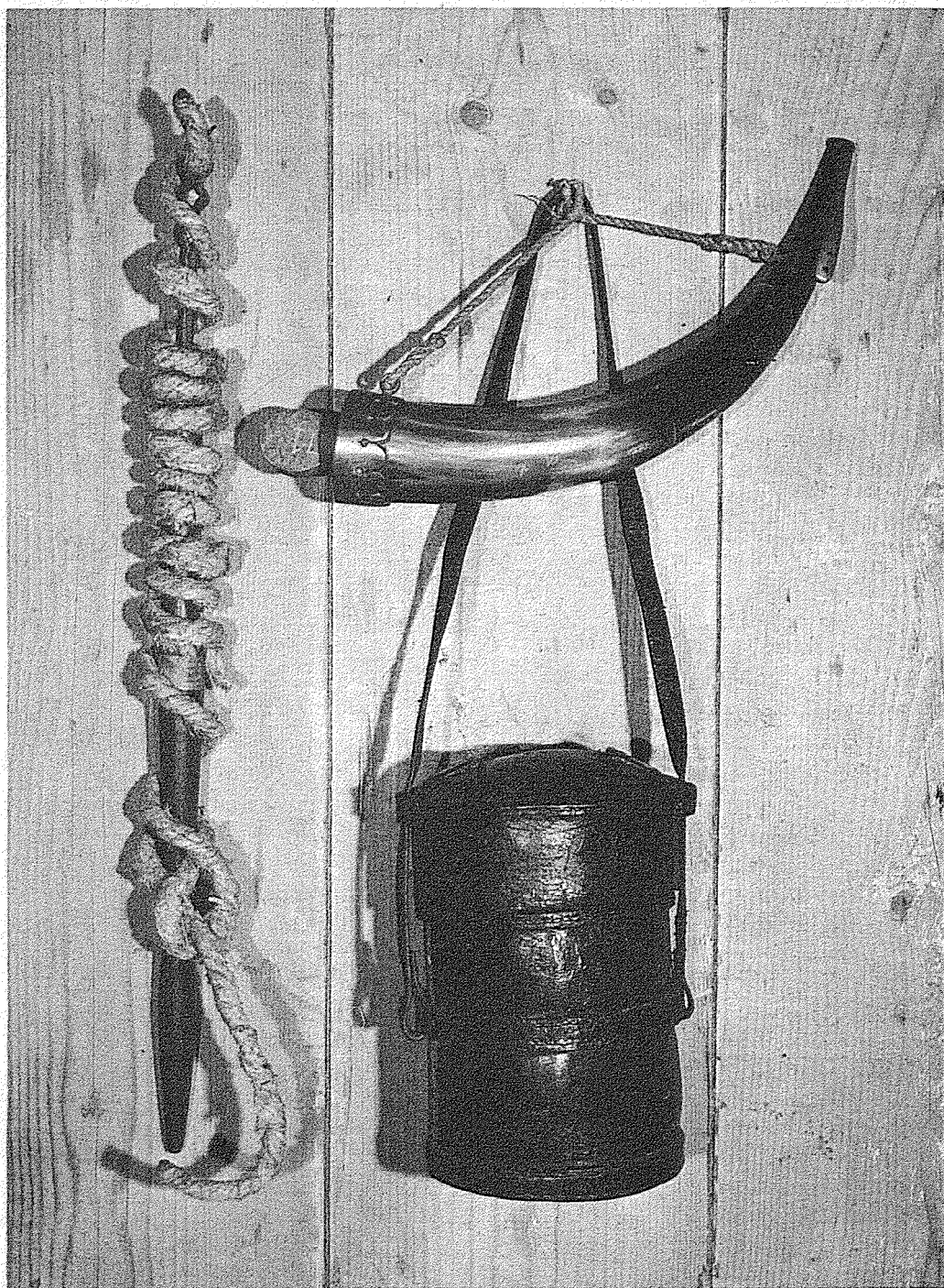
You are hereby directed and Commanded to take into your Custody Edward Marsh, John Loring Basil Cooper and David Lang lately taken prisoners at Martha's Vineyard in the Schooner *Valient* in the Employment of the enemies of the United Colonies of America bound to Boston with supplies for them, And you are commanded to confine the said Edward Marsh & John Loring without the privilege of Pen, Ink or Paper, and not suffer them or either of the, to converse with any person unless in your presence and the said Basil Cooper & David Lang are to have the Liberty of that part of the Goal Yard that is enclosed during their good behaviour and giving their parole in writing not to depart without the limits of the same, in failure of which you are to depart without the limits of the same, in failure of which you are to comit them to close prison – and them and each of them safely keep till the further order of the Major part of the Council or they be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law – hereof fail not at your Peril

In the Name & Order of the Major Part of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber
Apl 20th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 317.



French naval linstock, powder horn, and powder bucket.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JOHN BARKER ¹

Boston 20th. [April]

The *Glasgow* sailed for England, convoying some other Ships with many of the Refugees from Boston going to England: the *Glasgow* has had a slight repair since her being beat by 5 Privateers off Rhode Island.

1. John Barker, *The British in Boston Being the Diary of Lieutenant John Barker of the King's Own Regiment from November 15, 1774 to May 31, 1776; With Notes by Ellery Dana* (Cambridge, 1924), 72.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford* ¹

April 1776 Thatchers Island N W 4 Leags
 Friday 19 at 8 saw a Sail to the N W made Sail & gave Chace at 11 sent the Boats Manned & Arm'd after the Chace Out Reefs Top-sails.
 Fresh Breezs & Cloudy made the Signal for the Boats to return got them in & gave Chace at 2 left off Chace Wore Ship & Brot too Main T. Sail to the mast . . . gave Chace to the S W
 Saturday 20 Fresh Breezs & Clear
 P M fired 4 Shot at the Chace she bore down to us sent an Officer onboard proved to be an American Sloop laden with Wood, ² got the Prisoners onboard Sent 2 Petty Offrs with 4 Men onbd at 5 Saw 2 Sail to the Soward gave Chace 1/2 past 6 join'd Compys with the *Lively* & *Hopes* Tendr fir'd 10 Shot at the Chace at 1/2 past 7 The Chace Brought too The *Lively* sent a Boat and took possession of her proved to be an American Schoo[ne]r ³ Recd onbd the prisoners, Sent our prize to Halifax.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. "*Britannia*, sloop, John Grey, master, cargo, wood," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N.S. Arch.

3. *Ibid.*, "*Lydie*, schooner, loaded with staves and fish, bound for the West Indies, captured seven leagues from Cape Ann by HMS *Lively*, *Milford* and *Hope*."

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Hope* ¹

April 1776 Remark's in Nantasket Road
 Saturday, 20th Fresh Breezes and Clear Weigh'd and Came to Sail in Compy with the *Dispatch* arm'd Schooner & Several Transports, Soon after made all Sail and Chaced a Brig in to Cape Ann Harbr, at 4 Do Cape NEBN 3 or 4 Leagues, at Do Wr Chased a Schooner as did the *Lively* and *Milford*, fired at the Chace 10 four Pounders shoted, at 7 the *Lively* Brought hir too found hir to be the *Lydia* from Selam bound to Gardaloup, at 1/2 Pt 7 Cape Ann Wt 9 or 10 Lgs Do Wr made Sail to the Sowd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1823.

WILLIAM WATSON TO COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN ¹

Sir

Plymouth 20 April 1776 –

In Obedience of His Excellency's Commands of the 11th Ultimo, I woud acquaint you, that the *Norfolk* & the *Happy Return* Prizes taken by Comdore Manly and brot into this Port, are condmned. –

If His Excellency will please soon to appoint a day for the sale of these prizes, it may be of service to the Public, as many articles on board them are wanted for the use of the American Navy. –

The other two taken by Capt [William] Coit,² & those two taken by Major [Benjamin] Tupper & carried into Dartmouth, have not yet had their Tryal, Coits by reason of my not having receivd the papers which were taken with them, & which were sent to Head Quarters. – Tupper's, by reason of his not attending the Court, with the papers relating to them. –

The Court is adjourn'd to 15th May by which time I shall endeavour to get every necessary preparation ready, and in the mean time must ask the favour of you to let me know where the papers taken with Coits 2 prizes are lodged, that I may procure them seasonably. – I am Sir [&c.]

William Watson

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The sloop *Polly* and schooner *Industry*, taken November 5, 1775.ABSTRACT OF THE CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE RHODE ISLAND LETTER OF MARQUE SLOOP *Joseph* ¹

1776 *Joseph*. Rhode Island Sloop. Guns: 4. Crew: 12.
 April 20 Bond £ 5,000. Master: James Munro ²
 Bonders: James Munro, John Innis Clarke, Joseph
 Nightingale, all of Providence
 Owners: John Innis Clarke, Joseph Nightingale.
 Witnesses: Eliz Clarke, William Mumford.

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

2. This was the first Continental bond taken out in Rhode Island, covering a letter of marque and reprisal commission, under the resolutions of the Continental Congress of April 3, 1776. The Continental Instructions were given to Munro on April 20, also, and acknowledged by him at Providence as follows: "I acknowledge the foregoing to be a true Copy of the Instructions delivered me this day by his Honor the Governor with my Commission or Letter of Marque and Reprisal as Commander of the Private Sloop of War *Joseph*." Maritime Papers (Letters of Marque Petitions Instructions 1776–1780), R.I. Arch. The *Joseph*, however, with four guns and a crew of twelve, can scarcely be called a privateer, as she carried the following cargo to Hispaniola to exchange for powder and arms: "3 bbls Mackarell, 54 Tierces Rice, 7 Tierces Dry Fish, 2 m Pipe Staves, 150 bbls Flour, 24 Kegs Oysters, 8 bbls Pork, 7 Ditto Beef, 6 Tierces Bread & 18 Shaken Hnds," Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R. I. Arch.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

Providence, April 20.

A List of Vessels taken by the American Cruizers and carried into the Counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol, in the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay, which Vessels are said to have been em-

ployed in supplying the British Fleet and Army now acting against the American Colonies.

*Ship <i>Jenny</i> , William Foster,	400 Tons.
*Ship <i>Concord</i> , James Lawrin [Laurie],	300
*Schooner <i>Two Sisters</i> , R. Robbins,	80
Ship <i>Friends</i> , Archibald Bowie,	200
Brig <i>Sukey</i> , M[a]ddet Engs,	90
Sloop <i>North Briton</i> , John Ritchie,	60
Sloop <i>Sally</i> , Robert Basden,	70
*Brig <i>Nancy</i> , Robert Hunter,	250
*Sloop [<i>Polly</i>] [S.] Smith,	80
*Brig <i>Little Hannah</i> , Robert Adams,	140
*Sloop <i>Betsey</i> , — [John] Atkinson,	60
Sloop <i>Industry</i> , Samuel Lane,	40
Sloop <i>Success</i> , John Hitch,	50
Schooner <i>Fisher</i> , John Moody,	55
Snow <i>James</i> , William Littledale,	180
*Ship <i>Henry and Esther</i> , — Nellis,	300
*Sloop <i>Polly</i> , Sibeline White,	75
*Schooner <i>Industry</i> , Charles Coffin,	85
*Schooner — Dawsey, [Jeremiah Downey],	15
*Ship <i>Happy Return</i> , James Hall,	130
*Ship <i>Norfolk</i> , Jonathan Grendall,	120
Sloop <i>Dolphin</i> , Lot Norton,	80
Brig <i>St. Lawrence</i> , James Coffin,	165
Sloop <i>Sally</i> , George Middleton,	70
Sloop <i>Lively Locus</i> [t], — Wayman,	30
Sloop <i>Britannia</i> , Joseph Hall,	80
Sloop <i>Betsey</i> , William Heath,	115
Ship <i>Harriot</i> , Wemyss Orrock,	240

[*Taken by the armed schooners of Washington's fleet.]

All the above armed Vessels, with their Cargoes, have been libelled in the Court of Justice erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coasts of America, brought into the aforesaid Counties, and were ordered for Trial in the said Counties of Essex and Plymouth in the Months of March and April, 1776. — The Honorable General Assembly of this Colony, in their last Session, established a Court for the like Purpose, and appointed John Foster, of Providence, Esq; Judge of said Court.

The Brig taken last Week, by the Gallies belonging to this Colony, from under the Stern of the *Scarborough* Man of War and a Transport of 16 Guns, was from Philadelphia, and had been taken by the Enemy as she was going into Georgia; ¹ the Sloop captured at the same Time, was from the West-Indies, and had been taken near Georgia; ² they have both since arrived here.

Seventeen Prisoners were taken in the above Vessels, who inform that

Sir James Wright, Governor of Georgia, his Family, and several other Tories, are on board the *Scarborough*, and that the Transport has on board 140 Soldiers; they were bound to Boston, and had parted with some other Prizes, one of which, a Sloop, arrived at Newport on Sunday last.

Thursday last the brig *Cabot*, of 16 Guns, one of the Continental Fleet, arrived at Newport, having on board 10 Pieces of heavy Cannon, being Part of those lately taken from New-Providence.

It is reported that the *Phoenix* of 44 Guns, and the *Savage* Sloop, have joined Wallace's Fleet, near Long-Island.³

1. The brig *Georgia Packet*.

2. The sloop *Speedwell*.

3. An erroneous report.

JOHN FOSTER TO NORTH PROVIDENCE TOWN SERGEANT ¹

Colony of Rhode Island,

Providence ss. To the Town sergeant of the Town of North Providence in the County of Providence Greeting

WHEREAS the General Assembly of said Colony have erected a Court to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought into said Colony; and have Ordered that such Vessels shall be tryed at said Court by a Jury to be drawn and impaneled in the same manner as Jurors are directed to be drawn and impaneled to serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas in said Colony; And whereas the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, and the Sloop called the *Speedwell* with their Cargoes and Appurtenances are taken and brought into Providence in said County of Providence and are Libeled in said Court, and said to have been used or employed against the united Colonies of America; And whereas Tuesday the Twentyfirst Day of May AD:1776 at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon is the Time appointed for the Tryal of said Vessels at said Court then to be holden at said Providence. Therefore pursuant to the Act of said General Assembly, You are hereby commanded and Required forthwith to warn a Meeting of the Inhabitants of said Town of North Providence on the Eleventh Day of May next to draw Petit Jurors out of the Box to serve in said Tryals at said Court at the Time and Place appointed as above said, in such manner as is provided by the Laws of said Colony for Returning Jurors to Serve at the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas; – And you are hereby further Commanded, as soon as may be to give Notice in writing to the persons so drawn, of the abovesd Time and Place set for their Appearance at said Court, and to make Return to me with your Doings hereon, at or before the abovesd Time of Tryal with the Names of the Jurors so drawn and Notified, upon the Penalty of Ten Pounds for Failure herein. Given under my hand and Seal at said Providence this Twentieth Day of April AD. 1776 –

Jn^o Foster Judge of said Court

1. Admiralty Papers, vol. 9, 1776, R.I., Arch.

LIEUTENANT HOYSTEED HACKER TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Franklins fery april 20 1776 2 cloclck P M

Sir these are to Inform you that according to your Order I Proceeded to New Port as fast as Possible ² and arrived their yesterday at one a Clock and went on Shoar and found the *Cabbot* at Mr Holmes worf Getting out the Guns I advised Capt Henman [Elisha Hinman] to Go up the River as Soon as he Could as their was a Report that their was Three Ships in the Offing he Told me He Intended it I Put out at 3 a Clock with the wind at wsw and flood tide and Beat out to the Lite House but the wind Being Small we Bore away Into franklins fery Came two and Lay Till 4 Clock then Got under way and Beat as far as the Half way house Betwene Point Juda and watch Hill whare we Saw a Ship Lying a Hull we Still Beat in Hopes of Giting By Her But She Made Sail and Stood into windard of us we Stood for her a while But Soon Bore away She Amediately Bore away after us But Made No More Sail than Her Topsails and [?] She Stood after us Till we Got Round Point Juda whare we Lowerd all Sail to wait for her She Hauld away under the Ley of Block Island I Should have taken Her for one of our Ships But Capt Henman was Chased Before From the Same Place within a Mile of the Lite House and a Small Sloop Yesterday within a few Rods of the Shoar which Makes Me Caussious How I Go Two Near a Ship I thought Proper two Run Into franklins Ferry and Send Capt Brown as fast as Possible to Acquaint you. I am with Respect yours to Serve

Hoysted Hacker ³

per favr Capt Brown

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. In command of the Continental sloop *Fly*.

3. Hacker signed this letter "Hoysted" but in many subsequent ones he used the double "e", "Hoysteed."

Constitutional Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

New York, April 20.

The following may be depended on. When the *Asia* was going through the Narrows last Sunday afternoon [April 14], she was hailed by the rifle men on Staten Island side, who desired her to bring to, some of the *Asia*'s people on deck asked for what? Because answered the riflemen "our order is to suffer no boats to pass without a permit from General [Israel] Putnam." The *Asia* still keeping under way, the riflemen fired upwards of forty shots at her, the *Asia* returned the salute by firing two pieces from her upper tier.

DESPOSITION OF JOB TRIPP, MASTER, AND JAMES CATHILL, MATE, OF THE
SLOOP *Endeavor* ¹

Galloway Township, in Gloucester County:

Be it remembered, that, on the 20th of April, 1776, personally appeared before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of

Gloucester [New Jersey], Captain Job Tripp, late Master of the Sloop *Endeavour*; and James Cathill, his Mate, both of Dartmouth, in the County of Bristol and Province of Massachusetts-Bay; and, being sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, do declare, that we left Dartmouth, in said sloop, on the 31st day of March last, for Philadelphia. On the following day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, (the forepart of the day being very thick and foggy, cleared up in the afternoon,) we saw the vessels in at Little-Egg Harbour Inlet. About the same time we discovered a vessel to the southward of us. When we found we were so near the land, we altered our course more out to sea; we being bound to the southward, and that vessel to the northward. They presently came up with us. About the distance of three hundred yards on our lee-bow, they fired at us. Immediately we saw a number of men on board of her, who appeared to be in motion, and very busy. We hailed them twice with our trumpet, but received no answer, but another firing, and hove about, and made after us. We still kept our course, and they after us, continually firing, till about ten o'clock at night. At that time they were about a swivel shot distance from us. The wind dying away, and perceiving them coming up very fast, we immediately hove to, and hauled down our fore-sail, and were busy in hauling down our mainsail, when they run up as near as they conveniently could without running foul of our vessel, and fired a broadside at us; which felled both the Captain and Mate. By their account, they fired two volleys of small arms just as they fired their cannon and swivels; each volley ten guns. Their carriage-guns and swivels were two four-pounders and six swivels on each side. The Captain was wounded in the thigh, which we imagine to be a swivel ball, which broke the bone and shattered it very much. The Mate was also wounded in both thighs; the ball went through the fleshy part of the right, and lodged in the left.

We were unable to help ourselves, though we made shift to scramble down into the cabin. The Captain laid on the cabin-floor, and the Mate had got in his berth, before they boarded us. The Lieutenant came down, and presently presented a pistol at him, and ordered him to turn out immediately on deck, or he was a dead man; treated him with very scurrilous and abusive language, and hauled him out of his cabin. With that, he scabbled on deck as well as he could; kept him there till he was satisfied; then ordered him into his cabin again; and returning to the Captain, who lay on the floor, ordered him likewise on deck. The Captain begged he would let him alone, as he was unable to stand or help himself; with that he left him.

They rummaged all our chests for papers and letters, which they took with them – all they could find, with forty-nine dollars of the Captain's in Continental bills; with the Mate's journal, pocket-book, chest, bed, &c.&c. They were particularly careful in collecting all the old iron and spikes they could find to take with them. After they had rummaged and taken what they thought proper, they cut up the cables, and hove them, with the anchors, overboard, and threatened to burn the vessel. They kept us

till about five o'clock in the afternoon next day, when the Lieutenant came to the Captain (on board our own vessel) and told him that the Captain of the tender was going to indulge him with his boat and men to go ashore for a Doctor. There were three hands beside the Captain and Mate. Before we had left the vessel they scuttled her, and the water came in very fast; and heard them call out, Come, let us begin the fire in the cable-tier. They let the Captain take his bed and chest, and a bed-sack to lie on. The Captain of the tender called to his Lieutenant not to let us take too many things with us. When we had got some distance from the vessel, we saw a great smoke arising from her, with all her sails standing, save the peak of the mainsail, which was dropped down, with her tiller lashed fast, so as she could steer herself. The vessel was about seventy or seventy-five tons burden.

We were about one hour and a half in the boat before we reached the shore, which was the flat beach; and were about thirty-six hours before we had any dressing to our wounds. And further these deponents say not.

Job Tripp
James Cathill

Sworn before me, Robert Morse.

N.B. The most of the latter part of the transaction was taken from the Mate; the Captain, being badly wounded, could not remember.

[Endorsed] The above is a true copy from the original.

Richard Price, Clerk Township Committee.²

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1003, 1004.

2. The Galloway Township Committee sent the deposition to the Massachusetts delegates in Congress with the assurance that the master and mate were being cared for.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir,

Philadelphia April 20th 1776

Your several Letters of the 24th and 27th of March, the 1[s]t 4th and 15th Inst. I had the Honour of receiving in the Order of their Dates, by the last of which, I learn with Pleasure, that you had safely arrived at New York. The Dispositions you made to expedite the Embarkation of the Troops, were highly proper and judicious.

Too much Dispatch cannot be used in sending the Battalions to Quebec; as it frequently happens in conducting such important Affairs, that a Week, a Day, even an Hour, proves decisive, and the greatest Advantages are thereby either gained or [lo]ssed for ever

The Resolutions of Congress as far as they relate to yourself, or those Parts of your Letters that have hitherto come under their Consideration, I do myself the Honour to transmit herewith and am Sir [&c.]

John Hancock Presidt

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia April 20th 1776

. . . I hope cannon may be obtained at New London or Rhode Island, if not I know of no resource at present but this place and if they must come from here it will be some time before you can have them as they are yet to be made. I am continually teasing the Marine Committee about the canvass but have got nothing yet determined, nor have you wrote me how much you shall want.² The Committee determined last evening on the nomination of [Continental] Agents which will be reported to Congress to morrow – I expect my next will advise you of the appointment. I have got the nomination of officers for your ship put off; it is not now as it was when the other ships were fitting out – then there was a scarcity of officers, but now an abundance of applications; as that is the case the Committee are very critical in exam[in]ing the characters, so if you recommend any that I am not well acquainted with, you must furnish me with a history of them, whether they have been in ships of war, if their courage has been tried their political principles &c. I think New Hampshire can officer one ship very well – we must be very careful that no consideration but real merit influence our recommendations.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 113, LC.

2. For the Continental frigate building at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Special Meeting of the Committee 20 April 1776
Were Present – William Lux Chairman –

W. Buchanan
T. Harrison

J. Calhoun
B. Griffith

J. Smith
J. Boyd

J. Merryman Junr

The Committee being informed, that certain Instructions were given by Mr Samuel Purviance as Chairman to Capt Saml Smith, which did not appear on their Minutes, they sent for Capt Smith, and requested him to attend the Committee with the Instructions he had received – he accordingly attended & produced them, and they are as follows –

14 April 1776

Cap Saml Smith

Sir You are requested by the Gentlemen of the Committee to proceed in Capt Nicholson's Tender, with any Officer he may send to assist you, & such a Number of armed Men as may be necessary, and therewith proceed as speedily as possible for Annapolis – should you, before you get there, meet the Governors Boat or Barge, you must by all means endeavour to board her, and in case Governor Eden, His Secretary Mr Smith, or Mr Alexander Ross, are found onboard, you are by all means to sieze their Persons & Papers, and instantly return with them under the strictest Guard to Baltimore, for doing which you may depend upon being

justified and protected by the Committee, and held blameless – In case you should not meet such Boat or Persons, you'l please to proceed immediately to Annapolis, and use every Precaution to prevent Alarm by obliging the Men not to appear in Numbers on Deck, and causing the Boat to lye at a Distance, while you go on shore with the Letter delivered you for the Gentlemen of the Baltimore Committee, who may be at Annapolis, whose Direction you'l please to follow after your Arrival there – You'l please to take Blunderbusses, and any Quantity you see necessary of Arms out of Capt Nicholson's Vessell, which he will readily furnish – please to consult in all Things with the Officer, which Capt Nicholson sends with you, and let your Measures be kept as secret as possible from the Men, at least until it comes to the Execution – I am on Behalf of the Committee Sir

Yr Huml Servt
Saml Purviance Junr Chairman

The Committee then enquired of all the Members present, whether either of them had concurred in said Instructions, and on each of their Declaration that they had not, they sent for Mr Purviance, and desired, he would inform them, what Number of the Members of the Committee were present, when the said Instructions were given, and that he would give his Answer in Writing – Mr Purviance accordingly came to the Committee, and verbally declared, that he had not consulted any one Person of the Committee upon the Occasion, but that he had given the said Instructions himself; that he exculpated the Committee from all Censure on that Account, and that he would give his Answer in Writing to that Effect on Monday Morning –

Attested Geo Lux Secry

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

DIXON & HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1776

Williamsburg, April 20.

Thursday last two tenders met a small vessel at Sandy Point, coming down the river with a load of flour; the people immediately ran her aground and left her. The tenders continued there throughout the day, and several times attempted to board her, but were as often repulsed by the rifles and musketry from the shore, notwithstanding they kept a constant and heavy fire upon our people with pieces of iron, and a variety of shot, in which one man was wounded, and is said to be since dead. When the tide had set the vessel afloat, they cut her loose, with a good deal of difficulty, and carried her down yesterday morning. It is said the enemy had three men killed.

EDMUND PENDLETON TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

Caroline [Virginia] April 20th 1776

[Extract]

. . . I am pleased the Congress have Resolved on Reprisals & wish we

had it in our power to make them effectually, without that ability I much fear the Opening Our ports, will for some time at least, Only prove a temptation to Us, to throw supplies of Provisions into the Possession of Our Enemies, who take every Vessel that passes – the Maryland Brigg wch was sometime ago rescued by the *defence* is fallen into their hands, & another from that province Laden with Bread & Flour is also taken . . . The proposition of the Dunkirk Merchant would be exceedingly Flatering to our tobacco planters, if it was not For the Rub of risquing it to St Domingo, which I fear will frustrate the whole scheme at least for the present crop. Time may and undoubtedly will produce a Remedie. ²

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

2. See letter from B. Rnt Casteleyn, Dunkirk, November 25, 1775, Volume 3, 389–91.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE ¹

[Extract]

Cape Fear River the 20th April 1776

His Excellency

The Honble Major Genl Howe

Since the departure of the Sloop *George* for Boston nothing material has occurred at this place til the 18th when a Transport with two Companies and a half of the 57 Regt on board under the command of Major Craig arrived in this River The Major informs me that they sailed from Cork on the 12th Febr'y in company with fifty four Transports & Victuallers bound to Cape Fear River under convoy of Sr Peter Parker in the *Bristol* & four Frigates but having parted from them the first night he can give no further account of them

The *Syren Mercury* & *Falcon* with their Tenders are now cruizing off the Capes in quest of the rest of the Fleet and I am in hopes will soon fall in with them – I have thought it proper in the mean while that the *General Gage* armed Sloop should proceed to you with this intelligence. Several of the persecuted Inhabitants of this Country have taken refuge among us since my Arrival here they bring different Accounts of the Situation of the province and the movements of the Rebels, but all seem to agree that they are assembling in force in the neighbourhood of Brunswick & Wilmington. Mr McLeod & Mr McNeil with a few of the back Country Settlers have also joined us after meeting with a variety of difficulties – the Latter with three of his men escaped from the Jail at Wilmington where they had been imprisoned since the affair at Widow Moores Creek.

Forty or fifty Negroes had also found means to get on board the Shipping in this River previous to my arrival and as I conceived they might be very useful to us for many purposes in these Climates I have determined to form a Company of them with an intention of employing them as Pioneers and on working parties and have given the Command to Lieut [George] Martin of the Marines with the appointment of Lieutenant to

Robt Campbell and the Ensingy to Thos Oldfield till your pleasure shall be further known.

H C

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

“A LETTER FROM ST. KITTS, DATED APRIL 20”¹

A vessel arrived here yesterday from New Providence, and relates, that that island was invaded by the provincials, under the command of Commodore Hopkins, in a ship of thirty-six guns, and eight other vessels, having landed 1000 men at the east end of the island, and marched up to the castle, which surrendered without much resistance, there having been but five cannon fired on them; they took from thence Governor Montford Brown, his secretary, and the King's surveyor, two brass mortars of thirty-two inches, eighteen or twenty smaller, eighty pieces of cannon from eighteen to thirty-six pounders, and all the powder they could get, which was about eighteen barrels, the rest having been sent away privately in the night, before they surrendered, by an armed schooner in the King's service. The invaders were near three weeks at [New] Providence; they used no kind of violence to the inhabitants, nor took any private property without paying for it; they assured Brown they would very soon provide another Governor for a companion, from which it is conjectured that they intend their next visit to Bermuda.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 4 to June 6, 1776.

21 Apr. (Sunday)

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] April 21 1776

. . . We have inteligance of the Arrival of some of the Tory Fleet at Halifax that they are much distresst for want of Houses, obliged to give 6 Dollors per month for one Room, provisions scarce and dear. Some of them with 6 or 8 children round them sitting upon the Rocks crying, not knowing where to lay their heads. Just Heaven has given them to taste of the same cup of Affliction which they one year ago administerd with such Callous Hearts to thousands of their fellow citizen[s], but with this difference that they fly from their injured and enraged Country, whilst, pity and commiseration received the Sufferers whom they inhumanely drove from their Dwellings.

. . . Tis reported here that Admiral Hopkings is blocked up in Newport harbour by a Number of Men of War. If so tis a very unlucky circumstance.² as to fortification those who preside in the assembly can give you a much better account than I.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 390.

2. Hopkins and the Continental fleet were still lying in New London harbor.

COLONEL WILLIAM RICHMOND TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir: Head-Quarters, Newport, April 21, 1776.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your very acceptable favour of ordinance and warlike stores from the *Cabot*. We are mounting them with all despatch possible, under the inspection of Mr. John Collins, who assures us that within four days he will have them all mounted. We have almost completed the fortification on the Point, where we can mount thirteen guns. To-morrow we go on Fort-Island, in order to put the old fort in a posture of defence; which, together with another on Brenton's Point, we think will well secure the harbour: all of which works we shall pursue with the utmost vigour till completed. We are informed you have sixteen more heavy guns for us. As they are without carriages, it may be necessary to send them along soon.

Before this can come to hand, you must have heard of the confusion we have lately been in, occasioned by the wild conduct and insanity of our late commander, (Colonel [Henry] Babcock) who is now under an arrest at Providence, and, we judge, must be discharged from the service: in consequence of which, the command, at present, devolves upon me – a heavy task. I have the honour to be, Sir [&c.]

William Richmond.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1005.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

April 1776 Latd in 40:53
 Saturday 20th A M at 4 wore, at 6 out Reefs & made sail, departed this life
 Robt Evans Seaman, At Noon Montock Point N 4 or 5
 Leags Modr & fair Wr
 PM at 2 saw Block Island bearing NbE 4 Leags & a Sail to
 the NE which prov'd to be the *Cerberus*.
 at 4 Anchd with her in the Eastern Bay of Block Island in
 5 fm Water Sandy Bottom, Veer'd to 1/2 a Cable, Southermst
 point of the Bay SEbS & the Northermst NNE. dist from a
 Village a short mile.
 Sundy 21st AM Empd Watering & Sett the Rigging up, Sent the Spare
 Foresail on Bd the *Cerberus* to be Altered – First part mode
 & Cloudy, Middle fresh gales & squaly with hard rain, latter
 moderate.
 P M at 6 the Surf began to tumble in very fast on the shore,
 the boat was obliged to come off & left behind 5 punchns of
 Water – Weigh'd pr Sigl & made Sail out of the Bay In
 Compy the *Cerberus*. at 9 Block Island NW 3 mi[les] at 12
 handed the Maintops.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO STEPHEN HOPKINS, PHILADELPHIA ¹

Onboard Ship *Alfred* at the Mouth of New London
River April 21. 1776

Dear Brother

Since I wrote nothing material has happened – We landed our Sick which were 140 Men in the Fleet and got some new Men out of the Army, and was ready to Sail when I receiv'd General Washingtons Letter by Express a Copy of which I have inclosed – I sent out the *Cabot* in order to strengthen the Town of Newport where she is Arrived as you will see by Lieutt [Elisha] Hinman's Letter a Copy of which you have inclosed Two days past we were under Sail to get out but got ashore on the Rocks near Fisher's Island, but got off again without much damage after about 8 hours & came in again and ordered all the Vessels in which I had under Convoy five of whom were at the risque of the Congress –

The *Fly* is now out in order to learn the Strength of the Fleet, and if they are not much Stronger than we Shall go out the first fair Wind – We are much better Mann'd now than we ever have been – My Son John B. Hopkins is ashore at Mr. [Nathaniel] Shaws and getting better of his Wounds, but do not expect will be able to go onboard his Brig to take the Command in less than 3 or 4 Weeks – ² I am your loving Brother

E.H.

P.S. I have Oblig'd most of the Sailors which I have taken out of the Armed Vessels to do duty onboard – Should be glad to know if that is agreeable with the Sentiments of the Congress that I may still follow the same Rule –

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Despite Hopkins' belief that his son would not be able to command for three or four weeks, the Hopkins Papers contain an undated letter reading: "Honord Sir. Shold Be Extream Glad to Go Round to Newport in your Ship as the prospect Bids Fair For a Good Wind, if you would Send up your Boat For us will Go on board her Imediately From Sir your Dutifull Son John Bu Hopkins." As the rough draft of Esek Hopkins' letter was written on the back of this note, it is apparent that young Hopkins wrote either on, or a day before April 21, 1776, RIHS.

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

April 1776 Moor'd in Graves End Bay

Sunday 21 Fresh Breezes & hazey Wr

A M took a small Sloop laden with Sand and Sunk her. ² put the Ships Co to whole Allowce of Grogg

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

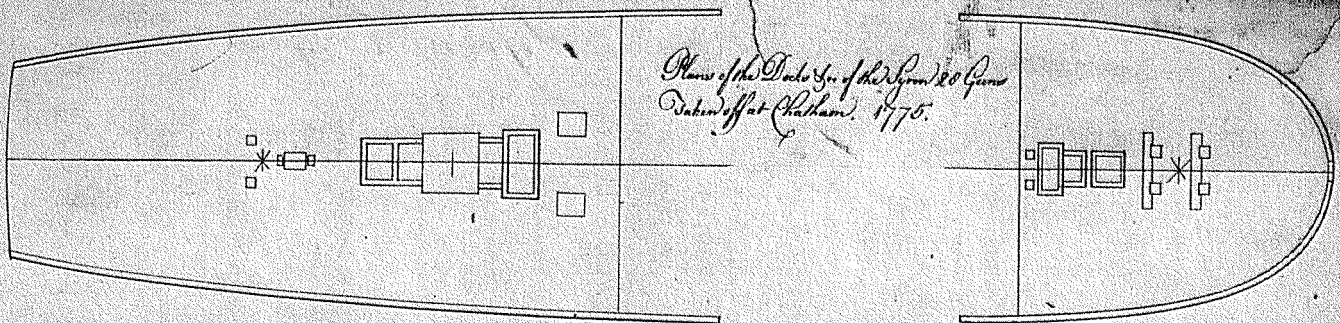
2. The vessel was the *Hetty*, John Hartwick, master and owner, from Long Island bound for New Jersey, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

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

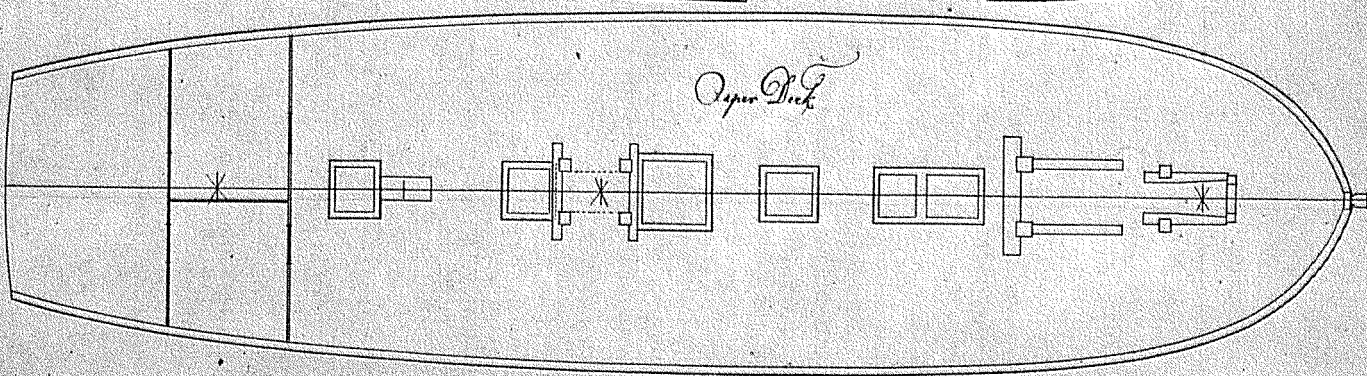
April 1776 Light House WbS diste from the [Charleston] bar
6 or 7 Miles

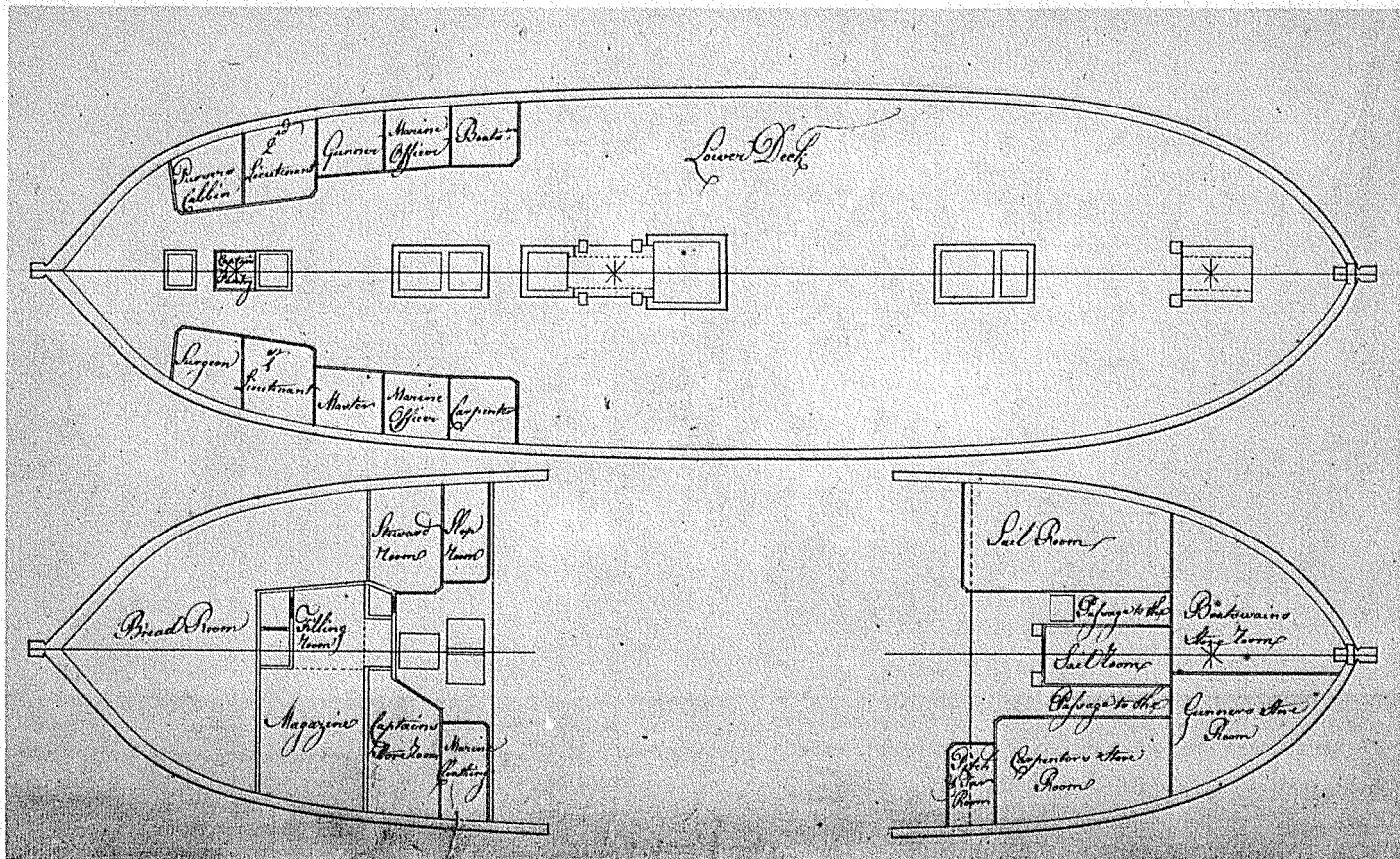
Sunday 21st A M: at 6 the Land W:N:W: 4 or 5 Leagues at 7 sent the *Mercury's* Tender, with an Officer & Pilot, aback of the bar.

Plans of the Deck of the *Agamemnon* 20 Guns
Taken off at Chatham. 1775.



Upper Deck





Deck plans of HMS Syren.

the[y] saw but one Ship in the Harbour, under the Town, the Rebels had raised a strong Fort on Sullivans Island and that they had cut down the marks for the bar, at 11 made Sail – Various Soundings –

Fresh breezes – P:M: shortned Sail for the *Mercury* at 5 lowered the Tsls on the Cap for the [*Mercury*] to come up, at 8 hoisted the T/sls at 12 dble reefed the T/SlS.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM M. JACQUES TEXIER, MERCHANT AT ST. EUSTACHE. 21 APRIL 1776 [TO COUNT D’ ARGOUT]”¹

From a vessel which arrived here on the 19th of this month from the island of [New] Providence in the Bahama Channel after an eleven day crossing, we learn that an American Fleet or Small squadron composed of two frigates of 36 guns, two brigantines, two schooners and three vessels of 10 to 16 guns had arrived there on the third of March with 700 American troops on board, had taken more than a hundred pieces of cannon, ammunition, the King’s money, even the Governor because he had attempted to resist, and left on the 22nd of the same month.

According to the news of London brought by a ship which arrived at St. Christophe after a long crossing, the government intends to send there [America] 35 thousand men on 60 to 70 warships of all sizes; but it seems that great difficulties are encountered in finding sailors for this fleet and apparently it has not yet left England where the continuation and lack of success of this war are provoking many grumbles.²

1. ANM, B7, 458, 13, LC Photocopy. D’Argout was governor of Martinique.

2. This letter and another from Texier, dated May 3, 1776, were probably enclosed in a letter from d’Argout to Sartine, June 25, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Pomona*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM YOUNG¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua
Sunday 21 sent an Officer out and seized a Brig from Georgia called the *Neptune*, and took her Crew on board.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Brig *Neptune*, Hugh Russell, master, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

22 Apr.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA¹

Monday, April 22d, – The ship and schooner are come into the harbour. It snows very fast. The ship is the *Swan*, from Rhode Island. Brings news of an engagement between Admiral Hopkins, of the Americans, and His Majesty’s Ship *Glasgow*. They parted with the loss of one man in the latter, and the former much damaged, by report. The schooner is the *Halifax*.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins’ Diary*, I, 119.

JOHN LANGDON TO CAPTAIN THOMAS PALMER ¹

Capt Thomas Palmer

Portsmouth 22d April 1776

You having the Command and direction of the Brigantine *Marquis of Kildare*, in the Service of the United Colonies, Equipt for the Sea, are to Embrace the first favourable Oppertunity of Wind & Weather, and Sail with said Brigant to the port Leorient, in the Kingdom of France, where when it shall please God you arrive, Enquire of some principal Merchant or Merchts on whom you may depend whether the Cargo you have on board said Brigantine (Invoice of which you have herewith) is Suitable for the Markett at that place, or whether any Articles you have on board, is Contraband, or not, which may be Easily known, by Enquiring what Articles are prohibited, If on Enquiry you find your Cargo will not sell for a Tolerable price, and by strictest Enquiry of disinterested Men, you are led to think that a greater price might be Obtain'd at Bourdeaux or any other part in the Bay of Biskey, even so high as Brest, you may proceed and do your best in the Sale of your Cargo, the Neat proceeds of which you'll lay out in such Articles, as are mentioned in the Memorandum you have herewith, takeing the greatest Care to deal with Men of the best Character, and with great Caution that the Goods are not Over Charg'd, after having Compleated your Business, and got the Neat proceeds of your Cargo on board which I shall depend on its being done with the utmost Frugality and dispatch, you'll make the best of your way back to this place, takeing the greatest Care, in your outward as well as your homeward passage to keep clear of any British Ships, whatever, and in short not to speak with any Vessell, You'll remember to push off this Coast with all dispatch, Steering as near the Shoal of Georges as may be with Safety, which will be most out of the way of the Men of Warr &c. after which you'll keep well to the Southward Especially when you come near Cape Finestre as by that Means you'll get clear of any Vessells, bound in or out, the Channel of England, Youll take Care on your Return, to keep in with the Eastern shore, and should it so happen that you should put in any Harbour by all means to give me Information as soon as may be, – You must be Sensible how Necessary it will be in keeping the best look out, & using your best Endeavour to prevent yourself from falling into the Hands of our Enemies, and also your duty, to Exert yourself for the Services of the United Colonies, in the Sale of your Cargo, & purchase of Goods, Agreeable to the Oath you've taken, – I must again recommend Frugality and dispatch, on which much will depend. Wishing you a prosperous Voyage & safe return, am your Friend & Director

John Langdon

[Endorsed] The above and on the other Side is Copy of my Orders which I promise to follow – Thomas Palmer

N. B. If you have any Letters on board for any part of the World for any person whatever My positive Orders are that you do not deliver them, untill

you are ready to leave the place, where you sell your Cargo and buy your Goods – Yours J Langdon

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

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAMBRIDGE, DATED APRIL 22, 1776.”¹

A number of the Marshfield Tories have just returned from Halifax, in a starving condition, with a request from Gen. Howe to Gen. Washington that the women and children may return again. By all accounts they have neither covering from the weather or provisions.

Commodore [Joshua] Loring's youngest son,² a midshipman, and a mate belonging to the English navy, were taken off Dartmouth last Thursday, coming from the West Indies, loaded with rum, sugar, &c. for the enemy.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.

2. John Loring; see commitment of four prisoners taken in the schooner *Valiant*, April 20, 1776.

DR. JOHN MORGAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, April 22, 1776

Tomorrow I purpose to set out for Portsmouth to learn whether there are any Tidings of the 10 packages of Medicines formerly mentioned to be in the Prize carried in there,² that Nothing of so great value may be lost for want of looking after.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Medicines reported on board the prize ship *Susannah*, carried into Portsmouth in March 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Watertown] Monday, April 22, 1776

Ordered, That William Sever & Benjamin Greenleaf Esqr with such as the Honble Board shall join, be a Committee to make such additions and amendments to the Bill for fixing out Armed Vessels for the defence of America as are necessary and shall comport with the late Resolve of Congress, Confiscating British Property. –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 785.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Watertown April 22 1776

. . . The Harbor of Boston if properly fortified would make one of the Securest upon the Continent & be the best port, I can think of, for a place of Rendezvous for the Continental Fleet, – would it not then be politic for the Congress to attend to this Matter

If the Congress would also order two or three Ships of War to be built in Boston, it would find employ for many of the poor Inhabitants & Comfort them under their affliction – I am satisfied I could find Timber enough as well as meterial sufficient for Equipping them; Cannon we must have from the Southward, & now I have mentioned that Article I hope those taken by

Commodore Hopkins will Answer for the ships, if they will I wish Congress would order them to be forwarded immediately, for the Ships will soon be ready, I fear we shall have to wait for Cannon – I am glad to hear you are attentive to this affair pray go on & may You prosper – The Cannon at Boston, it is Said, may be repaired & made suitable for Batteries. Those belonging to the Castle were left behind, some of them spiked up but most of them with the trunions knocked off, it is thought they may be repaired & fitted for use – . . .

P S most of the British Fleet & army are arrived at Halifax. The Tories find miserable quarters there –

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Watertown, April 22d.

The Schooner ————— [*Violenti*] capt. [Stephen] Cleveland, which sailed from Salem for Winyaw, in North Carolina, the beginning of January last, was taken on her passage by the *Scarborough* man of war,¹ and sent to Georgia, where after lading with rum, sugar, &c. she proceeded for Boston, when on last Friday 7 night (not knowing the ministerial fleet and army had evacuated that place) meeting with a heavy gale of wind, she put into the Vineyard, where she was properly taken care of by some boats from thence. – One Marsh, the master's mate, and a son of commodore Loring, as master's mate, with two passengers on board, were bro't to town for examination on Saturday last.²

1. Taken at sea by the *Scarborough* on February 1, 1776, Shuldham's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. See letter of Barachiah Bassett, April 16, 1776; and commitment of four prisoners, April 20, 1776.

WILLIAM COOPER TO JOHN ADAMS¹

My dear Sir,

Boston 22d Apr. 1776.

I wrote last Thursday Morning by the Post to our Friend Mr S. Adams – to which I refer you on some Things of a public Nature –

After so many Weeks Possession of this Town you would be surpriz'd to see in what a defenceless State we still remain. The Business of fortifying has lain between Genl [Artemas] Ward & a Committee of the Genl Court: Between them both, little or Nothing has yet been done. We have but 7 or 8 Guns mounted on Fort Hill – Nothing yet done on any Island in the Harbor – a British Ship of 20 or 30 Guns with two or three small arm'd Vessells are in Possess[i]on of King Road & Nantasket – They take or drive away almost all Supplies coming to us by Water; & (would you believe it!) with this inconsiderable Force the Harbor has been, & is now effectually block'd up. Two or three Ships of War have had it in their Power ever since the Evacuation of the Town to come up & cannonade it. Ward complains that too small a Force, but 5 Regiments not full, were left him – The Court blame him for Inactivity, and He them. I was pleas'd to see your

Letters & others from Gentlemen of the Congress mentioning the Importance of putting this Harbour into the best State of Defence – Pray write again & again to press this Matter – There is a Report here that Ward has desir'd to resign – I wish from my Heart He would do it – He is a good Man, a thoro N. England man, & dispos'd to do us ev'ry Service in his Power – But He certainly wants Decision & Activity – It is of absolute Necessity that some General Officer of the best Qualities be sent to this Department immediatly – Pray let [Nathanael] Green[e] or some other be plac'd here – We are in the utmost Hazard s[houl]d the Enemy return, of loosing in this Quarter much more than we have gain'd, by the Departure of the British Forces. Had there been a Man here, at the Head of the Military who would have discern'd at once what was proper to be done; and stated it to the Court, we might have been in a good Posture of Defence Weeks ago.

It is reported here that a Vessell is arriv'd at Newbury from Hallifax, which brings an Account that the Fleet had arriv'd There – having sufferr'd greatly from being crowd'd &c. that Provisions are short tho they daily expect a Supply – That the Military who first landed & were first accomodated had so taken up the Houses &c, that few or no accommodations were left for the Tories –

This Town has been dreadfully plunder'd – The Damage to the Inhabitants is immense – Tho more is left than was imagin'd would have been considering how absolutely the Town was in their Power – Our taking Possession of the Heights of Dorchester fairly drove them away – I am well inform'd that as soon as Shuldham saw our Works there He said to a Friend with Tears in his Eyes, we can no longer maintain our Station here.

Your Resolves for opening the Trade of America have been receiv'd here with great Pleasure; but it is almost universally wish'd you had at once made an open explicit Declaration that the Colonies would henceforth stand upon their own Government alone, as well as their own Defence – you have done what almost if not quite amounts to it, why not then declare it in a publick solemn Act, setting forth in a clear & striking Manner the ample Reasons you have for such a Decision. This, they say here, would have great Effect upon the Colonies but especially on Forreigners. Their Merchants would more readily trust their Effects here, and their Governments have a clearer Ground for protecting the Trade as well as our own Merchants [to] enter with greater Spirit into new Channels of Trade, which, if you do not mean speedily to recur to the old ones, are now become absolutely necessary for the Supply of the Continent. You have (say they) already gone too far to recede, or even to stop: Your only Safety is to press forward with the boldest Steps which will add to, rather than abate, the Ardor of the People in the common Cause. There is no making up with Britain upon the old Footing: Only giving her grounds from your Conduct to suspect you intended this would give her fresh Spirit & induce her to continue the War, hoping for some Event in her Favor, or if that should not take Place, she might at last settle Matters upon the old Foundation: Should this be done, our Liberties would soon be ruin'd by Influence & Corruption, or our Bat-

bles fought over anew – The most likely Way to bring the War to a speedy & happy Issue is to take the last Step, not with an apparent Caution & Timidity, as if we distrusted ourselves, but with an Air of Confidence & unshaken Resolution – at the same Time to run no unnecessary Risque, but immediately invite all the Aid that may be procur'd upon the Footing that we are now a distinct State: and to treat with Britain, if we treat at all, as a State capable of Governing as well as defending itself; (we plainly mean to Shew them the latter, and can we provoke them, or endanger ourselves more by avowing the former) – This is apprehended here as the most likely way to produce a solid and lasting Settlement. – Pray write me soon and favor me with such Communications as may be trusted to a Friend, and I will endeavor to be punctual in the best Returns I can make – I am Sir [&c.]

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

MAJOR JOHN GIZZARD FRAZER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

Boston, April 22d 1776

The Honbl Genl Co

Sirs, I have fix'd out a small Armed Schooner of about 30 Tons burthen from Boston, which I want a commission for, if your Honor's will be pleas'd to grant me one – she is call'd the *Lady Washington*, mounts four 2 & 3 Pounders, and 10 Swivel Guns – commanded by – I am [&c.]

Jn^o G. Frazer

[Endorsed] In Council Apr 22d 1776 read and Order'd that the prayer of the Above petition be granted, and that the sd John G. Frazer be Commissionated for the purpose aforesd on his giving Bond to the Treasurer of this Colony for the faithful performance of his Duty therein agreeable to the Act providing the same –

Perez Morton D Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 325.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Newport, April 22.

Since Sunday the 7th instant, there have been two large cables and anchors taken up in our Bay, by some of the troops of this colony, and one hauser of 140 fathoms, with a small anchor, which were left behind by the ministerial fleet, in their late precipitate flight.

Last Monday arrived in this colony in 8 days from South Carolina, the sloop *Charlotte*, Capt. John Joy, who in lat. 34½, was chased by an English man of war pirate.

Mr. John Read, who came passenger with Capt. Joy, informs, that the ship *Clarissa*, of this port, of which he was mate, was taken into custody of the *Raven* sloop of war at Georgia,¹ and that he had made his escape with Capt. John Dennis, who had been taken in a sloop from that place some time before; that the Georgians are very spirited in the present glorious contest; that Savannah is now very strongly fortified; that the harbour of

Charlestown is defended by near 200 cannon, and several vessels of force; that a duel was fought on the 19th of January, between the Lieut. of the *Syr-en* sloop of war, and Lieut. Cummins of the marines, in which the former was killed on the spot.²

Last Thursday the brig *Cabot*, of 14 6 pounders, Capt. Hynman, arrived here from New-London, and brought a number of heavy cannon, &c. for the defence of this place, being part of the stores lately taken from New-Providence. The next day the *Fly*, tender to Admiral Hopkins's fleet, came from New London, sailed through the harbour, and returned the ensuing night. This tender sails remarkably swift.

A ship was seen several days last week standing off and on between this harbour and Block-Island; and by a person who left the island yesterday, we are informed that the said ship is the *Scarborough*; that she, and a fourteen gun brig, with a small tender, watered there on Saturday; that the ship's people said Capt. [James] Wallace was gone for a larger force, and would return in 3 or 4 days; and that there were no other ships to be seen off.³

A schooner from the West Indies, loaded with rum, sugar, &c. bound to Boston, was taken last week, and carried into Dartmouth.⁴

1. The ship *Clarissa*, Richard Bissell, master, and owned by Roch & Lopez, merchants of New-port, was taken January 22, 1776, Shuldhams's Prize List, April 24, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
2. The victim was Lieutenant Josh: Pennington; see journal of H.M. Sloop *Raven* for January 19, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 51/771.
3. Mistaken identity; the *Scarborough* was in Halifax harbor on this date. The ship was the *Cerberus*, of 28 guns, which was hovering off Block Island, and on April 22 "At Anchor in Block Island Bay," PRO, Admiralty 51/181.
4. The schooner *Valiant*; see "Extract of a letter from Cambridge, dated April 22, 1776."

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1776

Hartford, April 22.

The following is a list of the Continental fleet at New London, April 8th.

Ship <i>Alfred</i> , Hopkins,	32	guns.
Ship <i>Columbus</i> , Wipple,	28	
Brig <i>Cabot</i> , Hopkins, junior,	14	
Brig <i>Andrew Doria</i> , Biddle,	14	
Sloop <i>Providence</i> , Hazard,	12	
Bomb [<i>Bolton</i>] prize brig, retaken,	10	
Schooner [<i>Hawke</i>] prize retaken,	8	
Sloop, prize [<i>Glasgow's</i> tender] retaken	6	
New-Haven brig [<i>Defence</i>],	16	
	140	

In Rhode Island.

Two r[o]w galleys,	2 18 pounders, and	
four 9, each		12

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 22d, 1776.

Voted, That his Honor the Governor is desired to write to Col. Isaac Sears to answer such draughts as Capt. Ephraim Bill shall make upon him for building and furnishing the Colony ship for service.²

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 264.2. *The Oliver Cromwell*.COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN JENCKES, PROVIDENCE ¹

Sir

New London April 22nd 1776

Captn Allen Brown is here yet with your Sloop, and without the Coast is clear I advise him to stay untill he can be certain of getting round – but if you want to Sell the Molasses I hear it will fetch 3/8 at New York where she may go Safe, and perhaps be more for your Advantage than her coming home.

Your Son is hearty and behaves Extremely well ever Since he came on-board our Ship – ²

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Rufus Jenckes, midshipman, who was entered November 20, 1775, having come from Rhode Island in the *Katy*.MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL NATHANIEL BUELL ¹

[Extract]

Tyconderoga April 22d: 1776.

Sir Your Zeal to promote the Service: the alacrity with which you do your Duty: your attention to the preservation of the public Stores. your just Ideas of the Importance of Dispatch, are so many Motives which induce me to confide to your Command the important posts of St. John's St. Theresa and Chamble –at the first all provisions & military Stores, that leave this in the larger vessels must necessarily be landed – The smaller vessels will go as far down as St. Theresa, and from thence they are to return here, unless they are intended for Quebec, when both Boats and provisions may go down by water – From St. Theresa the provisions and Stores are to be carted to Chamblé – At all these places you must see that the provisions & Stores be effectually sheltered so as not to sustain Damage.

You will continually write to the commanding officer at Tyconderoga to forward whatever may be there, and to me also, that the army in Canada may not suffer – You will apply to General [John] Thomas or officer commanding [in] Canada, and to Colonel [Donald] Campbell Deputy Quarter Master General for whatever Boats &c. you may need.

Great Care must be taken to conciliate the affections of the Canadians – You are not to suffer any of the Men to injure them, in their persons or property, and be attentive to their Complaints.

You are from Time to Time to return whatever Batteaus may not be

wanted to go down the Sorrel to this place that they may be employed from hence in sending our Troops, provisions and Stores.

You are to stop at Crown Point and take in all the Lead that is there.

You must write to Colo: Campbell the Quarter Master General to send back to Chamblé thirty or forty Batteaus for provisions, which I hope will soon be up.

On your arrival at Chamblé, you must procure pilots to carry the Batteaus down to Chamblé.

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 2, Letters & Orders, 18 April, 1776–29 June, 1777, NYPL.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York, April 22, 1776.

When I had the Honor of seeing Admiral Hopkins at New London, he represented to me the weak State of his Fleet occasioned by Sickness and the damage he received in his Engagement with the Enemy, and requested I would spare him 200 Men, to assist him in a design he had formed of attacking [James] Wallace; This I readily consented to, and the Men are to be returned as soon as the Service is performed.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 500–04.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEW YORK, DATED MONDAY, APRIL 22.” ¹

Information was given that a tender was on shore at Rockaway on Saturday. General Putnam despatched two hundred men with two field pieces to take her – have not heard from them yet.²

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, April 23, 1776.

2. The *James* pilot boat, a British tender; see *Constitutional Gazette*, April 24, 1776.

OUTFIT OF THE NEW YORK ARMED SLOOP *Montgomery* ¹

Sloop <i>Montgomery</i> Capt Rodgers			
1776		To James & Alexander Stewart	D
	Cwt	Qr	lb.
Mar 26		To ½ barrel pitch 16/ 1 Indn broome 9d 4lb nails 4/8	1:1:5
28		To use of Fall and blocks 16/ 1 padlock 3/6	19:6
“		To 3 Steel scrapers @ 6/6 19/6 1 paint brush 1/6	1:1:0
“	2.26	To Rope part of barrl Tar 21/, 3 Tar barrels 9/	1:10:0
30		To 4 bir brooms 1/6 14 Skeins marline 9d 10/6	12:0
“	1. .3 . .51½	To Rope 2 Skeins twine 3/ 1 Line 3/, 1 Tar barrel 3/	9:0

		To 1 Tallow brush fixt 5/ 2 birch brooms 9d	5:9	
		To 6lb Oakum 2/6 1 hatchett 4/1 Gallon jug 1/6	8:0	
		To 1 Side Leather 14/, 1 Line 3/ deld Sailmaker	17:0	
	3..41/2	To Rope. 4 Lines 12/ 1 Skein Twine 1/6	13:6	
		To 3 sail needles 6d 1 palm 6d 6 Sks marline 4/6	5..6	8.2.8
		To 6 gimblets 1/6 500 pump Tacks 2/6	4..0	
	1.23	To Rope 2 Skeins marline 1/6 1 keg Lamblack 2/6	4:0	
		To 2 lines 6/ 1 Tap 4d 1lb 3d nails 2/	8:4	
	2 0 3	To Rope 1 Lock 2/6 1 brush 1/3, 1 Lock 2/6	6:3	
	2 1 10	To do 6lb twine 18/ 1 Keg Lamblack 2/6	1 :0 :6	
Apl. 3	" " 101/4	To do 6 Skeins marline 4/6, 1 hammer 3/	7 :6	
	1. 1.16	To do 1 hatchett 4/ 5 bonnet Lines 30/	1:14:0	
	. 1. 91/2	To do 2 lines 6/ 24lb Lard 10d 20/ 12 Sks marlin 9/	1:15:0	
	25	To Spunyarn 4lb twine 12/: 2 marle needles 1/6	13:6	
		To 1 Line 3/ 1 Gallon Linsd Oil 8/ 2 Brooms 1/6	12:6	
12	2.223/4	To Rope deld sailmrs 2 lb Oakum	10	
	..3..9	To do 1/2 Gro Corks 2/ 31/2 Spunyarn @ 6d. 1/9	3.9.7.10.2	
		To 6 Sail Needles 1/, 1 Pendant } 7: 4: 0		
		40 fet 40/. and Jack 28/ } 7: 4: 0		
		1 Ensign 52yd Mare buntn } 7: 4: 0		
		@ 1/3 Makg 10/ }		
15		To 1 padlock 2/6 4lb Twine 3/12	14:6	
	1. 0.263/4	To Rope and spunyarn brass wyer 1/6 1 Lock 3/6	5:0	
	1. 2.273/4	To do 5 lb Chalk 10d 4lb twine 3/, 12/	12:10	

AMERICAN THEATRE

22	3..6	To do 25 woodbowl 25/ 1/2 dozn spoons 3/	1:8:0	
"		To 1/2 dozn knives & Forks 13/, 1 Iron Ladle 3/	16:0	
"		To 1 flesh fork 2/6, 6 Fishlines 18/, hooks 4/	1:4:6	
22		To 2 Steel scrapers 13/, 3 brooms 2/3, 1.0 3/4 lb twine 32/3	2:7:6	
"		To 2 dozn sorted needles 5/6, 1 deep sealine 24/	1:9:6	
"		To 1 lead 14lb 8/2 2 loglines 12/ 1 grid Iron 7/ 1lb thrums 4/	1:11:2	
"		To 3 Scrubg brushes 10/6, 3 half hour Glasses 6/	<u>16:6</u>	18:9:6
"		To 1 two hour Glass 6/, 4.. 1/2 & 1/4 mt. Glasses Sold 24	1:10:0	
"		To 500 Tacks 2/6 1Tinder box 2/6 1 Trumpett 10/	15:0	
"		To 1 Tea Kettle 10/6 1 spyg Glass 40/ 3 palms 1/6	3:1:0	
"		To 6 hatchets 24/ 1 ax 8/, 1 black Jack 4/	1:16	
"		To 1 pint Jack 3/ 4 Canns 8/ 1 pr Steel yards 16/6	1:7:6	
"		To 1/2 bushl salt 4/ 2 yds baiz 10/ 1 m Clouts 6/	1:0:0	
"		To 20lb Lard 10d 16/8 12 lb nails 14/ 1 Iron pott 5/6	1:16:2	
"		To 1 Logreel 3/6 4 Cedarbolts 12/ 1 Coffee mill 10/	1:5:6	
"		To 25lb white Lead 10d 20/10 6lb Yellow Oaker 4/6	1:5:4	
"		To 4 lb red Lead 4/ 12lb Spar brown 6/ 1 Vice 2/	12:0	
"		To 2 Gallons Linsd Oil 16/ Jug 2/6 1 Gallo Spt Turpinte 8/	<u>1:6:6</u>	15:15:0
Apl 22		To 5 Tin Lanthrons 26/ 1 Brass candlestick 8/	1:14:0	
"		To 2 Skeins marline 1/6 paper and Quills 17/	18:6	
"	1: 1: 2	To Rope 2 blank Books	17:6	

“	To 1/2 dozn plates 4/6 3 Dishes 15/ 1 pewter bason 7/	1:6:6	
“	To 1/2 dozn cups & Saucers 3/6 1/2 dozn Chocolate bowls 3/6	7:0	
“	To 1/2 dozn Soap plates 4/6 2 Tea- pots 3/6 6 plates 4/6	12:6	
“	T 1 Quat & 1 pint Mugs 3/ 1 Quart bowl 1/	4:0	
“	To 6 wine Glasses, 4/6 1 Groce Corks 3/	7:6	6.7.6

25 To Rope

GUNNERS STORES

“	To 1 Large horn Lanthron 14/ 1/2 doz Gimblets 3/	17	
“	To 6 Skeans marline 4/6 1 line 3/6 Files 7/6	15:0	
“	To 150 muskett flints 6/6. 1 hand vise 8/6	15:0	
“	To 1/2 dozn Gimblets 3/3 Sticks Sealingwax 5/3	8:3	
“	To 6 Quire muskt Cathridge paper 15/1 bottl Sweet Oil 3/6	18:6	
“	To 2 Gallons Vinegar & jugs 13/3 Skeins Twine 3/9	16:9	
“	To 400 Tacks	2:0	4:12:6

CARPENTERS STORES

“	To 1 Large ax 14/ 1 maul 7/, 1 adze 12/	1:13:0	
“	To 1 Sett Caulkg Tools 23/, 3 Spike Gimblets 5/	1:8:0	
“	To 1 Jack plane 3/ 1 long plane 4/ 1 wood ax 9/	16:0	
“	To 2 Rules 4/ 1 pr Compasses 1/3 1 Auger 4/6	9:9	
“	To 1 dozn Gimblets 6/ 1 hammer 4/6 3 Chizzels 6/	16:6	
“	To 2 Chalk lines 2/ 1 pr compasses 1/3	3:3	
“	To 1 Iron square 3/3 1 Iron plate saw 10/	13:3	
“	To 60lb whiting 15/ 14lb Chalk 2/4 1 maul 7/	1:4:4	

AMERICAN THEATRE

"	To 50lb Tallow 9d $\frac{1}{2}$ 39/7, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pump Leather 25/6	3:5:1
"	To 2 pump hammers 3/, 1 smoothg plane 4/	7:0
"	To 12lb Oakum 5d5/ $\frac{1}{2}$ dozn hand sawfiles 3/6	8:6
"	To 1 Gouge 2/ 1 Grindstone 8/, 2 adzes, 14/	1:4:0
"	To 1 pr pincers 2/ 4 mopnails 1/	3:0
"	To 1 Steel plate saw 18/ 1 Saw Sett 1/6	19:6
"	To 4 Augers 15 Quar 9d, 11/3 1 Augre deld F Fine 6/	17:3
"	To 2 lb Thrums @ 3/6, 7/ 66lb Sheet Leadg 9d 49/6	2:16:6
"	To 1 drawing knife 4/2 Spike Gim- blets 3/	7:0 17:11:11
		<hr/> 78: 9: 3
Cwt 20.0.0	Cordage and Spun yarn @ 70/	70: 0: 0
		<hr/> £148. 9. 3

Cr

By 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tarbarrels 4/6 3 Birch Brooms 1/1	0:5:7
	<hr/> £148:3:8

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA. Original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776.

[New York, April 22.]

A Philadelphia Captain, whose vessel loaded with flour was seized at the Eastward, was put on shore at Nantucket, saw a Ship at a loss in the fog, man'd three whale boats and took her: she was almost new; belonged to London and had 200 puncheons of Rum, Sugar, Coffee, &c. on board for the ministerial army.¹

1. See *Boston Gazette*, April 15., 1776.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 22nd April, 1776.

By order of the Board, Robert Towers, Commissary, was directed to deliver Capt. Nath'l Falconer Half a Barrel Gun powder, for the use of the Signals at Lewes Town.

By order of the Board, Rob't Towers, Commiss'y, was directed to deliver Capt. [William] Brown twenty-six Firelocks, Catridge Boxes, & Bayonet Belts, for the use of his Marine Company.

Resolved, That Rob't Towers, Com'ry, reserve 21 Firelocks for Capt. Brown, exclusive of the order for 26 deliver'd this day,

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 548.

PETITION OF HENRY TUDOR TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Philadelphia, 22d April, 1776.

To the Honourable The Committee of Safety:

The Petition of Henry Tudor, a Pilot in the River Delaware, Sheweth:

That your Petitioner has been in the Capacity of a Pilot in the River Delaware these Twenty-six years past, During which time he never met with any accident that proved any way prejudicial to the Interest of any Gentleman that pleased to Employ him; Besides your petitioner has been Pilot of several Men of War in the said River Delaware, and there never was any seizure made by them during his stay on board, which is well known to many of the Merchants in this City. Your Petitioner was also called upon within these few years to go down to the Capes in the Customhouse Boat, which your Petitioner complied with, and was offered a very beneficial birth on board the said Boat by Mr. Haughton, Surveyor General, which your Petitioner absolutely declined the offer. At the same time, there was two Pilot Boats Loaded with Tea out of Captain [William] Budden's Sloop which got cast away at Cape Henlopen, by not getting into Lewis Town Creek, which the officers of the kings (or Custom house) boat getting Inteligence of immediately proceeded to sieze the said Pilot Boats and their Cargoes of Tea; but your Petitioner through a stratagem of his own found means to get on shore and communicated the intentions of the Officers belonging to the Customhouse boats to Captains of the Pilot Boats; by which means the Pilot Boats got clear from the Customhouse Boat, chiefly owing to your Petitioner telling the Customhouse Officers that there was not water enough to carry them to where the Pilot boats lay, altho' there was water plenty.

Your Petitioner would Intreat your Honours to pay no regard to any Malicious Stories that has been lately propogated by some evil-minded person or Persons, Greatly to the Prejudice of your Petitioner & his family, by Reporting y'r Petitioner was lately on board the *Roebuck* Man of War, which your Petitioner can fully satisfy your Honours to the Contrary, he being in Wilmington at the time it was Reported. These considerations Emboldens your Petitioner to solicit your Honl. Board to promote him to some station in defence of American Liberty, such as commander of a Small Fire Galley, or any other post your Honours shall think proper, so as that your Petitioner may be the better enabled to support his wife and a small helpless family; And Your Petitioner, as in Duty Bound, will ever pray.

Henry Tudor.

N.B. Y'r Petitioner will wait upon y'r Honours at any time in order to stand an Examination if Required.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 596-97.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 22." ¹

This morning we received an account, that Capt. Barry has taken another tender, and sent her into Egg-Harbour: She is a schooner of 6 guns, fitted out by the *Phoenix*: She hove her guns overboard and ran ashore, but Capt. Barry soon got her off. The Captain got intelligence of another tender of ten guns, which he is gone after. Hope we shall soon clear our coast of those little pirates who have done much mischief. The sloop *Liberty*, from St. Eustatia, said to be bound for Amboy, but rather think she was bound to this port, with powder and dry goods, is taken and carried into Virginia. Governor Eden, of Maryland, is taken into custody.

1. *New York Packet*, April 25, 1776.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, Delaware Bay, Monday 22d April, 1776]

... two Sloops & two schooners came down the Bay under an Easy Sail and steard through the Cape May Channel: as soon as they were fairly clear, so as not to be able to return before I could get round the overfalls, I weighed & gave them chace. They put right before the wind, which was westerly, and after running about 12 Leagues I took one of the schooners, which was bound to St Eustatia Laden with Flour & Hams,² the others escaped on account of the Night coming on; and being little wind I came up with them very slowly. I had the mortification to learn from my Prize that the two Sloops were New York Pilot Boats, very fast sailers, that had been fitted at Philadelphia as Privatiers, and carryd 4 Carriage Guns & 30 Men each. As I could not get within Six miles of them before dark, I thought it in vain to pursue them any farther,³ and made the best of my way back to the Delaware . . .

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. "By The *Roebuck*, and Ships under Captain Hamond's Orders. . . . *Dolphin*, William Knox, Master, [John] Pringle, Owner; from Philadelphia to St. Eustatia; with Hams and Bread." *London Gazette*, May 10 to May 13, 1777.

3. The sloops were the *Congress* and *Chance*, commissioned as privateers April 11, 1776, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal, 1776-83), 196,3,40; 2,92, NA.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

The Committee met on Monday 22 April 1776

Present - William Lux Chairman

W. Buchanan	J. Moale	J. Calhoun	J. Sterret
A. Buchanan	J. Smith	W. Tolly Junr	A. Britain
T. Harrison	J. Boyd	J. E. Howard	T. Sollers
C. Ridgely (of Wm)	J. Griest	G. Ristean	J. Cradock
J. Merryman	T. Gist	J. Gittings	W. Asquith
W. Wilkinson	D. Lux		Geo Lux Secry -

Mr Samuel Purviance appeared and delivered in his Answer in Writing agreeable to his Promise of Saturday, which, being read, is as follows –

Gentlemen

April 22 1776

(A Copy)

Agreeable to my Declaration to the Committee at the last Meeting the 20th Inst, that I exculpated all the Members of the Committee from any Concern in the Orders, which I gave as Chairman of the Committee to Capt Saml Smith the 14th Inst – I am now to inform you of the Circumstances of that Affair, and the Reasons on which I ventured to give these Orders –

The Dispatches recieved from the Committee of Safety of Virginia, with a Letter written by General Lee, and directed to me as Chairman of this Committee, I considered as sufficient Reasons to justify the Committee in using their best Endeavours to sieze Governor Eden, his Secretary, & Mr. Alexander Ross, should they or either of them be found attempting to escape from Annapolis; a Suspicion founded on the certain Knowledge, that Mr Ross had gone from this Town to Annapolis a few days before; and that it was highly probable he would alarm Governor Eden with an Account of the Secretary of State's Letter to him being siezed & taken from him on his way up from Lord Dunmore – On considering those Papers in my House on Sunday Evening, it seemed to be the general Opinion of the Gentlemen there assembled, that if Capt Nicholson's Tender were here, it would be proper to dispatch her with some Men to Annapolis to wait the Orders of the Council of Safety – On Monday Morning I was informed, that Capt James Nicholson was returned in his Tender from Chester; on which I sent for him & communicated to him the Purport of the Dispatches recieved from the Council of Virginia, & General Lee's Letter, & told him the Sentiments of the Gentlemen, who met at my House the Evening before, that it would be proper to send his Tender with an Officer & some Men to Annapolis; observing to him, that if the Governor had made his Escape from Annapolis, she would be the properest Vessell to pursue after him, as she could both row & sail – Captain Nicholson agreeing with me in the Propriety of the Measure, consented to my Request to get his Boat ready for the Purpose, and to send one of his Officers in here – As I could not attend the Committee that day, I spoke to most of the Gentr who had been at my House the Evening before, & to General Buchanan, and told them, I had spoke to Capt Nicholson for his Tender, which they all approved of – I accordingly applied to Major Gist to whom the Dispatches from Virginia had been shewn, and obtained his Consent to let Capt Saml Smith with a few Men of his Company go in the Tender to Annapolis – Capt S. Smith accordingly met me in the Street just at Dinner Time, & told me, he was ready

to go, & waited for Orders – I had not thought before on the Propriety of Orders – The Committee was then broke up for Dinner, & consequently I had no Opportunity of consulting them immediately: And for the Sake of Secrecy, which so important a Business required, I thought it improper to communicate the Matter to any others than the Gentlemen, who had seen the Papers already, of whom three were gone to Annapolis to wait on the Council, Mr Willm Buchanan had rode out of Town, & Mr William Lux & Mr Harrison, with whom I had engaged to dine that day, were gone out of Town – In these Circumstances I sat down, & without the Concurrence or Advice of any Person wrote very hastily those Orders, which I delivered to Major Gist, & signed as Chairman of the Committee –

I do candidly acknowledge to you, I had my own Doubts, whether I was to consider General Lee's Letter directed to me as Chairman of the Committee as a private Letter to Myself, or as a Letter to the Comme: Yet the Contents of it, together with the Dispatches reced from the Council of Virginia, I considered as a sufficient Call upon me, & every Person well affected to the Interests of America, to use the best Endeavours to sieze Persons, of whom there were such strong Reasons to believe their being inimical –

I hope, Gentlemen, the Circumstances, I have mentioned, which are all strictly true, & the extreme Importance of the Occasion, will at least palliate my Offence in taking (what my be deemed by some) a very rash Step, but which the Necessity of the Case will justify me in to you, & the Publick – I am Gentlemen

Yr Most Humbl Servt

To the Committee of Observation }
for Baltimore County }

Saml Purviance Junr

Resolved, That this Committee do highly disapprove of the Chairman's Conduct in presuming to act in any Matter without their Concurrence & Approbation, especially in Matters, that evidently do not come within their Jurisdiction – And with Regard to the Instructions given to Capt Saml Smith upon a late Pressing Occasion, though the Necessity of the Case may be urged as an Apology for them, yet this Committee always willing to move in the strictest Line of their Duty, and desirous to preserve due Subordination & Order in the Community, do totally disavow & disapprove of them, knowing, that the Power necessary in such Cases is not vested in the Committee –

But nevertheless we are fully persuaded, that the Chairman, in issuing these Orders was actuated only by that uniform, warm & zealous Attachment to our distressed & perhaps betrayed Country, which would otherwise have merited the Thanks of every spirited Friend of our Invaded Rights, And we trust, this well meant Excess, in so interesting a Crisis, will find a more easy

Pardon with his vigilant Countrymen, than if he had been chargeable with a Criminal Neglect, or with a Timidity still more dangerous and blameable –

Lieutenant William Sterret appeared before the Committee, and produced an Order from the Council of Safety for taking into his Possession the Baggs & Portmanteau of Mr Alexander Ross; and convey the same to Annapolis to the Council of Safety, on which Mr Thomas Harrison & Dr John Boyd were appointed to proceed to Mr Grants, & examine the Seal of the Door, who returned & report, that the Papers & Effects were delivered according to Order –

Capt James Nicholson applied to the Committee for a Vessell to assist him in raising Two Vessels at Whetstone, upon which the Brig *Fortune* was appointed to proceed to Whetstone and ordered to obey Capt Nicholson's Instructions –

The following Citations were produced before the Committee –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr Samuel Purviance Junr, Chairman of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis on Monday the 22d Inst

(By Order) G Duvall Clk

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr William Lux, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis, on Monday the 22d Instant –

(By Order) G Duvall Clk

Mr Samuel Purviance Junr Chairman, & Mr William Lux Deputy Chairman of this Committee applied for their Advice & Instructions therein; And it was judged expedient, that they obey the said Citations, but the Committee at the same time are of Opinion, that the Powers Vested in the Council of Safety do not justify the Summoning any Member of this Committee to appear before them, unless they have been guilty of, or are chargeable with "high & dangerous Offences tending to disunite the People of this Province in their present Opposition, or to destroy the Liberties of America –["]

Mr George Lux, Clerk to this Committee, produced also the following Citation –

In Council of Safety Annapolis 20 April 1776

Ordered, That Mr George Lux, Clerk of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County, attend the Council of Safety at the City of Annapolis on Monday the 22d Instant, & bring with him the Proceedings of the said Committee in consequence of intercepted Letters from Lord George Germaine to Robert Eden Esqr, Deputy Governor of Maryland, which were transmitted to them by the Honl The Committee of Safety of Virginia: and also all Resolves, Orders, Instructions, Requisitions, Letters, Papers, and

Writings relative to, or concerning the Same, as Clerk of the said
Committee of Baltimore – (By Order)

G Duvall Clk

Resolved, That he be permitted to take Copies of the Proceedings, and re-
pair to the Council of Safety, if he thinks proper –

Attestd Geo Lux Secretary

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Baltimore Ap. 22d 1776 –

Gentlemen of the Honourable Council of Safety of Maryland –

I have now to inform you of the Arm'd Schooner *Resolution* being
Equipped agreeable to your directions She wants princplely the Commis-
sions for her Officers, who refuse Acting out of the Harbour until their
Commissions are confirm'd. After which shoud be glad of your permission
to go down the Bay as far as you think proper, in order to Exercise our Men
& Consult with Cap. [John Thomas] Boucher. The Schooner has about 40
hands now Shipt, but is capable of carrying 70 with great Conveniency. If
you think proper to have that number compleat, you'll please to let me
know. The officers that has been Acting Aboard are William Waud Cap.
Henry Auchinlick, Lieutt Bennett Johnston Master, and as far as I can dis-
cover are proper persons. Mr Dorsey one of the Ships Midshipmen I un-
derstand has made application for A Lieutenancy of Marines, I think him
very capable. I am Gentlem [&c.]

Ja^s Nicholson

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

HUGH YOUNG TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Baltimore 22d April 1776

I have the pleasure of advising you of the safe arrival of the Brign
Beith, in the W.I. the 3d Ulto without any interruption – I Sent you by Mr
Lux a letter for you from him but have learnt that he forgot it I Suppose
he has sent it since his return –

I am sorry to advise you the loss of the Brign *Nancy* Captn Wise, some-
where in the Bay, a few days ago, I have not recd any letter from him but
have it from a Gentn from the Eastern Shore of undoubted authority & be-
lieve it to be a fact – it appears from the Care Captn Wise has taken that it
is merely impossible for any vessell to pass our Ravenous Enemies, however if
you think the Schooner *Ninety* [*Two*] has any Chance, you will please give
the Committee orders to allow me to load her as her Cargo is all ready – If
you think Otherwise I shall be glad to know what I am to do with the
Cargo, I shall be much Obliged for a few lines on this Subject by the first
Opportunity. I am Gentn [&c.]

Hugh Young

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF Safety ¹

. [Annapolis] Monday 22d April 1776:

Captain Kell having resigned the Command of the Schooner *Dolphin*, Duncan Hill was admitted and sworn Captain and desired to advert to the Instructions heretofore given Capt Kell and to govern himself by them.

The following Lines were addressed to the Committee of Northampton County in Virginia at the Foot of the Instructions (vizt)

“The Council of Safety return many Thanks to the Committee of Northampton County in Virginia for their friendly Assistance heretofore to Capt Kell, and as he has resigned the Command, request the Continuance of their Favour and Advice to Captain Duncan Hill.”

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

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

22 Monday, April, 1776. Last night an Express from H[obbs] Hole from Dr. [William] Fauntleroy to the commandg officer of the 50 invalids of the 5th regiment left at our Court house to desire him to march to the assistance of the town. A tender had, it seems, forced the New England vessel loading corn at the mouth of Piscattaway to slip and run for it, but she only got to H. Hole Wharf and was there taken without any resistance from the Town. . . . I was told that Bartlett Goodrich, a son of the old villian, commanded this tender.²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257–68.

2. The tender was commanded by Bridger Goodrich according to “Biographical Memoir of Richard Dale,” *The Port Folio*, Vol. III, No. VI, June 1814. Hereafter cited as “Dale Memoir.”

RAWLEIGH COLSTON TO LANDON CARTER ¹

Monday [April 22, 1776] 10 o[c]lock

Dear Sir, The tender that made so daring an attempt yesterday, has had the misfortune to run her prize on ground opposite my brother's – The tender lies at l[e]ast a mile to leward of the prize, which renders the resque extremely easy – I think it might be effected by thirty persons well armed. The Attempt must be made from above in the dusk of the evening – If possession could be taken of the prize, the plan would be to come to Close quarters with the tender, and then we are an over match – She has not above 14 or 15 hands – She has discharged several guns; I suppose at some of the Militia on the opposite shore – My brothers servant told me they were fitting out a vessell from Hobs hole yestetrday – I was apprehensive if this was the case that they had given out the pursuit imaginig the tender had escaped – but they ought to have calculated the chances of running aground and pursued her to the mouth of th[is] river ² [I am with] respect Sr

Rawleigh Colston

1. Landon Carter Papers, UVL.

2. See Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, May 3, 1776.

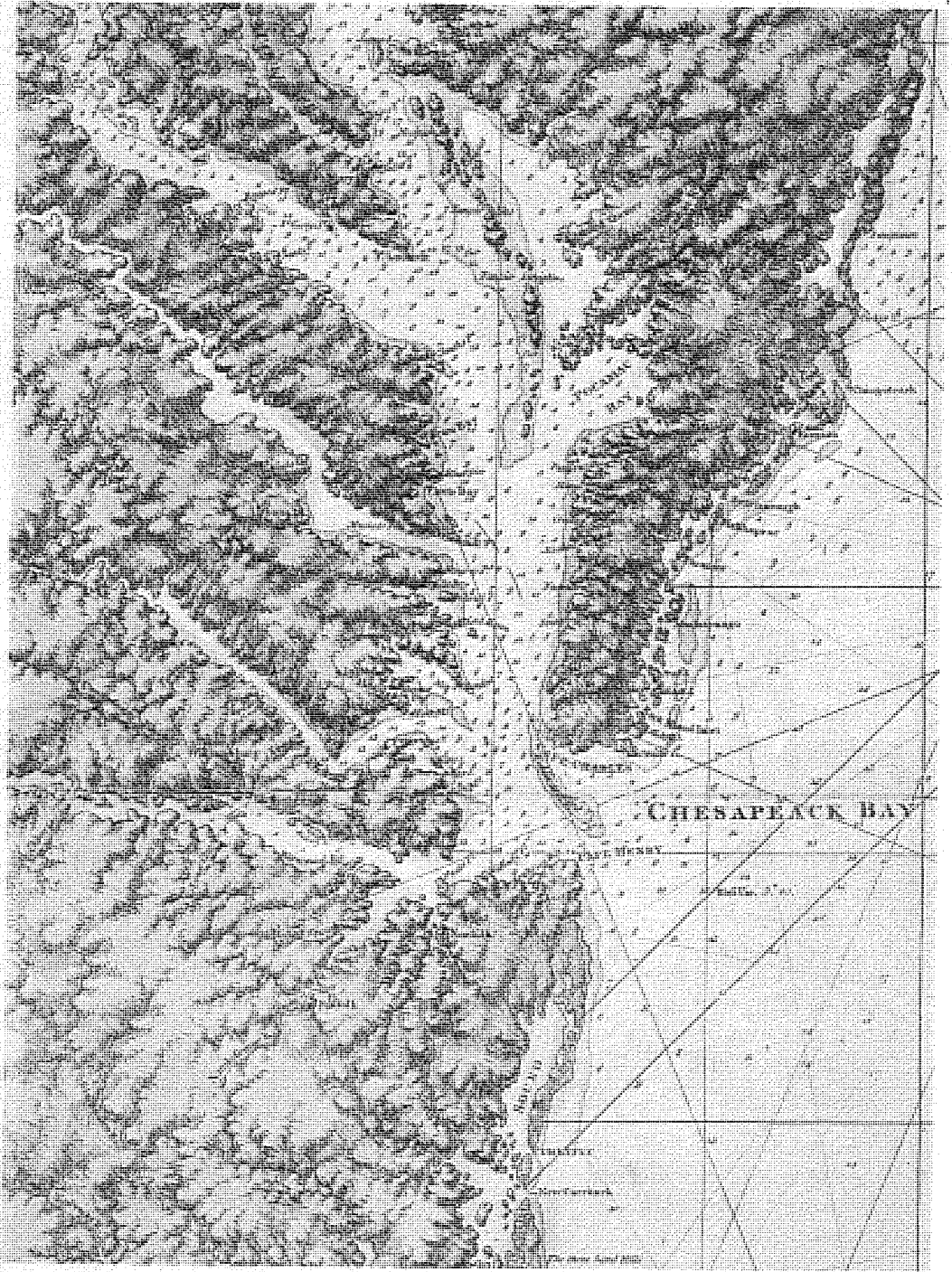


Chart of the lower Chesapeake.

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

- April 1776 At an Anchor in Norfolk Road Virginia
- Friday 19 Fired several Shot to disperse the Rebels who were in parties on the Shore.
Little Wind & fair. Employed in scraping the Sides & cleaning ship At 10 P M the Rebels set part of Portsmouth on fire. Fired several Shot at parties of them. Received Water.
- Saturday 20 Purchased of Alexr Hamond 290 Gallons Rum for the Ships use.
Do Wr Opened a Cask of Pork, contents 110 pieces short 6 pieces.
- Sunday 21 A M unmoored, At 10 do weighed & dropt higher up. Let go the B Bower & carried out a Warp, in order to open the Flank of the Lines more. At Noon let go the small Bower & moored.
Do Wr Received on board Water. The *Spitfire* being fitted as a Tender, she anchored above us in order to annoy the Rebels, at the pass between Portsmouth & the Ferry point.
- Monday 22 Fired several shot at parties of the Rebels onshore.
Do Wr P M weighed the Small Bower, carried out a Warp, & warp'd the Ship higher up. Let go the small Bower & moor'd. Carried out the Stream Anchor & Cable to the Southward as a spring. Fired several Shot at parties of the Rebels onshore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NORTH-CAROLINA, DATED HALIFAX THE
TWENTY-SECOND OF APRIL, 1776.” ¹

A few days past a ten gun sloop commanded by Captain Wright (the same man who met with so warm a reception at Hampton, in Virginia) and a sloop of six guns commanded by that infamous old piratical scoundrel John Goodrich, one of the parties of Lord Dunmore and company, came over Ocracock bar, in this province, and took four vessels outward bound. The ten gun sloop went immediately to sea with two of the prizes. The wind not being fair, Capt. Goodrich's sloop and the other two prizes remained within the bar. Twenty-three men, headed by a brave young man (Benjamin Bonner of Pomptico river) in four whale boats boarded the old pirate sloop of six guns, sword in hand, and possessed themselves of her, and the whole crew, with a tolerable cargo of valuable articles. They also retook the two prizes. Seven of Goodrich's Negroes, a Captain, George Blair of the Queen's own royal regiment of Blacks, and a soldier of the fourteen regiment, are among the prisoners. The sloop and two prizes are arrived safe at Newbern. Captain Goodrich, Captain Blair, the soldier and Negroes, are now within fifteen miles of Halifax jail.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 12

My Lord; On the 11th Instant three Companies of the 60th Regiment, were disembarked from the *Hind* Man of War Captain [Henry] Bryne, and on the 16th the *Hind* sailed for Saint Vincent, from whence she had been sent from Admiral Young.

This day arrived Colonel [Augustine] Prevost, Lt Colonel Fraser, and some Officers of the same Corps from Jamaica.

The enclosed printed paper of the proceedings of the rebel Congress of South Carolina is just come to my hands, it is the only one that has been heard of as yet, in this part of the World: the Person that brought it, has made it in too bad a condition, but lest one of them, should not have been sent to your Lordship, from another quarter, I have taken the liberty to enclose it.

The Inhabitants of this Province on Saint Mary River, were apprehensive of being disturbed by the Georgia Rebels, as the *Saint John* Schooner was in this Harbour, I sent her there, and a small detachment of His Majesty's troops, was put on board the *Saint John*. The Schooner is returned, and has taken three prizes, which will be condemned; two Vessels have come into this Harbour, that having been in the Dutch Islands, and have been in some illicit commerce, which will it is imagined condemn them.

I intended my Lord to have stationed the *Hinchenbrook* Schooner, Lieutenant [Alexander] Ellis at St Mary River, and to have had another Vessel with her, and a detachment of His Majesty's troops of fifty men to have been on board of them: this measure I apprehend would have secured this Province from any depredations of the rebels: but Lieutenant Ellis who was order'd to relieve the *St Lawrence* Schooner, that was absolutely station'd for the services of this Province; thinking his orders do not imply directly, the service of this Province only, but that he is left a good deal at large; is gone to Cape Fair [Fear] to procure orders from Sir Peter Parker. Lieutenant Ellis mentioned the ambiguity of his orders, my opinion was, that he relieved the *St Lawrence*, and was intended for the service she was designed.

The *Hinchenbrook* had been getting ready for a cruise, I desired Mr Ellis to look into our rivers, he went over the Bar, and untill then did not signify his intention of going to Cape Fair to Sir Peter Parker, which he did by a letter from the other side of the Bar by the return of the Pilot. This deprived me of an opportunity of writing to General Clinton, and the Admiral, and sending other dispatches I much wished to get away from hence.

I only take the liberty to mention this to your Lordship, that you may see, how intended services are disapointed by such circumstances, and in case any thing happens, in the absence of the *Hinchenbrook*.

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

Pat. Tonym

St Augustine 22d – April 1776

[Endorsed] St Augustine 22d April 1776 Gover Tonym (No 12) R/ 22d. August (1 Inclosure)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 565–68.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS ¹

April 1776 Cape Roman N 56.29 Wt 271 Leags
 Monday 22 at 7 our Sigl to Chace to the N E made sail Fresh Breezes the Come made our Sigl to call us in fired a Gun and made the Sigl that we Could come in with the Chace with[ou]t losing Co fired a Gun & Bt her too she prov'd to be a Schooner from No Carolina Bd to Cape Francois Bt the Mastr & 5 Men on Bd of us.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

23 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Isis*, CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS ¹

April 1776 Cape St George No 87° E 21 Leagues
 Wednesday 17 First part Fresh Gales and Cloudy wr, middle & lattr Light Breezes and Hazey,
 at 1 P M it blowing a Six knot Gale, Studding Sails Sett, and working the Ballast, the Ship without the least movement, at 5 carried out Grapnells & hausers, which Cast the Ship Clear of this Island, but Stuck fast Immediately handed all Sails,
 Thursday 18 at 7 A M Made Sail, The ship would run two or three times her own length, and then stick fast, Box'd her off, and Continue so till Noon.
 Fresh Breezes & fine Clear Wr,
 6 p m Stuck fast, handed all the Sails, people Empd fixing fenders for the Bows,
 Friday 19 at 5 a m found the Ice a little Opened, made Sail, at 9 Stuck fast again, Could neither get ahead, nor a Stern.
 Do Wr at 6 p m made Sail, the Ice a little open, at 8, after backing & filling & working the pigg Ballast, was obliged to hand all the Sails, the Ship fast,
 Saturday 20 at 4 A m Stopt all the Sails wit[h] Rope yarns, and hoisted the Yards up, & Sett every thing at once, and Studding sails Sett but had no Effect, at 9 broke loose, and to Noon Empd backing and filling, on all points, to get Clear, but Still as far off as ever

- First part fresh breezes Middle & latter Light Breezes, and fair,
to 4 p m empd backing and filling, when we got more Sea room, & run on thro' & between the Ice, till
- Sunday 21 5 A M, then handed all the Sails again, Saw a Sail to the Westwd, Made a private Signal to her, She Hoisted English Colours, at 9 a fresh breeze Sprung up, Made Sail, the Ice Carried away the fenders from the Bows.
- Monday 22 Moderate & fair wr at 2 p m we got Clear of all the Ice, at 4 A M made the Ice again, Tackd Ship at 6 Set Stud- ding sails & Driver, at 9 Made Anticastia,² NNBW 7 Leagues.
- Tuesday 23 Moderate breezes and Clear, every Sail in the Ship Set, with a water Sail made out of the mizen Top gallt sail, Sett on the Driver boom, at 1 down Studding sls and reefd TSails at 2 A m fresh Gales, with thick Snow, Double reefd Top- sails.
- Modert Breezes Thick hazey weather and Snow, at 7 p m Made the Land about Magdelane river, WSW 2 Leagues,³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/484.

2. Anticosti Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the mouth of the St. Lawrence river.

3. In the Gaspé Peninsula.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1776

Halifax, April 23.

Tuesday afternoon last arrived his Majesty's Sloop *Viper*, with some transports from the West-Indies, being part of the fleet which was drove off this coast by the severe weather last winter.

Wednesday evening last arrived a schooner from Boston [in England] in 23 days passage.

Thursday morning arrived his Majesty's ships *Rose* and *Glasgow*, Cap- tains Wallace and [Tyringham] Howe from New Port, Rhode-Island.

Friday arrived the *Tamer*, from South-Carolina.

Saturday sailed the *Viper* Sloop of War, for Quebec, with a Number of Transports and Troops on board.

Same day arrived a packet from Falmouth [G.B.] in 5 weeks and 3 days.

Sunday arrived here the *Scarborough* from Savannah in Georgia, in whom came Governor Wright of that province.

We are informed that Governor Campbell, of South-Carolina, is on his passage for this place.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

April 1776 Cape Elizabeth N B E 5 Leags
 Tuesday 23 at 10 AM Saw a Sail to Nowd made Sail & gave Chace.
 Fresh Gales and clear
 at 7 Fir'd 4 Shot at the Chace at ½ past Brot too the Chace
 & sent an Officer onboard, proved to be an American Sloop
 Recd on board the Prisoners²

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. *Britannia* Sloop, loaded with wood, bound for Boston, Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5. 1769-1777, N. S. Arch.

ORDER FOR SALE OF THE PRIZE BRIGANTINE *Nancy* and CARGO¹

Essex ss. To the Sheriff of the County of Essex greeting.

Whereas at the Court erected to try & condemn all vessels that should be found infesting the sea coast of America and bro't into either of the counties of Suffolk Middlesex or Essex, held at Ipswich in said county of Essex on Thursday the eighteenth day of April in the year of our Lord 1776, by me Timothy Pickering junr Esqr judge of the same court, the brigantine named the *Nancy* commanded by one Robert Hunter,² & her appurtenances & cargo, were by me the said judge condemned, & decreed to be sold, & the monies thence arising to be disposed of as herein after is directed; of which decree execution remains to be done: You are therefore hereby commanded to sell the said brigantine and her cargo & appurtenances, at public vendue; and of the monies thence arising, you are to pay the charges of trial and condemnation, being seven pounds eleven shillings and a half penny, to Jonathan Glover of Marblehead merchant the libellant, and your own fees; and the residue you are to deliver to John Manly and his company, the captors of said brigantine, or to their agents or attornies, for the use & benefit of said captors and others concerned therein. And when you shall have so done, make return of this warrant and of your doings therein, unto me.

Given under my hand & seal at Salem the twenty third day of April in the year of our Lord 1776.

Timothy Pickering junr³

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. The ordinance brig *Nancy*, taken by Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee* November 28 1775.

3. *Ibid.*, this date other Manley prizes were ordered to be sold - *Polly*, *Concord*, *Jenny*, *Little Hannah*, *Betsey*.

ORDER FOR SALE OF THE RECAPTURED SLOOP *Sally* AND CARGO¹

Essex ss. To the Sheriff of the County of Essex greeting.

Whereas at the Court erected to try & condemn all vessels that should be found infesting the sea-coast of America & brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex or Essex, held at Ipswich in said county of Essex on Wednesday the seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord

1776, by me Timothy Pickering junr Esqr Judge of the same Court, a certain sloop named the *Sally*² was by the jury (duly returned impanelled & sworn for the trial thereof) found to have been taken by one of the navy employed against the United Colonies, & commanded by enemies to said colonies; that afterwards, having been in possession of said enemy more than niney six hours, the same sloop was retaken by Winborn Adams and his company, in the *Warren* armed schooner, before condemnation thereon had, & brought into Beverly in the county of Essex; and that before her capture by said enemy she and her cargo were owned by one oft the inhabitants of said colonies, friendly to America, to wit, Peter Barbarie the claimant: And thereupon it was by me the said Judge decreed, that the said sloop *Sally* with her cargo and appurtenances be sold at public vendue, and that the monies thence arising be disposed of as herein after is directed; of which decree execution remains to be done: You are therefore hereby commanded to sell the said sloop & her cargo and appurtenances at public vendue, and of the monies thence arising you are to pay the charges of trial & condemnation, being eight pounds three shillings & a half penny, to Jonathan Glover of Marblehead merchant and libellant, and your own fees; and of the residue you are to deliver one third part to the said Winborn Adams & his company, the recaptors or to their agents or attornies, for the use and benefit of said recaptors & others concerned therein, and the other two third parts to the said Peter Barbarie the claimant. And when you shall have so done, make return of this warrant and of your doings therein unto me.

Given under my hand & seal at Salem the twenty third day of April in the year of our Lord 1776.

Timothy Pickering junr

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. Retaken Christmas Day, 1775, having been originally captured by H.M.S. *Niger*.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] April 23, 1776

Resolved That the whole of the Stores lately Imported into Dartmouth in the Sloop *Sally* belonging to this Colony be Stored there under the Care of Capt Gamaliel Church & Lemuel Williams, and by them to be kept until removed by the Commissary General of this Colony, or the Order of this Court—

Whereas this Colony have raised & Stationed a number of Men on the Sea Coast for their protection & defence, who are under the pay of this Colony, and some of them have taken sundry Vessells, and no Resolve has as yet been passed to determine what share such Men shall have in any Prizes that are or may be taken therefore Resolved that the Sea Coast Men stationed in any part of this Colony, shall be intituled to One Third part of the Net proceeds (after Charges of condemnation & other expences are paid) of all Vessells & Cargoes that have been, or shall hereafter be taken by them and legally Condemned by the Court Established to try the Justice of all

such Captures which shall be divided amongst them in proportion to the pay of the Officers & Soldiers employed in such Port or Place, and the remainder shall be to the Use of the Colony—

I. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 791, 794.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO PENET & PLIARNE ¹

Providence, In the Colony of Rhode Is.

In America April 23. 1776

Gentlemen Having had some personal Acquaintance with Monsrs Pliarne & Penet, who Arrived at this Town, from the Cape in West Indias the forepart of last Winter, who After Waiting upon Genl Washington at the Head of the Contl Army Near Boston, & after Communicatg there Buisness to him returnd back to this Town, & soon After Travelled through the Country for Philadelphia In order to Enter into a Contract With the Honbl Contentental Congress, and Inform Us by there Letter dated at Phia the 8th of Feby That they had compleeted there Contract with the Secret Comtt of Congress, that Mr Penet Departed that Day for France, and that they where Determined to settle the Center of ther Commerce at Phileda, and in Consequence, of what they had heard of Us In the West Indias gave Us Several personal Interviews while hear, and by Letters wch passed between Us since, they have fully expressed there Desire of Opening Buisness with Us And Would Engage to supply Us from France wth every Article Wanted on the Contenent – And also Acquainted Us of the firm of your House at Nantes & Havre, as well as In the West Indas – They particularly assure Us, that we May Rely on your House, that None Can procure Us the same Advantages to Load our Vessels with Amunition & such Other Merchandize as we May Order & that it will be Done with the Graitest Activety & Integrity –

And As we have bin So Noticed by the Honbl Contentental Congress As to be taken into Contract with there Secret Comtt to Import for the 13 United Colonys Sundry Articles wch have ben Assured May the Most if not all of them be brought from Nantes to As Good Advantage As Any part of France, We have Dispatched Capt Crafford [Gideon Crawford] in the Brigg *Happy Return*, with a Load of good White SpermaCeti Oil & a Qty of Well Refined & pure SpermaCeti, for Medesine, or May be Made up into SpermaCeti Candles, As very grait Qtys of SpermaCeti is often Sold at Amsterdam wch is from thence sold to All parts of the Contenent of Europe &c, We Doubt Not but with proper Attention you'l be Able to Obtain a Good profit on this Article More than the Cost here as well as upon the Oil wch by the last Accts from London was £48 Stg p Ton Viz 252 Do As Your Ceti may Not be a Market Common for these Articles and Especially for such a Qty of Spermaceti, wch has an Intrinsick Value in it According to what its Charg'd at, As it will keep Good for Any lingsh of Time, We would Not have it sold for less than its Value, But if the sale Should be Dul, You would Graitly serve our Employer (Secret Comtt of the Honbl Contl Congress) to give it Time for a Market, & to Advance the full Value there of That as many of the

Goods Orderd. May be sent & the Vessel Despatched as Soon As May be, wch May give us time to Send you Another Cargo before Our Winter Sets in –

The Nature of Our Contract with the Comt of Congress is Such that we was Oblig'd to Stepluate with Capt Crafford for a Certain Commissn Out of wch he has to pay you or Who ever he May Address for Assistance in doing his Buisness, Therefore we Could do No More than to Recomend your House, As he will Make his own Choice on such Gentl to Do his Buisness As he May shear with Them in the Commissn – As the Congress have resolved to Open a free Trade with All the World Except Grait Britain & her Dependance, as Capt Crafford will shew you, by the Publick papers This Voyage will be but as a Speciman for Our Future & lasting Commerce if it Can be Carried On to our Mutual Advantage –

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, April 23, 1776

The Marine Committee having, agreeable to the orders of Congress, recommended gentlemen to be agents for prizes in the several colonies,

Resolved, That Captain John Bradford be appointed for the colony of Massachusetts bay,² Daniel Tillinghast for Rhode Island, Nathaniel Shaw, Junr for Connecticut, Jacobus Vanzantz [Van Zandt] for New York, John Nixon, and John Maxwell Nesbit for Pensylvania, William Lux for Maryland, John Tazewell for Virginia, Cornelius Harnet for Wilmington, Richard Ellis for Newbern, and Robert Smith for Edenton in North Carolina, with power to each, to appoint one or more deputies, if necessary.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 300, 301.

2. John Bradford's commission, through some oversight, was not sent to him until July. This caused embarrassment in dealing with Washington's agents. Bradford expressed his need for the commission in a letter to Robert Morris, July 14, 1776, Morris Papers, Accession 1805, LC. When finally received he had it published in the *New England Chronicle*, August 15, 1776.

3. Notification of these appointments also was sent to Esek Hopkins, the original of which is in the Hopkins Papers, RIHS. A copy was taken off for each captain, and the notification to John Paul Jones is in Papers of John Paul Jones, LC.

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

The Delegates of the Thirteen United Colonies

To Nathaniel Shaw Jur. Esqr.

Greeting,

You being Appointed by Congress Agent for Continental Prizes in the Colony of Connecticut, I do hereby Authorize & Impower you to Act in said Office, and to Appoint one or more Deputies under you as you may Judge necessary, & do Require you to be carefull in the Execution of said Trust, & strictly to Conform to the orders & Directions as you shall from time to time Receive from Congress, or the Marine Board touching your said Office –

Given under my hand at Philadelphia this Twenty third Day of April
1776

By order of Congress
John Hancock Presidt

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

MARINE COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO
COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

In Marine Committee

Sir

Philada [23d] April 1776 ²

As it is essentially necessary for promoting the Service that full & speedy Information of the State & Condition of the Enemies Fleets in the different parts of America should be communicated to You from whence You may be the better enabled to act with Vigour & Success in your Naval Department, we therefore write to acquaint You that from the best Information the Force in Virginia at this Time consists of the *Liverpool* Frigate Capt. Bellew of 28 Guns, the *Otter* Sloop Capt. Squires of 16 Guns, the *William* an armed Ship of 10 Guns with Lord Dunmore, the *Eilbeck* a large Store-ship with some small Guns. It is said & believed that both the *Liverpool* & *Otter* are exceedingly weak from the Want of Hands, their Men being chiefly employed on Board a Number of small Tenders fitted out by Lord Dunmore to distress the Trade on the Coast of Virginia & Bay of Chesepeak. His Lordship has now between 100 & 150 Sail of Vessels great & small the most of which are Prizes & many of them valuable. Those, so far from being any Addition in point of Strength will rather weaken the Men of War, whose Hands are employed in the small Vessels. – The Force at Wilmington in North Carolina You will observe by the inclosed Extracts of Letters.

Whether you have formed any Expedition or not, the Execution of which will interfere with an Attempt upon either or both of the above Fleets we cannot determine; but if that should not be the Case, there is no Service, from the present Appearance of things in which You could better promote the Interest of your Country than by the Destruction of the Enemies' Fleet in North Carolina or Virginia, for as the Seat of War will most probably be transferred in the ensuing Campaign to the Southern Colonies, such a Manoeuvre attended with Success will disconcert or at least retard their Military Operations for a Length of Time, give Spirits to our Friends & afford them an Opportunity of improving their Preparations for Resistance. These Reasons, Sir, added to your known Spirit & Inclination to serve America, will, we make no Doubt, sufficiently weigh with You to undertake that Service. The *Roe buck*, Capt. Hammond of 40 Guns is now in Lewis Town Road. You will observe by the Papers that Capt [John] Barry in the Brigantine *Lexington* has taken an armed Tender with 25 picked Men commanded by a Lieutenant of the *Liverpool* wch is a Loss, as they cannot easily provide for the Want of Men. Should You come to the

Southward & determine to go into Chesepeak, advise us of the Time of your sailing, that Orders may be given to the different armed Vessels on the Coast as also to those in Chesepeak & the Commander in chief in Virginia to co-operate with You in the Attack. As You were directed by a former Instruction, in Case You determined to proceed into Chesepeak Bay, "that You should dispatch a swift sailing Vessel to reconnoitre the Coast & gain Intelligence of the Strength of the Enemy" we now remind You of that Instruction & desire You would send a Vessel for that Purpose from the Fleet. Wishing You Success, We are Sir [&c.]

John Hancock.
Step Hopkins
Joseph Hewes
R. Alexander

Geo: Read
Richard Henry Lee
Dan¹ Huntington
Jona D Sargeant

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

2. While the day is omitted from the date line, April 23 is established through Hancock's letter of April 23, 1776 to Washington, which states in postscript that a letter is enclosed for Hopkins. As the latter acknowledged its receipt on May 1, the letter took seven days in transit, which seems to have been the average time for such a journey.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 23." ¹

This morning came an account, that Capt. Bar[ry] has taken and sent into Egg Harbour, another tend[er,] a schooner, fitted out by the *Phoenix* with six gun[s,] which she hove over board, and ran ashore, but Barry soon got her off. – He had intelligence of another tender of ten guns, which he is gone after. – Hope we shall soon rid our coasts of these little pirates who have done much mischief. –

1. *Connecticut Courant*, April 29, 1776.

2. The information in this letter was based upon a rumor which proved unfounded.

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

April 1776

Cape Henlopen SWt 3 Leagues

Monday 22d at 11 [A.M.] Weighed and made Sail after four Sail coming down the Cape May Channel;

The first part ditto [fresh gales and fair] weather, middle and latter moderate and pleasant, P M Cut off the Best Bower outer part, 26 fathoms, being much rubed, at 4 in Chace, they having Separated, at 6 began to fire on a Small Schooner, at 7 continued firing, when she brought too, and proved to be from Philadelphia bound to Saint Eustatia, Laden with a few Casks of Bread and Hams, which was distributed to the Ships Company.²

Tuesday 23d Moderate and fair weather, at 3 in the afternoon Saw a Sail to the N W, which I chaced, at 10 fired Several 18 Pound Shot at her, and brought her too, found her to be a Brig bearing a flag of Truce from St Croix to Philadelphia.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. *Dolphin*, William Knox, master; [John] Pringle, owner, from Philadelphia for St. Eustatius, with hams and bread, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

3. This was a Danish brig which Hamond dismissed on April 25, 1776 according to a later entry in the journal.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, off the Delaware, Tuesday, 23 April, 1776]

In the Night of the 23d I fell in with a Brig, who pretended to be a Flag of Truce belonging to St Croix and was bound to Philadelpa for the Children & familys of several English Men that settled upon that Island and were become Burghers of it. As I could by no means admit of this artifice to gain a corespondance with the Rebels, I at first determined to seize the Vessel, which though under Danish Colours, had not a single foreigner on board, but as she was not of the least value I rather chose to send her back to the Island, to inform the Governor, that no regard would be payed to any of his papers, let the pretence be what it would; and if he persisted in sending any more Vessels to the continent under the authority of his Government, it would be looked upon as a breach of the neutrality.

I attempted again to weigh the anchor I had left at the back of the Overfalls, but without success: notwithstanding I swept it with the Stream Cable which broke as the hawser had done before.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 23 April 1776 –

William Lux Chairman

Present –

J. Moale	A. Buchanan	T. Harrison	J. Calhoun
D. Lux	W. Buchanan	W. Tolley Junr	J. Gittings
J. Boyd	J. Merryman	Geo Lux	Secry

On Motion Resolved, That This Committee do recommend Mr John Christie to the Delegates of this Province in Congress, and request them to use their best Endeavours to procure for him a 2d Lieutenantcy in the Continental Army –

The following Letter was wrote to the Council of Safety & signed by all the Members present –

Gentlemen In Comme Balte 23 April 1776

This Committee on the late Alarm appointed Messrs Robert Purviance, David Stewart, & George Woosley, to superintend the fitting out the Schooner *Resolution* as a Tender, or Armed Vessel for Capt Nicholson – As they have nearly compleated her, & are in Advance a considerable Sum, You will please to furnish Six or Eight Hundred Pounds, as is convenient –

We are Gentn Yr Most Huml Servts

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

23 [April] Tuesday. A fine day. At Colo [John] Tayloe's I learned that a sloop and pilot board with above 100 men had gone to take the tender. ²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257-58.

2. The tender which had taken a vessel at Hobbs Hole the day before; see Diary of Colonel Landon Carter, April 22, 1776.

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

April 1776 Latde in 33,36 No
 Tuesday 23 A M at 4 saw 3 Sail to the Et wd made the Signal which a Ship Answer'd & bore down at 6 she saluted with 5 Guns retd 3 at 7 spoke the *Earl of O[x]ford* Transpt from Cork with part of 57th Regt on board; joined Co the *Cruizers Tender & Pensacola* Pacquet, parted Co the Transport, *Mercury*, Tender & at 1/2 past 11 made Sail [Light breezes & fair] TKd Occasionally P:M at 6 Signl reef T/Sls

1. PRO Admiralty 51/930.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE ¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Sunday 21 Mode & Cloudy fir'd 3 Six pounders with Grape & Canister, & several Musqts at the Rebels. PM Recd a Sloop load of Wood. sent the Empty Casks for Water
 Monday 22 Light Airs and fair Fir'd 6 Six poundrs, with Grape & Canister & several Musquets at the Rebels.
 Tuesday 23 PM Recd Water by the Watering Sloop.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Argo*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM GARNIER ¹

April 1776 Moored in English Harbour Antigua.
 Tuesday 23d AM Received fresh Beef and Prize Money for the *Greyhound* Brigg.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/19.

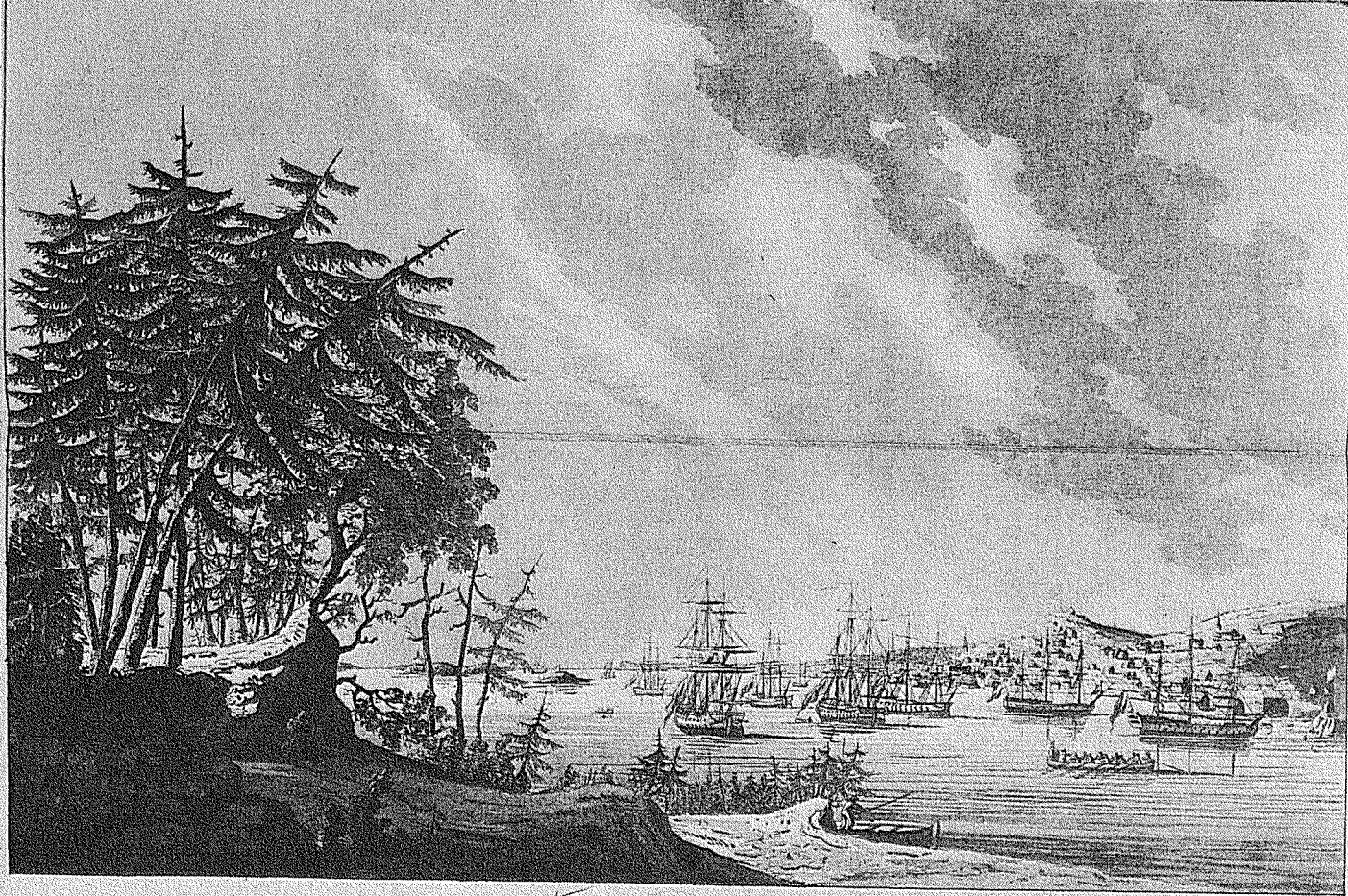
2. *Ibid.*, the *Greyhound* was taken January 13, 1776.

24 Apr.CAPTAIN FRANCIS HUTCHESON TO MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK HALDIMAND ¹

[Extract]

Halifax 24th April 1776

Dear Sir I wrote you from Nantasket Road by the *Lord Hyde* Packet, and gave you an Accot of our departure from Boston; We sailed from Nantasket



1751.

A View of the Town & Harbour of Halifax, from Dartmouth Shore.

the 27th of March, and arrived here with the Whole fleet on the Second Instt never was an Army so Crowded in transports, owing to the want of Shipping. our Situation is little better here, tho' the General has landed but 3 &[c] Companys of Each Regt to Ease the transports. you who know this place need no description of what we Suffer from want of every thing; and the most Exorbutant prices is asked for Lodging & every necessary the inhabitants think proper to sell us. from what I can Judge, we shall remain here till our Provisions & Stores arrive from England; we had not above three Weeks provisions for the Army the day we arriv'd since which, some Ships that were sent in the Winter to purchase provisions in the West Indias are returned, & have brought about one Months Supply; which was obtained there with great difficulty. Captn Payne of the 18th Regt was sent to Execute that business –

The two transports With two hundred Marines under the Command of Major Grant of the 40 Regt and Convoyed by the *Scarborough* Man of War, that sailed last Winter, are returnd; their Expedition was to Georgia, where they were not Suffered to land, they have brought off Sir James Wright & his family, and took at Savana Eight Sail of Ships loaded with Rice, flour, Rum, Salt Pork, Malosses & one with two hundred barrels of Gun powder, five of those ships have been since retaken by the Rebels and among them the Powder Ship –

About the Middle of this Month the *Glasgow* Man of War of 20 Guns on a Cruse off Rhode Island fell in with the Rebel Admiral Hopkins fleet, Consisting of One Ship of 32 Guns, two of 20 Guns, One Brig of 16 Guns, & a large Sloop of 12 Guns. the *Glasgow* made a runing fight till she got into Newport, where Captn Wallas was lying with his Ships the *Rose*, the *Swan*, & *Vulture*, but the wind & tide being right in to the harbour, he could not get out till Next Morning, before which Mr Hopkins thought proper to Quit his station, and its thought he is gone to the Southward. the *Glasgow* is a good deal damaged in her hull & riging. We are apprehensive that he is looking out to Intercept the Ships we Expect from the West Indias and grow Anxious for the arrival of 4 Compy of the 46th & 4 of the 55th that are on their way from Antigua, where the[y] put into last Winter.

The 47th Regiment Sailed the 20th Instt for Quebec under Convoy of the *Niger* frigate, tho' early to attempt the River, we are in hopes they will get up in about 10 or 15 days. many here are of opinion that Quebec is taken, but such an Event is of such Consiquence to the Rebels, we woud soon hear of it from them; we have had no intelligence from thence, since last October. Captain Wallis arrived here last Week from Rhode Island, he was ordered to Quit that place, as he could not remain there the Rebels having thrown up Battery[s] on the hills, and Canonaided him as he went out.

We hear from some people who have got away from Boston since we left it, that on our departure the Rebels took possession of the town with 1500 Men, that they Immediately began to fortify Fort hill & Baker hill; and have Garrisoned the Redoubts on Bunkers hill – Washington made a trium-

phant entry, & they Exult much in there having drove us off (as they State it) Their privatiers have had great Success last Winter & this Spring, they have taken forty five Sail of Ships into Salem, Marblehead, & Cape Ann, which were loaded with provisions & Stores for our use at Boston.

The Rebell Army at Boston are dispersed, Washington is gone to Virginia and has Left Ward to Command at Boston, with 1500 Men; [John] Thomas is gone with 5000 Men to take the Command of their Army in Canada. and [Charles] Lee is with five thousand more at New York, and we here he has thrown up an intrenchment from the East to the North Rivers, a Cross by your House; and that they have fortified the Narrows, Redhook, and the heights on the North River – We have no intercourse with that place, I have not heard from Wallace these several Months, nor do I Expect it for some time – The people to the Southward grow more & more Violent, and I fear it will take more than one Campaign to bring them to their Sences – The Inhabitants who left Boston last year are most of them Returned, and their General Court is now Seting agreeable to their Charter, to Confiscate the Estates of all the friends to Government that have Joined us – I have been Extremely ill with a most Severe Cold ever since I left Boston, occasioned by the fatigue I underwent for the ten last days we were there, endeavouring to get off as much of our Forrage & Stores as we could, notwithstanding a great deal was left behind, the Artillery left two hundred horses, and our department Seventy odd, and all our Waggon –

Lt Governor [Andrew] Oliver goes home with Col [John] Vassell & his family they will Sail the 1 of May, I will write to you by them. numbers of your Boston acquaintances are going home, and many of them without means of Subsistance, – I had yesterday the pleasure to hear from Captn Stanton who is Just arrived from England, that you were well, the beginning of March, the Packet he came here in takes home Governor [Francis] Leg-[ge], and has brought Commodore Arburthnet the appointment of Lt Governor of this Province –

I. Haldimand Papers, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham, Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.

Sir I am to inform you that on the 19th Instant Captain Barkley in the *Scarborough* arrived here from Savannah in the Province of Georgia, to which place their Lordships have been acquainted he was sent with two Transports and a small Body of Men under Major [James] Grant to procure Rice and other Supplies for the use of the Army; and I have the pleasure to inform you that the Quantity which has been obtained by this measure is very considerable and is of the greatest Consequence in the present necessitous State of the Army.

I must also acquaint you that Sir James Wright the Governor of that Province being forced from his Government by the Violences of the people, arrived here in the *Scarborough* with his Family.

Captain Barkley having informed me in the Account of his proceedings that he had from Savannah by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet sent information to my Lords Commissioners of the State of that Country, with other occurrences as well as that a Rebel Armament had visited [New] Providence with a view to carry off the Powder and Ordnance from that Island, I forbear mentioning any thing further on these Subjects, but I have great reason to believe that the Vessels which attacked the *Glasgow*, were those which had been at Providence.

I inclose to you a Copy of the information I have received of the different Batteries at Charles Town South Carolina also Intelligence that the Rebels meant to intercept the Merchant Ships in their passage from Jamaica to England, both which Articles were obtained by Captain Barkley during his stay at Savannah, and he thought the last of such importance that he sent immediate information of it to Admiral Gayton at Jamaica.

You will also herewith receive an Account of Ships and Vessels detained at Savannah, and which were set at Liberty by the Ships and Troops under Captain Barkley and Major Grant, and likewise the Declaration of the Masters of the Ships so liberated.

I have also to inform you that Captain Barkley in returning from this expedition was under the necessity of putting into Rhode Island, where he expected to find some of His Majesty's Ships, but as those which were Stationed there had been obliged to quit that place the Rebels having erected several Batteries from which they were much annoyed, he was also fired upon and received some damage to his Masts and Rigging. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.

Sir, You will herewith receive the Disposition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, as also the State and Condition of such Ships of the Squadron from which I have received them since my last Dispatches to you.

From the disappointment of the Arrival of the Victuallers, and having Supplied a considerable quantity of the Provisions intended for the Fleet for the subsistence of the Army, I have judged it necessary to Order the Crews of His Majesty's Ships to be put to Two thirds allowance until a farther Supply may arrive.

I likewise transmit to you the Sentence of a Court Martial held on the late Boatswain of the *Roebuck*, and also an Account of such American Vessels as have been taken and detained by the Fleet under my Command according to the latest information I have received. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldhham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM¹

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition.
4th	<i>Chatham</i>	{ R. A. Shuldham Captn John Raynor }	{ Moored off the Yard. Under Orders and will proceed in a Day or two to Cruize between the West end of Long Island and Cape Henlopen. }
5th	<i>Orpheus</i>	" Chas Hudson	
6th	<i>Scarborough</i>	" Andw Barkley	{ Refitting.
"	<i>Rose</i>	" Jas Wallace	In { Refitting under Orders to Cruize off Rhode Island.
"	<i>Glasgow</i>	" Tyringm Howe	Halifax { Preparing to proceed to England.
Sloop	<i>Tamer</i>	" Edwd Thornbrough	Harbour Refitting
"	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	" Alexr Graeme	{ Will sail in a few days to Cruize in the Bay of Fundy.
Storeship	<i>Adventure</i>	Lieut John Hallum	{ Alongside the Jetty.
Schooner	<i>Tryal</i>	" John Brown	{ Off Major's Beach.
Sloop	<i>Senegal</i>	Captn Wm Duddingston	{ At Liverpool in Nova Scotia, Ordered to Halifax.
Schooner	<i>Halifax</i>	Lieut Wm Quarme	{ Cruizing off Sable.
Sloop	<i>Merlin</i>	Capt Wm C. Burnaby	{ At Annapolis in Nova Scotia, Ordered to Halifax.
"	<i>Viper</i>	" Saml Graves	{ On his passage to Annapolis to relieve the <i>Merlin</i> .
4th	<i>Centurion</i>	" Richd Brathwaite	{ Cruizing between Cape Sable and Cape Anne in the Longitude of Saint George's Bank. }
"	<i>Renown</i>	" Frans Banks	{ Cruizing and Rendezvousing Occasionally in Boston Bay and Nantasket Road. }
6th	<i>Lively</i>	" Thos Bishop	{ Cruizing in Boston Bay and off Piscataqua, under the Command of Captain Banks. }
"	<i>Milford</i>	" John Burr	
Sloop	<i>Swan</i>	" Jas Ayscough	
Brig	<i>Hope</i>	Lieut Geo. Dawson	
Brig	<i>Bolton</i>	" Edwd Sneyd	

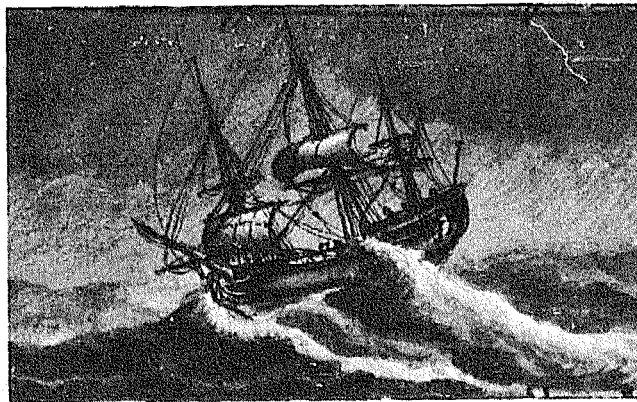
DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AND VESSELS IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM
Continued

Rate	Ships	Commanders	Disposition.
Schooner	<i>Dispatch</i>	“ John Goodridge	Nantasket Road, Ordered to Halifax.
6th	<i>Cerberus</i>	Capt John Symons	Cruising between Martha's Vineyard, and the East end of Long Island.
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	Lieut Edmd Dod	Under the Command of Captain Symons, on the same Station.
5th	<i>Phoenix</i>	Captn Hyde Parker	} At New York.
3d	<i>Asia</i>	“ Geo. Vandeput	
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	“ Hugh Bromedge	
5th	<i>Roebuck</i>	“ A. S. Hamond	In the River Delaware
6th	<i>Fowey</i>	“ Geo. Montagu	In his passage to the Delaware
“	<i>Liverpool</i>	“ Hy Bellew	} At Virginia
Sloop	<i>Otter</i>	“ Mattw Squire	
“	<i>Cruizer</i>	“ Fras Parry	} Ordered to Boston this Spring by Vice Admiral Graves.
“	<i>Scorpion</i>	“ Hon: Jno Tollemache	
6th	<i>Mercury</i>	“ Jas Montague	} Supposed to be Cruizing off Fear, General Clinton on board the <i>Mercury</i>
Sloop	<i>Falcon</i>	“ John Linzee	
“	<i>Raven</i>	“ John Stanhope	} At Savannah, Province of Georgia.
Armed Ship	<i>Cherokee</i>	Lieut John Ferguson	
Schooner	<i>St Lawrence</i>	“ John Graves	Sent to Cape Fear, and from thence Ordered to Join Me.
“	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>	“ Alexr Ellis	At Saint Augustine.
Sloop	<i>Nautilus</i>	Captn John Collins	Supposed to be at Bermuda.
Schooner	<i>Saint John</i>	Lieut Wm Grant	At the Bahama Islands.

6th	<i>Lizard</i>	Captn John Hamilton	} At Quebec. Lieut Hunter and part of the Crew taken Prisoners by the Rebels at Saint Johns.
Sloop	<i>Hunter</i>	" Thos Mackenzie	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>	Lieut Wm Hunter	
5th	<i>Niger</i>	Capt Geo. Talbot	
6th	<i>Syren</i>	" Tobias Furneaux	At Cape Fear

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24 April 1776. M. Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484; enclosed in Shuldham to Stephens, April 24, 1776.



AN ACCOUNT OF VESSELS SEIZED OR TAKEN BY HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON

When Seized or Taken	Where	By what Ship or Vessel	What sort of Vessel	Names of the	
				Vessels	Masters
Feb'y 19 1776	Off Cape Anne	<i>Lively</i>	[Schooner]	<i>Tartar</i>	Benj Warren
25 "	Boston Bay	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Unity</i>	Davd Lunt
March 4 "	Within the Isle of Shoals	Do	Schooner	<i>John</i>	Danl Merchant
5 "	Off Cape Anne	Do	Sloop	<i>Mary</i>	Abner Lowell
7 "	Off Adimenticut	<i>Hope</i>	Do	<i>John</i>	Coes Gardner
"	Do	Do	Schooner	<i>Molly</i>	James Lovitt
Feb'y 14 "	Off Cape Cod	<i>Tryal</i>		<i>Peggy</i>	John Lothrop
"	Do	Do		<i>Grampus</i>	John Brackett
15 "	Off Liverpool	<i>Halifax</i>		<i>King Solomon</i>	Danl Turner
Jan'y 16 "	Halifax	<i>Savage</i>	Ship	<i>Nicholas</i>	Jas White
19 "	Do	Do	Ship	<i>Boston Packet</i>	Jas Shepherd
20 "	New York	<i>Asia</i>	Schooner	<i>James</i>	
Feb'y 3 "	Do	<i>Phoenix</i>	Ship	<i>Sally</i>	Jõhn Bagley
19 "	Do	Do	Do	<i>York</i>	Davd Collins
Jan'y 19 "	Off the Capes of Virginia	<i>Kings-fisher</i>	Schooner	<i>Peace and Plenty</i>	— Lightboy
4 "	Do	Do	Do	<i>Molly</i>	— Waters
Feb'y 28 1776	Off the Capes of Philadelphia	<i>Kingsfisher</i>		<i>Juno</i>	Wm Keith
Jan'y 23 "	Off Cape Charles	<i>Liverpool</i>	[Sloop]	<i>Susanna</i>	Frs Bright
25 "	" Henry	Do	[Brig]	<i>Betsy and Molly</i>	Jas Calvert
31 "	" Do	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Polly</i>	Saml Nichols
Feb'y 14 "	" Charles	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Joseph</i>	John Hill
1 "	At Sea	<i>Scarborough</i>	[Schooner]	<i>Violenti</i>	Stepn Cleavland
4 "	Off Tibe Bar	Do	[Sloop]	<i>St John</i>	Gilbt Harrison
Mar. 13 "	At Savannah	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Phoenix</i>	Norton Cole
[April] 5 "	At Sea	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Greyhound</i>	Increase Pote
8 "	Do	Do	[Schooner]	<i>John and Joseph</i>	Danl Dishon
		<i>Rose</i>	Sloop	<i>Hannah</i>	

IN NORTH AMERICA UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL SHULDHAM ¹

Owners	From Whence	Where bound	To what Port sent for Security	Cargo	How disposed of	
Wm Prosser	Dominica	Halifax and Newfoundland	Boston	Sugar, Coffee, Cocoa, and Melasses.		
Jacb Boardman	Grand Terer	Newbury		Do	Melasses and Coffee	
Danl Serjeant	Baltimore	Cape Anne		Do	Flour, and Indian Corn	
Benjn Rogers	Philadelphia	Newbury	Do	Flour, Iron and Steel		
Danl Rogers	Virginia	Ipswich	Do	Flour, Indian Corn, and Wheat		
James Lovitt	So Carolina	Piscataqua	Do	Rice and Indigo		
Echa Thatcher and Geo. Welsh	Baltimore	Barnstable	Do	Flour &ca		
Mark Alexander	Do	Do	Do	Do	Cast-away	
	Cape Besore	Bilboa	Halifax	850 Quintals of Fish		
Thos Boilstone	Petersburgh and Cowes	Halifax	Do	Iron, Hemp, Canvas &ca.		
Wm Denny		Do	Do			
	New York	To the rebel Camp	New York	Provision, Dry Goods &c.		
Saml Frankling	Alicant	New York	Do	Salt		
	New York		Do	Ballast		
— Midd	Philadelphia	Rappahanack	Norfolk	Salt	Sold	
	St Eustatia	Baltimore	Do	Rum		
John Pringle and Wm Keith	Port L'Orient	Philadelphia	Norfolk	Gunpowder, Salt Petre and Sulphur.		
Messrs Christie and Gilmore	Antigua	Baltimore	Do	Salt		
Corns Calvert		Glasgow	Norfolk	Do	Ballast	
Wm West	Salem	Potomack	Do	Do		
Jonas Smith	Do	Baltimore	Do	Salt		
Frs Cobbett	Marblehead	Winyah	Boston	Ballast		
Coddington and Morris	St Croix	St Maries	Savannah	Dry Goods and Gunpowder		
Minos and Cole	Rhode Island	Georgia	Do	Cyder, Potatoes and Apples		
Increase Pote	Virginia	Casco Bay	Halifax	Indian Corn and Tobacco		
	Cape Nichola Mole	New London	Ordd to Halifax	Melasses, Coffee, and Gunpowder		

When Seized or Taken	Where	By What Ship or Vessel	What sort of Vessel	Names of the	
				Vessels	Masters
		Do	Do	<i>Sally</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>Greyhound</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>John</i>	
		Do	Do	<i>Snow Bird</i>	
Feb'y 24	" At Sea	<i>Viper</i>	Brig	<i>Tartar</i>	Benj Dean
March 1	" Do	Do	Do	<i>Sawney</i>	Frs Skinner
Sept 24 1775	Charlestown	<i>Tamer</i>	Schooner	<i>Polly</i>	Heny. Stone
Novr 9	" South Carolina				
				<i>Pacquet</i>	Alexr Wyley
	Do				
Jan'y 5 1776	Cut out of Stono	<i>Tamer</i>	Brig	<i>Elizabeth</i>	Php Sullivan
[Jan'y.] 20	" Savannah	Do	Sloop	<i>York Packet</i>	Stepn Weeks
Decr 28 1775	On the Coast of Virginia	<i>Raven</i>	[Ship]	<i>Rettenhouse</i>	Ambs Bartlett
Jan'y 20 1776	Savannah	Do	[Ship]	<i>Clarissa</i>	Rd Bissell
Feb'y 4	" Off Savannah Bar	Do	[Sloop]	<i>St John</i>	Gilbt Harrison
March 12	" Do	Do	[Brig]	<i>Georgia Packet</i>	Geo Bunner
Feb'y 9	" Augustine Creek	Do	[Schooner]	<i>Jane</i>	Willm Mills
March 13	" Entrance of Savannah	Do	[Sloop]	<i>Phoenix</i>	Norton Cole
10	" At Sea	<i>Mercury</i>		<i>Hope</i>	Andw Brown

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484; enclosed in Shulldham to Stephens, April 24, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Exeter] April 24th.

Gave John Langdon, Esqr a Permit for the Brig *Marquis of Kildare*, Thomas Palmer, Master, to proceed to Europe with her Lading.

1. Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society, VII, 44.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Wednesday, April 24, 1776

The Committee of Both Houses appointed to Examine Caleb Wheaton, Caleb Wheaton, junr and Joseph Wheaton, Prisoners taken in the Brign bound from Boston to Hallifax, and sent to this Court by the Committee of

Owners	From Whence	Where bound	To what Port sent for Security	Cargo	How disposed of
				Melasses &ca Grain &ca Flour	
Joseph White, Miles & Greenwood	Georgia	Tortola	Antigua	Lumber	
Unknown	Do	Santa Cruz	Do	Lumber and Indigo	
Stone & Devaul Isaac Hague Cols. in the Rebel Army	Santee	Charlestown	{ Left with Lord William Campbell	Shot	
Alexr Wyley	Do	Do	Cape Fear	French Flour, Wine and other Merchandize.	Foundred at Sea
John Scott	Barcelona	Charlestown	Cape Fear	Brandy and Salt	
Waltr. Fran[k]ling	New York	Georgia	Savannah	Bread, Flour, Rum, Cyder, Apples & Bar Iron	
Messers York & Potts	Lisbon	Philadelphia	{ Do afterwards to Boston	Ballast and £2,000	
Messrs Roach and Lopez	Jamaica	Jamaica	Savannah	Lumber	
[Blank]	Santa Cruz	Savannah	Do	Gunpowder and Bale Goods	
Bright, Pechin, Clay & Habusham	Philadelphia	Do	{ Do afterwards to Boston	Flour, Bread, Beer Rum &ca	
Wm Mills	Sunbury	Do	Savannah	Damaged Rice	
Jno Dennis & Co.	Rhode Island	Do	Do	Cyder & Potatoes	
Andw Brown & John Burr	Charlestown	New York	Cape Fear	Rice and Indigo	

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 24th April 1776.
M: Shuldham

Marblehead, have attended that service & Report. That it appearing to your Committee that the said Caleb Wheaton, having while in Boston been an Associator, and in other instances unfriendly to American liberty, are of opinion that the said Caleb Wheaton Caleb Wheaton Junr & Joseph Wheaton jointly & Severally give Bond to the Treasurer of this Colony in the penal Sum of Five Hundred pounds—the Condition whereof to be that they & every of them will be of good behavior, and will not correspond with any of the Enemies of America, or take up Arms against the United American Colonies. And that they subscribe and make Solemn Oath before a Justice of the Peace within this Colony that they will faithfully observe & fulfil the Conditions beforementioned: And that they pay such Cost & Charge as hath arisen by their being brought before the General Court,

and in default of their complying with the foregoing that they be Committed to Close confinement until the further Order of the General Court
Caleb Cushing pr Order

In Council Read and accepted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 803.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO CAPTAIN GIDEON CRAWFORD ¹

Sr

Providence April 24th 1776

You being Master of The BriggEnteen *Happye Return* Fitted out by us in behalf and on the Account and Risque of the United Coloneys, our orders are that You proceede to Nantes in France as Fast as possible takeing Care to avoid the Enemy as much as You Can and therer We Recommend You Valueing Your Self on Messrs Pliarne Penet & Co at Monsr Grove [Gruel] Merchant to do Your Buissness both in the Sales of the Cargo and purheps of the Articals for Return, We Mention Your Valueing on this House as You Can Not Expect to do the Buissness Your Self and they being Well Recommended to Us have No Doubt of their doing it well; You'l agree with them on the best Terms You Can As Whatever You Give them will Come out of Your own Commn which is to be Five PCt for doing the Whole buissness, Viz 2½ for Sails & 2½ for Returns, we Expect You'l do Every thing in Your power to Assist them or Whoever You May Git to help You in the Buissness in Giting as Good a price for the Cargo as it will probably Fetch with any Tollarable Dispatch the Last Accounts from London Sprm Oil was £48 Stl P Ton & hope Youl be able to Git as much at Nants, we Can have no Doubt of the Spr but that it will Sell well as it Bares a Good price through out Urope, You are to bring in Return about Four Thousand Good Striped blanketts for Soldiers Such as May Cost about 4/6 or 5/Stg or Near this price for each Blankett, about Four Thousand yards of 6/4 Broad Cloth the Colours to be brown & Blue for Officers and Soldiers Uniforms, about Three or Four Hundred yards of 6/4 Broad Cloth of Different Colours Suitable to face them, the Greatest part of the Cloths being for privates to be about four shillings Sterg P yard, that for the Officers about Six shillings, about Four Tons of Lead, Two Hundred Stands of good Arms Such as are used by the Infantry of France allso 500 Good Double Bridle Locks and about Fifty bbs of one hundred pounds weight Each of Good Gun powder. If any of the perticuler Articals here enumerated are not to be had, then a greater proportion of Such of them as are at Markett to be purchesd and in Default of any of these then to purchess a Quantity of Brimstone Roushia or Ravins Duck Ticklin[g]burg Oznabrigs or Vitreys or other Coarse linnings or Coasre woollens fit for Soldiers or Sailors use. on Your Return we Recummend Your Giting in to the First Safe Harber You

Can any Ware in the United Coloneys and send us an Express by Land Immediately advise what You have on bord, if Any thing happens to You Which Renders You Un able to do the Buissiness of the Voyage Your Mate Mr Samuel Morgan is to act in your place & Observe & Follow these orders, if the oil & SpermaCity will Not Sell Immediately for near so much as May be Expected for them If keep Sum time on hand we hope the Gentlemen Who May do Your Buissiness will advance as much as they & you may Suppose the Cargo May Neet & Dispatch the Brigg with the above Articals as Soone as may be.

Wishing you helth & a prospereous Return we are [&c.]

[Endorsed] Recd a Copy of the foregoing Orders which I promise to do the Best In My Power to Perform

April 24, 1776

Gidⁿ Crawford Jun^r

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

New London April 24 1776

In consequence of your Excellencys directions I am employ'd in looking at and getting the necessary information Respecting this harbour in which I shall Spare no pains. – I mention'd to Your Excellency Newport Harbour, which in Conjunction with this will when fortified afford a Safe retreat to the American Navy or their prizes in any Wind that blows; They are equally convenient for Ships coming from sea; & if the wind is not fair to go into one harbour they may the other

The Artillery and Stores are all embark'd together with the remaining Company of my Regt and have been waiting for a fair wind two days –

Admiral Hopkins is still in this Harbour, and I believe will be oblig'd to continue here some time; he has this day received intelligence that four Ships & two brigs are off Montaug point & block Island station'd in such a manner that but one appears at a time and each able to come up to the assistance of the others – The Captain of the *Cerberus* ² was on block Island Yesterday & told a man there that he was waiting for Admiral Hopkins & Expected in four days to be join'd by Capt Wallace & his Squadron. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Henry Knox
Coll Regt Artillery

P.S. I am in hopes to be able to set out for New York on the 28th instant

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Captain John Symons, R.N. H.M.S. *Cerberus* lay in Block Island harbor April 22 and 23, 1776.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL SHIP
*Columbus*¹

[New London, April 24, 1776]²

1776	The Ship <i>Columbus</i>	Dr
Apr	To John Bolles Bill the [black]smith	0..13..4
	To Joshua Starrs Bill the Blockmaker	2..12..10
	To 310 feet boards from G Richards	0..18..7
	To pd Nathan Bales Bill	1..15..7
		<hr/>
		6..0..4
	Commissions 5 PCt	6
		<hr/>
		6..6..4

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. The date is approximated. The Continental fleet sailed from New London on April 24, 1776 for Providence. The repairs represented in the above bills must have been made prior to that date.

NATHANIEL SHAW JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONTINENTAL BRIG *Cabot*¹

[New London, April 24, 1776]²

1776	The Brig <i>Cabot</i> John Hopkins	Dr
Apr	To 31 p[ai]r Shoes 6/6	10..1..6
	To pd James Tileys Bill for Cordage	10..6..7½
	To pd Joshua Starrs Bill Block maker	3..11..0
	To pd Nathan Bales Bill	5..6..4½
		<hr/>
		29..5..6
	Commiss 5 PCt	1..9..3
		<hr/>
		30.14..9

1. Shaw Collection, Ledger 39, YUL.

2. See note 2 in preceding entry.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., NEW LONDON¹

Sir

Lebanon 24th April 1776.

The foregoing Copy shows the expectation from Congress, if the Commodore and Fleet have left New London – and the Liberty given concerning Cannon² please give me early intelligence of whatever is necessary That I may Act agreeable to the Spirit of the Resolve of Congress.

I am [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Shaw Mss., Privateers, Prisoners, 1775–1782, Force Transcripts, LC.

2. Congressional Resolves of April 16, 1776.

Connecticut Journal, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

New-Haven, April 24.

At a special County Court held in this town yesterday, for the purpose

of the trial of the sloop *Boston Packet*, which had lately taken on board a quantity of provisions, &c. for exportation, out of the colony, in violation of the laws of the colony; when after a fair trial, that part of her cargo for which no permit had been given, was condemned and forfeited.

Yesterday arrived from New-London, the Colony Brig - [*Defence*] of 16 Guns, commanded by Capt. [Seth] Harding.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

New York, April 24, 1776.

Sir: I have this Day granted a Warrant unto Captain Jacobus Wynkoop for two Hundred seventy six and two thirds Dollars, being for a Months Advance to him, his Officers & Men, who are to serve on the Lakes at the Rates following,

Captain -2/Dollrs.	32
Three Mates 15 do	45
One Boatswain 15 do	15
Two Boatswains Mates 9 1/3 do	18 2/3
Twenty Seamen a 8	160
One do a 6.	6.
	<hr/>
	276 2/3 Dollars

which you will please to take Notice of in adjusting the Accts. of this Captain and his Crew.

Brigadier General [William] Thompson with four Battalions and one Company sailed from hence last Sunday. I hope they will have reach'd Albany long before this and I doubt not your forwarding them on with all possible Expedition. We have Accounts of the British Troops under General Howe being arrived at Hallifax. A Part of them if not the whole, will probably attempt the Relief of Quebeck, as soon as the Navigation up the St. Lawrence is practicable. I am, &c.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 511-12.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

April 24th, 1776.

Captain Jacobus Wynkoop attended the Committee, and informed that he had enlisted the number of seamen wanted for the service of the lakes, and is ready to proceed by the first opportunity, which he expects will be tomorrow, and requested a letter to Genl. Schuyler, informing him on what conditions Mr. Wynkoop has entered into the service.

Ordered, That one of the Secretaries prepare a draft of such a letter.

Mr. Randal [Thomas Randall], of the marine committee, informed that he had at different times waited on the General, and spoken to him about the armed vessels fitted out by this Colony, of which the General had requested the loan. That, agreeable to the sentiments of the Committee of

Safety on a former day, he had offered one or both of the sloops to the General on Continental account; that the General appeared disinclined to take them, or either of them, on those conditions; that the marine committee had agreed to lend him two of the vessels for service in the bay, and to send the third to sea.

Mr. Randall farther reported that Captain Smith has only twelve men, and wants eighteen more to man the sloop *Schuylcr*, and that the General intimates that if he supplies the other men wanting in the said sloop, he would expect to appoint the master and officers on board.

Captain James Smith was called in. He says that he does not expect that he can enlist the men wanting in the said sloop in this city, but imagines he could get them in the neighbourhoods in the East River.

Ordered, That Mr. Randal wait on the General and inform him that the Committee are ready to lend the sloop *Schuylcr* to the General, agreeable to former promise, as soon as sufficient number of men can be obtained for her, and that if the General chooses to take the said sloop on Continental account, at the expense of her purchase and outfit, she shall be delivered to his order.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 416.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1776

New York, April 24.

Last Saturday the *James* Pilot Boat, one of the piratical tenders that infest this coast, came into Rockaway inlet on the south end of Long Island for plunder, but unlucky for them they got aground, a party of our troops receiving information of it, marched with two field pieces to attack her, but on the appearance of our men, her hands took to their long boat and fled; our people took possession of the vessel, and found on board four wooden guns mounted; they soon got her off, and brought her into a safe harbour.

SLOOP *Montgomery* PORTAGE BILL ¹

Mens Names	Quality	1776 Date	Month Due	Days Due	What pr Month	To the 18 April 1776
					Dollars	
William Rogers	Commander	March 15	1	3	32	£ 14 1 6
	First					
Tunis Thew	Lieutenant	April 7		10	20	2 13 4
John Seaycraft	Second Do			18	20	4 16
To 3 Days Horse hire 15/ & my Expence 10/						1 5
						£ 22 15 10

New York April 24th 1776 Recd of
Wm Mercier the full of the above
Pr William Rogers

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

RECEIPTS FOR ONE MONTH'S ADVANCE PAY FOR CREW OF THE NEW
YORK SLOOP *Montgomery* ¹

Received New York 24 April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

James Chichester

I do Promise to see the Said James Chyester safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Wm Rogers

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of one pound five Shillings for one month advance

Joseph tolkentun

I do Promise to see the said Joseph Tolkentan safe on board to go the Croose or to Return his pay

Geo Murray

Received New York 24 April 1776 from Wm Rogers the sum of three Pound four Shillings for one moth advance

Eliphalet Wood

I do Promis to see the Said Eliphalet Wood Safe, on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Westcott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of two pound for one Month advance

Ths Hancock
his

James X White
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of ten pounds thirteen Shillings & four pence for one month advance & Days Labour

Theunis Thew

Received New York 24 April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Thomas Burkiss

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the sum of Six pounds for one Months advance

Jabez Westcott Mate

I do Promise to see the Said Jabez Westcott safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose –

J. Seaycraft

Received New York April 23d 1776 from Wm. Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one month advance –

Zacehery Parsons

I do Promiss to see the said Zackell Parson Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
J Seaycraft

Receiv'd New York April 23d 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one [month] advance

Thomas Lomberd

I do Promiss to see the said Thomas Lumbon Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
fradrick Donaldson J Seaycraft

Received New York April 23 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

James Cook

I do Promiss to see the said James Cook Safe on board the Sloop *Mont-*
gomery to go the Croose

Theunis Thew
J Seaycraft

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Six
pounds for one Month advance

his
Benjn. X Morrell Carpenter
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three
pounds fourteen Shillings & Eight pence for one Month advance for a Boat-
swin Mate –

Robert Jameson

I Do Promiss to see the said Robert James Safe on board the Sloop
Montgomery to go the Croose

his
Thomas X Hancock
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Six
pounds for one month Advance for a Boatswain

his
Thomas X Hancock
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three
pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance – Cook

his
John X McGray
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of five pounds ten Shillings & four pence for one Month advance for himSelf & Son – Gunners Mate
Lionel Baker & Son

I do Promiss to see the said Lionel Baker & Son Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

J. Seaycraft

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Duncan MDonald

I do Promiss to see the said Duncan McDonald safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to the Croose or his Month Advance

Elisha Reeve

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of Seven pounds five Shillings for one Month advance for himself & Son – Gunner
fradrick Donaldson and Son erin Donaldson

Received New York 23d April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Augustine Darcy

I do promise to see the Said Auguston Dorcey Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

his

Abraham X Molener
mark

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Elisha Reeve

I do Promise to see the Said Elisha Reeve safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Wm. Rogers

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

his

Thomas X Butter
mark

I do Promiss to see the Said Thomas Butter safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Fredrick Donaldson

New York 23d April 1776 Received from Capt William Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Months advance

his

Peter X Dammerell
mark

I Promis to see Peter Dammerell safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

his
Benjn X Morrell
mark

Received New York 23 April 1776 from Wm. Rogers the sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Richard knight

I do Promiss to see the said Richard Knight safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

fradrick Donaldson

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pound four Shilling for one Month advance

Richard Gilderse

I do Promiss to see the said Richard Gilderse Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Wescott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Robert Kellay

I do Promiss to see the said Robert Kellay Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Jabez Westcott

Received New York 24th April 1776 from William Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

John Parcels

I do Promiss to see the said John Parcels Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Dennis Macgivier

Received New York 23d April 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Archibald Campbell

I do Promiss to see the Said Archibald Campbell Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

John Noblit

Received New York April 23, 1776 from Wm Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month advance

Jacob Morrell

I do Promiss to see the Said Jacob Morrell Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose

Fradrick Donaldson

Received New York April 23d 1776 from Wm. Rogers the Sum of three pounds four Shillings for one Month Advance

Abraham Hit

I do Promiss to see the Said Abraham Hyit Safe on board the Sloop *Montgomery* to go the Croose –

1. Record Group 45, copy, NA, from original destroyed in New York State Library fire, Albany, New York.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

New York, April 24.

Seventy men went ashore from the men of war at the Hook, to get water, but, being attacked by our people, they fled into the light house, where they were surrounded.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY'S NOTICE TO SHIPMASTERS ¹

The Committee of Safety give this publick notice that the *Wasp* armed Schooner is going down this day with a pilot on board, that any Vessels of small draft of water ready to sail may follow her and have the benefit of Convoy through the Cape May Channel. –

[Philadelphia] April 24th 1776

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

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

[*Roebuck*, off Delaware Bay, Wednesday 24th April, 1776]

. . . in the afternoon, when standing in for the Light House, I discovered a Vessel standing across the East side of the over-falls to the Southward; I gave her chace and endeavored to cut her off from Cape Henlopen channel which as soon as he found was [im]practicable, he tacked and stood over the edge of the Shoal into Cape May Channel where I could not follow him on account of the shallowness of the Water. This was the more distressing to me as I got near enough to her to discover it to be the armd Brig, out of Philadelphia, which had lately taken the *Liverpools* Tender; ² and was one of many Instances I have had since I have been here, of the great misfortune that has attended my not having a small Sloop or two with me, which I have now been in daily expectation of for this Month Past from Head Quarters.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. The captain was mistaken. The *Lexington* was 600 miles away in the latitude of Bermuda.

DIARY OF COLONEL LANDON CARTER ¹

[Rappahannock River, Virginia]

[24 April, 1776] Wednesday. [Colonel Landon] Hears that [John] Goodrich has boasted that he will take General [Charles] Lee and our armed vessels, and be up the river in a fortnight. . . . They had a battle of abt 2 or 3 hours yesterday; the tender ran off with the loss of 6 or 8 men, & only the

loss on our side of a negroe of Hugh Walker . . . and very little damage besides. But they first set the Prize aground on fire wch he thinks less than 100 £ will repair; for she was presently put out and got off with her full load of corn, wch was brot to H[obbs] Hole. Note, he [Garland] says nothing abt Pursuing the Tender. Possibly she might be a fast sailor, and as they had only open boats, it might not be expected they could [come] up with her.²

1. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1st series, XVI, 257, 266, 267.

2. "In May [sic April] (1776) they made a cruise together up the river Rappahannock, during which they had an engagement with several pilot-boats, and were happy to escape, with the loss of several men killed; young Dale himself being badly wounded, having received a musket ball in the head. He was carried to Norfolk, where he was confined a long time by his wound," "Dale Memoir." The tender was commanded by Bridger Goodrich who had persuaded Dale to accompany him.

JAMES GILCHRIST TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]
Dear Saint

From on board his Majestys Armed Sloop
Fincastle Norfolk Harbour April 24th 1776

From the Date above you'll see that I amongst many others have been obliged to change my Residence – The Circumstances attending the melancholy Catastrophy of Norfolk, are too notorious, not [to] be known to you & I refer you to Doctor Campbell for a minute Account of these Horrors. . .

I received your half dozen Lines by Mr M'Alisters Brigg off the Capes in my way to Cape Fear in No Carolina where I have been for these two Months past & from whence I only returnd a few Days ago – I assure you I am heartily wearied of this Life of amphibious Warfare, & could I find out where to be more at ease I shou'd not be long in making my Choise – But alas! all the Continent is in the same ruinous Condition & as for great Britain I cannot think of going there – Every thing save the Book debts which cannot be collected, is lost – But I hope yet to live to see the Day –

I had a solitary walk yesterday over the Ruins of Norfolk, the streets begin to look green with the late Rains & the fine weather, . . .

All that we can now call our own, is the little spot at Co Tuckers Mills, which is inclosed with a Breast Work, Ditch & Abattis, & garrisoned by a Party of the 14th & a few friends of Government to the Number of about 250 – General Lee is come to Suffolk & its said in determin'd to drive us from thence. I doubt not that he will attempt it, however he will meet with a Pretty warm Reception, as the *Otter* covers one side & this Sloop wt. 12 four Pounders the other, besides 8 Guns mounted on the flanks on shore –

St. George Tucker Esqr
Attorney at Law Bermuda

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CWM.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Hinchinbrook*, LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER ELLIS ¹

April 1776 Hosaban Isld North [Georgia]
Mondy 22 at 8 A M the best Bour Cable parted made sail Running

into Sunbrey Harbour at 11 Came too with the Small Bour in 2 fm Carried out the Kedge Anchor and Hawser and hove into the Channell St Catherans pt East the town of Sunbrey WNW Modete Breezes and Cloudy Wr our boat Employ'd Sounding the Channel to Town Weigh'd & Dropt Lower Down at 7 P M sent the boat mann'd and arm'd up the River to take a Brig

Tuesday 23

at 2 A M the boat Return'd from the brig not worth bringing down set her on fire and burnt her likewise a vessel on the stocks Came into the Harbour the *Hinds* Tender Emp'd Wooding

Fresh Breezes and Cloudy Wr Employ'd Wooding

Wednesday 24

P M fired Several Guns at the Rebels upon St Catherans Island that fired at our boats Weigh'd the small Bour anchor found the Cable much Rub'd and worn Shifted the Cable End for End

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Pallas*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS ¹

April 1776

In Annadechoros Bay (Island of St. Thomas)

Monday 22d

at 2 A M brot too, at 5 wore and made sail, out reefs, at 6 unbent the Mainsail, the Island of Annadechoros ESE 3 leags, set steering sails, at 10 Anchored in 7 fathoms with the Small Bower in Annadochoros Bay, and veered to 1/3 of a Cable; found here his Majesty's Sloops *Atalanta* and *Weasel*, with the *Mary* and *Juno* Schooners Prizes.

Light Breezes with small rain,

P M Moored a Cable on the Best, and 1/3 on the Small Bower, made the *Atalanta's* Signal for a boat without an Officer.

Tuesday 23d

A M Srubb'd between Wind and Water,
Little Wind and Cloudy

Wednesday 24th

A M sailed his Majesty's Sloop *Weasel* and the *Juno* Schooner prize, Employed wooding and watering.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/667.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM ANTIGUA, DATED APRIL 24, 1776" ¹

By your late papers I find that you have received accounts of several Americans being persecuted in this island, who have been unfortunately taken by the men of war. I have now the pleasure to inform you that the spirit of persecution here has in a great measure subsided, since the arrival of Mr. Burk of this island from the Provincial camp at Cambridge.² Mr. Burk has done great justice to Gen. Washington and his officers in reporting the genteel treatment he met with while a prisoner, and in return has exerted

his utmost in procuring the discharge of such Americans as are detained here, in which he has been very successful, so that I apprehend no such matter will be carried on in future. Captain Campbell of New-York, after being imprisoned two months and upwards, was discharged on bail a short time before Mr. Burk's arrival, but has since been discharged from his recognizance, and at liberty to go when and where he pleases. Captain Kirby of the ship *Peggy* of your port, is likewise discharged from his recognizance, and having procured the command of a brig, sails shortly for Ireland. And Mr. Charles Hubby Hubbart, a native of Boston, who has been confined since December last (a great part of the time in a dungeon) will I think be enlarged in a few days. All this by the interest of Mr. Burk, in justice to whom, and to convince the General of his gratitude, I beg this may be inserted in the public papers.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, June 1, 1776.

2. John Burke, a passenger, was taken in the brig *Little Hannah*, by Washington's schooner *Lee*, and carried into Beverly on December 9, 1775.

25 Apr.

JAMES LOCKWOOD TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL, POINT AU TREMBLE ¹

Dear Sir:

Camp before Quebec, April 25, 1776

I have just received your favour of yesterday & say in answer – The Genl [Wooster] thinks it will be better that Mr. Lizott should be sent by Water than through the Country. With regard to the two Vessels, Capt [Barent J.] Tenyck who takes command of Peppers Schooner has Orders to take up all suspected Vessels and boats, and those two have been mentioned to him; he will stop at Point au Tremble. The Genl. therefore desires you to direct him at any rate to secure those Vessels. he will receive proper information from you concerning them. Remember me affectionately to your family & believe me your [&c.]

Ja^s Lockwood ²

1. Gardner Weld Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill of the Continental Navy," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, November, 1921, 27, 28. Hereafter cited as Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill."

2. Secretary and Brigade Major to General David Wooster.

CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD,
MONTREAL ¹

Sr

Sr Pt. aux Tremble April 25 1776

This will be handed you by Major [Zachariah] Dubois, and is to Request the favour of you to Arrest, & Confine in Jail a certain acadian Whose proper Name is Basiell Boudrott, he Now Passes by the Name of Dugan and is the Mate of the Schooner *Providence* Commanded by Capt. Palmer,

I am bold to charge this fellow above named with the Murder of Capt. Thomas Parsons of Newbury Port, & his whole Crew at or near Cape St Mary's in the Bay of Funda in the Month of March 177[2], I have been

upon the look out for this chap ever Since & Now Providentially have found him, I am Sure he is the Principall of that gang of Villians who murdered Capt Parsons, & his crew, 9 in Number, & plundered first, afterwards burnt his Vessell – I hope I need not urge you to Confine, & keep him close untill he can be Sent to New England, as Piracy, & Murder are Crimes which all good Men Should Endeavour to Prosecute & punish, I inclose you a Letter for the Owners of Capt Parsons his Vessell Which I beg you will read, Seal, & forward to the place of its distination –

My William Farris is Saild for you I hope you will be kind to him – as for your Capt Palmer – he has Sickened Me; of all Men to dispatch or manage affairs I Never Mett with worse hands then himself & his Lieut, –

I hear your wound is broke loose Which gives Me real Sorrow – you Must be Carefull of it or it may yet cost you dear

For heavens Sake do not Neglect to Secure the aforementioned Basiell Boudrot, for he is a Vile Murderer

May heavens preserve you in that Nest of Tory Scoundrels & grant you Wisdom & Fortitude to mannage them as they deserve, I am Sir with all Possible respect [&c.]

Hector M Neill ²

I shall take it as a favour that you write a line to Mr Cross & Send him with my letter.

favourd by Major Dubois

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 15, NYPL.

2. McNeill wrote to the same effect on this day to Brigadier General David Wooster before Quebec, whose answer of April 26, 1776 refer to.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Chatham in Halifax Harbour the 25th April 1776.

Sir Having in my Letter of the 16th Instant offered to their Lordship's consideration the deficiency in the Complements of several of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, and as their Lordships will perceive by the States and Conditions of the Ships transmitted to them, that many Supernumeraries are borne, I must beg they will please to observe that these being composed of Men taken out of the Rebel Vessels no confidence can be placed in them, and although the Captains of His Majesty's Ships under my Command have all of them more or less, entered Americans to fill up their Complements, and are now by Law empowered to do so, with regard to Men taken in future, yet it deserves to be seriously considered, that if by a constant dimunition of the British Seamen upon this Service, this measure was carried to excess, without any Supply from home to be distributed among the Fleet the consequence may be very alarming; their Lordships will therefore see the necessity there is of my keeping compleat the parties of Marines belonging to the different Ships, but as I have directions to send to the Battalion serving on shore the Marines of such Ships as I may Order to England, I submit to their Lordship's judgment whether it will not be for His Majesty's Service that I compleat the Marines on board the Ships that

may want them, out of those they have, designed for the Battalion, before they are disembarked. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Chatham in Halifax Harbour 25th April 1776.

I am to inform you Captain [Tobias] Furneaux of the *Syren* has acquainted me that, on the 15th Instant he took a Brig belonging to the Rebels which was carrying from Philadelphia to Charles town in South Carolina, a Company of Artillery consisting of a Captain Commissioned by the Continental Congress, and Seventy nine Men, the most of whom have since Entered into His Majesty's Service with General Clinton ²

I am likewise to acquaint you that, there having been taken a Sloop belonging to New York, and bound to Saint Martin's with Flour and Lumber,³ the Master of her has given the following information; that he left New York on the 2d Instant, and on the 5th he fell in with several Armed Ships and Vessels belonging to the Rebels, (which I believe are the same that attacked the *Glasgow*) that he was carried on board the Rebel Commodore to be examined, and that while he was there a person was brought on board who wore the Uniform of a Lieutenant of the Navy, which from his Description was probably Lieutenant [Edward] Sneyd who Commanded the *Bolton* Armed Brig, for as she is still missing I am afraid she has fallen into their hands; and he farther adds that he was informed they had been at the Island of [New] Providence, from whence they had taken the Governor, his Secretary, and most of the remaining Stores. I am Sir [&c.]

M: Shuldham

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. The *Syren's* capture was made March 15, 1776, and the commanding officer of the artillery company was Captain Francis Proctor.

3. The identity of this prize has not been established.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

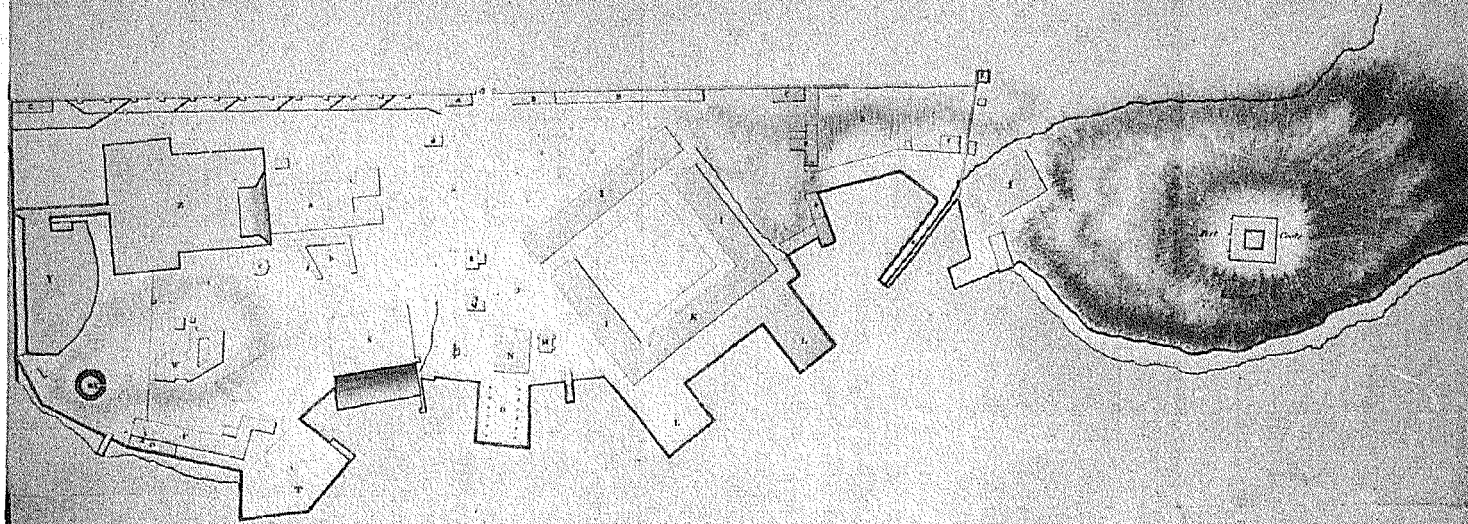
[Extract]

My Lord

Halifax 25th April 1776

By the Arrival of the *Milford* in Nantasket Road on the 26th of March I was honored with your Lordships Dispatches of the 5th. January, with a Copy of His Majesty's Instructions for Major Genl Clinton's Conduct to the Southward, as well as other Letters Duplicates and Enclosures of a distant Date, which I defer answering by the present Conveyance of a small unarmed Sloop returning to England in the Service of the Navy, as I intend to write fully by the *Harriot* Packet lately arrived, and to sail in a few Days with Governor [Francis] Legge; wherefore I shall confine myself in this to a few Particulars more immediately necessary to be communicated to your Lordship for His Majesty's Information, accompanied by Duplicates of my Dispatch from Nantasket to be delivered by Judge Brown.

PLAN of the NAVAL-YARD at HALIFAX



References

A	British Lodge.	M	Field House.	U	A Storehouse.
B	House for English Officers.	N	Parade Square.	V	Storehouse for Iron.
C	D. O. & Boat Officers.	O	Boat Wharf.	X	Flag Staff Masts.
D	Commodore's Kitchen Garden.	P	Boat Yard.	Y	Two great small Spans.
E	Household.	Q	Master's Storehouse and High Master's Office.	Z	D. O. for large Masts.
F	Depot.	R	Boat House.	a	Wood House.
G	Black Shop.	S	Boat House.	b	Luncheon Yard.
H	Refracting Wharf.	T	A New Wharf.	c	Penal House.
I, I, I	Storehouse for Corks and Tapes for the Fleet.			d	Engine II.
K	Officers Mess and Log for Ships Store when Loading down.			e	Engine II.
L	Cutting Wharf.			f	Engine II.
				g	Light House without the Guard Wall.
				h	Blackhouse.

The 47th Regiment of Foot sailed from here the 20th Instt for Quebec under Convoy of the *Niger* Frigate, which may be seasonable Relief should it arrive before the Forces sent from England early in the Spring, as mentioned in your Lordships Letter of the 5th January . . . I do not propose sending any more from hence. . . .

The Fleet and Transports sailed in two Divisions from Nantasket Road, the last with the Admiral on the 27th March, and got in here the 2d Instt: But I am sorry to inform your Lordship that a Brig loaded with valuable Goods, chiefly belonging to Persons deemed to be highly disaffected to Government, not being ready to sail with the Fleet, has been since taken by three armed Vessels, after parting Company with the *Niger* Frigate left to convoy her and some other Vessels in the same Situation; a Midshipman was on Board with a Serjeant and twelve Soldiers for her Protection, who after defending themselves with great Obstinacy were at length compelled to surrender. We feel this Loss the more at present as there was a Quantity of Shoes on board which are much wanted for the Soldiery, as well as woollen Articles that would have been very usefull to them.²

By some Masters of Vessels who had been Prisoners at Salem, and obtained Liberty to return to England, we learn that the Rebel General is gone to New York with a Part of his Army, having before detached a large Reinforcement to Canada, and that those left behind were erecting Works upon Fort Hill in the Town of Boston. By the arrival here of Captn Wallace commanding the *Rose* Frigate, I am also informed that the Rebels are fortifying Rhode Island, but I do not apprehend they can prevent His Majestys Troops from taking Possession of it, when the Strength of the Army will admit of a Division for that important Service, as it can be approached by shipping in every part.

New York being the greater Object of the two, and the Possession of it more extensive in its Consequences, as well as more conducive to the Credit of His Majesty's Arms, will be my principal Aim when enabled to proceed thither by a sufficient Supply of Provisions, since both Services cannot be undertaken with the present Force, and it is become highly necessary that the first Exertion of the Army should be directed to the most important Purposes, to check the Spirit which the Evacuation of Boston will naturally raise among the Rebels . . .

Many of the principal Inhabitants of Boston under the protection of the Army, having no means of Subsistence here apply to me to find them a Passage to Europe, which they cannot otherwise get than at a most exorbitant Rate: They have my Assurance that the first Transport that can be spared shall be given up for this Purpose. I am sorry to inform your Lordship that there is an absolute Necessity for issuing Provisions to the whole of them, about 1,100, from the Kings Stores, without any Prospect of stopping it – It must be confessed that many, having quitted the whole of their Property and Estates, some of them very considerable in Value, are real Objects of His Majesty's most gracious Attention.

Advices received from Major General Clinton of this Day, dated in Cape Fear River 26th March, mention that the Armament destined to the Southward was not arrived at that Time, and I enclose for your Lordships Information a Narrative of what has lately passed in North Carolina, with the Copy of a Letter from Governor Martin to Major General Clinton.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93, 277-84.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*, taken April 2 by John Manley's squadron of Washington's schooners.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON ¹

April 1776 Moored as before [Herring Cove, Nova Scotia]
 Saturday 20 Paid the Starbd side with Varnish of Pine, Sent the Boat to Port matoon [Mouton] –
 Sunday 21 Paid the Larbd Do Boat returned with Schooner a Prize. P M Sent the Prize to Halifax,²
 Monday 22 Anchored here the *Swan & Halifax* –
 Tuesday 23 Squally Wr AM unmoored, Employ'd getting ready for Sea –
 Wednesday 24 Fresh gales & Cloudy, at 4 AM weighed & came to Sail at 8 Cape Le Have WSW 4 Leags – Several Sail in sight – Spoke the *Milford's Prize* – Do Wr at 4 PM turning up to Halifax at 11 Anchored in 17 fam
 Thursday 25 at 7 A M weighed at 9 Saluted Rear Admiral Shuldham with 13 Guns, at 10 anchored in 10 fam

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. The schooner *York*, Robert Down, master, John Stone of Old York, owner. She was on a fishing voyage, had some salt and six weeks provision, and was seized in the harbor of Port Mouton, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

Boston, April 25.

William Jackson of this town, and Crean Brush of New-York, who were on board a brig taken the 3d instant by Capt. Manley,¹ are now imprisoned in the gaol of this town.

1. The brig *Elizabeth*.

JOHN COLLINS TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Dear Sir:

Newport, April 5 [sic 25?] 1776 ²

I congratulate you on the success of your Cruise with the Continental fleet; and, hope, nay, expect to see the day when the American fleets will give laws on the Atlantick Ocean. It will give me great pleasure to see your fleet riding in the harbour of Newport. The present motions in this town, I make no doubt, you are well informed of. We received with joy the ten cannon you sent us, and expect to get them mounted before this week is out, in proper forts and batteries. We have ten of our old twenty-four and

eighteen-pounders mounted, and two that you sent us; and hope you will send as many more as you conveniently can. I am, with great regard [&c.]

John Collins

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1205.

2. The date, while estimated, is probably correct. The ten cannon from New London were landed on April 19 at Newport from the brig *Cabot*, and Collins' expectation of "getting them safe mounted before this week is out" would rather point to a Monday letter.

SAMUEL OLCOTT TO JOSHUA HUNTINGTON, NORWICH ¹

Sr

Hartford 25th April 1776.

Shall be much Obligd to you to Inform me by Mr. Coit, Whom I Shall Apply to for Service of the five Sloops that Went as transports, you Doughtless Remember their tunnage 370 Tons. think it Just for me to be paid untill they return here yr Compliance Will much Oblige [&c.]

Sam Olcott

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 280.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE ¹

Sir

Ship *Alfred* at New London April 25. 1776

You are make what dispatch you can to clean your Brig and you may take the Ballast out of the Bum Brig and what more you want you must make up with Stones – You must apply to Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw for whatever you may find Necessary – When you are get ready I desire you may take Care of the Marchant Vesels and Convoy them clear of the Land if the Coast is so clear that you can do it with Safety to them – and make what dispatch you can to Providence for further directions as I intend there as soon as possible Yours &c

E.H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Sir

New London, Apr 25, 1776

Inclosed is an Invoice of the wt & Size of Thirty four Cannon Recd from Admiral Hopkins, Ten of wich is landed at Groton, viz: 3 24 pounders & 2 18 & 5 12 do. The Remainder are at N L & are moastly fitted on carriages he has landed a great quantity of Cannon Ball, and shall pick out those that are suitable. Mr. Ledyard I suppose has carriages already made for the Guns at Groton so that we shall have the Cartridges, Ramers &c ready to pay a compliment to any of the British ships. Let them come soon as they please.

The Morters and Shells General Washington desir'd might be sent to N York & the Admiral has sent them. The Remainder of the Cannon are partly sent to N Port & Part on board the fleet which he wants to carry to N Port I Shew him the Resolve of Congress relative to there being delivd here but he says they cannot be taken out.

The Nine pounders are but ordinary Guns, the others are all very good Col [Henry] Knox a Gen whom Gen Washington desir'd to take a perticular view of this Harbour *thinks that it would be best to have four of the 12 Pounders mounted as Field Pieces – two on each side of the River which you will consider of I am, Sir [&c.]

Nathaniel Shaw, Junr.

P.S. When all the Shot and Iron Wheels are landed, will send you an account of the number of each and size.

To Governor Trumbull

[Enclosure]

Invoice of 34 Cannon received of Admiral Hopkins, viz: 3 24 pounders, 2 18 pounders 5 12 pounders sent to Groton. 8 24 pounders 2 18 pounders 10 9 pounders left in New London. The nines are old poor guns.

1. Trumbull Papers, ConnSL. The text to the asterisk is also in the Shaw Letter Book, YUL.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

New York, 25th April 1776

Sir I received by Last evenings post, a Letter from Joshua Wentworth Esqr of Portsmouth, who I had appointed Agent for our Little fleet in that Province, it is dated the 15th Instant, an extract from which, I have the honor of transcribing for your perusal

[Here Washington inserted copy of Wentworth's letter of April 15, 1776, to Stephen Moylan.]

That Sir is an exact copy of part of Mr Wentworth's Letter to Mr Moylan, I now request you will please to direct me, in what manner I shall instruct the Agent respecting this Complicated Cargo, & Whether he may be impowred to dispose of the porter, or any other articles on board the prizes in his Care which the delay of establishing the Court of Admiralty, may make Liable to perish

I have not yet heard that there has been any trial of the prizes Carried into Massachuset's bay this procrastination is attended with very bad Consequences, Some of the vessels I had fitted out are now laid up, the Crews being dissatisfied, that they Cannot get their prize money. I have tried the Congress upon this Subject, but the importance of it makes me again mention that if a Summary way of proceeding is not resolved on, it will be impossible to get our vessels manned. I must also mention to you Sir, that Captain Manly & his Crew, are desireous to know when they may expect their part of the value of the Ordnance Stores, taken Last fall, they are anxious to know what the amount may be as the Inventory of that Cargo is in the hands of Congress I woud humbly Submit it to them, whether a valuation thereof Shoud not be made, & the Captors Dividend be remitted them, as Soon as possible, it will give them Spirit, & encourage them to be alert in Looking out for other prizes –

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 619–25, NA. This letter is continued on April 26, 1776.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sir:

New York, April 25, 1776.

I wrote you the 14th. Inst., giving Information of the sailing from this Harbour, of the *Phoenix*, *Savage*, and *Nautilus* Men of War; which, I apprehended were designed to join [James] Wallace in Order to block up the Fleet under your Command. The latter Part I since find to be groundless, as they have returned, and I find they make a Practice of stretching off from and soon returning to this Port. This convinces me that they are in Expectation of a Fleet and I am preparing for their Reception.

I expected to have met here a Force much superior to what I have found it. I was obliged to lessen it by detaching four of our strongest Battallions to Canada which lays me under the Necessity of requesting you to dispatch to this Place as soon as possible the 200 Men lent you from this Army that they may join their respective Corps, which are much weakened by their Absence. I am, etc.

P.S. Inclosed is a Copy of two Resolves of Congress respecting the Cannon and Stores &c.²

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, IV, 521.

2. The resolutions of April 16 and April 19, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[New York] Die Jovis, 10 HO.A.M.
April 25th, 1776.

A draft of a letter to Major-General Schuyler, to be delivered by Capt. Wynkoop, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

In Committee of Safety,
New-York, April 25th, 1776.

Sir – Your letter of the 8th ultimo, requesting seamen for the service on the lakes, came to hand on the 16th; the Provincial Congress on that day sent Capt. Wynkoop to Major [William] Douglass on that subject; his answer was not satisfactory. The Committee of Safety wrote to him; his letter in answer was, in our opinion, indeterminate. Capt. Wynkoop was ready for the service, but refused to serve under Major Douglass. The Committee of Safety immediately recommended Capt. Wynkoop to [the Continental] Congress for the command, enclosing copies of all letters on the subject, and requesting they would give immediate directions, which we have not received. On the 13th instant, on sight of your letter to the General, we found that Major Douglass was gone to Connecticut.

We then prevailed on Captain Wynkoop to undertake that service, on condition to have leave to resign and leave that department, if any person should arrive there to take the command of the vessels as his superior.

Nothing but the pressing necessity of the case, an attachment

to the service, the cause of his country, and to you, sir, as his general, would have prevailed on Capt. Wynkoop to enlist the men and proceed to put the vessels in order under the present uncertainty of his station. Should the appointment of a superior oblige him to quit that department, we hope, sir, it will not be considered to his disadvantage.

It was not in our power to send you seamen without an officer. We assure you, sir, that we have done every thing in our power in this matter, and had it not been for the difficulties which arose from the appointment of Major Douglass, you would have had the seamen in due season, and in the month of march. We are [&c.]

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

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 418.

New York Journal, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

New-York, April 25.

We hear from Sandy Hook, that 16 men from one of the ships of war, having landed there in order to get water, they had all got into an upper room in the Light House, where they were carousing; when a party of the New Jersey militia, surprised them, and taking away the lower part of the stairs, made them all prisoners, burned their boat, and filled up the well.

New York Packet, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

[New York, April 25.]

To the Friends of our American Navy.

An exact list of the number of men employed in the Provincial ships and privateers during the last war in America.

Nova-Scotia,	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
Massachusetts-Bay,	—	—	—	—	—	—	2300
New-Hampshire,	—	—	—	—	—	—	500
Rhode-Island,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1500
Connecticut,	—	—	—	—	—	—	900
New-York,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1200
Pennsylvania,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1060
Maryland, Virginia, and the other Southern colonies,							1000
							<hr/> 8760

Besides these many of the merchantmen, who were letters of marque, carried from fifteen to forty sailors.

When we add to these the number of American sailors who were pressed in the beginning of the war, to man the English fleet, the proportion of sailors belonging to the continent, would not amount to less than 12000 or 14000. The trade of America at the commencement of the present war

with Great-Britain being one third at least greater than it was at the conclusion of the last war with France, the number of sailors in America must have increased in the same proportion. It is true, many of the men who manned our privateers were landsmen, but as the same objects, namely PRIZES, are held out at present, as were in the last war, and as there is now added to these, the glory of establishing the freedom of the colonies, there is reason to presume a greater proportion of landsmen will embark in the present war by sea, than in any former one. Twenty thousand men employed in ships of suitable force, would be sufficient to guard our coasts and trade against all the navy that Britain could spare from her harbours, and foreign dominions, to molest us. And America can spare that number of men for the purpose, without impoverishing her land forces, or without putting a check to her agriculture or manufactures.

[These observations precede the complete text of the resolutions of the Continental Congress of April 3, 1776, and the instructions to commanders of private ships of war or letters of marque and reprisal.]

We have information from good authority, that the ministerial fleet is arrived at Halifax; and that the Tories are in the greatest distress, and can scarcely get shelter from the weather.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, April 25, 1776

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration, the letter from General Washington of the 27 of March last,² &c.; and, after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and had come to a resolution.

The report from the committee being read,
Resolved, That it be postponed.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 307, 309, 310.

2. See Journal for April 24, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

April 1776

Cape Henlopen No 59 Wt dist: 60 Leagues.

Thursday 25

at 6 AM got up Top gallant Yds at 7 out 2d reef of Main
do at 1/2 past 8 saw a sail to the Eastward out 1st reef &
gave chace set the driver & steering sails, at 11 hauled down
steering sails & driver at 1/2 past found her a sloop from
Rhode Island to the West Indies,² got the Prisoners on
board & sent a Midshipman & 6 Men to take Charge of her.
Fresh gales, & Cloudy with rain
PM wore ship & made sail the Prize in Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

2. The sloop *Sally*, Arthur Crawford, master, Zachariah Allen, owner, from Providence for Hispaniola, with 100 barrels of flour, four thousand hoops and one thousand staves. She was

bonded at Providence on April 13, 1776, JCBL. She is listed in Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

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

No 130

To the Deputies for Maryland in Congress

Gentn We send the Person of Alexander Ross together with his Papers, and Copy of his Examination under a Guard to the Honorable Congress – have wrote the President to that Purpose – we find several Papers, that relate to a Scheme of Trade in West Florida, and two Letters of Recommendation, one from Governor Eden, and the other from Lord Dunmore. – these we think are material, his other Papers, which we likewise send, we have searched, and find Nothing of Consequence – since our last Nothing new has occurred, except the Examination of Mr Purveyance before our Board – he at first deny'd the anonymous Letter, afterwards on Recollection acknowledged it contained some of his Sentiments, but could not remember, when he wrote them. – he prevaricated most abominably. . . .

P.S. We send you a Copy of Gen [Charles] Lee's Letter to Saml Purvi-
ance

[Annapolis] 25th Apl 1776.

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

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Thursday April 25 1776

Resolved, That Charles Robb, Thomas Douglas and Thomas Mander, lately taken at Occacock on Board of a Tender, be admitted to their parole they have signed a Declaration for that purpose

Ordered; That Mr Harnett [Cornelius Hartnett], Mr Thomas Jones and Mr Skinner, be a Committee to settle the Salvage of such Vessels as are lately taken, which the Captors may be intitled to

Resolved That a Special Court of Admiralty be appointed to Try the Tender Sloop the *Lilly* and her Cargo, and that for this purpose Richard Cogdell, Esquire, be appointed judge of the said Court John Cook Esquire Advocate, and Thomas Setgreaves, Esquire Register and Martial; and that in Case of Condemnation the proceeds of the Sales after defraying the reasonable Charges of Condemnation, be divided between the Captors.

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

ACCOUNT OF POWDER AND ARMS IN THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND ¹

Province of Maryland Dr

1776		powder	Lead & Shot	Flints	Guns	Gun	Locks	Cartouch Boxes	Bayonet Belts	Gun Slings
		lb	lb							
Janry 18	To Amount of Arms & Ammunition in Charles Co[un]ty	1205½	5,170½	2540	25					
	To Amount of do in P. Geo:	32	183	228	10					
	To Amount of do in Ann Arl.				80					
	To Amount of do in Frederick	5283½	14,548	4560	426					
	To Amount of do in Baltimore	2428	3645½		130					
	To Amount of do in Harford	225	485							
	To Amount of do in Cecil	50	200							
	To Amount of do in Kent	800	3781		221					
	To Amount of Do. in Somersset & Worcester by Captain Waters }	500								
		10,524	28,013	7,328	892					
	Purchased of Mr West (P. G[e]orges)	575	1,000				92			
							22			
	Purchased of Lux & Vanbebber (Balt)	450								
	Imported in <i>Seaflower</i> Capt Waters (do)	509	1,527							
	delivered in Somersset & Worcester } Counties by Capt Waters }	13	2,118							
March 8	Imported in Capt Conway	5,782			12					
	36 Barrels from Willing & Morris									
	(suppose[)]	3,600			620					
	Advanced by Congress	2,000								
	Recd from Capt Tibbit ²	1,907	8,960		57					
								25		

	Recd in Payment from Congress	1,875									
23	received from Philip Littig					62		76			
April 24	recd from Do					18		18			
	Recd from Congress & sent to Chester	2,003									
	Recd from Congress & sent to Cecil 5 Bls	500	1,000								
March 25	Recd of John Andrus & others							325	325	325	
12	Recd of ditto							800	800	800	
Apl 25	recd of John Gordon							2105	2278	2278	
	Purchased by Mr. Alexander, Ream										
Mar 6	Purchased of Mr. James Dick		659								
	Purchased of Trustees for Church		shot 40	1,100							
			3,481								
	Advanced by Congress to Virga & lent by Virga Deputies to Deputies of Maryland	2,000									
19.	Bought by Captn J:A. Thomas							27			
Carrd. forwd		31,738	46,798	8,428	1067	237	138	3230	120	3403	3403

1. Executive Papers, Box 6, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Captain James Tibbett, on March 8, also brought in 32 swords, 6 hangers, 11 pair of fuzils, 22 sword scabbards, 24 pistol locks, 9 pistols and 5 blunderbusses, and Mr. Robert Alexander purchased 50 reams of cartridge paper.

APRIL 1776

1257

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES¹

April 1776 In Cape Fear River No Carolina
 Monday 22 Mode and Clear fired musquetts at the Rebbels who fired on us
 Tuesday 23 Do Wr fired 6 four pounders and 6 swivels at the Rebbels who fired on us
 Wednesday 24 Do Wr Loosd sails to dry
 Thursday 25 Do Wr at 1 AM came on Bd 2 Refugees who Escap'd from the Rebbels
 First part clear latter cloudy wt Rain came on Bd 2 negroes who had Escaped from the Rebbels

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

PIERRE ROBERT TO STEPHEN GIRARD, CAPE FRANÇOIS¹

Port-au-Prince

April 25, 1776.

Sir,

I have the honor of your letter of the 17th instant, with a letter of exchange for the sum of £2475 drawn at sight by Mr. De Lapinot, merchant from the Mississippi on Messrs. Nau & Company.

I have made the demand to Mr. Nau who, in accordance with your letter written to him, gave me a draft dated 24th ultimo for the amount
 £ 2409. . . . 7/8

for two months at sight on Mr. Marchant, merchant at Cape Francis in your favor, to value, in our letter of exchange from said Mr. Lapineau of Louisiana

Your receipt for the amount of

66. . . . -

2475. . . . -

On the back of the letter that you wrote him I have an acknowledgment for the draft and in case anything happened that Mr. Lappineau should not arrive with the cargo, that you will be held responsible for the payment of the above draft for £2409 and the sixthy-six pounds 66. . . . -

You will find inclosed the said letter of exchange and the receipt; about the commissions, they are not worth while, you will remit to me only the postage for your letter and for that which you write to acknowledge this.

I have the honor to be very sincerely, Sir [&c.].

Pr Robert

1. Stephen Girard Papers, APS.

NAU & COMPANY TO STEPHEN GIRARD, CAPE FRANÇOIS¹

Sir,

Port-au-Prince, April 25th, 1776

We received with pleasure the honor of your letter of the 17th instant which informed us of your safe arrival in which, as in all that concerns you, we took a deep interest.

We see by your letter and by that from Mr. De Lappinot that he

is trying to hurry and that he comes with a cargo of wood, we hope that he may arrive safely and we will be charmed to meet him.²

Although you feel that his voyage may not be free from emergencies and that a thousand things may prevent his arrival, we have honored his draft by giving Mr. Robert, according to your request, a letter of exchange payable in two months at sight, but under the express condition that if the brig and her cargo did not reach us in a proper time counting from when you left it to be sent, that you would reimburse us for this amount; you will understand since we have none of Mr. De Lappinot's money, we could only give it to you on this condition. We have remitted to Mr. Robert your receipted bond for 66.

We hope that you will do a good business; we will hear of it with pleasure while waiting to see you here. We have the honor to be very sincerely,
Sir [&c.]

Nau & Company

[P.S.] We have not received any letters for you.

1. Stephen Girard Papers, APS.

2. Lappinot was expected in one of Girard's vessels. In a declaration "Made at Mississippi, March 1, 1776," he stated: "I declare by this present that the sale of the bateau 'Marie' which was made to me by Mr. Girard is only a fictitious one; that the said bateau belongs to him and that this is only a formality made to avoid the risk which he fears by meeting some vessels of the King from England. In faith of which I sign the present for the use of all whom it may concern," *ibid.*

26 Apr.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO CAPTAIN HECTOR MCNEILL¹

Dear Sir,

Camp before Quebec, April 26th 1776

I am much obliged to you for the information you give me in yours of yesterday which I have received and say in answer – I shall write Genl Arnold concerning the *Acadien* & also to arrest Palmer.

I have Ordered four Barls Pork to be sent you from here, should be glad you would send two of them to Capn Scott. If you can possibly procure flour at Point au Tremble I hope in a few days to be able to replace Cash for it. I am informed that Mr Cole with a large sum was left at Crownpoint and was every hour expected at Montreal.

With regard to the *Gaspee* please to procure a Pilot and put some hands on board of her from Capn [Uriah] Church's party and send her to Jackes Cartier with Orders to be left ashore there. Let Matherman follow his Capt. The Articles for the *Maria* with a Gunner were sent from this place yesterday. I have sent for Capn [William] Goforth from Three Rivers, a very good man, to take charge of her – Prince, Pepper's Mate, I shall send after immediately. Give me leave to congratulate you upon the Good News from Boston & believe me [&c.]

David Wooster

1. Allen, ed., "Captain Hector McNeill," 28.

APPOINTMENT OF PIERCE LONG AS NAVAL OFFICER FOR PORTSMOUTH,
NEW HAMPSHIRE ¹

In Committee of Safety, April 26th, 1776.

Pursuant to a Recommendation from the Honble Continental Congress for Regulating Trade, and permitting the Inhabitants of these Colonies to trade with some of the European nations under certain Limitations:

You are hereby appointed an officer for the Port of Piscataqua and fully authorized and Empowered to procure Registers signed by the President of the Council, for all vessels outward Bound belonging to this Colony; Enter and Clear all vessels coming in & going out of said Port; having a strict Regard & obedience to the Regulations & directions of the Continental Congress; but by no means to counteract the same – Taking such Reasonable fees as may be an adequate reward for your service, and no more, and to continue in said office until the determination of the Council & Assembly thereon.

(Copy)

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VIII, 121–22.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] April 26, 1776

Whereas a Resolve passed this Court dated the 17th April Current, directing the Selectmen, Committee of Safety &c of the Town of Truro, to deliver to James Holmes late Master of the Ship *Friendship* stranded on Cape Cod Shoar in Feby last; the remainder of his Private property that was then in the hands of said Selectmen and Committee – by Virtue of which Resolve (as this Court is informed) said Holmes has made demand of the greatest part of the Cargo found on Board said Ship –

Therefore Resolved that by the Words “The remainder of his private property that is yet in the Hands of the Selectmen & Committee of Safety &c” mentioned in said Resolve, shall and ought to be understood, the remainder of his Cloathing Cabbin Furniture, Sea Books, Cash and private papers which were then actually in the hands of said Selectmen & Committee – said Holmes making it appear that the Cash was actually his private property, and said Resolve shall not be construed to extend to any part of the Cargo or Stores found on Board said Ship –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 810.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Boston 26 April 1776.

By a Letter from General Washington of the 18th Instant, he informs me it is his opinion that all accounts respecting the armed Vessels, should be paid by the Agents, and as the trial of the Prises cannot be much longer deferred, they will have cash for the Goods which may be condemned in

their hands much more than sufficient to answer the demands upon them, for the Mens Wages,&c.

His Excellency recommends fitting out the Ship *Jenny*, and the Brigantine,² which were taken by Commodore Manly, as Cruizers, if they are upon examination found to be fit for such Service. If you with the advice of Commodore Manley & Capt Gustavus Fellows should judge those Vessels or either of them proper for such use you will purchase one or both of them for the United Colonies. Commodore Manly will have his choice of them, & he desired to attend the fixing one of them out; – and the sooner this is put in execution the better. I am, Sir [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. William Bartlett Papers, BHS.

2. The *Little Hannah*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

Dear Sir

Boston April 26: 1776

I wrote you fully on the 22 Instant p post Am Surprized You scold so much about my not being more particular, when you are so very deficient Your Self, You do not write me a word about Congress, what you are doing or what you are about to do, pray be a little more communicative, I am sure I have Sett you a good example – I am glad to hear you are bending your whole Attention to Cannon and that you have contracted to have those designed for the Ships here cast at Philadelphia for I have no prospect of procuring them here Seasonably; Mr Hobart I hear has got his Air Furnace finished but cannot learn whether he has yet cast any Cannon, he has engaged to Cast a number for this Province & for the Ships, but goes on very Slowly, I have wrote him Repeatedly upon the Subject, My heart is engaged in this Matter, for I consider Cannon as a very Valuable article & shall do all in my power to encourage their being Cast in this Province – I hope the Ships will soon be launched and as soon as they are equipped for Sea I shall have finished the Business assigned me, however I am heartily disposed Still to serve the Continent & promote the glorious Cause we are engaged in and Stand ready at all times to Obey such orders As the Congress may give me; doubtless an Agent for these Ships will be wanted in this Province, as this will be in my way of Business & what I am somewhat acquainted with, when such an Appointment Comes on, Should be obliged to you for your Interest or that I may be improved in any other Way Wherein You may think I can be serviceable. I am [&c.]

Thomas Cushing

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

COTTON TUFTS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Weymouth April 26. 1776

Dear Sr. Soon after the Removal of our Enemies from Boston, I sat myself down to write You the Proceedings of our Army from their Cannonading

the Town to their taking Possession of it. But meeting with some Philadelphia Papers (before an Opportunity of sending it presented) I found that You had a History of the whole, since then I received Yours of the 29th March and find that You had not then received Intelligence of the sailing of the Ministerial Fleet. On the 25th. of March 48 of them saild and the Remainder in Numbers 75 – except one 50 Gun Ship and some Tenders left the Harbour on the 27th – to the great Joy and Comfort of the Province. And well might it have been expected that we should have then begun to fortify in such a Manner as to keep out any Fleet that should have venturd to molest us. I know it was the general Expectation. But must I tell You that not a single Stroke has been struck but within a fortnight past except what was orderd by General Washington on Fort Hill, and not untill the 12th Inst. was a Vote pass'd in General Assembly for the Purpose of securing the Harbour and this extends no further than the Security of Boston – a small Fort on Dorchester Point – Do. on Noddles Island, and Castle or Governors Island, Hulks to be sunk in the lower middle Ground. – I have been amazed at the Stupidity and Negligence of Government, and have not known to what Cause to attribute it. Perhaps there may have been an Expectation from General [Artemas] W[ar]d that he would have undertaken these Things. Had the Worthy Gen. Washington continued here, his Influence with the Court and his Assistance with the same Troops that are now here Would have effected much. But a Want of Spirit, order and Method will ever be attended with Inaction and Confusion – and to this much of our Conduct may be ascribed. We must have Men acting in distinct Departments. Our Counsellors must not be Judges, Generals, Colonels, Fortmakers and Omnium Gatherum Nor our Representatives sent throughout the Province during their Session upon Matters belonging to other Departments. We Want a Council of War, an able provincial General, a Skilful Engineer &c. – With Powers from the Province similar to what is given by the Congress to their General &c.

The best Security to the whole Harbour Would be Hull, Pedicks Island and Georges, these well fortified and supported, together with a few Row Gallies would under Providence secure the Harbour with but a little expence further, and perhaps without blocking up the Channell. But if need be the Narrows might be stopt up at a Quarter of the Expence they must now be at in stopping up the lower middle Ground near Castle Island And if the Narrows are stopt up for ever it is no Matter as there is Plenty of Water thro the Western Passage I mean by Long Island West End and the Moon at which Places Forts might be erected to good Purpose and indeed one at the East End of Long Island might be of Advantage. These Places well fortified would have rendered any further Works above in some Measure unnecessary. Suppose a Fort on Point Alderton, one on North Head of Hull calld Lorings Hill, one on Pedicks Island opposite to that on Lorings Hill and the strongest and main Defence on Georges. Would not these be a noble Security. The fort on Lorings Hill and Pedicks would command Nantasket Gut as well as help command Ship Channell. Within this Gut

on the South Side of Hull is as fine a Retreat or Harbour for Privateers and other Vessells up to 30 Guns as can any where be found. All Vessells passing thro this Gut must come within Musket Shot of a Fort on Pedicks, as All Vessells of 20 Guns and upwards passing by Georges up to Boston must be in the like Scituation. Row Galleys are absolutely necessary, to take Care of Broad Sound and to prevent small Craft from harassing the Islands, and would be a very excellent Support to our Islands and without them our Harbour will never be secure.

I have a great deal more to say upon this Subject than You will have patience to read or can be comprised in a single Letter. I will only add that this present Week Accidentally I fell in with the Courts Committee and labourd this Matter with them and I found the greater Part of them in Sentiment with me. I represented especially the Importance of Hull that if possess'd by the Enemy and fortified not any Army we could raise would dislodge them no not 40000 Men. I found out that all the Southern Members had been warm for fortifying below, the Western Members with Majr. H[awle]y had opposed it. In short I am sometimes out of Patience when I think upon this Affair, and can scarcely write or talk upon it – my Mind being possessd with this Idea – That the present Time may be the only Time for this Purpose. . . .

The particular State of our Colony at present has led me to think whether the securing and fortifying of Capital Places on the Sea Coast should not be a Continental Charge as particular Provinces may so far neglect this as to involve the Continent in amazing Expences and unless these were something obligatory on the Side of the several Colonies to do it, Would they not be apt to neglect it.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 393–96.

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

[Providence] Fryday Evening 26 April 1776

Meeting in being according to Adjournment

Voted. That Five pounds fifteen shillings and three pence be paid Saml Coy for Painting. – out of the Treasury

Voted. That One pound Ten shillings and Nine pence be paid John Smith out of the Treasury for Expences in sending to Hingham for Ship Carpenters.

Voted. That Forty Fire arms be purchased of Capt Jos. Cooke for the Use of the Ships at three pounds L My p piece. –

Voted. That Capt Christopher Sheldon procure two good and Faithful Men to Watch the ships till they are Launched to prevent Accidents &c. –

Voted. That Seven pounds three shillings & six pence L My be paid Elisha Mowry Esqr being the Ballance of his Acct for Timber. –

Meeting adjourned to Monday Evening –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO HIS SISTER, LYDIA MCFUNN¹New London April the 26th 1776 *A: Doria*

My Dear Lydia

I think I may safely say that this is the first spare moment I could find since our first arrival at this port, to speak one word to you. I have been either Sailing or under sailing Order continually and could find no time to tell you what I know you long to hear. I mean account of our Proceedings. And now unfortunate fellow that I am, it is too late. A very circumstantial account having appeared in the papers – Had the Plauguy papers but held their confounded tongues what a fine field Should I have had before me. With What Pleasure could I have said that in Lattitude North and Longitude West we did Wonders and that in Latt South and Long East we did a great deal more. But Alas I have now nothing to tell you worth your notice except that in the beginning of April one very fine morning we exercised Great Guns and small Arms and had two men hurt by it. And that I am most Affectionately yours. dont be Angry or frightend or Amazed I am not going to follow Charles example to write a note instead of a letter.² No no My Dear Lydia I am too much like Genny G., and Nancy B,³ (thats a Rhime and believe me I did not intend it,) and your own dear self to be so soon tired of talking – Do give My most sincere love to those two Dear Girls. – But dont tell them that I am in love Because I am not quite certain of it Myself. to be sure I was a few days ago. But there never was a more free sociable set of dear Creatures got together in any one place as in this. And so I went into another Company. And so I alter'd my Mind And so I am at a loss. Yes at a loss to know which I love most. I am sure I begin to grow Old for My Love fits dont hold half their Usual time. I have known the day when I have been held in Chains during a whole tide of Ebb. I wish you would write to me in Providence or Newport and tell me whether or not My old flame H G is Married⁴ Yet I wont own I have a hankering that way

I think I was never more happy from home than at present, owing as I take it to my being fully employd. I am now (I do not mean at this instant I am writing) Cleaning my Brig: for a Cruise. And hope in three or four days to sail. Should I feel in a writing humour before I go out you may probably hear from me again. If You should not swear that I had not time, or any thing else you Please except that I wanted inclination. Remember me most sincerely to Our dear Mother tell Her She may depend on hearing from me as soon as ever Madam Fortune is pleased to Smile upon me. Tell My dear Sisters and Brothers how Much I love them, but that You Cannot. Tell Andrew Robeson⁵ I long to hear from him and from all the Rest of My most sincere friends. Tell Cato⁶ and his Party that if I take a trip to Purgatory I will never Return to America if they Make peace with the English D – gs. Tell Your Dear Polly⁷ that I love her a thousand times

better than She thinks I do. Tell the Dear Girls in Your Neighbourhood I long to be acquainted with them. Tell Yourself that Katy Hucheson alias Hudson [is] the finest Woman in Providence except My Polly Gold. She was in St Vincents when the Caribbs were subdued and has since been in London Bermuda and Philadelphia. She enquired but could not find you out. Do not scold so abomanably. I will conclude as soon as ever I can tell You that I am your most Afft. Brother

N: Biddle

1. Nicholas Biddle Papers, HSP.
2. His older brother, Charles Biddle.
3. "Genny G" has not been identified; "Nancy B" was his first cousin, Ann Biddle.
4. "H G" has not been identified.
5. Andrew Robeson (1753-1781) appointed register of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania, in April, 1776.
6. "Cato" was the signature of the writer of a number of letters appearing in certain colonial papers, which sought to undo the effectiveness of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.
7. Mary Biddle McFunn.

Connecticut Gazette, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1776

New-London, April 26.

During the last and beginning of this Week, several Men of War have been seen cruising in the Offing.

We hear that it is the Determination of the Continental Congress, to fortify New-London Harbour in the best and most effectual Manner; it being judged a good and convenient Rendezvous for the Continental Fleet.

Yesterday Week [April 18], the Brig *Cabot*, Capt. Elisha Hinman, one of the Continental Fleet from this Port, was chased into Newport by a Man of War of 28 Guns, commanded by John Simmons: ¹ The said Ship sailed from Halifax 14 Days before, in company with a Brig of 10 Guns: ² - They watered at Block-Island last Saturday, when several People from the Island were on board the Ship and learned the above Particulars; and were further informed, that the Ministerial Fleet from Boston lay at Halifax when they came out, waiting Orders from Home.³

1. H.M.S. *Cerberus*, Captain John Symons.

2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*, Lieutenant Edmund Dod.

3. From journal of the *Cerberus*: "April 1776, Saty 20th, at 3 P M TKd & stood in shore, saw the *Diligent* made the Sigl to Anchor at 5 Came too wth the Bt Br in 7 fms So End Blk Island SbE½E No End Nbe off shore 2 Mile," PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

[New York] April the 26th

I had wrote thus far before I was honourd with your favor of the 23d Instant - In obedience to the Order therein Containd, I have directed Six Regiments more for Canada, which will embark as soon as vessels & other necessarys Can be provided, these Regiments will be Commanded by General [John] Sullivan, I shall give him Instructions to join the forces, in that Country under General [John] Thomas as Soon as possible -

With respect to Sending more troops to that Country, I am realy at a Loss what to advise, as it is impossible at present to know the designs of the enemy – Should they send the whole force under General Howe up the River St Lawrence to relieve Quebec & recover Canada, the troops gone & now going will be insufficient to Stop their progress; and shou'd they think proper to Send that, or an equal force this way from Great Britain, for the purpose of possessing this City, & secureing the Navigation of Hudsons River the troops Left here will not be sufficient to oppose them, & yet for any thing we know – I think it not improbable they may attempt both, both being of the greatest importance to them, if they have Men –

I coud wish indeed that the Army in Canada shoud be more powerfully reinforced, at the same time I am conscious, that the trusting this important port (which is now become the Grand Magazine of America) to the handful of men remaining here is running too great a risque – the securing this port & Hudsons River, is to us allso, of so great Importance, that I cannot at present advise the sending any more troops from hence; on the contrary, the General Officers now here whom I thought it my duty to consult think it absolutely necessary to encrease the Army at this place, with at Least ten thousand men, especially when it is Considerd that from this place only, the Army in Canada must draw its Supplies, of Am[m]unition, provisions, and most probably of men; that all reinforcement[s] can be sent from hence much easier than from any other place. . . .

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 627–29, NA. Continuation of April 25 letter.

MINUTES OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

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

April 26th, 1776.

A copy of a letter from Governor Tryon, to the mayor of this city, dated the 19th instant, was read. He thereby informs that the commanders of the King's ships, on this station, had thought it necessary to burn the pilot house near the light house. That proper care has been taken of Adam Dobbs and his family and effects, and that if a sloop is sent down to receive Dobbs, his servants and effects, she will be permitted to return safe.

Ordered, That Captain William Dobbs wait on His Excellency General Washington with the said copy of a letter.

1. *New York, Provincial Congress*, I, 421.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM PALFREY ¹

Dr Palfrey

New York April 26. 1776

It is his Excellency's request that you apply to Colo Hancock, the Committee of Safety or those appointed to send powder to the Camp at Cambridge, & procure an exact List of the Quantity sent from time to time, the dates & persons entrusted with It. From the letters of Congress more appears to have been forwarded or Ordered, than was ever received – His

Excellency is apprehensive that there has been mal-play among the Carriers.² I am [&c.]

Rob H Harrison

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. Both Harrison and Palfrey were aides-de-camp to Washington.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, April 26, 1776

The committee, to whom the letters from General Washington of the 22 and 23, were referred, brought in their report, which was read: Whereupon . . .

Resolved, That this Congress approve the assistance given by the General to Commodore Hopkins.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 310, 311, 312.

MEMORIAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] April 26, 1776

The Committee under the authority of the Provincial Assembly, having built vessels and erected works to fortify and strengthen the approaches to the City of Philadelphia by the River Delaware, have employed therein all the large Cannon now in their possession, tho' but very few in number, and entered into Contracts for procuring more, with which they hope speedily to be supplied; but as from the particular circumstances of a part of their Defences, some of heavier metal than those they now have or may in any reasonable time expect to have cast in this Province, will be extremely requisite; they took an early occasion of solliciting your honorable Body for a few pieces of the heaviest Cannon taken by Commodore Hopkins at Providence, since landed at New London. The Committee from an earnest desire of saving their City from the Ravages and calamities of War, as well as from an idea that its Preservation is of Importance to the Common cause of America, beg leave to renew their Sollicitations on this subject, requesting that you would give Order that a part of such heavy cannon, together with two of the largest Mortars, and their proportion of Shells, be appropriated to the use of this Committee, for which they will allow the full value.

1. Hazard, et al., eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 735.

OATH OF CORBAN BARNES, MASTER OF THE SCHOONER *Julia*¹

I do swear that I will not take any Pilot on board the Schooner *Julia* now bound down the River and Bay of Delaware further than the Town of Chester on the said River And that I will not suffer any Pilot to go on board or to remain in the said Vessel after leaving Chester afd

Corban Barnes

[Philadelphia] Sworn the 26. Apr 1776
Coram

1. Pa. Arch.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO LORD DUNMORE ¹

[Extract] *Roebuck* Delaware Bay 26th April. 1776.

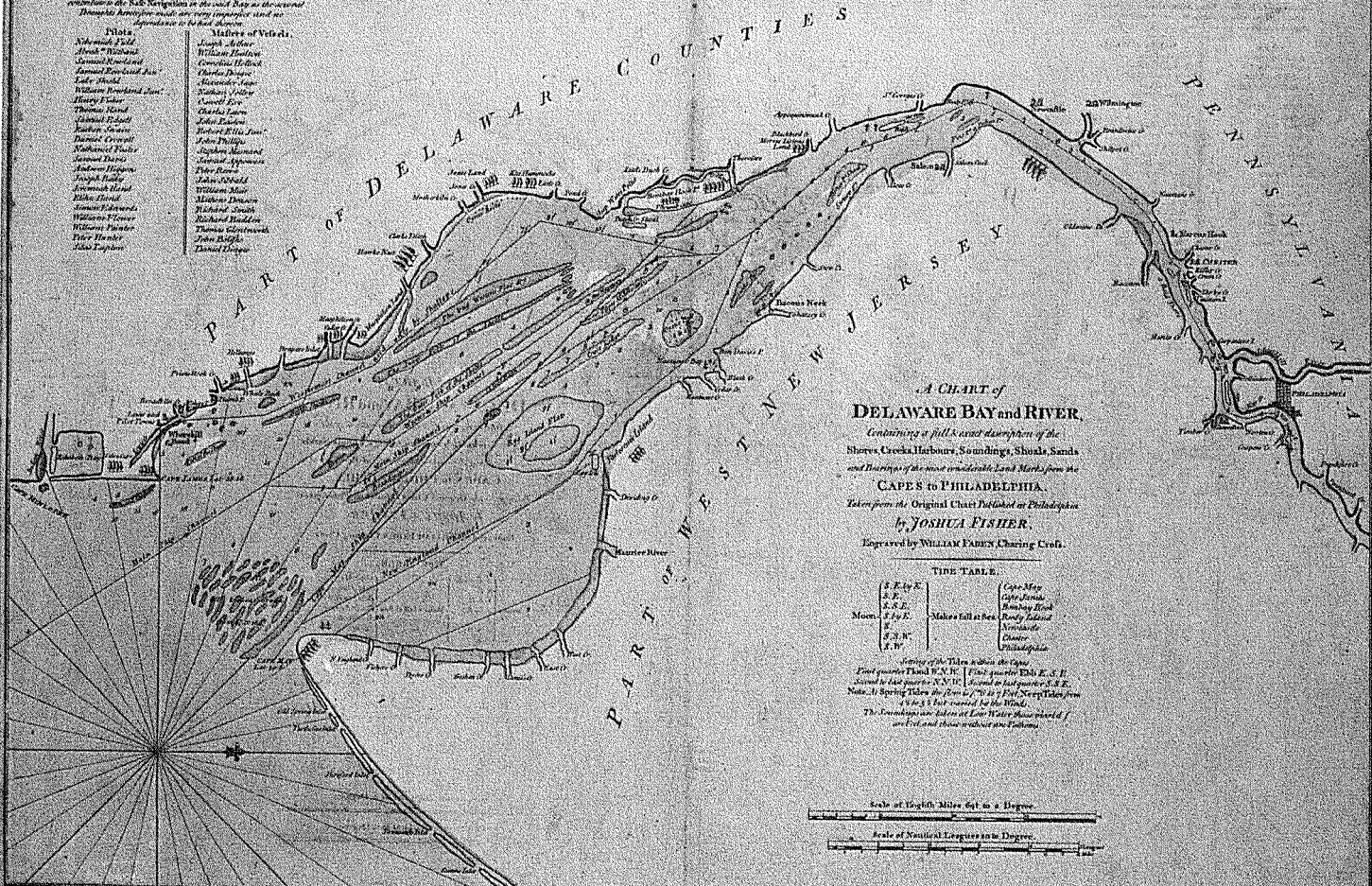
My Account says, the Congress has sent an express to New London to order Hopkins round here immediately to attack the *Roebuck*. How far this is to be depended on I cannot say: but I confess I dont think it unlikely, as they have a ship of 20 Guns (whose bottom they Tallowed last week) ready now to come down the River, and a Brig of 16 Guns laying in the shoal water under Cape May ready to assist them.

It is with great concern I acquaint yr Lordship, that Mr. Boger, on returning to the Capes of Virginia from Conveying the Packet, was taken by this Brig I mentioned to you in my letter by Mr. Mason. The story I have heard about it is this, when he saw the Brig he gave chace to her, and she suffered him to come up with her: as soon as he began to fire to bring her too, she opened her Ports, and returned his fire, upon which Mr. Boger engaged him, but I should rather think made a running fight, as he received a shot in his stern betwen wind & water, which killed a man in the cabin, and let in so much water that they soon called out for quarter, not having, it seems, any Plug ready to stop it with. The *Lexington* then took possession of her and carried her towards Egg Harbour, wherè he landed Mr. Boger & his People, who were marched from thence to Philadelphia. The Vessel he sent thro' Cape May Channel in the Night, with his Pilot and two Men, who arrived safe with her at the Town and she is now fitting out with great expedition as a Privateer and will undoubtedly be sent to the Capes of Virginia: and by not being known for an Enemy, might of course, do a great deal of Mischief among our small Tenders. I have for that reason lost no time in dispatching the *Lady Stanley* back to yr. Lordship with this intelligence; and had she not arrived as she did, I should this very day have sent my Pilot schooner round to you for that purpose. . . .

I would give more than I can express to have the *Otter*, or even the *Otters* Tender here for a few days, as without a small Vessel that can go in shallow water it is totally impossible (or at least very unlikely) that I shall be able to do any thing with this Brig *Lexington*. All the North side of Delaware Bay is encompassed with shoals & shallow water, having a channel of about 13 or 14 foot water within them: and this passage Mr. [John] Barry is at present master of. I have chaced him several times but can never draw him into the Sea. The day before yesterday as I was coming in from the offing, he stretched along to the southward with an Easterly wind, a back of the shoal called the overfalls, where I was very near doing his business. He at first tryed to stand round the shoal, and lead me up the Bay, but on finding I drew nearer to him than he wished, he tacked to the Northward, and was just able to tread his ground back, and I believe with some difficulty weathered the shoal. I was far from being in an eligible situation, as I run with all my studding sails, blowing very fresh, right before the wind, into 4½ fathm. water, which is as near, my Pilots tell me as was possible for me to go. However, I trust if my good stars will be but propitious enough to

By the Adjutants General passed the annual Strength of
DELAWARE BAY.
A Return made to the Honorable Convention, and laid on the
Journal of the State Legislature in the said Bay as directed by
the Honorable Convention in the following manner.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pilots. | Masters of Vessels. |
| Abraham Field | Joseph A. Moore |
| David Wilson | William Hartman |
| Samuel Rockland | Corneilus H. Beck |
| Samuel Chapman, Junr. | Charles Deane |
| John Smith | Richard Taylor |
| William Woodard, Junr. | Samuel Vetter |
| Henry Fisher | Samuel Fox |
| Thomas Ward | Charles Lane |
| Samuel Edgell | John Ewing |
| Robert Green | Richard W. Hill, Junr. |
| Daniel Criswell | John Phillips |
| Mathew Foster | Stephen Mumford |
| Samuel Davis | Samuel Mumford |
| Andrew Higgins | John Row |
| Joseph Taylor | John O'Neil |
| Samuel Ward | William Moore |
| Edwin Smith | William Deane |
| Samuel Johnson | Richard Smith |
| William F. Cooper | Richard Borden |
| William Plumer | Thomas Edlinmarch |
| David Hunter | John Hight |
| John Taylor | Daniel Clapp |



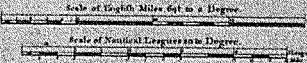
A CHART of
DELAWARE BAY and RIVER,
 Containing a full & exact description of the
 Shores, Creeks, Harbours, Soundings, Shoals, Sands
 and Bearings of the most considerable Land Mark, from the
CAPE to PHILADELPHIA.

Taken from the Original Chart Published at Philadelphia
 by **JOSHUA FISHER,**
 Engraved by **WILLIAM FAREN** Charing Cross.

TIDE TABLE.

1. E. by N.	Cape May
2. E. by S.	Cape Henlopen
3. S. by E.	Wilmington
4. S. by S.	Delaware
5. S.	Philadelphia
6. S. by N.	
7. N. by S.	
8. N. by E.	
9. E. by E.	
10. E.	
11. E. by N.	

*Velocity of the Tides within the Cape
 First quarter Flood N. by E. [First quarter Ebb E. by S. H.
 Second & last quarter N. by E. [Second & last quarter S. by E.
 Note. In Spring Tides the Run is 1/2 to 1 Foot, Neap Tides from
 1/2 to 3/4 Foot, and in the Winter
 The Currents are taken on the Tides above named, if
 you Ebb and Flow, and vice versa.*



me to send me any Vessel that can carry 50 Men, his reign will be of short duration, especially as his success of late has made him bold. I forgot to mention that the *Liverpools* Tender killed him two men.

1. *Aspinwall Papers* (Boston, 1871), Part II, 780-84.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Annapolis] Friday 26 April 1776.

Ordered That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to Captain James Nicholson two hundred Pounds on Account of the Sea forces under his command.

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

CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH'S NARRATIVE OF HIS CONDUCT.¹

[Annapolis, Friday, April 26, 1776]

On Monday the 15th April I was on the Field exercising the three Companies Stationed in Baltimore, when Mr Samuel Purviance (Chairman of the Committee) came out to me, & begged I would immediately attend the Committee: That an Affair of the greatest Consequence demanded my Attendance; That there would be Occasion for Eight or Ten of my Men under my own Command to go in Capt'n [James] Nicholson's Tender. - He then found it necessary to inform me of the Business, & enjoined the strictest Secresy - I kept the Troops about a Quarter of an hour longer on duty; and discharged them all except my own Company, out of which I chose Ten good Men & a Sargeant; and orderd them to be in readiness at half past One - I waited at Mr Purviances (on the Committee as I thought) but found only the Chairman there. He shewed me the different Letters respecting the Business I was to go on, and I agreed with him that too much dispatch could not be made. - I then Went in Quest of Major [Mordecai] Gist, but could not find him - About One OClock Mr S Purviance passd by the Barracks. I spoke to, & told him that I was ready & waited but for Orders. He said I should have them immediately. - I again went in search of the Major & found him at Dinner - I told him my Men were ready. - As soon as he had finished dining he went to Mr Purviance's, where I followed him in about ten Minutes, & found him reading my Instructions. - (t Mr Purviance mentiond that if the Governor was still at Annapolis I should have nothing to do, as he supposd the Council of Safety would put him under Guard before I should get down t) I received my Instructions from the Major & with my Men went immediately to the Point, where I went on board the *Defence's* Tender commanded by Lieutt [John] Nicholson. After taking proper Stores from the *Defence* we proceeded down, arrived & came to Anchor off the Harbour of Annapolis at abt 3 OClock on Tuesday Morning - At Day break I went ashore & deliverd a Letter to Messrs John Smith, Benjamin Nicholson & John Sterrit. - They told me what had passed between them & the Honble Council - I asked them whither I might not inform the Co[uncil]le of my Business. - They said the Council had enjoind

the strictest Secresy, and advisd me not to mention it till I had their (the Council's Leave. – (t I shewed them my Orders, they advised me not to shew them to any other Person, as it was their Opinion they were in some Degree improper. – They said they were to wait on Major Jeniffer after Breakfast & woud let me know when they returned how I was to act. – On their Return to the Coffee House they told Me he highly approved of the Tenders being sent down; and that they were to meet the Council at 10 OClock who woud give me Orders. t) –

About 11 OClock I observed the Governors Boat hove out & cleaning. I thought it my Duty to make it immediately known to the Honble Council, & accordingly waited on them & was refusd Admittance – I with Difficulty perswaded the Doorkeeper to ask Mr B Nicholson (who was with them) to come out. – After an half hours Attendance he came – I told him what I had seen, & beggd he woud tell the Council that I waited their Orders whither to remain with the Tender or return home. – They answerd by Mr Nicholson, That they desired Me to remain with the Boat & act according to the Orders I had received (or Words to that Amot). – A Short time after Sunset I went on board. – The Midshipman who came on Shore for me, pointed at a Schooner lying off the Governors Wharf, wh he said had come out, and on seeing The Tenders Boat rowing towds her, put back immediately, and came to, where She then lay – On my Return to Annapolis next Morning, (Wednesday) We knew her to be Mr Sprigg's. – About Eleven She hove up, and attempted going out, but was brought to by the Tender. – About Twelve the Governors Boat also got under Way, and the Tender brought her to. – I saw what was done, I thought it my Duty to go on board. – I searchd the last mentioned Boat narrowly, & found Porter & Claret, which made Me suspect his Excellency intended making his Escape – I put a Guard on board with some of the *Defence's* People, and am sorry to say that 2 Bottles Portar & One of Claret were drank by them. – Mr Sprigg came off to us, & seemd much surprisd that we shoud dare to stop his Boat. – & asked what Orders we had. – I thought this Question impertinent, and answerd it as it deserved with Silence. – I went ashore with him, he grumbling all the time. – Secretary Smith was on the Wharf. he asked Mr Sprigg what was the Matter; who answerd that by Order from the Council of Safety his Schooner was stoppd. Mr Smith immediately replied, that he coud assure him the Council of Safety had given no such Orders. – I said it was sufficient I had my Orders for what was done. I then went to Dinner, and there understood by Verbal Orders from Mr [Gabriel] Duvall, that the Affair was settled & I might return home. Mr Sprigg came in & I promisd to send his Boat up to Annapolis according to his Desire. – I went down to the Wharf with Intention to go on board, where I met Lieutt Nicholson with a Pass from the Governor for his Mullatoe, to pass unmollected in Chesapeak Bay. – We thought proper to deliver it to some Member of the Hon Council; and seeing Mr [Charles] Carroll talking with Mr Sprigg, We went up to him, and Lieutt Nicholson deliverd it. – Mr Sprigg complained of ill Treatment. Lieutt Nicholson told him, he only did what he had a

Right to do. – He replied, he supposd that he (Lieutt N) might think he was right. I answerd that he not only thought so, but was so. Mr Carroll said that the Council had given no such Orders. Both Lieutt Nicholson & myself assured him that We had Orders, And on being asked to shew them, We did so & promisd to leave Copies of them. – About Two oClock we went on board & returnd to Baltimore Town ²

Sam Smith

N B. The Paragraphs markd (t) I recollected since I wrote the Narrative deliverd to the Honl Council. – I wrote it in a great hurry or I might then have remembered many other Circumstances relative to this Affair. –

1. Red Book, I (item 26), Md. Arch.

2. With a day's discrepancy in date, Governor Robert Eden's account of this final episode, reads:

On the 18th day of April, in the morning, one of the Baltimore privateer boats boarded his Excellency's, which was going out to call back a gentleman's vessel just sailed from hence, which they also took, and detained them both.

Mr. Samuel Smith, of Baltimore, who was with the troops in the Baltimore boat, came on shore, and went to C. Carroll, Esq., Barrister, with Mr. Nicholson, the Captain of her; when Mr. Smith produced Mr. S. Purviance's order for seizing his Excellency, and Mr. Robert Smith, and their papers, as also his Excellency's boat, and to carry them all to Baltimore; the boat was set at liberty that evening.

Eden's report to the Royal Council; June 7, 1776, Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, VI, 732-40.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON ¹

No 132

Sir We consider the Schooner *Resolution* to be fitted out only as a Tender for the Ship *Defence*, and therefore have given you Directions to put Officers on Board out of your own Ship, as you may think best for the public Service.

[Annapolis] 26th Apl 1776.

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

LORD DUNMORE TO JOHN BROWN ¹

Ship *Dunmore* in Eliza. River
Virginia, April 26th. 1776 –

Sir The Bearer Mr. Walker being willing to Load his Sloop, and return again to this Colony with a Cargo of Fruit and Turtle, I wish you would permit him to bring some Small Ordnance here; three and four pounders are most wanted for His Majesty's Service, also a few Six's and as many Shott for each as he can conveniently bring with him. I was Sorry to hear that the Rebels had taken Mr. Brown [Montfort Browne] Prisoner. The sooner Mr. Walker's Vessel could be dispatched, the more agreeable it would be to Sir [&c.]

Dunmore

1. MNHP. Brown was acting governor of New Providence, in the absence of the governor who had been taken prisoner on board the Continental fleet in March 1776.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1776

Williamsburg, April 26.

There have, within these two or three weeks, been taken and brought into Norfolk, by the tenders, &c. the following vessels, viz. The sloop *Congress*, with 110 barrels of gunpowder and a large quantity of cloth, linens, osnaburgs, &c. A schooner, with a very large cargo of medicines, particularly jesuits bark. A large new ship from Baltimore, bound to Liverpool, with 1900 barrels of flour and bread, and 5000 bushels of wheat; this last taken by old [John] Goodrich, who commands a privateer, fitted out by himself, and has likewise fitted out two others, one commanded by his son William, the other by a certain William Pickett. A brig, outward bound, loaded with provisions. And a New England schooner, supposed to be bound for Maryland. — There were taken and brought in, some little time before, three vessels with gunpowder, about 5000 stand of arms, &c. also a New Englandman, bound for Baltimore, with cheese, cider, potatoes, chestnuts, &c. — ¹ An unarmed brig was despatched, about a month ago, to Lisbon, for a cargo of Fruit and Wines, for the use of Lord Dunmore and the army expected from England, which it is supposed will arrive about the middle of May. Keep a sharp lookout, boys, for this vessel. Punch is a most agreeable and enlivening beverage in the hot summer weather; and our good housewives will want plums, &c. against Christmas, to trip up many a dainty dish for that festive season, when it is to be hoped we shall all be merry, and sufficient cause to rejoice.

All masters of vessels taken bringing in arms and ammunition are put in the prison vessel and laid in irons, and are to be sent to England for trial.

Ammunition is in such plenty on board the fleet, that Lord Dunmore gives it gratis to those who fit out privateers.

Last Saturday his Excellency the General,² with his two aids-de-camp, and secretary, Col. [Thomas] Bullitt, &c. set out for Suffolk; since which, we learn that his Excellency has marched from that place, at the head of a large body of troops, upon some secret expedition.

By two deserters who came into York last Sunday from Goodrich's pink, commanded by one Picket, of the Eastern Shore, we learn that the tenders took off our Capes a French sloop with 150 barrels of powder, and 250 stand of arms; there were three engineers on board likewise, whom the Governor ordered to be put in irons. They also inform that Lord Dunmore has fitted out a vessel with 16 oars, that carries 50 men, 6 three pounders, with 12 swivels; and that another was on the stocks, under the inspection of old Goodrich.

1. None of the prizes mentioned are to be found on any British prize list; they probably were taken by Goodrich and others in private vessels.

2. Major General Charles Lee.

PERMISSION TO THOMAS YOUNG TO LOAD RICE ON BOARD THE SNOW *Georgia* ¹

Georgia By His Excellency Archibald Bullock Esquire President and Commander in Chief of the Province aforesaid.

To the Officers and Men Stationed on the different Rivers, Creeks and Inlets in this Province, and to all others whom it may concern. Be it known that Thomas Young Esquire has obtain'd permission to Load and Ship on Board the Snow *Georgia* now lying in the River St. Mary and bound to Lisbon, Two hundred Barrels of Rice, and you are hereby directed and required not to obstruct the said Thomas Young either in sending to or Loading the said Snow with the Rice above mentioned.

Given under my hand at Savannah the twenty sixth day of April 1776

Arch^d Bullock

By His Excellency's Command

Edw^d Langworthy, Secy

1. Lloyd W. Smith Collection, MNHP.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dear Sir

Bermuda, April 26th 1776

We arrived here, on the 24th after a passage of Ten Days, standing in to the S West part of the Island the Sloop struck but were off in a few Minutes, I beleive without any damage, save knocking off some of her Sheathing – A pilot came on board instantly, and the Wind heading brot her to an Anchor. I went immediately on Shore, & found The Island absolutely destitute of Corn, & nearly so of Flour – The greater part of the Families, not having had a supply of Corn, for some Weeks but on inquiry found the prices limited by their Act of Assembly, could not be exceeded, which were by much too moderate for the risque of such a Voyage, yet considering the situation in which We were, and the freindly disposition of the Inhabitants, I could Not think of going further with the Cargo, as the whole Island were apprized of the Arrival in Three hours after We Anchored and the Report was that Congress had heard of their wants, & had permitted this vessel to come with this Cargo to their releif how such a Thought came into their Heads (God only knows,) but they are many of them very inquisitive & equally Communicative, so that one might almost Question, if there are many Secrets in the Island – Capt [John] Tucker immediately, on getting the Sloop in set off to enter her, & will return I expect This Day, in the mean time, judging it by no means best to proceed in her, I have Chartered a Sloop of about Eighty Tonns of Mr [John] Jennings The particulars of which with the Charterparty &c I send you inclosed, she is said to be, the Swiftest Vessel in the island, is about Fifteen Months old, & well found, so that, probably, you may Judge it best, to Take her, at the Value –

Your Effects from Jamaica may be bro't here safely, & I doubt not that your plan on that Subject will be executed But I am in doubt [what] to think of Venturing any of the Supplies of the Continent This way, for the Reason[s] above given, & that only, for the people are zealous in the Ameri-

can Cause, and appear willing to do every thing in Their power to promote it – I hope to get away from this, Next Wednesday, at farthest before which, shall add to this as things occur, I have got a very clever Captain of the Sloop I have Chartered one [Charles] Morgan, who had just returned from the Bay in her Captn Tucker is quite an obliging agreeable Man, & I have been very happy with him, in my short passage, but as he has been little acquainted with transacting business himself, advise you, to be very explicit, in the Instructions, you may from time to time send him, which I think he will not knowingly deviate from, I have given you this hint, on recollecting some Conversation of yours on this Subject when you proposed sending out a Factor to this Island on the business – The Governor who is become very obnoxious, has been threatening the Inhabitants with Cruisers stationed at each End of the Island, & Troops, but no man of Sense can beleive so useless & expensive a Measure will ever be adopted, The Vessels in here from the Islands, give an Account of the Disposition of the People there, which is very farr from meriting the indulgence shewn their property, in the late Resolution for Reprisals, – in Antigua, & Barbadoes, an American is not safe either in his person, or property, if he is known to be freindly to the Continental Interest, & they exult in the prospect or rather hopes of a total reduction of the Colonies by Administration, one Consequence of which they are promised will be, the Confining the American Commerce in the West Indies absolutely to the English Islands This may be relied on, to tie the present Temper of the Islands in General, – This Island suffors much, One hundred & Twenty vessels are now on hand, unemployed, and the people happy. [if] They can keep from an absolute Famine, for the produce of the Island is next to nothing at all. Vessels proper for privateers, might be taken up here to good Advantage and Gunns for them purchased, as there are a great Number of good Ones, of those used, in the late Warr now on hand – A Number were lately purchased, & shipped – as I heard, and more may be had of Four to Nine pounders. – Mr Jennings, has a fine Shipp on the Stocks of Eighty Feet Keel, may be launched soon & would make a fine privateer, he would be glad to sell her, and I beleive could procure the Gunns for her – I did not venture to bring the proceedings of Congress with Me my Name being often mentioned, might give a lead to Suspicion, which might otherways sleep. I wish therefore you would send me Five, or Six of the Journals of the first, & present Congress by which I may oblige a Freind, also collect all the Newspapers that have been published, since my leaving Philadelphia and send them to me continuing to do so, by every vessel, this will save you the trouble of writing many things in the News way, and serve to give me from time to time the Situation of Affairs, as from my Acquaintance with the Colonies I shall form a tolerable Judgment what is, or is not true, and you may with your pen write against any peice of intelligence, which may probably be doubtful, or not to Me, in one Word, in what Light it is viewed with you – as thus – “This may be depended on”, – “Doubtful”, “probable”, Wants Confirmation, improbable, “contradicted by private Letters”, or Confirmed by them. &c, &c, Notwithstanding the many Falsehoods

published in the Newspapers, they are generally a good Clue, to lead, to the Sentiments, & Complexion of the People and the Times, and may be of more Consequence to Me than a meer Amusement .

A Sloop this instant arrived from Antigua & brings Acct that Twenty One Sail of Transports under Convoy of Two Men of War sailed the beginning of this Month for the Continent, from Antigua, and by the Captn the Report of the disposition of the people of that Island, & Barbadoes toward the Colonies, is confirmed with many Aggravating Circumstances. -

Capt Tucker met with no Difficulty in entering at the Custom House, where he is now gone to procure a New Register in the Name of Henry Tucker junr & himself and will be ready to Sail in a Day, or Two to execute your plan in Jamaica - Considering the Consequence to you of prosecuting that Business, & that the Sloop of yours was fitter for that, than my purpose, being but an indifferent Sailer, and that the Sloop I should take up here, would, beside her being sailed at a Cheaper lay, have every Advantage, of a Bermudian Bottom, without the possibility of any the least cavil, or Suspicion, & by changing both Master & Crew int[ire]ly in this Way prevent danger from another Quarter I judged it, most for the interest of the public to take this Method & hope it will meet the Approbation of the Committee - I have taken the charterparty, in the Name of the Contractors, as Mr [Henry] Tucker, by your Letter, knew of their Names, and that I had Connection with them, in the End it amounts to the same thing, on whom the risque is fixed, as it falls ultimately on the Same stocks, and by this, my Views could be Considered, only as Commercial - finding a Considerable Ballance, would be left on hand unless I waited longer than was Consistant with my Business abroad, I have taken some Logwood in Ballast, to lessen the sum to be left, and help Appearances Accts of which is inclosed - The Sloop will be ready by the Time (viz) Wedne[s]day next on which Day Weather permitting I shall sail. The Captain is gone to the Custom House, & will Clear for Leghorn with a Cargo of Logwood, the reports being that the lastich [*sic*] is very high there, and the Owner here will give every Necessary Instruction on that head Copies of which will inclose you - The Situation & present State of this Island demands the attention of the Continental Congress, & I have had several Conferences with Mr Bell, on the Subject, it is unnecessary to attempt a particular Description, of an Island, so well known as this, but you will remember that by the Acct givn in to Congress the Number of its Inhabitants were set, at abt fourteen thousand, one half Blacks, and the Quantity of provision annually imported into the Island was then stated, which moderate as it appears, is much more, than the Inhabitants will hereafter be able to pay for unless they can be put on a different footing from their present one - Their Negro men, are all of them Seamen, & Mechanics, such as Coopers, Ship Carpenters, & Black Smiths, & the produce of their Labor makes Nine Tenths of the support of both their Masters & fellow Slaves, their being no employ worth the mentioning for either the Female Slaves or Children, as the Land is absolutely fitt for Nothing but the growth of Cedar - it is well known that almost the whole of that trade, & shipp Build-

ing which employed them & their Slaves depended on the intercourse between the American Colonies on the continent, & foreign parts – This Ceasing throws them instantly into distress, without Stock of provision, & without the means of paying for it could it be procured, & on a soil incapable of supplying them, were they to Cultivate every Inch of it – This is, simply, their present Situation, which greatly Alarms them, the Governor has threatned them with sending for Vessels of Force, in such Case, instant Famine is inevitable unless they can subsist on Fish alone, and if they cannot by some means procure speedy Supplies from the Continent, they will be in the same unhappy Situation. sensible of this the Inhabitants have had meetings, have Chose a large Committee, of which Col [Henry] Tucker is Chairman, and the Inhabitants, are contributing all in their power to ward off the impending danger, but any releif they may obtain can be only Temporary, Momentary I may say, Unless the Continent take them immediately under their protection this is I conceive neither impracticable, nor would be attended with any very heavy Expencc, & the Consequences might be very beneficial to the Colonies, – it is hardly possible for a person, never on these Islands (for they amount to Hundreds of little ones) to form an Idea of them, & their harbors, it is sufficient to say they are the most difficult of access in the World, & some of the safest when entered – on the South there is no Water for any thing more than a Whale Boat over a Reef running the whole extent at about half a League from the Shore, at the West End where We landed there is a Channel thro. the Rocks, & Shoals, which extend near Two Leagues off Shore but so winding that it requires a skillful pilot to bring You thro. and in the best Weather it is alarming to a Stranger to see the Rocks on every Side, & Under him (their Clear White Shining thro. the Water) as he passes and finally enters where the high land on each Side is not a Musket Shot from the center of the Channel – on the North side the Breakers run almost out of Sight of Land, thro. which there is one passage but so difficult that the Islanders themselves make little use of it – At the East End, the harbor is more capacious than this at the West, but equally Difficult, & easily defended But when you are once entered either of the Harbors you may have your Choice of a Number of lesser Ones formed by the little Broken Islands, between which is generally good Depth of Water & safe anchoring – This from my Own Observation, & inquiry is the Natural situat[ion] of the Island, which running between the NE., & SW., every Vessel, passing between Great Brittain, & the West Indies, unless drove out, of their Course, sails within about One Hundred Leagues, of one of its Extremities, this considered it is Evident, they being fortified, so as to make a safe Harbor, for Our Cruisers, the whole West India Trade must be intercepted, & that by a Small Fleet, of swift sailing Frigates, & Sloops, – I am no judge of the expence of such fortification, but Gentlemen, of some Acquaintance with such Affairs estimate it low, & as to a land force, the most Trifling, even the Militia of the Island properly supplied with Stores, would be sufficient to guard a Country, as impenetrable after landing as it is inaccessible – there are a sufficient Number of Cannon on the Island for that

purpose, & to Arm a Number of Cruisers besides – And the Inhabitants I am Confident would receive you as their best Freinds. & my Confidence of this is founded on their situation. – As the Continent are driven into a Naval Warr, it must be a principal Question in what manner the Trade of Great Brittain can be most advantagiously to the Colonies Attacked and as the parliament have in effect closed with the Congress, in the stopping all Commerce, between the Continent, & G Brittain or other British Dominions, it must be the policy of America, to intercept, as far as possible, their intercourse between each other as well to supply Ourselves, as to distress them to effect which some Harbor, or Harbors must be pitch'd upon convenient for the purpose, & secured, & the question will be are those of this Island the best – I think they are, for The Reasons hinted at, above, and for the probability that the Enemy unsuspecting of such a Maneuvre & intent on blocking up the ports, on the Continent, may receive a heavy blow, in their West India Commerce before they are aware of, or guarded against it, and if they attempt to defeat such a design it must be by drawing off their Forces from Our Coast for a While at least – These hints I submit to maturer Consideration, & to the present Turn of political measures, which I am sensible may have Altered since my leaving you, but a minute inquiry into the practicability, and expence, of such a Scheme, will Cost, neither Time, nor Money, worth Mentioning, and I wish it may be made by some person of better Judgment, than I conceive myself or perhaps my informers here to be, who have discoursed with Me, on this Subject, – if the Sloop I have Chartered, answer the Character given of her for Sailing, I shall send her back with part of the Effects and order her to Call at this Island, having agreed, with Captn Tucker on the Signals, & for him to keep a look out, shall therefore depend you will punctually inform him of the situation of the Cruisers to the Northward – Any Lettr you can get to him, can be sent Me by the Way of St Eustatia, put under a Dutch, or French Cover, to Bourdeaux, or Amsterdam – I have discoursed with Col Tucker among other things on the procuring one or more swift sailing Vessels of this Island for the purpose of carrying intelligence and he says he can either build, or purchase if you determine on any such Measure, you may depend on this Gentleman, & on the Intelligence he gives you from time to time with respect to this Island

Capt Tuckers Acct of Sales of [George] Ords Cargo I have received & with it the Balls being £700..10..11 for which I have drawn on you & Co agreeable to your Orders – inclosed you have also H.Tuckers rect on back of Bill of Lading for the Sloop *Betsey's* Cargo, & Copy of my Rect to him for the Money I have received of him both of which Sums are to the Credit of the Indian Contract, I have had some Words with Mr H Tucker, on the score of Commissions which to Me Appear exorbitant, and he finally referr'd the Matter to you saying he was willing to submit it to you – I find so much light Money passing that that will be one reason, of my not receiving More of the *Betseys* Cargo, I shall direct Mr Tucker to invest the Balls in good Bills which he says can be done in a few Days and send them by Way of St

Eustatia under French Covers, to Messrs Saml & J.H. Delap, at Bordeaux for Me – The Bearer of this Mr [George] Bascom[e] is waiting – I hope to sail this Day May 1st but an Unforseen Difficulty arises, Capt Tucker by advice reported his Vessel as from the Mississippi with Corn, and both the Governor, & Collector told him his Sloop was entered, & that that was the method of proceeding – after which the Collector gave Orders to the Office for a New Register in form as I had directed, when to Our surprize, the Comptroller refused his Consent to the New Register, or even to any entrance or Clearance of the Sloop this rises partly from a quarrel between the Collector & him & partly from a desire of appearing very Strict in these times – this Trick, for I can call it no other, Vexes Me, Capt Tucker has got his old Register, so that the Sloop is safe from seizure here, indeed the populace would not permit of such a step, and the Comptr declares he will not seize her or any other Vessel in such Circumstances but that he will have nothing to say to them one Way or another this man is one [Copeland] Stiles – Capt Tucker is again gone to the Office and I have directed him to get a Registr & Clearance from the Collector, & Governor without Noticing the Comptr in them, if he procure this, he will proceed on his voyage tomorrow will write you one Word on his Return – I wish if in your power to serve Capt Bascom you would assist him as he has been kind eno. to wait some time for this Lettr – if Capt Tucker fail of a New Registr he is advised, (& inde[e]d by the Comptr) to proceed to Turks Island, enter as from St Eustatia, take on board a trifle of Salt, & clear for Jamaica obtaining a New Register there, to do which Mr H Tucker will give him the Necessary papers, situated as he is I know of no safer plan, but I will write you how he makes out before I sail, and as I can detain Capt Bascom no longer must Close this Long Lettr with Complts to all of my immediate Freinds, & assuring You I shall exert myself to make all the dispatch in my power

I am with Esteem Dear Sir Your [&c.]

S D

P.S. The Charterparty, & particulars of expences, Wages, &c on the Sloop, as also Copies of the Receipts I shall not be able to send by this unless Capt Bascom can wait a few Hours if he cannot will leave them inclosed to be sent by another Sloop sailing soon.

I. USNAM.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THE GRENADÉS, DATED APRIL 26.”¹

A few days ago two small American vessels were brought into this place by one of Admiral Shuldham's fleet, laden with flour, &c. which was sold for the benefit of the crew of the frigate, and fetched a good price, as do all sorts of provisions, owing to our not being supplied from the Americans, which we used to be; and now we are often afraid we shall be in want before we can be supplied from England; we have several ships almost ready to sail for England with new sugars on board.

1. *London Chronicle*, May 28 to May 30, 1776.

27 Apr.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID WOOSTER TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract] Camp before Quebec April 27th: 1776
Gentlemen

... I have sent a company to take post & fortify Point de Chambeau at the falls of Richlieu & purpose also to fortify the important pass of Jackes Cartier; I hope with the help of Batteries properly placed & some Gondelos which are building at Chambly together with what Vessels we have to command the River. I have a fire Ship which has been prepared for several days & waits only for a wind to attempt setting fire to the Shipping in their harbour. I am in hopes in some way or other to get possession of the Town before a great while —

1. Papers CC (Letters from General Officers), 161, II, 309-11.

VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM TO CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON,
H.M.S. *Orpheus*¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to proceed with His Majesty's Ship under your Command, and Cruize between the West end of Long Island and Cape Henlopen, at such distances from the Shore, as from the information you may receive and your own Judgment may be most likely to intercept the Ships and Vessels belonging to His Majesty's Rebellious Subjects.

As soon as you arrive at your Station You are to call in at New York, and deliver to Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] the Dispatches you will herewith receive, with whom you will confer and obtain from him such intelligence as he may think necessary to communicate to you for His Majesty's Service: You are then to proceed to the River Delaware and deliver to Captain Hamond the Packets directed for him, which you will also receive herewith, and after having obtained from him such information as may be conducive to the Service you are employed on, You are to repair to your Station without loss of time.

You are at your discretion to put into either of those places as you shall judge it necessary for His Majesty's Service for the purpose of Obtaining Intelligence or otherwise According as Circumstances may require.

You are to Take, Sink, Burn or Destroy all American Armed Vessels belonging to, or fitted out from any of the Colonies in Rebellion against His Majesty, to detain and seize all Vessels belonging to, or Trading with the aforesaid Colonies and send them to Halifax to be proceeded against according to Law, and for your further Guidance, I refer you to the late Act of Parliament, and the General Code of Orders and Instructions you have already received.

You are to continue upon this Service as long as your Provisions shall last, and then join me for further Orders.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Chatham* in Halifax Harbour 27th April 1776.

M Shuldham

By Command of the Admiral E. Bragge

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN TYRINGHAM HOWE, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Glasgow, at Halifax the 27th April 1776

Sir Please to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on my passage from Rhode Island to New York April the 6th. At half past two A M Rhode Island then bearing about N. b E. distant 14 or 15 Leagues. I fell in with a Rebel squadron, consisting of one Ship of Thirty guns, another of Twenty eight, Two Brigs, one of sixteen, the other fourteen guns, and a Sloop of twelve, and all full of Men, and continued engaging them broad side, and broad side an hour, and a half, when my Masts, Sails, and Rigging being very much shattered, and an Attempt made to board us, I bore away for Rhode Island, and continued a close running fight, until half past six, when they left us. As their principal intention was to disable, and then board us, Our Masts, Sails, Rigging, and boats have suffered very much, by which means I was so fortunate as to lose but one Man, and only three wounded; all by their Musquetry. At Eleven I joined the *Rose*, *Swan*, and *Nautilus* at Rhode Island, who immediately went in pursuit of them; And after fishing all my Masts, and refitting my rigging as fast as possible, I made the best of my way for Halifax, where I arrived the Nineteenth Instant.

I should do great injustice to Lieutenant Pulteney, did I not mention to their Lordships, his great coolness, and bravery, during the whole action, As well as all the rest of the Officers, whose good conduct, Animated the Men, and made them fight like British Seamen. I am Sir [&c.]

Tyringham Howe

[Endorsed on verso]

15 Jun Let him know that I recd on the 10 instt. his Lre of the 27th of April from Halifax & having laid it before my Lds was commanded by their Ldps to acqt him that they are well satisfied with his conduct & with account he has given of the behaviour of his Officer & Men; which [you] will signify to them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1902, Section 22, 1.

JOHN LAMBERT'S BILL FOR CARPENTRY WORK ON BOARD THE
MASSACHUSETTS ARMED SCHOONER *Diligent*¹

Messrs Jackson Tracey & Tracey of Newbury Newbury Port agents for the Schooner *Diligent* for the Service of the Massachusetts

[Be so kind] as to pay this my Second Bill my first Not paid – to Benjamin Foster Esqr or order Chairman of the Committee of Safety at Machias the Sume of five pounds Eleven Shillings

It being for what the Said Committee have paid To Carpenters for Makeing two New Carridges Cutting Gun ports makeing a New boom & Topmasts &c for the Said Schooner *Diligent* when in want of the afore Said Articles. & your Compliance will oblidge [&c.]

John Lambert

Machias April 27. 1776.

[First endorsement] In The House of Representatives June 1776. Resolved that the Sum of Five pounds Eleven shillings, be Allowed, & paid, Out of the Colony Treasury to William Tupper, or his Order, in full of the within bill, for Supplies towards [the] fitting out the Schooner *Diligent*, he or they giving proper receipts to the Treasurer for the Same.

[Second endorsement] Received the within Contents of the Coloney Treasurers in full Received By me William Tupper Clerk of Committee at Machias -

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 292, 41.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday April 27, 1776

Resolved, That One third part of the money's (after the Charges of Condemnation are paid) arising from the Captures that may be made by any of the Armed Vessels fitted out on Account of this Colony and shall be finally Condemned in any Court of Justice Erected for the Tryal and Condemnation of such Captures shall be distributed among the Officers, Seamen & Marines in the manner following - Viz -

To a Captain Six Shares & all the Cabin furniture	The Carpenter Two ditto
The First Lieut Five ditto	The Carpenters mate One & half
The Secd Lieut Four ditto	The Surgeon Three Shares
The Master Three ditto	The Surgeons mate One & a half
The mate One & a half do	The Master at Arms One & a Quar
The Boatswain One & a half do	The Pilot Two shares
The Boatswains mate 1¼ do	The Cook One & a half
The Steward Two Shares	The Drummer One & a Quartr
The Gunner One & a half do	The Boys One half Share
The Gunners mate One & a Qur	The Seamen & Marines One do

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 813.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Dear Sir

Boston April 27 1776

Since my last I have not favoured with any of yours, as Mr Sharp Missed of the opportunity of Selling your Ship to the Person that was about it. If you still Incline to dispose of her, I will do all in my power to sell her for you, if you will let me know the lowest price you will take, perhaps as Trade is now open I may meet with an opportunity -

I hope you are thinking about the Cannon for the Ships, we Shall have two as fine Ships as any upon the Continent & I think we shall be ready as soon if not sooner than many of the rest Messrs Greenleaf & Cross's hearts are engaged in the Cause, they are very active & Industrious² I find I shall want some more money immediately to keep the wheels agoing, pray forward Some directly.

I hope the Marine Committee or Congress will give Some orders immediately about the officers & men for the Ships, it is high time it was done, I have many good Men that offers them Selves for Service for some birth or another – where am I to get the small arms & Cutlasses – Your humble Servt.

T Cushing

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SL.

2. The Continental frigates *Hancock* and *Boston*, building at Newburyport by Jonathan Greenleaf and Stephen and Ralph Cross.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1776

Providence, April 27.

Yesterday the Continental Fleet arrived in the River from New-London.

We learn by the Western Post, that on Tuesday last [April 23] a Party of our brave Rifle-Men surrounded and took 35 Men belonging to the *Asia* Man of War, who had landed from a Boat near Sandy-Hook to take in Water; the Boat and Water-Casks were likewise secured.

Since our last about 20 Prisoners, which were taken in the two Vessels lately rescued from the *Scarborough* Man of War at Newport, by the Gallies belonging to this Colony, arrived here, and are secured in Gaol.

The late Conflagration among the Enemy's Shipping at Georgia, may perhaps account for the *Scarborough's* Flight from thence.

Wednesday last a Sloop from this Place, bound to New-York, was chased near the Harbour of Newport by the *Cerberus* Man of War, of 28 Guns, and a Brig of 14 Guns, said to be commanded by one Dawson; but the Sloop out-sailing them, she escaped.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE *Providence Gazette*, SATURDAY APRIL 27, 1776

Colony of Rhode-Island, Providence, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coasts of America, and brought into said Colony, to be held at Providence, in the County of Providence, on Tuesday the 21st of May, A.D. 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, will be tried the Justice of the Capture of the Brigantine called the *Georgia Packet*, Burthen about 90 Tons, laden with Bread, Flour, &c. said to have been commanded by George Bunner: Also, at the same Court, will be tried the Justice of the

Capture of the Sloop called the *Speedwell*, Burthen about 80 Tons, laden with Salt, said to have been commanded by Levi Carman: – Both which Vessels, as 'tis said, were first taken by one of the King's Ships, called the *Scarborough*, from some of the Inhabitants of the United Colonies, and then retaken from said Ship, and brought into said County of Providence, and are said to have been employed in supplying the Fleet and Army acting against the United Colonies: And therefore the said Vessels, together with their Cargoes, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and will be tried at the Time above appointed, unless the Length of the Trial of the one, should prevent the Trial of the other on the same Day, in which Case the other will be tried as soon after as may be. This Notice is given, pursuant to the Law of the Colony aforesaid, that the Owner or Owners of the said Vessels, or any Persons concerned therein, may appear at said Court and shew Cause, (if any they have) why the said Vessels, or either of them, with their Cargoes, should not be condemned.

John Foster, Judge of said Court.

Now in this Town, among the Prisoners taken in the Prizes rescued from the *Scarborough* Man of War at Newport, a middle-aged Negro Man, of middle Stature, who calls himself Caesar Cabbot, says he belongs to John Cabbot, of Salem, and was pressed last Summer at Piscataqua. His Master is hereby notified to come and receive him.

Providence, April 27.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir –

Lebanon 27th April 1776 –

Your Letter of the 12th Instant, with the Commissions &c. directed to our General Assembly are received and will be laid before them ² – likewise another of the 17th with the Enclosure for Comodore Hopkins – after Perusal I immediately sealed and forwarded it agreeable to Direction – I wrote to Mr [Nathaniel] Shaw to furnish me with Intelligence that I might Act agreeable to the Spirit of the Resolves of Congress – enclosed is Copy of his Letter & Enclosure to me –

Fortifying the Harbour of New London and securing the Navigation of the Sound to the Colonies, are Objects which demand the most serious & early Attention – I am, with great Truth and Regard, Sir [&c.]

Jonth Trumbull

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66; I, 161, NA.

2. The blank letter of marque and reprisal commissions.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 27th 1776

Being restricted by Congress to build no more than one hundred Bateaus, and eighty of these being occupied by the Troops above mentioned, General [John] Thomas the Commissioners, the Artillery and Stores, provi-

sions & Captain [Ebenezer] Stevens's Company with the Mortars & Shells, I have only twenty new ones left, and thirty seven of those built last Year – the whole of which will carry no more than fifteen hundred – I have however ventured to construct an additional Number, and such a Number of Carpenters are now employed as will daily build for the Conveyance of fifty Men; hence I hope no considerable Delay will be experienced: but I fear the Troops in Canada, when joined by those coming up will be in want of pork before a Supply can be thrown in as we have not 150 Barrels of pork left at this place and Tyconderoga, and those that are gone in could not take more than 100 Barrels exclusive of ten Days provision which was issued to them at Tyconderoga.

The Vessels on Lake Champlain are sufficient to convey five hundred Men to St John's, but no Sailors are yet arrived – The Convention of New York have been wrote to long since to send them.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BRIGADIER GENERALS JOHN SULLIVAN, NATHANAEL GREENE AND
LORD STIRLING TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[New York, April 27, 1776]

To His Excellency General Washington,
Commander-in-Chief of the American army.

May it please your Excellency – In obedience to the orders given us, we have met and deliberated upon the several matters referred to us by your Excellency, and beg leave to report that the following signals be given upon the approach of any number of ships towards this port, viz: Upon the appearance of any number of ships by day from one to six, a large flag is to be hoisted on the highlands of Neversinks; upon the appearance of any number from six to twenty, two flags; and for any greater number, three flags; those flags to be hoisted upon flagstuffs arranged there from east to west at twenty yards distant from each other. The signals by night to be given by an equal number of fires arranged in the same order and at the same places; these signals to be repeated both by day and night on the heights of Staten island by flags and fires arranged in the same manner. The commanding officer in each of those departments to see that a good look-out be kept for ships both by day and night, and upon their appearance he is not only to give the signals before mentioned, but is as soon as possible to give intelligence by express to the Commander-in-Chief.

We recommend that the day signal be given by large ensigns with broad stripes of red and white, and that upon the appearance of three flags by day or three fires by night, the country is to take the alarm and communicate it as soon as possible, for the purpose of calling in the militia.

Jn^o Sullivan, Nathaniel Greene, Stirling.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 423.

CAPTAIN HENRY MILLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

New Utrecht April 27th 1776 –

I send you this by Express to inform that at dawn of Day this Morning a Small Sloop came down the River the Sentry on Staten Island hailed her as also those on our side but she wou'd not come too each of the Sentries Fired several Guns at Her which she disregarded & pass'd under a Smart Breeze to the *Asia* Man of War, our lower Sentry informs me that when she came near the *Asia* she Hoisted a blew Flag & they sent out a Barge to meet Her I have Just observed going to the Hook where she came from I cannot learn but immagine from New-York she bore off from our shore so much twas impossible we cou'd stop Her passage –

Henry Miller Cap 1st Regimt.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, April 27, 1776

An affidavit of Thomas Higgins and James McClery touching the capture of Captain [W.] Ginn's brig

Resolved, That the affidavit be delivered to the Secret Committee. ²

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 314, 315.

2. The affidavit came from North Carolina.

JOHN HANCOCK TO THOMAS CUSHING ¹

[Extract]

Philada., 27th April, 1776

I have not time to write Capt. Manly and [Isaac] Cazneàu, but if you have Oppor[tunity], do Acquaint them from me that they are Appointed Commanders of our two Frigates, and pray them to send me their Answers.

Inclos'd you have a List of the Officers, etc. determin'd for each Ship. I wish you and Capt. [John] Bradford, with such others as you chuse to advise with, would immediately Recommend proper persons to me for Lieutenants, you will observe there are three for each Ship, and also Recommend proper Persons for Capt[ain]s and Lieu[tenant]s of Marines. With Respect to the other Officers say, Masters and all other inferior ones, I leave their Appointment to you and Capt. Bradford, and I beg it be immediately done, and their Names Transmitted to me that Warrants may be made out, pray let them be good Men, etc. I have not time to enlarge . . .

Capt. Bradford is Appointed Agent for Prizes, with Power to Appoint Deputies where he Judges necessary, as I have not time to write him, do inform him and beg his Answer, if he accepts I will send his Commission and Instructions, he must excuse my not writing him now, as I am closely engaged . . .

I shall send you every necessary paper Relative to the Engaging Men, etc. and by next will send you the Names of the two Frigates.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, LX, 108–09.

JOHN ADAMS TO BRIGADIER GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, April 27, 1776

I am grieved to find the least Intimation of Languor among my country-men], in fortifying Boston and its Harbour, I have not written a Letter Since we received News of your Success, in driving the enemy from that town, without stuffing it with Exhortations, as well as Plans for the Fortification of that harbour. — [James] Warren writes me that they have sent a Committee to fortify the Harbour so that I hope it will be done. G. [General] Ward's resignation is accepted, but We must have a general officer in Boston — I hope Gen[eral] Washington will send one. —

Your opinion of the Difficulties General Howe will meet with, in attempting to get up the St. Lawrence early, gives me great Comfort — God send him Wind and Sea enough —

You ask me what you are to think of Rob. Morris? I will tell you what I think of him — I think he has a masterly Under standing, an open Temper and an honest Heart: and if he does not always vote for what you and I should think proper, it is because he thinks that a large Body of People remains, who are not yet of his Mind. He has vast designs in the mercantile Way. And no doubt pursues mercantile Ends, which are always gain; but he is an excellent Member of our Body —

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 27th

... past 2. went to Kinsington where a number of persons not much short of 150 were Collected in order to get the upper deck beams into both the frigates building there, the Same was Completed, without any accident hapning, by six in the evening.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Lewis Town, 27th April, 1776.

When I wrote to you Last, on the 27[16th], I acquainted you of what Had past for several Days before, and now shall go on to send you by Every Opertunity a kind of a Journal of what is Transacted by the *Roe Buck* and her Tenders. The same Day that my last was Dated their arived a small Tender, as I apprehend, from Virginia; as she is one of that Built, Viz., a smawl Sloop, she brought in with her a small Coasting Schooner, the wind being at W.S.W., the Ship Hove up in the afternoon, as did the Brig I mentioned, and stood out to Sea, the Ship Returned, but the Brig went away to the Southard; the Ship, Tender, Bauldens Boat and Schooner Remained in the Road all Day on Friday, on Saturday morning they all went to the Southward. At 2 o'Clock this afternoon the Ship came in with the wind at

South – she sent Bauldwins Boat and her sloop Under Cape May, she seeing two Vessels above Cape May making up the bay they all made sail after them, but before the ship got two Leagues above the Cape the wind took her at Northwest by West; she still Keeps up the Chase, and is at this time as high up as the Brown, which is 4 Leagues above the Cape; the Tenders is over under the Cape May Channel. How far they may Proceed up is uncertain, but by all appearance she is in Quest of the two Vessels that is above her – but as it is my Duty to Give you Notice of any British Pirate making up our Bay, so that you may be apprized.

But after writing the above I went up to take the other look at the Devil, to my Great Joy I Perceived her on shore away to the Eastward of the Brandywine, as near as I Can Judge, and what is better she Run on at the top of high water, where I hope she may Remain, till some of your arm'd Vessels may Come and fill her as full of holes as Ever there was a ship in the Bay of Honduras, by the Worms. Haveing no more to add, I remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

N.B. The above was sent off] at a Quarter after six o'Clock, from me. Saturday Evening. H.F.

[Endorsed]

Ceder Creek, April 27, Recd the above $\frac{1}{3}$ after 8 O'Clock, pr me,

Thos. Evans.

Recevd $\frac{1}{4}$ after one O'Clock – Despacht at 2 Sunday morning, Dover, April the 28th. F. Battell

Recd 45 minutes after Six – Dispatched at Seven.

Mat'w Delany.

Recd 20 Minutes after Ten, and Dispatcht 26 after Ten.

Thos. Shean.

Recd a 12 – Dispatch 20 m. after.

Wm. Kerdin

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 736–37.

RICHARD PARKER TO RICHARD HENRY LEE¹

[Extract]

[Fredericksburg] April 27th, 1776

... A Tender came last Week to Hobbs Hole and took a new England man loaded with grain & flower from the warf; an Alarm was given and the Militia of Essex and Richmond pursued them in Vessels they retook the prize and brought her back; the Tender escaped tho pursued within three miles of Urbanna, A negro fellow belonging to Walker who was skipper of his boat was killed but no other damage done to our men. We have a Report which I believe to be true tho it may be improper to propagate it unless fully confirmed, That young Mr [Richard] Wormsley is under close Confinement in Williamsburg, He was taken in a tender going to

Dunmore. Charles Nielson & John Grymes were also taken in another Tender carrying Provisions to that Monster. . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

DIXON & HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1776

Williamsburg, April 27.

Thirty eight sail of the men of war and transports distined for North Carolina, from England, are said to be arrived at Cape Fear, and that they took on the passage a large French ship with arms and ammunition.¹

Captain John Dixon, in a vessel from Gloucester, bound to the West Indies, who was lately taken by a man of war, and carried into Antigua, has returned from St. Eustatia, and landed a cargo in this colony consisting of four thousand pounds sterling worth of linens, sail duck, &c. The Captain informs, that the *Argo* sloop of war had chased a vessel among the islands, but was prevented from taking her by a French frigate, who exchanged a few shot with the *Argo*, took the vessel under convoy, and carried her safe into a French island.

1. This was a premature report.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Scorpion*, CAPTAIN JOHN TOLLEMACHE¹

April 1776 Moor'd off Brunswick in Cape Fear River, No Carolina
 Friday 26 Mode & Cloudy with Rain. Fir'd Eight Swivels with Round & Grape at the Rebels
 Saturday 27 Boat Empd Fishing
 fir'd several Musquets at the Rebels.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/872.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS¹

April 1776 Cape Roman N67.35 W 120 Lgs
 Saturday 27 Fresh Breezes bt the So Br Cablè at 1/2 past 9 the *Hartcourt* made the Sigl for seeing Sail in the NW Qr our Sigl to Chace could not come up with her² haul'd our wind to Join the Come

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

2. The vessel pursued in vain was the Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain John Barry. See *Pennsylvania Journal*, May 8, 1776.

28 Apr. (Sunday)

CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER¹

[Extract]

St. Johns, 28th April, 1776

Colonel [Moses] Hazen told us that the carpenters are much wanted here to build row gallies to prevent the enemy's vessels from coming up the St. Lawrence; he says, a single sloop with a few carriage guns could effectually prevent the arrival of the forces going from Chamblee to

Quebec. no doubt General Arnold has written to you on the subject. I mention the matter only to show you of what importance Colonel Hazen thinks it is to have the row gallies built – but built they cannot be in here to prevent the enemy from intercepting our troops or barring their passage should they be able to fit out a vessel from Quebec. Mr. [Benjamin] Franklin Mr. J[ohn] Carroll & Mr [Samuel] Chase join me in compliments to you and yours. ² . . .

1. *Rare American Historical Autographs. The Collection of Frederick S. Peck* (Philadelphia, 1947), No. 5.
2. Charles Carroll, Franklin and Chase were the members of the Committee of Congress sent to Canada and John Carroll, a Catholic priest, accompanied them for the purpose of influencing the French Catholics.

CAPTAIN CHARLES STUART TO HIS FATHER, THE EARL OF BUTE ¹

Halifax, April 28, 1776

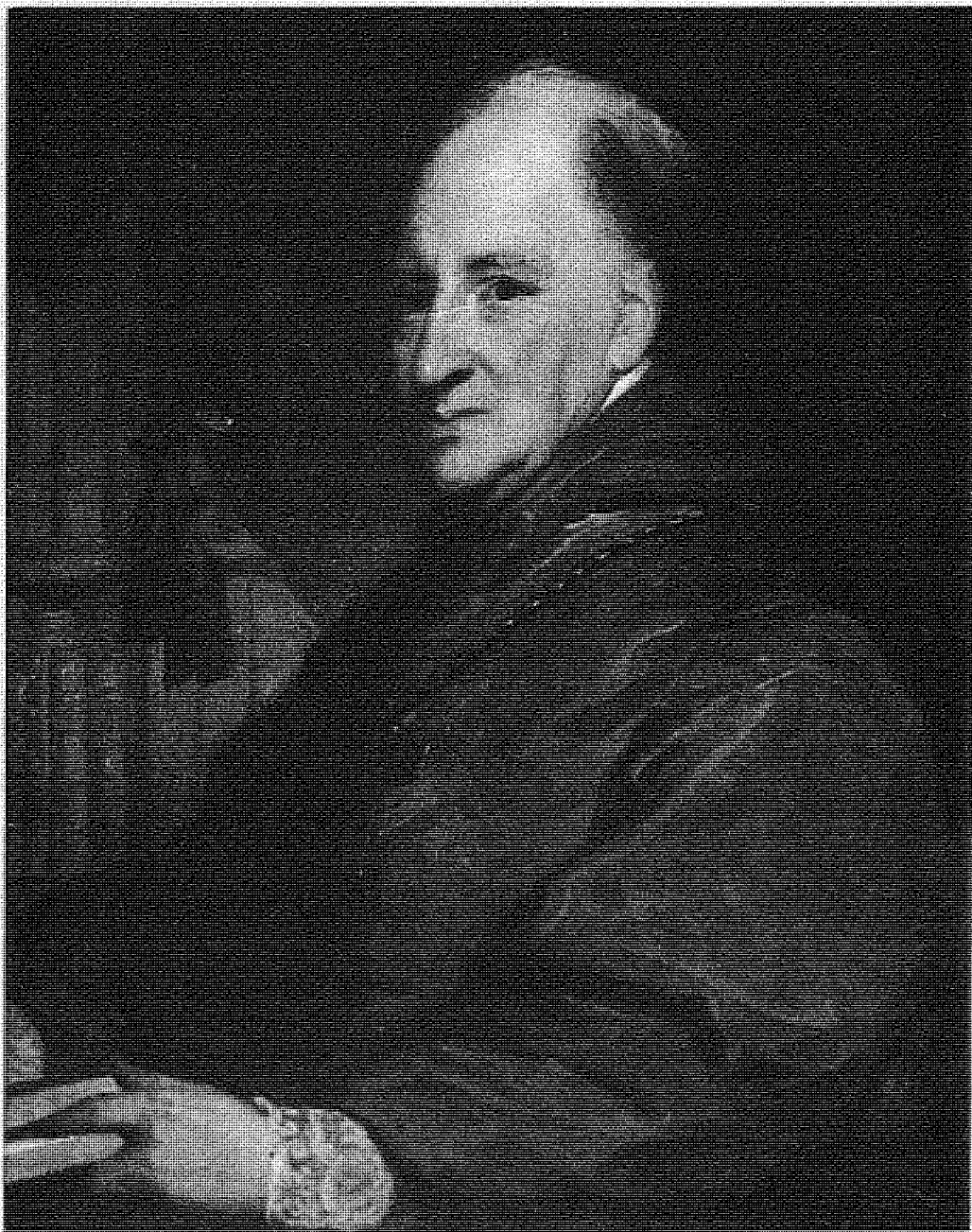
There have happened so many things since my last, that I am afraid I must go back to Oct. to account for many wise actions planned and executed by the Rebels in consequence of a few follies committed at that time by our Army.

I believe I told you that General Clinton, with the consent of Gen. Howe, took a few Companies of the Lt. Infantry to drive into boats some bullocks from a small peninsula call'd Phipp's Farm, a well cultivated spot with few trees, within 1,200 yards of Boston. The party succeeded without opposition; on the firing of a few pieces of cannon the Rebels quitted the ground, and the troops, who were in flat bottomed boats, landed at 11 o'clk. on a fine calm morning. Upon our returning the enemy appeared with a reinforcement of 700 men, and in my opinion we lost an opportunity by not immediately bringing these miscreants to an action, from which we must have reaped uncommon advantage. From Charlestown Heights we could have covered the relanding of our men with cannon, and by taking post upon the neck which forms the peninsula, preventing their escape, we should, without a doubt, have cut the Rebels to pieces and secured ourselves a good post.

Trifling as this affair seems, we owe our present disgrace to this, and a similar blunder which you shall read and judge of.

About a fortnight later we were surprised one morning by the appearance of a very strong work the Rebels had thrown up in one night on Cobble Hill, a spot commanded by their cannon, and commanding Phipp's Farm. We fired several shots at them, which they returned, being just able from that post to reach Boston. The post was looked upon as trifling and merely defensive; however, on the 17th Dec. we were much surprised in the same manner with a remarkable strong work on Phipp's Farm.

Frequent consultations were held about it, our Officers still agreed it was defensive; however, it was resolved to open a Battery from Boston's Point in the town, but either from want of knowledge or judgement in our Artillery Officers; we were obliged to discontinue, as it did not prevent the enemy from continuing their work.



The Reverend John Carroll.

In the beginning of Jan. Majors [James] Grant and [John] Maitland were sent with a detachment of Marines to Georgia for provisions for the Army. This Colony was thought to be well affected to the Government; however, the people of Machias [*sic* Savannah] were found to be quite otherwise. The party succeeded in cutting 18 Merchantmen out of the Harbour, which so enraged the people that they set fire to a ship worth £30,000, and sent her into the middle of the Fleet, by which three ships were burnt, and the rest escaped with difficulty . . .

Nothing particular happened till Feb.; we took a few prizes, and the enemy were more than equally successful in this point.

About the middle of Feb. we were informed that the Rebels had a quantity of fascines and entrenching tools on Dorchester neck for the purpose of throwing up works . . . Deserters informed the General that the enemy intended to bombard the town, and preparations were made to annoy them. A Battery of four 32 pounders was made on Shoredon Hill and another strong one at Boston's point. The Rebels at the same time made a Battery within point-blank cannon shot of our lines, and with such caution that we could not discover that it was intended for a Battery.

On the 3rd March at 9 ocl. at even they began a pretty hot cannonade and bombardment. Their shells were thrown in an excellent direction, they took effect near the centre of the town, and tore several houses to pieces; the cannon was usually well fired, one shot killed 8 men of the 22nd Regt., and houses were pierced through and through with balls they fired from Phipp's Farm. Our lines were raked from the new Battery they had made, and tho' we returned shot and shell, I am very, very sorry to say with not quite so much judgement.

The bombardment continued for five nights and a nobler scene it was impossible to behold: sheets of fire seem'd to come from our Batteries; some of the shells crossed one another in the air, and then bursting look'd beautiful. The inhabitants were in a horrid situation, particularly the women, who were several times drove from their houses by shot, and crying for protection.

On the 8th or 9th March, I forget which, they ceased firing, and at day-break next morning we perceived two posts upon the highest Hills of Dorchester peninsula, that appeared more like majick than the work of human beings. They were each of them near 200 ft. long on the side next the town, and seemed to be strong cases of packed hay about 10 ft. high with an Abattis of vast thickness round both. We discovered near 6,000 people, most of them at work; they opened embrasures before 9 ocl., and about 2 ocl. had made a ditch and connected the two hills by a breastwork.

We fired a few shots, but the position was too strong to be affected; the General therefore determined to attack it. A quantity of Artillery and three Regiments immediately embarked under the command of General [Valentine] Jones, the Grenadiers, Lt. Infantry, and other Regts. amounting in all to 2,500 men commanded by General Howe, Ld. [Hugh] Percy, and General [James] Robertson.

Brigadier Jones was to have staid with the three Regts. aboard ship until he was joined by Gen. Howe at 9 ocl. at night, when the whole was to have gone in boats and landed. God knows whether it was a fortunate circumstance or not, but at any rate so high a wind arose that it was impossible for the boats to take the sea.²

The next day the General assembled the Field Officers, and acquainted us that the intended attack had failed through the inclemency of the weather, that he had consulted the Engineers, who declared that the works had been so strengthened as to render any present attack very doubtful, and that should the enemy augment their works upon that peninsula from such a commanding height we should inevitably be drove from the town.

He also told us that there was no more than 6 weeks' provisions in the Garrison, which obliged him to go to Halifax instead of to New York.

The principal citizens, on hearing that the town was to be evacuated, came to General Howe, and requested that the town might not be burnt; the General made answer, that if the Enemy molested him in his retreat he would certainly burn it; if not, he would leave the town standing.

This was made known by a flag of truce to the Rebels, in consequence of which we made our retreat unmolested.

We sailed soon after under convoy of the Admiral to this place. From a scarcity of transports we were crowded with two Regts. in each ship, and nothing could be more horrid.

Soon after our arrival here [Halifax] Captain Wallace of the *Rose*, who commanded at Rhode Island, was cannonaded out of that harbour with the *Glasgow* Man of War, and several arm'd vessels. The *Glasgow* was attacked on her way by the rebel Admiral Hopkins in a 36 gun ship, with 4 arm'd Privateers from 20 to 6 guns; she with difficulty escaped, her rigging and hull much damaged.

They inform us that there is not a little port to the south where they are not building very formidable Privateers.

I had a long talk with a Captain Paine, who arrived some days ago from Antigua, who assures me the people are disaffected beyond measure in our West Indian Isles, and do not scruple avowedly to declare their sentiments by wishing success to the great American Cause, as they term it.

We at present have little more than a month's provisions, having most of the fugitives from Boston to sustain, and are without camp equipment at a very advanced season, and I am very much afraid that if these wants are not speedily supplied, all schemes for this campaign will be rendered abortive. However, our Army is in better health, and like soldiers we hope for the best. I every day get more fond of my profession, and a better state of health than usual makes my friends say that promotion agrees with me.

1. *New Records of the American Revolution The Letters, Manuscripts and Documents sent by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Charles Stuart, to his Father, the Earl of Bute, 1775-79 and Letters of General Howe, General Clinton, and other Officers to Sir Charles Stuart, during the Revolution, 1779-81* (privately printed, n.d.), 6-8.
2. Stuart's dates of the bombardment and of the proposed attack on Dorchester Heights are incorrect.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Lively*, CAPTAIN THOMAS BISHOP ¹

April 1776

Pidgeon Hill N W B W 6 or 7 Ls

Sundy 28

Fresh Breezes and fair Wr at 10 AM saw a Sail on our Lar-board Bow Made Sail & gave Chace
 Light Airs & Variable fired a Shot at the Chace at 8 PM came up with the Chace found her to be a Sloop Loaded with Lumber, her hands had taken to the Boat & Left her with her Sails set ² sent a Petty Officer & Men onboard her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. "Unknown sloop and cargo, captured off Cape Ann with no papers on board the crew having quitted her before capture, some time in May [sic] 1776, by H.M.S. *Lively*," Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5 N. S. Arch.JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹[Watertown April 28 1776] ²

In the House of Representatives April [28] 1776

Ordered that [blank space for several names] be a Committee to wait on the Majority of the Honl Council, with the following Message –

May it please your Honor's

The House having with due Attention, And great Satisfaction Considered your Message of April 27th Instant, are of Opinion, it is Expedient, as Soon as may be, to fortify the Town of Hull, & Some of the Islands Adjacent, that may Effectually Secure all the Towns lying within or near the Harbour of Boston and are now about to take under Consideration & determine, what are the most Salutary measures for that purpose

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 137, 68.

2. The date is suggested by the fact that so important a message from the Council would have had an almost immediate reply.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Boston 28 April 1776 –

By Mr [Robert Hanson] Harrison's Letter of the twenty second Instant, I am informed your Excellency can not supply me with the Cash I wrote for; I am very sorry as there are many demands on the Commissary and Quartermaster, which are not all of a late date. I have made out Warrants for the payment of the five Regiments here for the month of February, and have found it necessary to give Warrants for the payment of the men on board the *Hancock*, *Franklin*, and *Harrison*, Privateers, otherwise they must have been hauled up.

I have made enquiry respecting the arrival of powder at Cambridge since your Excellency's departure, and am informed by Mr [Nathaniel] Barber that none has arrived.

I have given all attention in my power to the Works, the fortress on Fort Hill is in good forwardness, there are now eight twenty four pounders and two twelves mounted and furnished ready for action. The [General] Court agreed to have a Fortress built at Castle point, which is nearly fin-

ished and I intend to have the Cannon mounted in it this week. The work at Charlestown point I expect will be completed in seven or eight days. Our works and other business, have been much retarded for want of Teams.

Capt [Gustavus] Fellows, the Gentleman I sent to Beverly to view the Ship *Jenny* and the Brigantine, ² has j[ust] returned and informs me that he with Commodore Manley and Capt [William] Bartlett viewed the above Vessels, and are all of opinion that neither of them is fit for the service.

As there are several of the Enemy's armed Vessels which cruise in this Bay that are larger than our Privateers, I wish that a Ship [of] sufficient force to take them might cruise this way. I am Your Excellency's [&c.]

Artemas Ward

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. The brigantine *Little Hannah*.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL, LEBANON ¹

Sir

Providence April 28th 1776 -

I am to acknowledge your kind indulgence of putting your Colony Vessels under my Care - the bearer, Captn [Robert] Niles has behaved like a good Officer - has follow'd my Orders and been beneficial to the Fleet - he has now onboard some Shells and one Mortar for General Washington which he will take out at New London, or carry to New York as your honour thinks fit - but I believe his schooner would be fitter for Service if she was ballasted with Iron which he tells me can't be procured nearer than New York I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

April 1776

In Block Island Bay

Sunday 28

AM Anchd in the Eastern Bay of Block Island with the Best Br in 5 fm Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable, Empd Watering First & latter parts fresh breezes, Middle light breezes & Calm PM the *Cerberus* stood in & Sent us on board our foresail & then stood to Sea. at 8 got on board all our Water.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George April 28th: 1776

Last Night I was honored with your Letter of the 4th Instant inclosing sundry Resolutions of Congress, which shall claim my closest Attention the Moment the Troops under the Command of General [William] Thompson are past Tyconderoga, he and they arrived at Albany on the 24th Instant.

General Thomas, I have Reason to believe reached Quebec Yesterday. Dr. [Benjamin] Franklin and the other Gentlemen Montreal on the same Day, and the last of the Troops with the Cannon, Military Stores and some

provisions I dare say will be at St John's to Day – I saw them set out from Ticonderoga on Thursday and left it myself the Evening of the same Day, and arrived at four next Morning at this place, where I am doing all in my power to prevent a Detention of the Troops coming up for Want of Craft.

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 121–22, NA.

JOHN ADAMS TO ABIGAIL ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia] April 28 1776

You will see an Account of the Fleet in some of the Papers I have sent you. Give you Joy of the Admirals Success. I have Vanity enough to take to myself, a share in the Merit of the American Navy. It was always a Measure that my Heart was much engaged in, and I pursued it, for a long Time, against the Wind and Tide. But at last obtained it.

. . . Pray keep me constantly informed, what ships are in the Harbour and what Fortifications are going on.

I am quite impatient to hear of more vigorous Measures for fortifying Boston Harbour. Not a Moment should be neglected. Every Man ought to go down as they did after the Battle of Lexington and work untill it is done. I would willingly pay half a Dozen Hands my self, and subsist them, rather than it should not be done immediately. It is of more importance than to raise Corn.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, I, 398–400.

DIARY OF CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL ¹

[Philadelphia] April 28th

. . . after Supper Joseph Lecond & my Self took a walk down to Plumstead's wharffe, in order to See what readiness the two Ships of war were in as they were under Sailing orders Occasioned by an express arrived about 3 this afternoon who left Lewis Town about 6 last night Sent by Land from Harry Fisher given an Account how that the man of war the *Roebuck*, pursuing of a vessel, had that afternoon run a Shoar on the Bran[d]ywine and was then to appearance fast & they vessels were nigh ready as we learnd & Sd would Sail in the morning.

1. Diary of Christopher Marshall, HSP.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen:

Lewistown, April 28, 1776

When I wrote you last, I acquainted you of the *Roebuck* being on shore to the Eastward of the Brandywine; she Remain'd there all Saturday Night [April 27], on Sunday morning she got off and made sail, steering over S.S.W., and in a short time she stuck fast again, but by the wind being to the Eastward, and her Lightning her self got off again – (to my great Greif) it appears that the Vessels she was in Chase of Yesterday was Capt [John] Barry and a Sloop, for this morning there is to be seen a Brig, two

Schooners, two Sloops, the French Tatan & one Pilot Boat, all going down under Cape May, out of Reach of the *Roe Bucks* horns. About 10 O'Clock this Forenoon, the ship and Bauldwins boat anchor'd in our Road, the wind at this time at South East.

I have forwarded this by Express to Mr. Archibald McCall, and having no more to add, I Remain [&c.]

Henry Fisher.

(P.S.) Please to send me Down by the bearer, Mr. John Maull, one of Nearns Best three feet Spyglass, as I am in great want of one. Yours &c.

H. F.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 737.

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

April 1776

Cape Henlopen Lighthouse SW 2 Miles.

Saturday 27th Moderate and fair weather, at 4 in the morning weighed and made Sail, at 7 Anchored with the Stream near the Bouy of the Small Bower, and Swept the anchor with a new viol and hove until it broke, and the Buoy rope breaking with it gave up all thoughts of getting the Anchor; therefore weighed and made Sail.

Ditto weather, at 2 PM Sent two Boats manned and armed after a small Schooner standing up the Bay, and made Sail in order to support them; at 3 gave chase to an Armed Schooner,² and at 4 having been well to the Eastward of the Flatts of the Brandywine, began to Shoal the water fast, and Ship missing Stays got aground on them; at the same time the Boats returned with a Schooner they had taken from Saint Eustatia to Philadelphia laden with Arms and Coarse Linnens for the Rebels;³ dispatched my Tender to Virginia for assistance, in case I could not get the Ship off; the Cape Henlopen bore at this time S $\frac{1}{2}$ Wt and Cape May SEt, at Midnight found the Ship had Scored 4 feet;

Sunday 28th

at 4 in the morning the tide lifting much more than we expected, hove her off without any apparent damage, and made Sail for Old Hoar Kill Road, at Noon anchored in that place in 7 fms the Lighthouse SbE.

The first part ditto weather, latter fresh gales and rain. In the afternoon found that the Best Bower Anchor Stock had broke when aground; got it in and new stocked it.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.

2. Continental schooner *Wasp*.

3. "*Ranger*, nobody on board her; from St. Eustatia to Philadelphia; with bale goods and arms," Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

THOMAS SMYTH TO JAMES HOLLYDAY ¹

[Extract]

Dear Sir

Annapolis April the 28th 1776

... I now sett down to give you a relation of the extraordinary proceedings of some gentlen at Baltimore Town as well as what measures the Council has taken in consequence of the intercepted Letters from the Secretary of State to Governor Eden – on Tuesday the 14th Instant the Committee of Baltimore Town [illegible] received a Packet by Express from the Committee of Safety of Virginia covering a packett for our Board, copies of the intercepted Letters to Governor Eden, two Letters from Genl Lee one directed to Mr Hancock & the other to Mr Purviance Chairman of the Committee of Baltimore Town and desiring that an Express might be forwarded to Congress with copies of the intercepted Letters to Mr Eden – The Committee mett & sent off that Night their Despatches for the Congress, and altho Genl Lee & Mr Purviance thought it of the last importance that the Governor should be seized immediately yet the Letter for our Board did not reach them I think untill Tuesday – on Monday Mr Purviance applied to Captns Nicholson & Sl Smyth the former for the Tender and the latter to go in her with as many chossen Men as he shoud think necessary & proceed down to Annapolis to seize the Governor shewing them General Lees Letter and the intercepted Letters as a foundation for the measure – they consented – Mr Purviance gave Capt Sl Smith Orders as Chairman of the Committee without their knowledge Capt Nicholson also at Mr Purviances Desire gave his Lieut very extraordinary Orders not only to proceed to Annapolis but if the Governor should be gone to proceed down to Coll Fitzhughs and if necessary to assist Capt. Smith to search the house, in all these Orders no Direction was given to apply to the Council nor the commanding Officer when they shoud arrive at Annapolis but to apply to four Members of the Baltimore Committee who attend there for further Orders, and if they shoud seize the Governor or his Secretary to carry them to Baltimore unless those 4 Gentlemen shoud direct their being delivered up to the Council, Capt Sl Smith was at Annapolis three or four Days and did not acquaint the Co[uncil] of his Business and it seems it was by Accident the Council got Possession of his orders & Capt Nicholsons to his Lieutenant.

The Council on the Receipt of the intercepted Letters waited on the Governor and acquainted him with the Occasion of their visit & after some Conversation desired untill the next Day 12 The Clock to return an Answer to the Councils Demand, which was that he shoud give them his parole not to leave the province untill the Convention shoud meet or that they must arrest him – The next Day the Governor returned his answer which was firm & decent and promised that he shoud be found in Annapolis at the meeting of the Convention. two Days after the Council had taken their measures with Him they received an Order from Congress to take him immediately into Custody and all his Papers and send such as related to the American Dispute

to Congress – The Council then waited on the Governor and acquainted him with the Order. he then delivered them two Letters which he had received last Summer from his Brother William Eden & one from Lord Dartmouth & gave them liberty to search his Desk & Bureau of papers among which were Copies of Letters he had wrote to Administration in Feby last of very favorable to this Province and the next Day sent the Council his voluntary Parole in a very polite Note. the Council then wrote the Congress what they had done & that they could not comply with their Request in any other manner than they had which they hoped would be satisfactory & with all let them know that we did not think they had any power over our internal Affairs this was not relished by the hot Gentry and some very high motions were made thereon they were told in answer that the Council were not made of very pliant Stuff and nothing has been done further by the Congress in this Matter. we acquainted our Deputies with every measure we have taken respecting the Governors Affair they highly approve our Conduct & are determined to support us – there has been a good deal of warmth in Congress about Purviances Letter respecting the temper of our Board. We have had Purviance before us for daring to assume the supreme executive Authority of the Province and bound him over to the Convention for their Consideration of his Conduct and have had those Officers from Baltimore who undertook to give Orders without applying to the Council they were hurried into the measure by Purviance without reflection & were very sensible they had proceeded too far. . . .

1. Hollyday Papers, MdHS.

ROBERT BRENT TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Virginia Aquia April 28th 1776 –

A Vessell in James River bound for Glasgow, with many Passengers on board, was seiz'd as British property. A considerable quantity of Specie taken for which General Lee willingly gave the owners and they are as unwillingly oblig'd to receive Convention money – Three sloops belonging to the Factories of Fredrburg & Falmouth seized in Rappahannock In one of which it is said, I believe with truth, numbers of Scotchmen were ready to embark. It's not believed they would have attempted to cross the Atlantic in the Sloop – They would probably have Exchang'd her for a better vessell with Lord Dunmore. Charles Nelson, John Grimes, and sundry others from that part of the Country, had procur'd a Vessel embark'd their effects, and join'd a tender in the Bay – which had just before taken a New England Schooner. Nelson and other passengers went on board the Tender to pass the night a Storm arose the Capt of the New England prise was adroit enough to slip his cable, cut that of the vessell on which Nelson & Coms effects were – they both drove ashore, were seizd, and Secur'd. Nelson &c unable to proceed for want of cloaths & money, came ashore, and demanded their property. They were immediately arrested, carried to Wmsburg, and thrown into Jail. Nelson however was releas'd on giving Security to take

his trial in Middlesex agreeable to ordinance. In one of his trunks was found a Letter from R. Wormsley Junr to L. Dunmore the contents have not transpired – a guard was sent immediately to apprehend him, he has been in Wmsburg and is to take his trial before the Convention – . . .

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

COLONEL LACHLAN MCINTOSH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

The *Raven* & *Cherokee* are the only two ships of War which remain now stationed at Tybee in the Mouth of Savannah River, with whom we have no kind of Communication. – Several Armed Vessels infest our other Inlets to the Southward, & made Several Captur[e]s, which we cannot prevent as we have not a Single Vessel of any force, but they have alway[s] been drove off of the Shore, when they attempted to get a Supply of provision. – Savannah in Georgia 28th April 1776.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

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

April 1776 Moored in Savannah River Georgia
 Sunday 28 at 7 AM sent 4 Seamen Armed on board the *Ravens* Tender to bring in a Schooner, at 9 the Tender came in with the Schooner she proved to be the *Kitty* from Bloody point in Ballast

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Bristol*, CAPTAIN JOHN MORRIS ¹

April 1776 Cape Roman WNW. Distance 127 Leagues
 Saturday 27th Moderate & fair Wear At 5 AM found Variation pr Amplede: 00:36 Et & Variation of Azimo 00:46 Et At 10 made the *Solebays* Signl to chace a Sail in the N Wt Quarter At Noon 17 Sail in Compy & *Solebay* in sight.
 Sunday 28th Fresh Gales & Hazey Wear At 5 AM join'd Company the *Solebay* without speaking the Chace Sounded Several times but found no Ground At Noon 13 Sail in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/137.

29 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE ¹

April 1776 Cape Rosier SWbS 10 or 12 Leagues. Wt End of Anticosti NWbN Et End of Anticosti SEbS
 Monday 29th ½ past 12 AM, one of the Convoy to Leewd having Tackd – made the Signal & Tack'd also – ½ past 9 saw 2 Sail in the SW – made the Signal for the Convoy to stand on & have

Chace in Shore—Got up Top Galt Masts &c & set Top Galt Sails—at noon chasing & 4 of the Convoy in Sight —
 1st & Mid pts Light Breezes & clear — lat. fresh Breezes —
 at 1 PM, one of the Ships to Winwd made the private Signal which I answered—at 4, spoke the Chace, his Majesty's Ship *Niger* from Halifax bound to Quebec with a Transport in Tow—2 of her Convoy had parted Company—they had the 47th Regt on Bd at 6, made Sail with my Convoy as did the *Niger* — One Strange Sail in Sight in the SE —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Rose* ¹

No 15 Know all Men by these Presents that we the Captain & Officers of his Majestys Ship *Rose* at present in the Harbour of Halifax in Nova Scotia have Constituted ordain'd and made and in our stead and place put and by these Presents do Constitute ordain & make and in our name and place put Alexnr Brymer Mercht & Edward Bragge Gentleman to be true sufficient & lawfull Attorney for us and in our Names and stead and to our use to ask Demand levy require recover & receive of and from all & every person or persons whomsoever the same shall or may concern all and Singular Sum and Sums of Money Debts goods wares Merchandize Effects and things whatsoever and wheresoever they shall and may be found due, owing payable belonging & comeing unto their said Constituents by any ways & means whatsoever, nothing excepted or reserv'd Especially to take care of all such Prizes & seizures as we shall make & to prosecute the same in the Court of Vice Admiralty and when Condemn'd & Sold to Demand & receive for us the neat Proceeds thereof Giveing and hereby Granting unto our said Attorneys our full and whole strength power and authority in and about the premisses & to take and use all due means Cources and process in the Law for the Obtaining and recovering the same and of recoveries & receipts thereof in our Name to make Seal and Execute due acquittance and Discharge and for the premisses to appear and the persons of said Constituents to represent before any Governour Judge, Justice, Officers and Ministers of the Law whatsoever in any Court or Courts of Judicature, and there on our behalf to answer Defend and reply unto all Actions, Causes matters & things whatsoever relating to the Premisses. Also to submitt any matter in Dispute to Arbitration or otherwise with full Power to make and Substitute one or more Attornies under our said Attorneys and the same again at pleasure to remove and generally to say do and transact, determine, accomplish and finish all matters and things whatsoever relating to the premisses as fully amply and Effectually to all intents & purposes as we the said Constituents if present ought or might personally although the matter should require more special authority than is herein Compris'd. We the said Constituents ratifying allowing and holding firm and valid all and whatsoever our said Attorneys or their Substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the

Premises by Virtue of these Presents – In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our Names and Seals the twenty ninth day of April, Anno Domini 1776 and in the 16th year of his Majestys Reign.

Sign'd Seald & Deliver'd

in presence of

W Hodgman

Alex. Stuart

Ja^s Wallace Captain

Tho^s Laurie Lnt

Savage Gardner Mastr

H. Hargood Purser

James Thompson Boatswn

Benjamin Ridley Gunner

[Endorsed] receiv'd & Registered 3d Octr 1776 Liberd 2

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

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN ALEXANDER SCOTT ¹

April 1776

So end St George's Bank N14E 152 Lgs

Monday 29

at 6 [A. M.] saw a sl to the SWtward made sail & gave Chace, at Noon carried away the Larbd foretopmt Studdg sl boom by which the lower Studdg sl was lost Still in Chace we took her to be an Arm'd Brigg, All sail Sett, lost a logg & three lines The 1st & Middle part Fresh Gales wth rain, latter Strong Gales & hazy att 1/2 past 1 shortnd sl left off Chace & wore to the Convoy 1/2 past 3 join'd them,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Monday April 29, 1776

Resolved That for further encouragement to Seamen to inlist into the Colony Sea Service, One Months advance Wages be paid to the said Seamen at the time of their passing Muster, and also that their Wages be paid at the End of every Three Months or as soon afterwards as they shall arrive in some Port of this Colony – Resolved That the Officers of said Vessels be and hereby are allowed to inlist men out of the Companies raised for the defence of the Sea Coasts, and the Officers of said Companies are hereby directed to permit any of their Men to Inlist into the Colony & Continental Sea Service only and to inlist others to supply vacancies ocasioned thereby as soon as may be

Resolved that the Committee appointed to Build and fix out Armed Vessels, or any of One of them Muster the men raised for the Armed Vessels of this Colony, and pay them their advanced Wages. and receive out of the Treasury a Sum agreeable to an abstract to be returned for that purpose

Resolved that such Men as shall be inlisted for the Sea Service of this Colony, and are not able to furnish themselves with Arms agreeable to a former Resolve of this Court be furnished with the same by this Colony and that Twelve shillings be deducted from the Wages of each Man so furnished

Resolved that the Uniform of the Officers be Green & White and that they furnish themselves accordingly. and the Colours be a White Flag with a Green pine Tree, and an inscription "appeal to Heaven" –

Resolved That the Commanders of said Vessels receive their Orders and Instructions from a Committee hereafter to be appointed by this Court, and to be Conducted as secretly as possible –

Resolved that the Rations or Provisions allowed to the Officers be the same as is or shall be allowed to the Officers of the same rank in the Continental Service. –

Resolved that the Committee to be appointed as aforesaid, furnish each of the Commanders of the Armed Vessels of this Colony with Instructions to regulate their Conduct agreeable to the resolves of this Court –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 816, 823, 824.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776.

Colony of Massachusetts Bay, Essex ss.

Libels are filed before me, against the brigantine named the *Dolphin*, burthen about 100 tons, commanded by William Wallis; against the ship named the *Statkesby* [*Stakesby*], burthen about 300 tons, commanded by one Willis; and against the schooner *Industry* from [New] Providence, laden with turtle, commanded by Francis Butler – Which vessels are said to have been improved in carrying supplies to the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and brought into the county of Essex. A libel is also filed before me against a cable and anchor, said to have belonged to the *Fowey* man of war (at the time of the caputre, infesting the sea coast and navigation of America) and brought into the county of Essex. And the court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America and brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or Essex, will be held at Salem, in said county of Essex, on Tuesday the 14th day of May, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the Justice of the said captures. Of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owners of said vessels, and of the said cable and anchor, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessels with their cargoes and appurtenances, and the said cable and anchor should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, Junr.

Judge of said Court.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Suffolk, ss.

A libel is filed before me, against the snow named the *Industry*, burthen about 280 tons, commanded by James Furse, and said to be improved in carrying supplies to the fleet and army employed against the United Colonies, and brought into the said county of Suffolk. And the Court erected to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the sea coast of America and brought into either of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, or

Essex, will be held at the Court House in Boston in said county of Suffolk, on Friday the tenth day of May, 1776, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, to try the justice of the said capture. Of which this notice is given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, that the owner of said vessel, or any persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel with its cargo and appurtenances should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, Junr.

Judge of said Court.

Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, ss.

At a Court erected to try and condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America, and brought into the Counties of Plymouth, Barnstable, Bristol, Nantucket, or Duke's County to be held at Plymouth, in the said County of Plymouth, on Wednesday the 15th Day of May 1776 at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon, will be tried the Justice of the Capture of a Schooner called the *Volant*, Burthen about 70 Tons, commanded by Edward Marsh: – And of the Schooner called the *Loyalty* Burthen about 15 Tons, commanded by Daniel White – Which Vessels, said to be improved in supplying the Fleet and Army, employed against the United Colonies, taken and brought into the Counties of Bristol and Plymouth, aforesaid, together with their Cargoes and Appurtenances, are libelled in the Court aforesaid, and will be tried on the day above mentioned: And notice is hereby given, pursuant to the laws of the colony aforesaid, to all persons claiming property in either of the aforesaid vessels or cargoes, or anyways concerned therein, that they may appear and shew cause (if any they have) why the said vessels, or either of them, with their cargoes and appurtenances should not be condemned.

N. Cushing, Judge of said Court.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776

The following prisoners, lately officers in the British Navy, who had given their parole of honor, not to depart from the bounds of the town of Northampton without leave from the commander in chief, did, in the evening of the 27th instant, abscond and run away, viz. *Henry Edwin Stanhope*, 24 years of age, of lightish eyes, hair, and complexion, pitted with the small pox, has a large nose, and is about 5 feet 6 inches in height. Also, *George Gregory*, 24 years old, with light colour'd short hair, light complexion and thin favoured, about 5 feet 8 inches high. They took away a young stone horse, almost black, with a white face and hog mane, and an old red roan gelding, both good horses. It is hoped the greatest vigilance will be exerted to apprehend the said prisoners, who, in return for the indulgence shewn them, have basely violated their Word of Honor. Five Dollars, and all necessary charges will be paid for apprehending and se[c]uring either of them.

Per order of the committee of Northampton

Robert Breck, Chairman. ¹

The Printers in this and the neighbouring Colonies, are desired to insert the above in their several papers.

[Northampton] April 29, 1776.

1. In Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 418, is a bill dated April 28, 1776 for £14.11.2 covering the expenses of seven men in pursuing the escaped prisoners, with a petition from Breck to the Massachusetts General Court reading: "beg your Honors to consider the above Acct & pay the sum above specif[ie]d to your petitioner being one of the sd Committee who has advanc'd the sum aforesd to the several persons there mention'd which Acct the said Committee think are but a reasonable allowance for the said service in pursuing the sd prisoners aforesd."

JOHN BROWN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Sr

Providence April 29th 1776

an Express havg arived here from Phileda this Evening With the In-closed Letters for You, we ware at a Loss Weither to Forward them to Newport or to keep them till You Return, but havg opend that from the Merine Committe at phileda & findg it to Contain Matters Requireing the Graitest Dispatch, have therefore Now Forwarded them by Express hired on purpose to Reach You before morning - We are Sr. [&c.]

John Brown for the Committe

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR., NEW LONDON ¹

Recd of Mr Henrey Billings Mr Joseph Russels Receipt for one Thousand and Ninty three Pounds Powdr which he Recd for Mr Williams of Mr N. Shaw

Providence april 29. 1776

Esek Hopkins

Nathl Shaw junr Esqr Contl Agent -

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776

Newport, April 29.

Last Wednesday a ship, supposed to be the *Scarborough* or *Cerberus*, and a black brig,¹ were standing off and on a little without the entrance of this harbour great part of the day; they were twice close in with the light house; two American brigs, and three sloops, the same day, were chased by the above black brig, but got clear and went in on the east side of this island.

Last Thursday night, the Continental ships *Alfred* and *Columbus*, and the brig [*Cabot*], arrived in our bay, and anchored near Hope; a station occupied by British pirates a considerable part of the winter.

Capt. Ebenezer Barker, arrived at Bedford last Thursday, in 23 days from the West-Indies informs, that last Wednesday, a little to the southward of Montague, he was chaced by two large ships, but night coming

in, he made his escape; that the islands were in great want of provisions, and were planting most of their cane-land – with potatoes, &c. and that the transports which were blown off the coast last winter, were to sail for Boston about the time he sail'd.

1. *Cerberus* and the brig *Diligent*.

MINUTES OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

[Lebanon] April 29th, 1776.

Moved that a committee may be appointed to take care of the prisoners sent to Windham from on board Commodore [Esek] Hopkins' fleet, and who are now confined in prison there: And thereupon Col. Elipht Dyer, Jed. Elderkin, Nathl Wales, Samll Gray, and Constant Southworth, Esqrs, are appointed a committee to take care of, oversee and direct the said prisoners; and if they shall think proper, to take the parole of any officers there, and suffer them to be at large, and to disperse the men as they think best, to be at labour, and on their refusal, or ill behavior of any, to be remanded and dealt with, at the discretion of said committee, according to the orders of the Governor and this Council. *Copy given.*

Voted, That Adam Babcock, Esqr, of N. Haven, be allowed to purchase of Esqrs Elderkin and Wales 200 pounds of gun-powder for the use of his privateer now fitting, and in the mean time, if need be, Col. [Jonathan] Fitch of said town is directed to lend him the same quantity out of the Colony stores, until he can obtain and replace it from said Col. Elderkin and Wales' manufactory, or otherways. *Copy given, delivered Mr. J. Rice.*

Voted, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table for four hundred pounds, in favour of Capt. James Rice of New Haven, for expences of fitting the Colony brig and building the row-galley *Whiting*, and expences in the Colony service, and to render his account. *Copy given.*

Voted, That Zadock Brewster is appointed Lieutenant of the row-galley under command of Capt. Theops. Stanton.

Voted, That Capt. Theops Stanton be directed to pick out four cannon at New London for the use of the row-galley under his command, and see that the same be properly bored and fitted for service. *Copy given.*

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 265–66.

EPHRAIM STARR TO CAPTAIN JOHN MCCLEAVE ¹

Sir

Goshen 29th April 1776

Herewith I send you the Oars you agreed for (vizt)

40: long Square Looms	973 feet a 3:3/4	£15..4..0¾
349 “	a 2:1/4	[3..5..5¼]
		£18..9..6

As I have had a good dele of Trouble in geting the oars out so soon as we agreed & it being more Costly at this Season of the Year to Transport

them cant afford them under the price perfixed above which sum please to pay to the Barer hereof Mr Harrison Yours [&c.]

Ephraim Starr

To Captn McCleve ²
att New Haven

N B: In case Capn McCleve is out of Town it was agreed for the above Oars to be Delivered to Mr James Rice in New Haven and he would pay the Money therefor on Delivery

E: Starr

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, Row Galley papers, 16a, ConnSL.
2. Captain of the galley *Whiting*.

PETITION OF CAPTURED BRITISH NAVAL OFFICERS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

To His Excellency General Washington

Sir – We are sorry to trouble your Excellency so often, only our health as well our Duty to our fellow-creatures, makes it necessary, having upon us the strongest symptoms of a contagious distemper; and being confined in a close room together with three other gentlemen, they undoubtedly have the greatest reason to be apprehensive of its consequences. As we believe it foreign from your intention to endanger our lives, or the Lives of others, we should be glad if you will order our case to be looked into. We remain your humble servants

Tho^s R. Harris, Master's Mate,
William Metcalfe, Midshipman,
of His Majestys Ship *Savage*
City Jail; New-York, April 29, 1776.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1129.

PIERRE VAN COURTLAND TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety, N. York, 29th April 1776.

... We thank you for the information respecting the signals fixed upon below to give intelligence of the approach of an Enemy. . . . We hope, Sir, that the general nature of the cause we are engaged in, the generous attention of the Continent to the defence and security of this Colony, and the readiness of our neighbours to come to our assistance, from time to time, when they have apprehended us to be in danger, will serve to exclude from our minds the narrow distinction of Colonies, and teach us to esteem the British fleets and armies as much *our* enemies while on the coasts of Connecticut, New-Jersey, or Carolina, as if they lay in the East river.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 425. Van Courtland was chairman of the New York Committee of Safety.

PROCLAMATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

By His Excellency George Washington, Esq; General and Commander
in Chief of the Army of the United Colonies.

Whereas an intercourse and correspondence with the ships of war, and other vessels belonging to, and in the service of the King of Great Britain, is highly detrimental to the rights and liberties of the said colonies. And whereas the Committee of Safety of the colony of New-York, taking the same under their consideration, on the 18th instant did resolve and order, "That no inhabitant of the said colony on any pretence, or for any purpose whatsoever, either in person or in writing, should directly, or indirectly, presume to have, or maintain any intercourse whatsoever, with any ships belonging to, or employed in the service of the said King, or with any of his officers, or ministers, or with any person, or persons on board the same, on pain of being dealt with in the severest manner," Notwithstanding which, there is reason to believe that sundry base and wicked persons, preferring their own present private emolument to their country's weal, have continued to carry on the same, particularly some who under pretence of coming to the market of this city by water, have put themselves, their vessels and effects in the way of the said ships of war, for the purposes of giving them intelligence and furnishing them with supplies of provision; and have been taken: To the end that such evil and pernicious practices may be remedied and prevented in future, I hereby publish and declare, that if any person, or persons shall hereafter presume to have, hold, or continue to carry on such intercourse, or any kind of correspondence whatsoever, or furnish and supply the said ships of war, and other vessels in such service, with provisions and necessaries of any kind, that he, or they so offending, will be deemed and considered as an enemy, or enemies to the rights of the said colonies, and if apprehended will be treated accordingly.

And I do hereby will and require all officers and soldiers in the army under my command, and most earnestly entreat all persons well attached to the interest of the said colonies to use their utmost care and diligence for preventing the same; and apprehending and securing all persons that shall be guilty thereof.

Given under my Hand, at Head Quarters, in the City of New York,
this Twenty Ninth of April, Anno Domini, 1776.

G. Washington.

1. *Constitutional Gazette*, May 1, 1776.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO NEW YORK DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Extract]

In Committee of Safety,
N. York, 29th April, 1776.

Gentlemen — On the 23d of March last, we wrote to you upon a subject of the utmost importance — the command in the marine department on the lakes. Our application was occasioned by a letter from General Schuyler, a

copy of which we then enclosed to you. The General, in that letter, informed our Congress that, in case Major [William] Douglas should decline that command, there was "no person he would more willingly have to command the vessels than Capt. [Jacobus] Wynkoop, and requested, at any rate, to send him up the soonest possible, with a sufficient number of sailors for the two schooners and sloop." We further informed you, that we immediately sent for Capt. Wynkoop, communicated to him the General's letter, and sent him with a copy of it to Major Douglass. That he delivered it to him, and received for answer, from Major Douglass, that he was then in service, and that it would be at least two months before he could attend at the lakes, if his health would permit. That we, thereupon, wrote him a letter, a copy of which, and his answer, we also enclose to you. In our letter to him, we gave him a gentle reproof, for his uncertain answer to Wynkoop, and signified that we expected his immediate answer, and in case of his acceptance, he should stand ready for the execution of his duty at a minute's warning, whenever the service should require it. In his answer, he informed us, "I told Capt. Wynkoop what I now tell you, that whenever I should receive orders from the [Continental] Congress, or the General, I was willing to comply if my health would permit; and as Capt. Wynkoop is desired by the General to get his men and go up, I beg you would assist and forward him, and if I am not called upon, should endeavour to serve my country in some station of as much importance as to command on the lakes." We farther reminded you, in the above mentioned letter, that the season was so far advanced that the service would suffer, if the vessels on the lakes were not immediately employed; and conceiving that Major Douglass's indetermination would make room for a new appointment, we took the liberty, through you, to recommend Capt. Wynkoop as a person who was bred a mariner, had frequently been master of mercantile vessels, had served with reputation last war, both in the land and sea service; that we then thought him (as we still do) an officer of merit, and that we had heard his conduct in the last campaign highly applauded, and conceived him to be worthy of the trust, and thought, from General Schuyler's letter, the appointment would not be disagreeable to him. We farther informed you that Capt. Wynkoop would not continue in the marine service under Major Douglass; but that, nevertheless, we had prevailed on him, with the argument of danger that the service would suffer, to engage seamen and proceed to the General with all possible despatch. To this letter we have hitherto not been favoured with an answer, but have heard a report that some order from Continental Congress had been sent to Major Douglass to repair to the post assigned him.² General Schuyler, still attentive to the importance of the service on the lakes, in a letter of 4th instant to General [William] Thompson, who furnished us with a copy of it, writes thus: "Will you be so good as to request the New-York Congress that the sailors may be sent up without delay." In consequence of this, we sent for Capt. Wynkoop, being convinced of the impossibility of sending up the seamen without an officer, and engaged him to enlist the men and proceed to put the vessels in order, under

the present uncertainty of his station, on condition that he be permitted to quit the service, in case he should be superseded. Of this we informed General Schuyler, by letter of the 25th instant, of which Capt. Wynkoop, who has gone up with his seamen, is the bearer.

After what has been said already, in recommendation of Capt. Wynkoop, we shall presume to say no more than that in case Major Douglass should decline, we hope that this fresh instance of Capt. Wynkoop's zeal for the public service, added to his former merit, will have sufficient weight with the Congress to confirm him in that command, which was destined for Major Douglass. . . .

To our Delegates at Phila.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 425-26.
2. See *Journal of the Continental Congress*, March 26, 1776.

New-York Gazette, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1776.

New-York, April 29.

The 30th of March last, a Sloop called the *Liberty*, belonging to Perth Amboy, from St. Eustatia, with 83 Barrels of Gun Powder, 21 Bales of Dry Goods, and 2 Hogsheads of Medicines, was taken by a Tender off the Capes of Delaware, and sent into Norfolk.

CAPTAIN HYDE PARKER, JR., R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM¹

Copy

Sir, I received your Dispatches of the Sixth Instant, by Captain [Hugh] Bromedge of His Majesty's Sloop *Savage*; Your Letter of the Twentieth of March is truly distressing and am afraid the unhappy cause that Obliged His Majestys Troops to go to Halifax will in a great Measure interrupt the Success upon this Province; there being now in the City of New York, upon Long Island, the Jerseys and Straten Island, Ten or Fifteen Thousand of the Provincial Army, which have, ever since the Embarkation of the King's Troops from Boston, been pouring in from the Camp at Cambridge and Pennsylvania, these are now indefatigable in Fortifying every Height; The Fortifications about the Town you have an Account of in the Papers Marked Numbers One and Two; Ground is Marked out upon each side of the Narrows for Batteries

You will see Sir, by the Printed Advertisement of General Putnam's that all communication with us is cut off,² and Hostilities commenced by them upon the Seventh; Suspecting that it would soon happen, I was desirous of having the Ships Water completed, for which purpose I Ordered Captain Bromedge to the Watering place upon Straten Island (a place we had always Watered at without interruption) Captain Bromedge's Orders were not to Fire, until our People were fired upon; these Orders were punctually executed; for, at half past Nine in the Morning, about Five hundred of the Rebels came down a hollow way, and were not discovered, until they were so near the People placed to look out, that their retreat to the Boats

was effectually cut off. The Rebels without any sort of Warning fired immediately upon the People employed filling the Water, upon which Captain Bromedge began, and not until then, he very soon dispersed the Body to about Fifty, which Sheltered themselves behind Rocks, and in little Hollows, laying upon their Bellies and keeping up a very galling Fire, so much so, that he dare not venture a Boat to bring off his Cutter, which his Petty Officer very imprudently had allowed to Ground, finding he was not able to dislodge those Rebels, I made his Signal to come off.

The Situation of the Two Ships at the Arrival of the *Savage* was the same Sir, as when I had the Honor of writing you by Mr. Clark. But having received information that the Rebels had an intention, of making an attempt to set the *Asia* on Fire, by means of a Number Vessels chained together, to be sent down upon an Ebb Tide, which runs very Strong. I was apprehensive this might be attended with disagreeable consequences, if not fatal, as her own Boats would be of very little effect upon such a Weight as a Number of Vessels chained together, in so strong a Tide's way. Besides the great probability there was that the Rebels would erect Batteries upon Red Hook, from whence they might have Annoyed her very much. These reasons induced me to Order her down, nor should I have risked that Ship so long, had I not been in daily expectation of the Fleet and Army. For while we were Able to keep those Stations; a clear passage was kept open up the North River. Since the *Asia* has drop'd down, the Rebels have taken possession of Governor's Island where they have thrown up some Works, and also upon Red Hook.

As any attempt of ours to interrupt their Fortifying the Narrows must in the end prove ineffectual from the great Height of the Lands upon each side, I judged it would be most conducive to His Majesty's Service, to preserve this place as a Port, and effectually Block it up, for which purpose, I have now placed the *Asia*, just above what is called the upper Middle Ground, a pass that the Rebels might in a great Measure, by sinking of Vessels, interrupt the passage of the Channel for the present. The *Phoenix* is at the Hook, which is the only place we can get Water, and this is of so Brackish a Nature, that I dread the Effects of it upon the Men's health's.

Upon the Twenty Seventh of March having information, that the ship *Lady Gage* was moving from the Kilns (a place she had lain Aground from the time of her Arrival in the Winter) in order to go to Elizabeth Town, from whence it was proposed to push for Philadelphia, to fit her out as a Privateer, I immediately Ordered the Boats of the Two Ships under the direction of Lieutenant Robertson, to go and if he found it practicable, to cut the said Ship out, if not to set her on Fire; At the same time to send a Boat to Elizabeth Town Point, where the *Blue Mountain Valley* Transport laid (the Ship taken during the Winter) and if the Officer found her unguarded, he was to board her and set the Ship on Fire, both these Orders were Executed with punctuality and without loss. The *Lady Gage* is a fine New Ship, and a remarkable fast sailing One.

On the Thirteenth the *Nautilus* Arrived with your Circular Letter; the other Dispatches you sent by the *Glasgow*, having been thrown Overboard in their Engagement with the Rebel Privateers.

The Situation His Majesty's Ships were in at this Port for want of Water, induced me to detain the *Nautilus* until the Twenty fourth, in Order to cover the Boats upon that service, until we had put the Light house in a State of defence, in doing of which I was reduced to the Necessity of burning the Dwelling house Annexed to it. The Lanthorn of it was totally destroyed by the Rebels on the Tenth of March, which has rendered the Light wholly useless as to Navigation.

I think it is my Duty Sir, from the confidence you have been pleased to place in me by communicating the Situation of His Majesty's Troops, to tell you, that I do not imagine any Quantity of Provisions is to be expected in this Province, until the Continental Army has received a severe Blow, and the King's Troops get possession of the Country, for however well inclined the greatest part of the Inhabitants of this Province are to give every Assistance, it is not in their power; As the Rebel Committee are in possession of all the Landing Places, which totally prevents the Shipping of Provisions &c unless by their Permission.

The Rebels have sent large Detachments of Troops towards Quebec, and a strong report prevails, that they have lately received another severe Check in that Quarter, but it is impossible in our present Situation to get at the Truth. They are exceedingly Assiduous both here and at Philadelphia in fitting out small Privateers, which I am apprehensive will in a very short time Infest this Coast so, that no Vessel unless well Armed will be able to approach this Port. Considerable Exportations of Flour are also carried out by the East end of Long Island.

The News Papers say that the Privateers which fell in with the *Glasgow*, have lost a good Many Men and are considerably Shattered. These Ships by the same Channel are said to have been at [New] Providence, taken the Governor Prisoner and brought off all the Military Stores to a considerable Amount. The Continental Congress Publicly publish in their News Papers Orders for making reprisals of all British Property, as also Copies of Commissions and Instructions for their Privateers.

From the Contractor of this Port, not being able to furnish the Ships with Rum, Pease, Butter and Cheese, the *Asia* begins to feel a great want in the three last Articles, to remedy this Evil as much as possible, I have Ordered her to be Supplied with Flour and Melasses from the Prizes in lieu of those Articles, and have also compleated the Spirits on board both Ships to three Months, from Rum of the Cargo of the Brig *Mary*. It having been represented to me, that the Limes on board the Brig *Diligence* were perishing; I have with Advice of the Surgeons; Divided what remained between the two Ships with Orders for a Quantity of the Juice to be Mixed with the Grog.

His Majesty's Pacquet Boat the *Swallow* Arrived at this place, March the Tenth and has been detained by the Governor, for Government Dis-

patches until the Nineteenth of this Month; Since which it has not been in my power to give her Convoy, being under the Necessity of keeping the *Savage* constantly in Store to Cover the people employed Watering.

Lieutenant Oldfield of the Marines having died since my last Letters, has induced me to defer the complying with your Order, for the Discharge of Lieutenant Sterling, until you shall be pleased to Order another Lieutenant to the Command of the Party.

You will see Sir, by the report of Vessels taken that a Number of them have been Sunk, and Destroyed, these were such that were by no means fit to be sent to Halifax and the putting Men into them would have Weakened our Ships considerably, I therefore saw no other Method of disposing of them, but destroying of them.

Having received intelligence of a Schooner with Arms from Providence being to sail soon after the Vessel in which those Letters for Admiral Graves came; I judged that those Letters might have contained some Intelligence respecting the Schooner, I therefore took upon me to open them.

Enclosed Sir, I have the Honor of transmitting the State and Condition of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, as also the different reports &c. respecting them since my last Letters.³ I have the Honor to be, Sir [&c.]

H. Parker

Phoenix, Sandy Hook New York 29th April 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. Putnam's order of April 8, 1776.

3. Parker also enclosed plan of the chevaux de frise in the Delaware River. See illustration.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, April 29, 1776

A letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with the examination of Alexander Ross, and sundry papers found in his possession:

Resolved, That the . . . letter from the council of safety of Maryland, with Mr. Ross's papers, be referred to a committee of five:

The members chosen, Mr. [Benjamin] Harrison, Mr. [Edward] Rutledge, Mr. [Robert] Goldsborough, Mr. [Robert Treat] Paine, and Mr. [Caesar] Rodney.

Resolved, That Captain Peter Adams, from Maryland, under whose custody Alexander Ross was brought to this city, be dismissed, and that the said Alexander Ross be delivered to the care of the officer commanding the continental troops in Pennsylvania.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 316, 317.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

[Extract]

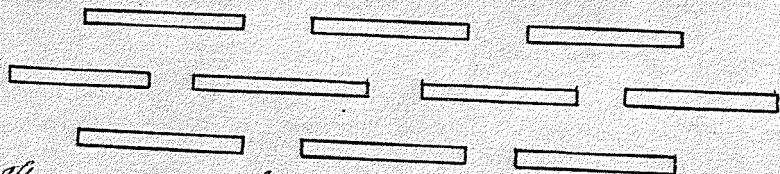
Philadelphia 29th April 1776

I rec'd yours of the 15th inst by which I find some of my letters respecting guns, canvass &c has not come to hand. I am doing every thing in my power to forward these matters and flatter myself shall be able to obtain an order for the canvass (by this post) to be forwarded from Providence or

If any part of the Fleet are Ordered up to Philadelphia, the formidable bug-bears which the Philadelphians have sunk in their River, and which they call Cheveaux de frise, may be passed by bribing one of the Pilots which carries their own Vessels through them. They are about Twenty feet high, and the Hypothemus about thirty feet, made of Spars about Eighteen Inches square, and One foot long; the wood frame pretty well joined, and the side view of it is thus.



It is about 16 or 18 feet wide, and the lower part will contain about 16 or 20 Tons of Stones. They bar the Channel across in this manner.



They are guarded by two Brigs which carry 18 Pounds, and a floating Battery which carries Ten 12 Pounds; but they are not Manned with Sailors. I should be very sorry to hear of the destruction of so fine a City, but should rejoice to hear of two or three Men of War passing through or weighing up their Cheveaux de frise, and taking their Vessels; that they may be convinced, that nothing is impossible to British Tars; and that 'tis in vain to contend with Great Britain. —

This from a Gentleman of Credit at Philadelphia
 Nov. 17

New London. I can say nothing about the guns, but what I have already wrote you: the colors has thirteen Stripes red and white for the field and a union. As to the Agency I wrote you that I had nominated you in Committee, where there was no objection, nor did I imagine there would be in Congress – but I was mistaken – for when the nomination came before Congress, there was objections from every part of the room on account of your being a member: it was proposed to be put off which I did not object to, finding I should not be able to carry it at that time. There has since been a motion that no Member of Congress shall hold any lucrative office; if this should not obtain I shall make another attempt.

Pray send a list of proper persons for officers for the ship; [Thomas] Thompson I think is a very good man; there must be three Lieutenants, a Captain and two Lieutenants of Marines; – the Master must be a very good man – I hope we shall have such men as will do honor to the Colony . . . The Committee have promised me an order tomorrow morning for the canvass to be forwarded from Providence – that is the heavy canvass – as for light canvass, I don't know where it is to come from: I shall send you the name of the ship next post and hope you will have the canvass soon after this reaches you.

1. William Whipple Papers, Force Transcripts, I, 115–16, LC.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN THOMAS REED ¹

In Committee of Safety

[Philadelphia] April 29. 1776 –
11 oClock A.M. –

In Consequence of the Intelligence received that the *Roebuck* Man of War is aground upon Bra[n]dywine you are directed to proceed with the province Ship *Montgomery* under your Command down the River and Bay and join the Commodore who is already on his Way with the armed Boats to take or destroy her – As the Success of this Enterprise will probably depend upon Expedition that is used not a Moment must be lost, and it is expected you will obey this Order immediately upon the first of the Ebb. – It is intended your Complement of SeaMen shall be made up out of the floating Battery with a Detachment of Captain [Thomas] Proctor's Artillery, respecting which we expect the Commodore has left Directions at Fort Island. We hope you will also be join'd by a good many Voluntiers from the City. – ² & As these parties can follow in Boats you are not to wait a Moment at Fort Island but pass immediately through the Chevaux de Fris [Endorsed]

Orders to Capt Reed

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

2. Charles Biddle in his *Autobiography* states:

In the spring there was an account came up to the city that the *Roebuck*, Captain Hammond, was aground on the Brandywine Shoal: We had at that time a provision ship of fourteen guns, fitting out under the command of Captain Read. It was determined this ship should sail immediately with two or three of the galleys. Captain

Cowperthwait waited on the Committee of Safety, and offered his company to act as marines. The Committee thanked him and the company, but said there was a full company of marines belonging to the ship. I then offered myself as a seaman, when Captains Souder, Jackson, Potts, and some others of the company did the same. Our service was gladly accepted, and we went immediately on board. The ship was fitted out with great dispatch, numbers of respectable people coming down to assist in getting the guns, water, and ballast on board. Although it rained very hard, they never left the wharf until she had everything on board. When we put off from the wharf, we had about one hundred and fifty men on board, but we were very badly fitted. Our guns were a great deal too long, and our crew were chiefly landsmen. There were not more than twenty seamen including the officers on board, so that we should have made a bad hand at fighting. Having some apprehension of being taken, I took on board only a few shirts and trowsers, being determined if taken, and the ship came into the river, to endeavor to make my escape by swimming. However, I was not put to the trial, for the day after we sailed intelligence was brought us of the *Roebuck* getting off the shoal, and the volunteers were all dismissed. Had Captain Hammond known our intention, and kept his ship on a heel near the shoal, he could easily have taken the ship and galleys.

The intelligence of the *Roebuck* getting off the shoal was brought by Captain Andrew Caldwell, who had been down to the Capes to see in what position the *Roebuck* lay. When the galley returned and anchored near the ship, Captain Read ordered the barge to be sent to bring Captain Caldwell on board. I went in her as coxswain, and the rest of the masters as the boat's crew. When we got alongside of the galley, I stood up with my hat off, and received him on board the barge with as much ceremony as if we had belonged to the barge of a British man-of-war, and he had been an Admiral. When we were at some distance from the galley, Captain Caldwell, looking at me very steadfastly, exclaimed, "My God, Biddle! is it you?" I answered, yes. He then recognized Potts and some of the other masters whom he knew. When he put the same question to Potts that he did to me, Potts told him that we had been unfortunate, and were obliged to enter before the mast. As he was well acquainted with my family, he seemed much affected; however, he was soon relieved by Captain Read, who wished us to mess with him. This we would not do, for having entered as foremastmen we were determined to act as such.

James S. Biddle, ed., *Autobiography of Charles Biddle . . . 1745-1821* (Philadelphia, 1883), 83-84. Hereafter cited as Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE SHIP
*Reprisal*¹

[Philadelphia, April 29, 1776]²

Ship *Reprisal*

Lambert Wick[e]s Esqr Commander.

To the Commissioners of the Navy.

Dr

— For First Cruise —

1776							
April 17	To	12 pieces	Canvass	Vizt			
		3 pieces	No 5	114 ¾ yds	@		
		2 pieces	7	84	"		
		1 piece	L	46	"		
		6 Bolts	Russia		@ £7.10	45.	
26	"	1 piece	L Canvass	91 yds	@		
29	"	2 Bolts	Russia Duck	@ £7.10			15.
"	"	1 Cask	of Oatmeal	wt 4. . 0. 16	@ 10 pCt		2. . 1. 5
30	"	8 pieces	Canvass	Assorted	Vizt		
		1 Bolt	No 7	39½ Yards	@		
		1 do	" 2	38½ "			
		1 do	" 3	39¾ "			

	3 do	Ravens Duck			
	2 do	Russia do	£7.10	15..--	
May 24	" 90	Hammocks & 5 Cotts	@ 20/4		96.11..8
June 3	"	Cash paid to & for sundrys from 4 Apl to this day Vizt			
April 4	" do "	Joseph Stansbury for Stone & Glass ware		5..5..2½	
" 19	" do "	Thomas Oliver pr Order of Mr Towers		2..--	
" 20	" do "	Capt Lockton his bill for mens labour		15.18..--	
" 23	" do "	for ¾ Cord Hickory and hawling		1..0..4	
" 24	" do "	Mrs Bridges for making Collours		3..--	
" 26	" do "	for 3 Cordwood, Hawlg & Cordg		4..3..6	
" "	" do "	for Sawing & Splitting do		1..8..1½	
" 27	" do "	Porterage of 17 Bas Pease		2..4	
" "	" do "	do of Cwt Cordage		1..2	
" "	" do "	for 12 Cedar Bolts & porterage 1/6		19..--	
" "	" do "	George Wilson for hawlg 12 loads		1.10..--	
" "	" do "	scant[li]n[g]			
" "	" do "	for 1 Cord wood hawling &c		1..8..2	
" 29	" do "	James Rosebothems bill for whitewashing		2.19..6	
" "	" do "	for 55½ lbs Fresh Beeff, 13 lbs Mutton & Greens @ 5/2d		1.11..9	
" "	" do "	for 2 Bushells Indian Corn		7..--	
" "	" do "	for a large Slate for the Master		3.11	
" "	" do "	for 1 weeks Board of Mr [John] Harper		15..--	
" "	" do "	Joseph Turner for 1 faggot Iron hoops		2..5..--	
" "	" do "	for 1 Bushell Coarse Salt 6/6 & 1 Bl fine 12/		18..6	
" "	" do "	for 30 Galls Old Jamaica spirit		11..5..--	
" 30	" do "	for 2 Boxes Tallow Candles		4.14..4	
" "	" do "	James Allenby Coopers bill		3.17.11	
		Carried Forward		£65.13..8	

Ship *Reprisal* Lambert Wicks Esqr Commander. 1st Cruise

1776				
June 3		Brought Forward		65.13..8
June 30	To	Cash paid for 1 lb Amry 2/ and 1 lb Glue 1/6		3..6
" "	" do "	Leonard Philips for scrapping the ship		4.15..--
" "	" do "	Samuel Rhoads Junrs bill for hardware		5..7.10
" "	" do "	Henry Baggs for 219 lbs Fresh beeff @ 5d		4.11..5
May 1	" do "	James Wharton for 2 Sheep Skins		1..2..6
" "	" do "	for 310 lb Fresh Beeff he bot @ 4½		5.16..3
" "	" do "	John Locktons bill for days labour		34..9..--
" "	" do "	John Weaver for 7 Check shirts		4.11..--
" "	" do "	Henry Slesman for 13 do		8.10..--
" 2	" do "	Edward Oxleys bill for Shirts		12..7..--
" "	" do "	Philip Mitmans bill for do		19.13..--
" "	" do "	Sawing 1 Cord hickory wood		7..6
" "	" do "	The Boatswain 14 days labour		3..3..--
" "	" do "	Frederick Dutz's bill for Slops		24.10..--
" "	" do "	for 3l lb Fresh Butter @ 1/2 & 2 Jars 2/		2..--.9
" "	" do "	for a Coopers Cross stock		4..--
" "	" do "	Jonas Abram for boarding Wm Stanston } & Emanuel Britt 1 week		1..--..--
" "	" do "	John Bucks bill for Slops		51..4..--

"	3	"	do	"	Anthony Groves bill for 9 Shirts	6..-.-
"	"	"	do	"	Nathaniel Donnell for 2 Grindstone	14..9
"	6	"	do	"	for 2½ yds White flannell	11..3
"	7	"	do	"	James Fulton for sundry port[era]ges	4.11..6
"	"	"	do	"	Hawling a Cable	7..6
"	8	"	do	"	for 1 Keg butter 61 lb @ 9d & Cag 2/	2..7..9
"	"	"	do	"	William Harper for 483 lbs @ 7d & portg	15..2.10½
"	"	"	do	"	Simon Skillen Carvers bill	1.18..-
"	"	"	do	"	Thomas Cuthbert for wharfage &c	2..6..-
"	9	"	do	"	Robert McGill Stationers bill	2..2.11
"	10	"	do	"	for 1012 lbs Fresh Beeff bot by Aln Moore	23..3.10
"	11	"	do	"	Peter Blancher for hawling carr[ia]g[e]s	3.18..6
"	16	"	do	"	John Locktons bill for days labour	2..6..-
"	"	"	do	"	Benjamin Condys bill	1.16..6
"	"	"	do	"	Wetherill & Cressons bill for Boards	3..5..6
"	"	"	do	"	Thomas Badge for 2 Boxes soap	4.16..2
"	"	"	do	"	for 10 Galls Jama Spirit @ 10/	3..-.-
"	18	"	do	"	Robert Carson for 283 lbs Fresh beeff	6..9..8
"	20	"	do	"	Wm Waltmans bill for Port[era]ge	9.19..6
"	24	"	do	"	James Moye's bill for makg hanks	2..6..-
Carried Forward						348..3..6

Ship *Reprisal* Lambert Wickes Esqr Commander. contd 1st Cruise

1776					
June	3		Brought Forward	£348..3..6	
May	23	To	Cash paid George Esterlys bill for repairing a Camboos	10.13..6	
"	25	"	do " William Roberts for amunition boxes	3..-.-	
"	"	"	do " John Elmslies bill	9..3..-	
"	"	"	do " Thomas Corgee for Ironing a harness tub	6..-	371..6..-
"	"	"	Amot of Benjn Marshalls bill	22..4..9	22..4..9
"	"	"	Amot Sundry Ship Chandlery Stores comprehending } Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenrs Stewards &c		417.13..-
"	"	"	Amot Sundry Cordoage wt 67.2.26 @ 66/1 pCt		422..-..11½
July	1	"	Cash paid James Hood for 2 bushls Salt		15..-
"	4	"	do " William Shute for 2 boxes Candles & Cotton		5..5..-
"	21	"	do " Wetherill & Cressons bill		10..-
"	"	"	do " Allmore & Hellings for an Iron plate		6..3..-
August	5	"	do " Estate of Jno Inglis for a Brass Compass		3..-.-
"	27	"	Pig Iron for Ballast wt 21.12.1.3		191..1..2
"	"	"	ditto for do 19..7.0.7		174..3..6
"	31	"	Cash paid Thomas Oliver for making Cartridges		2..5..-
"	"	"	do " Dunn & Hall for a yawl		13..6..5
"	"	"	do " Porterage of a Capston	2..-	
"	"	"	do " Mason and Annis's bill	12..-..6	
"	"	"	do " John & Thomas Ridges bill	19..1..6	31..4..-

[No balance shown]

1. Woodhouse Collection, HSP.

2. The date used is the day the *Reprisal* dropped down to upper chevaux-de-frise in the Delaware River. See note 2 under Commissioners of the oContinental Navy in Account with the Brigantine *Lexington*, March 28, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee 29 April 1776 –

Present – S. Purviance Chn – W Lux V Chn

A. Buchanan	J. Boyd	J. E. Howard	T. Sollers
C. Ridgely (of Wm)	T. Gist	J. Gittings	W. Asquith
W. Wilkinson	T. Rutter	J. Calhoun	G. Risteau
T. Harrison	J. Cockey		

Capt George Woolsey applied to the Committee for Liberty to take his Brig *Rogers*, which has been detained by them at Whetstone Point to be there sunk, if necessary, which Permission was granted to him –

Geo Lux Secry

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JEREMIAH HOLDEN ¹

No. 134

Sir

We are informed that you have a Schooner, which sails well, and will carry 4 or 500 Barrels of Flour – if you incline to let us have her on Freight to the West-Indies, we will take her of you; and insure her to the Sum she may be valued at – her Loading is now ready at Baltimore Town – let us hear from you by Return of this Boat or by some earlier Opportunity.

[Annapolis] 29th Apl ²

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

2. *Ibid.*, the Council made the same proposal to Captain John Valiant for “a Sloop which sails well, burthen about 40 Tons.”

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, April 29th, 1776.

Capt. Francis Bright is appointed Captain of the first armed Cruizer directed to be fitted out on the Eastern Shore, and Capt. Robert Cooke of the Second.

Instructions to Capt. Bright, as follows:

Capt. Francis Bright, &c. (copy filed.)

[A warrant] to John Hicks for £3. 8. 0, Gun to Capt. [Edward] Travis for his Galley.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 160.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Monday April 29th 1776

Resolved, That the Companies stationed on the Sea Coast may be further encouraged to exert themselves in taking Armed Vessels, and others which may be taken by the Enemies Ships of War, and Armed Tenders such as they take as prizes, may be adjudged to the Captors after the Charges of

Condemnation; except Vessels owned by Americans and freinds to Continental Associations, &c., for which the Captors shall have Salvage

1. Secretary of State Papers (Provinciãl Conventions and Congresses/Councils 1774-1776), NCDAH.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES MOORE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Gentlemen

Wilmington April 29th 1776

By two Men who deserted from the *Glasgow Packet* laying at Fort Johnston on Saturday Night the 27th Instant I received Intelligence that five Transport Ships (of 45 that sailed from Cork sometime in February with nine Regiments) have arrived in the [river] with about 700 Troops and that the rest are hourly expected. from every Circumstance I can gather it is beyond a doubt that the Enemy Mean to make this Province the Object of their Attention and that Governor Martin has still Expectation of Assistance from the Tories and Regulators lately defeated at Moores Creek Bridge I am very Apprehensive the Scheme mentioned to president [John] Rutledge of flanking the Ministerial Army with the Militia from the Northward and Westward will be found [torn] should Genl [Henry] Clinton land at little river as suppo[sed and] effect a junction with the disaffected of Anson and a part of Bladen which joins it in five days March the distance not being More than 60 Miles which would be sooner than a Sufficient Number of Militia could be embodied to intercept them.

I expect an immediate reinforcement from Bladen Onslow and Duplin, which will I hope enable me to send out strong Detachments to secure the Passes on Waggaman drowning Creek and the Marsh and cut off all communication with them and the Tories and over awe those who would wish to join them I shall take care to have such Officers and Men on that Service as are well acquainted with the Country and whose Conduct and Bravery I can confide in all the deserters who have yet come on Shore agree in this Point that Wilmington will be the first place Attacked which Obliges me to keep a Considerable Body of Men always in the Town for its Defence

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 33-34, NA. Letter continues the following day.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILMINGTON, NORTH-CAROLINA, DATED APRIL 29, 1776" ¹

By two men who arrived here last night, after making their escape from the men-of-war below, I find there are a number of prizes, to the amount of thirty sail. They say five transports arrived a few days past from Cork, being part of a fleet of forty-five sail, viz: thirty transports, ten store-ships, one fifty-gun ship, two frigates, and two bombs, with nine regiments on board, destined for this place; which are expected to land when the whole fleet arrives. This is generally believed here, as the ships were seen off on Monday [April 22] by the pilots. The Militia, who have been but a few days discharged, are coming in fast, and who, with the Continental forces already here, will be able to make a good stand.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, V, 1117.

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

The Commander in Chief

Cape Fear River April 29th 1776

In consequence of the orders I had given her the *Genl Gage* sailed yesterday but meeting with a Transport in distress she carried her into safety and acquaintd me – By a prize taken by one of the Transports² we are told that Your Excellency left Boston on the 25th of March, as I have not had the Honor of hearing from you I am almost in doubt whether the account is not premature, at all events I have thought in right to order *Genl Gage* to call at the Hook for intelligence

There are now eight Transports arrived and we are told some more off, but not a word by any of them that can give me the least insight regarding the Destination of the expedition under My Command – I have said above that one of the Transports had taken a prize, but as the Gentlemen of the Navy seem to express a doubt whether she can be condemned to the Military I have thought it my duty to lay it before Your Excellency and the Commander in Chief at Sea; till such time as I receive your Commands; The Money arising from the Sale will remain in the hands of the Agent appointed by the Captors – I wish this may meet Your Excellency at Your head Quarters of New York – By Washinstons Letter to Ld Stirling which we read in the papers they mean to dispute the Possession of the Town with you, I doubt that, in my humble opinion they will not dispute a Yard on York Island if you go in force – this I desired Govr Tryon to mention to Your Excell. and some Ideas in which we both agreed relative to Long Island, and how far the possession of that Island might operate towards that of New York – I most heartily wish Your Excell a good Campaign & have the Honor to be &c

H C

Not having received any dispatches from your Excel. or from Government I am at a loss to guess how I am to be disposed of
[Endorsed] by the *Genl Gage* armed Sloop sail at 1st May

1. Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

2. "The *Golden Rule*, Israel Thompson, a Transport, belonging to Whitehaven, (having on board two Companies of the 23d Regiment, commanded by Capt. Danzey) on the 24th of April, at Day-break, fell in with a Sloop belonging to the Provincials off Cape Romain, South Carolina, which, after firing a few Shot, and Half an Hour's Chace, she took and carried into Cape Fear River, to Gen. Clinton. She was called the *Defiance*, Capt. John Chace, of Providence, Rhode Island, bound to Charles-Town South Carolina, and laden with Coffee, Chocolate, Cyder, Spermaceti Candles, Oil, Rum, &c to the Value of 500 l. Sterling." *Public Advertiser*, London, August 16, 1776. The *Defiance* had been bonded at Providence, March 30, 1776. She was the property of John Brown; Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R.I. Arch.

30 Apr.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Isis*, CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS¹

April [1776]

Father point W S W 10 Leagues

Thursday 25

4 A M Sett every sail that would Draw, at 6 the pass of
Matane SbE²

- First & middle parts modt Breezes & Clear weather, latter fresh Breezes & Squally with Snow, 8 pm mount Camilles SWbW
- Friday 26 at 10 a m it being very thick weather, Anchord in 24 fathoms, at 11 it Cleard up, the Island Bic³ EbS 4 miles, weighd and made Sail
 First and Middle parts Light Breezes & Thick hazey weathr Latter breezes & Clear, at 7 pm Anchored in 24 fms and Veered to a whole Cable.
- Saturday 27 Fresh breezes and fair Wr people empd Slinging the Yards, and Clearing Ship.
- Sunday 28 at 1 A M Weighed, an to Noon working to Windward, on the North Shore
 Fresh Gales & Squally Wr 1 pm Anchored in 17 fathoms, down Top gallt yards, Mounted Swivel Guns, on the Quarter Rail.
- Monday 29] at Single Anchor Green Island ⁴ SW 3 or 4 Leagues
 Tuesday 30] First part fresh gales & Clear, middle and lattr light Breezes, Carpenters employed making Fire booms, Armourers making the Iron work.
 Modt breezes, 1 p m weighed & made Sail, at 4 Anchord little wind, at 6 weighd and made Sail, at 8 Anchored off Cacana ⁵

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/484.

2. Matane on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river in the Gaspé Peninsula.

3. The Isle of Bic in the St. Lawrence, off the town of Bic at the beginning of the Gaspé Peninsula.

4. Green, or Verte Island, off the mouth of the Saguenay river.

5. Cacouna, a town on the east shore of the St. Lawrence, approximately 120 miles northeast of Quebec.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF H.M.S. *Glasgow* ¹

No 12. Know all Men by these Presents that we the Captain & Officers of His Majesty's Ship *Glasgow* have Constituted and appointed & in their stead and place put Alexander Brymer Merchant and Edward Bragg Gentleman at present of Halifax in Nova Sotia our lawfull Agents or Attorneys, jointly & severally for us & in our Names, to ask Claim Demand & recover all Prize Money Share or Shares of Prize Money which by any ways or means may become due to us & to take care of such prizes or seizures as we shall make & to prosecute the same in the Court or Courts of Vice Admiralty & generally to Do Act and Transact in all things respecting the Premisses as fully Amply & Effectually to all Intents & purposes as we might or could Do if personally present hereby ratifying allowing and Confirming all and whatsoever our said Agents or either of them may lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premisses with full Power to make & Substitute jointly or severally one or more Attornies under our said Agents and the same again at Pleasure to revoke

In Witness wherof we have hereunto set our hands and Seals the 30th Day of April One thousand seven hundred & seventy six on board his Majestys Ship *Glasgow* in Halifax Harbour & in the sixteenth year of his Majestys Reign - ²

Signd Seal'd & Deliver'd in Presence of

Jno Nunn

Jn. Wyly

Tyring^m Howe

Ge Pulteney Lieut

W Robinson (Mastr)

his

John X Johnson (Boatswn)

mark

James Bignall (Gunnr)

J Pluckett Mr (Carpr)

James Cowan (Purser)

M Davies (Surgeon)

[Endorsed] Recd 3d Octr 1776

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776-1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.
2. *Ibid.*, two other letters of agency were entered into the same day; the sloop *Tamar*, No. 5, and the ship *Scarborough*, No. 11. The texts were somewhat similar, and the attorneys appointed the same. For the *Tamar*, the signatories were Edward Thornbrough, captain, James Peyton, W. Langford and Wm. Carter. While not so designated in the agreement, Peyton was the first lieutenant, and Langford, master. For the *Scarborough*, the only signature was that of the captain, Andrew Barkley.

“ESTAMATE OF THE LOSS ON INCOME & THE TRADE OF CAPE ANN FROM
APRIL 1775 TO APRIL 1776” ¹

80 Sail of fishing Schooners Worth 300 £ Now	
Worth 150 £ Each	£ 12000
Meterels for Cureing fish Lost Wholley	[6]000
Loss on the Income of 80 Sail fishing Vessels	
a 100 £ Each	8000
30 Sail Merchant men Worth 400 £ Each now	
Worth 200 £ Each	6000
Loss on the Trade of the Above Vesels 6 only } of Which have made One Voige }	
10 Vesels & Cargos Taken by the Enemy	
3 Large Boats taken by ditto	
11600 of superfund feet Wharf Useless	
48 Warehouses Useless	
130 of the Most Valueable Houses Shut up	
180 families partly Supported by the Town	
40 poor Wholy maintained by the Town	
233 Widows	
1059 Boys under Age No Employ	
2081 females	
Building fences &c damaged Eaquel to One Years Rent of the Same 300	
familys moved 4 miles out of Town at a Great Expencc -	
Expencc Building forts &c before Any Soldiers ware in pay	

The Town much Indebt & Obligd to hire Large Sums of money to Support the poor & Supply the famyls of those Gone in the Service of the State Not being able to Gether Taxes of Those who are Gone.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 351.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

April 1776 Cape Ann NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 4 Leagues
 Mondy 29 Saw a Sail in the SE Quarter Gave Chace Fir'd a Shot at the Chace & Brought her too sent an Officer onboard proved be an American Schooner Recd the Prisoners onbd at 8 Made Sail for Nantasket Road.
 Tuesday 30. Fresh Breezs & Clear Latter Mode & Cloudy, took the Prizes in Tow Tack'ed Occasionally at 12 Anchor'd in Nantasket Road with the Bt Bower in 5 fathms Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable. Fresh Gales and Squally Middle Cloudy with rain Latter Mode & fair at 5 PM Weigh'd & came to Sail the Prize in Company² at 6 Saluted the Commodore with 13 Guns came to Anchor with the Bt Bower in 6 fathms Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable found riding Here His Maj's Ships *Renown* Commodore [Francis] Banks and the *Hope* Tender

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

2. There is no further identification of this prize.

"ESTIMATE OF THE LOSS ON INCOME AND TRADE FOR THE TOWN OF SALEM"¹

[Salem, April 30]²

Estimate of the Loss of Our Trade In Our Merchandises & Fishery Since April 1775

50 Sale of Fishing Vessels in April 1775 } worth 300 £ Each Now worth 150 £ }	7500.00.00
Mat[er]ials for curing & Drying fish } Flakg &c for 50 Sale Vessels at } 50 Each Tottaly Destroyd }	2500.00.00
To the [total] Loss of the Fishing 1 Year } for 50 Sale at 100 £ Each }	5000.00.00
6 Sale Costing Vessells at $\frac{1}{2}$ Price	900.00.00
60 Sale of Shipping of which 10 Sale } only are Improved at 400 Each } and now Worth but 200 Each }	12000.00.00
Loss On Our Mark[e]tell Trade	
Rents of our Roall Grates Fell One third Part	
50 Houses & Parts of Do Ha[d] no improvements	
Our Stores & Warehouses [are so] going to Ruin & not Improv'd	

the Extraordinary Price for wood By Reason of our Harbors
being Blockt up By the Minsteriall Fleett

We were taxed for more than 100,000 £ trading Stock what
is our Stock now

Many Seamen are yearly lost in all Seaport Towns, their
places are supplied by strangers coming in, but that
Class of People left us when our troubles Come on and
left their wives & Children for us to support –

Half or thereabouts of our men are in the American Army,
and we are obliged to support Many of their families as
being Seamen chiefly are very improvident

The Town largely in Debt.

The Removall of 500 families into the Country & Back at 4 p 2000. .0. .0
Salem

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 349a.

2. An arbitrary date based upon the return for Cape Ann which was submitted at the end of
April, 1776.

BENJAMIN GREENLEAF TO JAMES WARREN ¹

Sr The Letter from which the Extract that accompanies this was taken, you
may consider, as wrote by Capt Willson who lately arrived from Bordeaux,
in a Vessell belonging to Newburyport, as he is a Gentleman of Reputation,
it may be worth communicating to you –

A Vessell I am told is also arrivd at Newburyport from Bilboa which
brings Intelligence nearly like this communicated by Capt Wilson – with
this Addition that 10,000 are destind to Quebec 10000 to New York and a
like number to assist Ld. Dunmore – about 7000 are left according to this
plan to be sent to Boston or wherever else they may be wanted [&c.]

B Greenleaf

Watertown April 30. 1776.

[Enclosure]

Extract of a Letter from a Master of a Vessell who lately arrived upon
this Continent from France, which he left about the middle of March –

Upon my Arrival here, I was extremely glad to hear of the
good Success of this Country against her unnatural Enemies, who
are collecting all the Force possible to make Head against us – The
Account at Bordeaux is that 20 thousand Hessians & Hanoverians
are at Embden ready to emark on board English Ships to join 12
thousand English & sail immediately for America – This however
you may depend upon, that about 40 sail of Transports sail'd from
Plymouth the 10th of March for America, with about five thousand
Soldiers on board (they had been some months before as far to the
Westward as Cape Finisterre, and all put back by Stress of Weath-
er, & dispersed in different ports – one run on Shore in Ireland and

the Capt & Almost all on board perished -) I suppose by this Time they are very near this Coast. -"

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Watertown, April 30, 1776

The attention of the Court has been fixed on fortifying the harbour and town of Boston. We have in the beginning of the session chose a committee of both houses. All seem to be agreed in the importance of the measure, and to be very zealous in pursuing it. But if you was told how little is yet effected, you would certainly be astonished. The committee has from time to time represented to us that General [Artemas] Ward could spare no men to go on Noddle's Island, etc. We have therefore ordered one regiment of 728 men to be raised. This is not yet compleated, tho' we are about it, and some few have come in. We have some thoughts of another regiment to fortify below; but if you send us a spirited general to succeed General Ward upon his resignation, the troops here may do it without. I hope therefore you will send us one that is active, and will dare to go into his works when constructed, and fight upon occasion. I don't insist on his being a native of this Colony. Rhode Island or New Hampshire will suit me as well. Fort Hill is, however, at last got into a tolerable posture of defence, and the General has ordered some men to assist some we hire by the day at the Castle, and works are going on pretty well at Dorchester. No hulks as yet sunk: the people of Boston seem much against it; and whether it will be done or not I can't say.

. . . Some arrivals of powder and arms. A vessel belonging to Newbury is into Kennebeck with ten tons powder, ten tons sulphur, some cannon, etc. Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry's brigantine at Bilboa, was there five weeks ago, the powder landed and safe. Her business was betrayed by a villain who was second mate. She was stopped by the Consul, and the merchant intends shipping the powder on other bottoms. . . .

Since writing the inclosed I have received a confirmation of the vessels being in to Kennebeck, and inclose an extract of a letter from the Master to Mr. [Benjamin] Greenleaf, by which we may at least learn that they mean to exert all their power and malice this summer.² . . .

This minute we are advised that two ships have joined that one in Nantasket road; from them are re-landed a number of men on George's Island, who are fortifying it. From this I am convinced they have not taken their leave of Boston. We have not men enough left here, and we must have a good officer to command, or men will signify nothing.

1. *Warren-Adams Letters*, I, 237-38.

2. Benjamin Greenleaf's letter of the same date to Adams.

LOSSES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF SANDWICH ¹[Sandwich, April 30, 1776] ²

the Inhabitants of the Town of Sandwich have amongst Others Met with the following Losses Viz

the schooner <i>Elizebath</i> & Cargo	
Estimated at	600 . . 0 . . 0
Sloop <i>Sally</i> & Cargo	400 . . 0 . . 0
Several quantities of Oil taken coming from the West Indias	} 250 . . 0 . . 0

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 349b.

2. An arbitrary date based on the date of the Cape Ann return.

THOMAS COOKE TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR ABATING TAXES ¹[April 30, 1776] ²

Thomas Cooke Representative for the Town of Edgartown in the County of Dukes County on the Island, of Martha Vineyard, Humbly concedes that an abatement of Taxes ought to extendd to sd County for the Following reasons –

1st Because said County in the late Valuation was at a Considerable Sum in the rate for about One Thousand Tons of Shiping [Ten] employ'd in the Whale Fishery, and at this Time there is not one Vessell in any employ except one the Eastward for Lumber,

2. Because great Number of Pilots, that used to have Almost constant bu[s]iness in Piloting Vessells that frequented sd Island is abundance, is entirely lost,

3d Because diverse publick Houses in different Harbours of sd County purpose to entertain Ship Company &c, was profatable, in consequence [each] of their yearly income was set on sd County by the Assessor & enlarged their proportion of Taxes at the Valuation which at this time [is] useless

4thy The great expence the Inhabitants of sd County are at by reason of obtaining Supplies from the Main Land, which is Convey'd in small Cedar Boats, said Island being incapable to produce not more than one half of a Supply for it's inhabitants who are general [se]afairing Men, & poor. –

all which is Humbly Submitted

Tho^s Cooke

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 138, 350.

2. An arbitrary date based on the date of the Cape Ann return.

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

[Providence] Monday Evening 30th April 1776

Meeting in being According to Adjournment

Voted. That twelve Eighteen pounders be Made for the Large Ship and only Six Eighteen pounders for the Small Ship and the Quarter Deck

& forecassell Guns be six pounders and the Whole six, twelve & Eighteen pounders be all fifteen Diameters of the Ball

Voted. That Richard Marvin be appointed third Lieutenant of One of the Continental Ships Building here, he is assigned to the largest Ship –

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

CAPTAIN JOHN BOURROUGHS HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW JR.,
NEW LONDON ¹

Sir

Providence April 30th 1776

the Admiral has Gone to Newport on business Orderd me to Write you To put onboard the *Andrea Doria* Capt [Nicholas] Biddle Three months provisions and That you would hurry him In getting Ready as soon as possible

Mrs Hopkins and I Arrived Safe in three Days after Leaving New London our best Compliments on your Lady and you For the Kind Treatment which will Ever Lay me under the Greatest Obligations to you & Your's Should Be Extream Glad To wait on your lady and You at our Habitation –

my Hand is Some worse Than it was at New London, occationd by the Shaken it in the Chaise and horse Back[&c.]

J B Hopkins

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

CAPTAIN ABRAHAM WHIPPLE TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

Honored Sir

Providence April 30th 1776

I have had the Honor to serve you in the last French War and to your satisfaction I thought, and since my Arrival at Philadelphia was appointed by the Congress to the Command of the Ship *Columbus*. I have strictly Obeyed your Commands and have done all in my Power for the Honor of the Fleet to the best of my Knowledge according to your Orders. The Night that we fell in with the *Glasgow* Man of War, two of my Lieutenants was on Board of the two Prizes and fourteen of the best Seamen, when we was running down on the Ship getting in order to Engage and Quartering the Men in the places of the others that was out, the *Glasgow* suddenly hauling to the Northward brought me to the Southward of her and brought her right into your and Capta [John B.] Hopkins Wake, I hauled up for her and made all Sail with my three Top Gallant Sails, then Captain Hopkins beginning the Fire and the *Glasgow* returning the same and my being in her Wake and as far to Leeward as she it Instantly kill'd all the Wind which put it out of my Power to get up with her I strove all in my Power but in vain, before that I had got close enough for a Close Engagement the *Glasgow* had made all Sail for the Harbour of Newport I continued Chace under all Sail that I had except Steering Sails and the Wind being before the Beam she firing her two Stern Chaces into me as fast as possible and my keeping up a Fire with my Bow Gune and now and then a Broadside put it out of

my Power to get near enough to have a close Engagement. I continued this Chace while you thought proper to hoist a Signal to return into the Fleet I accordingly Obeyed the Signal and at our Arrival at New London I found that the report was from the *Alfred* and the *Cabot* that I was a Coward and many other ill natured things which I say was a false report, if I did not do my Duty it was not out of Cowardice but for want of Judgment, I say all the People at New London look on me with Contempt, and here like a Man not serving the Country in my Station. Therefore I having a Family of Children to be rebraided with the mark of Cowardice and my own Character now Scandalized thro' the whole Thirteen United Colonies, It is a thing I cannot bear and if I am a Coward I have no Business in the service of this Country. Therefore I desire that there may be, by my own Request a Court Martial be called on me, and Tried by my Brother Officers of the Fleet and either acquitted with Honor or Broke for I want no favour, then if I am Broke the Publick will have a right to despise me and reflect on me and my Family, If I have no satisfaction that way I will return you my Commission and thank the Congress for the Service and Curse them that made the false Report, I have never opened my Mouth to any Body concerning the matter, If your Honor had let me come to Newport when the *Scarborough* Man of War lay there as I desired I would have convinced the World that I was not a Coward but now it is out of my Power.

Your Humble Servant at Command
Abraham Whipple

N.B. Sir, you must observe it was in the night when we bore down upon the *Glasgow* and could not see as if it had been day light when she altered her course.

A. Whipple ²

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. Edward Field, whose *Esek Hopkins* was published in 1898, visited the Rhode Island Historical Society on December 16, 1897, and added the "N.B." to the above letter, with the following comment: "This has been cut out by some disreputable person, who never should have been permitted to enter the Society's rooms, since I made a copy of this paper in the Spring of 1897."

ARRANGEMENT OF COMMISSIONED AND WARRANT OFFICERS
IN THE AMERICAN FLEET ¹

[Providence, April 30, 1776] ²

Officers onboard the <i>Alfred</i>		Officers onboard the <i>A. Doria</i>	
Benjn Seaburry	Lieutenant	James Josiah	1st Lieutt
Jonath. Pitcher	ditto	Elijah Warner	2nd ditto
Jonathn Maltbie	ditto	John McDougall	3rd ditto
John Earle	Master	Benjamin Dunn	Master
Thomas Vaughan	1st Mate	Willm Moran	1st Mate
Philip Alexander	3rd ditto	John Dent	2nd ditto
Walter Spooner	Midshipman	John Margeson	3rd ditto
Robert Saunders	ditto	Willm Reynolds	Midshipman



Lieutenant James Josiah, Continental Navy.

Charles Buckley	ditto	Wm Lamb	ditto
Rufus Jenckes	ditto	Dennis Leary	ditto
George House	ditto	Even Bevan	ditto
Esek Hopkins Jr	ditto	Alex. McKenzie	Gunner
Francis Varrel	Boatswain	Willm Darby	Boatswain
Joseph Harrison	Surgeon		<i>Providence</i>
James Thomas	Gunner	Willm Grinnel	Lieutenant
On board the <i>Cabot</i>		John Rathburn	ditto
Elisha Hinman	1st Lieutt	Wm Hopkins	Master
Thoms Weaver	2nd ditto	Sam. Brownel	actg ditto
John Welch	Capt. Marines	John Margeson	1st Mate
John Kerr	Lieut ditto	Joseph Brown	2nd ditto
John Sword	Midshipman	John McNeal	3rd ditto
Ephraim Goldsmith	do	Joseph Hardy	Midshipman
Abel Frisbie	ditto		<i>Columbus</i>
Peter Richards	ditto	Joseph Olney	2nd Lieutt
David Roberts	Gunner	Ezekiel Burroughs	3rd ditto
Richd Potter	Boatswn	Joshua Fanning	Master
Richd Fordham	Carpenter	Daniel Beears	Midshipman
		[John] Rogers	Mate

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. The date is estimated, based upon a comparison with existing muster rolls. For example, Benjamin Seabury is shown as Lieutenant on board the *Alfred*, but in that ship's muster roll he is entered as "Run May 1st, 1776." Similarly, William Grinnell is listed as a lieutenant in the sloop *Providence*, and the *Providence* muster roll shows he entered her from the *Columbus* on April 15, 1776. On that same muster roll, Henry Tillinghast is listed as surgeon, transferred from the *Alfred*, May 12, 1776, but Tillinghast is not on the above list for the *Providence*. Thus, it narrows down to a list prepared after April 15 and before May 1, 1776. It is a safe assumption that this arrangement of officers went to Congress, or rather the Marine Committee, with Hopkins' letter of May 1, 1776.

LETTER OF AGENCY OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF H.M.S. CERBERUS¹

No 26 Know all Men by these Presents, and we who have hereunto set our hand and Seals, being the Captain or Commander, Officers & Seamen, and others or Major Part of them, now or late belonging to his Majestys Ship *Cerberus*, have Constituted Authoriz'd & Appointed, and do Thereby authorize Constitute & appoint Mr Alexander Thompson of Halifax Nova Scotia, to be our lawfull Attorney and Agent for us & in our Names, & to our use and uses, to Sollicit Transact, & take care of all our Concern & Interest in all such Prize or Prizes, Capture or Captures, Recaptures & Seizures, whatsoever, which shall or may at any time, or times, hereafter be taken, re-taken, or made by his Majestys said Ship the *Cerberus*, or by any other of his Majestys Ships, Frigates or Vessels to which we shall be intituled by any means whatsoever, And in all head money, & other money, arising from such Capture, & Interest, Giving & hereby Granting, to our said Attorney & Agent our full Power, & Authority in the Premisses, for Inventorying, appraising, Condemning & Selling, the said Prize, or, Prizes Capture or Captures Recap-

tures, & Seizures, their every & each of their Cargo Tackle Apparell Guns & Furniture, and for Receiveing the Money ariseing thereon, and also the Head Money, Bounty money, Salvage Money or any other Money, to which we shall be intituled as aforesaid, And afterwards to make a Distribution of the Neat produce to us or to Persons having lawfull Authority from us, in the manner that now is, or which we hereafter shall be appointed, by proper authority, allowing the said Alexander Thompson first to deduct & retain to himself, for Care, pains & Trouble, at the rate of five Pounds Pr Centum out of the Neat produce of all such Moneys as he shall receive for and on Account of the said Prize or Prizes, Capture or Captures, Recaptures or Seizures, & on all head Money, Bounty money, or Bills made out for the same, or other Money whatsoever, And also allowing the said Alexander Thompson, to retain all the Costs Charges & Reasonable Expences, which he shall or may be at in Prosecuting & Compleating our said Interests, Concerns & Titles, & giving & hereby Granting, to our said Attorney & Agent our full Power & Authority for Recovering, Obtaining, Compounding, & discharging the same, & generally to do and Act for us, & for our use & Safety, as fully & Effectually to all intents & Purposes whatsoever, as we ourselves might or could do Collectively or Separately, being personally present, Acquittances, Releases & other Discharges to make & Grant & one Attorney or Agent or more, under them to make and Substitute & at Pleasure to revoke, Ratifying & Confirming all and whatsoever our said Attorney & Agent or his Substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Premisses, by Virtue of these Presents, In Witness whereof We have hereunto set our hands and Seals on Board his Majestys Ship the *Cerberus* at Sea the thirtieth day of April in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred & seventy Six, & in the Sixteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France & Ireland, King Defender of the Faith and so forth –

Sign'd, Seal'd & deliver'd at	}	Jn ^o Symons
Sea ² where no Stamp paper		Tho ^s Forrest
is to be had in the Presence of		And ^w Christie

[and signed also by 114 warrant and petty officers, seamen, marines]
 [Endorsed] 1st May 1777 Received and Registered –

1. Register of Letters of Agency, 1776–1781, Vice Admiralty Records, N.S. Arch.
2. On the day this document was executed, the *Cerberus*, according to the captain's journal, was six leagues southeast of Block Island, PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

New York April 30. 1776

I mean thro you Sir to do myself the Honor of laying before Congress, a Copy of an Address transmitted them some time agoe by the Assembly of Rhode Island, which Governor Cooke favoured me with in the month of January, at the same time requesting me to Interest myself in procuring a body of forces on the Continental establishment for the defence of that

Colony. I doubt not but the Address & Subject of It, have had the Attention and consideration of Congress before now, but If they have not decided upon the matter, I wou'd beg Leave to mention that I have made enquiry into the situation & condition of the Colony and find It to be, as Stated in the address, and with all deference to the opinion of Congress, conceive It highly necessary and expedient that they shou'd adopt some measures for relieving their distress and granting the aid prayed for. The importance of It in the Chain of union, Its extensive Sea Coast, affording Harbours for our Shipping & Vessels, at the same time exposing & subjecting the Inhabitants to the ravages & depredations of our Enemies, the zeal & attachment which It has shewn & which still actuates It toward the Common cause, the incapacity to pay a sufficient number of men for Its defence, shou'd they be able to furnish 'em after so many engaged in other Services, these and many other reasons, which are too obvious to be mentioned, plead powerfully for the notice and attention of Congress & seem to me to Claim their Support. Having thus stated the matter to Congress for their consideration agreeable to my promise to Governor Cooke when I had the honor of seeing him in my way here, I shall leave It with them, not doubting but they will duly weigh Its importance & give such assistance as they may think reasonable & Just; what they chiefly wish for is, that the Troops they have raised may [be] taken into Continental pay & Commanding Offi[cers] to be appointed by Congress. I have the honor to be [&c.]

G^o Washington

1. Papers CC (Letters from George Washington), 152, I, 631-32, NA.

MALACHY TREES TO, PETER T. CURTENIUS¹

Sir

New York. April 30th 1776

please let the Bearer [John James Boyd] Surgeon of the Privateer Sloop *Genl. Putnam*, have 1b 2. Lint. & 3 old Sheets and some tow if he wants it Yours's

Malachy Trees

[Endorsed] Reced of Mr Peter T. Curtenius 2 lb Lint and 3 Sheets
April 30 - 1776

Jno James Boyd Surgeon of the *Putnam*

1. Record Group 45, NA.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MILES PENNINGTON, CAPTAIN OF
MARINES ON BOARD THE CONTINENTAL SHIP *Reprisal*¹

I. Miles Pennington considering the uncertainty of this Transitory Life do make and declare these presents to contain my last Will & Testament - That is to Say I give and bequeath unto my loving Wife Catharine Pennington all my wages & prize money, which shall be due me from said Ship² or any other Vessel and all the rest of my Estate real & personal wherewith at the time of my Decease I shall be possessed or Invested or which shall belong or of right Appertain unto me I do give devise & Be-

queath unto my Dear & loving wife Catharine Pennington Aforesaid And I do hereby nominate & appoint my loving wife Catharine Pennington to be Sole Executrix of this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking all former Wills & Testaments by me made and do declare this to be my last Will. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this Thirtieth day of April One Thousand Seven hundred & Seventy Six

Miles Pennington Seal

Signed Sealed and delivered in the Presence of Wm Woodhouse, John Ord jun John Elliott –

1. Will No. 92 (recorded in 1778), Register of Wills Office, Philadelphia.
2. The Continental ship *Reprisal*, Lambert Wickes, commander.

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE BRITISH TENDER *Edward*¹

Admiralty Case No. 1.

Port of Philadelphia }
 in the Province of }
 Pennsylvania, ss } On the thirteenth Day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six Before the honorable George Ross Esquire Judge of the Court of Admiralty lately instituted in the Province of Pennsylvania by the General Assembly thereof pursuant to the Recommendation of the honorable Continental Congress came George Campbell Esquire Proctor for the Libellants and exhibited to the said Judge the Bill of John Barry Esquire Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* who as well for himself and for the Officers Marines and Seamen belonging to the said Brigantine as for the thirteen united Colonies of North America in this Behalf prosecuteth against the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel and prayed that the same might be read and filed and it is read in the Words following that is to say –

To the honorable George Ross Esquire Judge of the Court erected by the honorable the House of Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania to take Cognizance of and try the Justice of Captures of Vessels made in pursuance of the Resolves of the honorable Continental Congress and brought into the Port of Philadelphia – The Bill of John Barry Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* in the Service of the thirteen united Colonies of North America fitted out for the Defence of American Liberty and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof who as well for himself and for the Officers Marines and Seamen belonging to the said Brigantine as for the united Colonies aforesaid in this Behalf prosecuteth in all humble manner sheweth That the said Brigantine was equipped victualled fitted out and armed at the Continental Charge and the said John Barry duly commissioned authorized and licensed by the Delegates of the united Colonies aforesaid in Congress assembled to command the said Brigantine and set her forth as a Vessel of War in the Service aforesaid And being so commissioned authorized and licensed he the said John Barry with his Officers Marines and Seamen on board the said Brigantine sailing on the high Seas be-

tween the first Day of April in this present Year and the Day of exhibiting this Bill within the Jurisdiction of this Court did discover pursue apprehend and as lawful Prize take the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* commanded by Richard Boger Esquire Burthen about fifty Tons mounting six carriage Guns together with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture the Property of his Majesty the King of Great Britain &c: and before and at the Time of the Capture thereof employed in the present cruel and unjust War against the united Colonies aforesaid Wherefore the said John Barry prays this honorable Court that the said armed Vessel Sloop or Tender with her Guns Tackle Apparel and Furniture may be adjudged and condemned as forfeited to the Use of the Captors thereof and the united Colonies aforesaid according to the Resolutions of the honorable the Continental Congress and the Votes and Resolves of the honorable the Representatives aforesaid in such Cases and for such purposes lately made and provided –

And Whereupon his honor the Judge on the Prayer of the said George Campbell Esqr. did issue his Warrant commanding the Marshall of the Court that he should summon twelve honest and lawful Men of the County of Philadelphia so that they should be and appear before the said Judge on the thirtieth Day of April aforesd. at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia at a Court then and there to be held upon their respective Oath or solemn Affirmation to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the aforesaid Bill And did direct and order the Registrar of the said Court to give publick Notice of the Time Place and Cause of holding the said Court according to the Resolves of the honorable House of Representatives of this Province in such Cases made and provided which was accordingly done by inserting in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* and *Pen[n]sylvania Packet* two of the publick News-papers printed at Philadelphia the following Advertizement Vizt.: –

Port of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania ss. To all whom it may concern Notice is hereby given That the Court for taking Cognizance of and trying the Justice of the captures of Vessels made in pursuance of the Resolves of the honorable the Continental Congress and brought into this port of Philadelphia will be held at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia on Tuesday the thirtieth Day of April Instant at ten o'Clock in the Forenoon then and there to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the Bill of John Barry Esquire Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* (who as well &c:) against the armed Vessel Sloop or Tender called the *Edward* Burthen about fifty Tons and lately commanded by Richard Boger Esquire. – To the End and Intent that the Owner of the said Vessel called the *Edward* or any person concerned therein may appear and shew Cause if any they have why the said Vessel with her Appurtenances should not be condemned according to the Prayer of the said Bill – Signed, By Order of the Judge – Andrew Robeson Reqr. April 13, 1776. –

And now to wit the thirtieth Day of April aforesaid at a Court held at the Court House in the City of Philadelphia before his Honor the Judge

pursuant to the said publick Notification cometh the Marshall of the said Court namely Mathew Clarkson Esqr. and maketh Return to the Warrants aforesaid in manner following to wit I do hereby certify that by the Virtue of the within Writ to me directed I have summoned the Jury in the Pannel hereunto annexed named to appear at the Day and Place within specified as therein I am commanded so [to] answer – Mathew Clarkson Marshall – And the Jurors in the Pannel to the said Writ or Warrant annexed named being severally called William Rush Benjamin Candy Jacob Bright David Chambers Joseph Blewer John Purviance William Will John Williams Samuel Massey Edward Pole Samuel Cadwallader Morris and William Calleday being the first twelve appearing were severally and respectively sworn and affirmed to try the Truth of the Facts alleged in the Bill aforesaid and to give a true Verdict thereon according to their Evidence.

And thereupon Proclamation was publickly made by Order of his Honor the Judge that if any person had aught to say why the Sloop *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said Bill that they should come forth and be heard And thereupon the Advocate for the Libellant with Leave of his Honor the Judge offered in Evidence to the Jurors aforesd. the following Exhibits Vizt. the Part of the said Libellant which were read and are in the Words and Figures following Vizt. –

I do hereby certify that John Barry was duly commissioned and appointed to command the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* and that the said Brigantine was fitted out at the Continental Charge and is employed in the Service of the United Colonies of North America
Witness my Hand April 30th. 1776 – Signed – John Hancock Presidt. –

Inventory of the Sloop *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel and the Cargo of the said Sloop – Anno 1776 The Sloop *Edward* with standing and running Rigging, one bower Anchor about 700lb Weight, 1 Kadge Do. about 120lb Weight, 3 bower Cables and part of another, 1 Mainsail, 2 fore-Sails, 2 Jibbs, 1 flying Jibb, 2 Square Sails, 2 Top Sails 1 old Square Sail 1 old Topgallant Sail 1 Topgalln. Sail half wore, a Remnant of old Canvas, 6 Carriage Guns three Pounders, 2 Swivels, 1 Boat with four Oars, 1 broken Musket 69 three pound Shot, 8 double headed Do. 1 Box with partridge Shot, a few Swivel and Grape Shot 1 fire Grappling, about three barrels of Powder twelve Cartridge Boxes with Musket Shot, 10 Powder Horns, 2 Wood Cartridge Boxes, 2 Gunners Hand Spikes, 6 Ship Do. 2 Iron Crows, 24 Water Casks 15 Hammocks, 10 empty Hammocks 2 Water Funnels, 2 Water Pumps, 2 pump Bolts, 2 Iron Rings, 3 Ensigns, 2 Jacks and two Pendants, 2 wooden and 1 brass Compass, 1 Speaking Trumpet 1 Hour two half Hour and 1 quarter minute Glass 3 hour Lanthorns, one large scrubbing Brush, 6 Scrapers, 1 Straw of Gimblets, 3 corking Irons 1 caulking Mallet, 1 Grindstone, 6 Hammers, 1 Iron Do. 1 Larthing Do. 1 Iron Maul, 1 Carpenter's and 1 Cooper's Adzes, 6 Axes and 1 Hatchet, 1 large Augre and 1 Tap-Borer, 2 Handsaws and 1 Chizells, 2 Hand Leads & 4 Lines 2 pr. Cann Hooks 2 Serving Mallets & 2 Marline Spikes, 2 Harpoons &

2 pr. Grains, 1 pr. Bellows & 1 Center Bitt, a parcel of spare Blocks, spare Hooks and Thimbles 9 Iron Potts, frying Pans, 4 Iron Tea Kettles a Copper Do. a piece of Copper, 2 Iron Skillets 2 Dutch Ovens, 1 Iron Spade 2 Iron Hoes, 1 Copper Stove, 1 pr. Tongs, 2 Fire Shovels 1 pr. Cast Fire Irons 1 Barrl. Tallow 2 B.Bs. of Flour 5 half Barrs. of Do. part of a Barrel of Do. 3 Barrs. of Salt, 2 Casks of brown Sugar 1 Cask of Raisins, 3 Casks of Rum 2 empty Casks 2 Boxes of Candles 1 Do. of Soap not full, Part of a Box of Candles 1 Cask of sheathing Nails & half a Tub with Small Nails one Cask of Oat Meal 1 Do. of Pease 1 Oligo [?] Cask of Pork 1 Do. of Beef 1 Harness Tub with Beef & Pork 4 Bags of Bread 1 Do. Pease 1 Cask of Fish a few Cod Fish 1 Table 6 Rush bottomed Chairs 8 Doz. & 2 quart flask Bottles 14 half Gall: Do. 1 empty arm Chest 1 Arm chest with Books & other things therein 6 sorted Pewter Dishes 13 Pewter Dishes with assorted Cyphers 21 White delph Plates 11 Soup Do., 10 Pictures 1 Canvas Bag with Womens & Childrens Cloaths &c: 12 Reams of Paper 2 new & 2 old Saddles 1 Basket with Sundries 1 Bundle old canvas 1 Iron Cambouse with two potts a Saine Lines 2 draw Buckets, about 15lb of Match 1 Pocket Pistol –

Interrogatories to be administered to the Witness to be produced Sworn and examined on the part of John Barry Commander of the armed Brigantine called the *Lexington* on behalf of himself &c: against the Sloop called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle and Apparel and the Cargo of the said Sloop

Interrs. 1st. Do you know the Sloop called the *Edward* now riding at anchor in the Port of Philadelphia? Did you ever sail in the said Sloop? Were you in any Office or Employment on board the said Sloop and what was that Office or Employment? Was the said Sloop at any time when you was on board her taken as prize by any Privateer Brigantine Ship or Vessel? About what time and where was such capture made? Who was then the Commander of the said Brigantine called the *Lexington*? And of what Kingdom State or Continent was he then an Inhabitant? Declare the Truth herein fully and at large.

Interrs. 2nd. What was the last port or place that the said Sloop called the *Edward* sailed from next before the Time of her Capture aforesaid and whither was she bound at the Time? Who were the Owners or Owner of the said Sloop called the *Edward* at the Time of her Capture? Was she equip'd for War? By whom was she equip'd and how? In what Service was she employed? Who commanded her and what were the Orders of the said Commander? Was the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture afsd. laden with any and what Goods Wares and Merchandizes? What person or persons was or were the Owner or Owners of the said Goods Wares and Merchandizes on board the said Sloop at the Time of her said Capture? Tell the Truth of your Knowledge and Belief herein fully and at large with the Reasons of your Belief. –

Interrs. 3rd. Were any papers or Writing thrown overboard or destroyed by the Captain or Commander of the said Sloop or by his Order or

Command at or after the Capture a/sd. or by any other person and what were the Contents or purport of such Papers or Writings?

Interr. 4th. Do you know any other Matter or Thing or have you heard or can you say any thing touching the Matter in Question that may tend to the Benefit and Advantage of the Libellants in this Cause besides what you have been particularly interrogated to? Declare the same fully and at large as if you had been thereunto particularly interrogated –

Richard Boger Esqr. produced and examined on the part of the Libellant in this Cause declareth confesseth and saith to the first Interrogatory That he doth know the said Sloop *Edward* and did sail in her as Commander thereof that the said Vessel was taken at Sea on the sixth or seventh Day of April inst: by the said John Barry Commander of the Brigantine *Lexington* which he is informed and believes belongeth to the port of Philadelphia and was fitted out by Congress –

To the second Interrogatory That the said Sloop sailed last from Norfolk in Virginia on a Cruise and doth belong to the King of Great Britain &c: That she was equip'd for War by the Orders of Lord Dunmore and the Captain of the *Liverpool* Frigate and employ'd in the Service of the Crown and commanded by him the said Richard Boger that his Orders were to intercept and carry into Virginia any Vessels going to and from the Continent of America That the several Stores and Articles mentioned in the Inventory exhibited by the Libellant in this Cause were on board the said Vessel at the Time of her Capture that a part of the said Stores and Articles were at the Time of the said Capture the property of the Crown a part belonged to himself and a part belonged to the Crew of the said Sloop That the Boat and Oars mentioned in the said Inventory were taken with a Sloop or Vessel called the *Philadelphia Packet* and at the Time of the Capture thereof was as he believes the property of one Wentz That there were four Negroes on board the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture that one of them called Pompey White he hath heard and believes is free That the other three he believes are Slaves and one of them named James he has been told belongeth to one Mr. Anderson of Hampton that as to the other two knoweth not to whom they belong – The above Declaration made April 29, 1776 – before me – signed – Geo: Ross –

John Draper being produced and examined on the Part of the Libellant in this Cause declareth confesseth and saith to the first Interrogatory That he doth know the Sloop called the *Edward* abovementioned and did Sail in her as an Assistant Officer That the said Sloop was taken at Sea by the Brigantine called the *Lexington* commanded by John Barry about the sixth Day of April Inst: The said Brigantine he has been informed was fitted out of the Port of Philadelphia by Order of the Congress and believeth the same to be true

To the second Interrogatory that the said Sloop sailed last from the port of Norfolk in Virginia on a Cruise and was at the Time of her Capture the property of the King of Great Britain &c: that she was equipped and fitted for War by the Orders of the Captain of the *Liverpool* Frigate as he has

been informed and Commanded by Richard Boger That he believes the Goods mentioned in the Inventory filed by the Libellant in this Cause were in the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture that a part of thereof was the property of the King a part the property of the Crew of the said Sloop and a part thereof was taken with Vessels taken by the said Sloop from Individuals to him unknown and farther saith not – Declared before me April 29, 1776 – (Signed) Geo: Ross –

Robert Hoskins being produced sworn and examined on the part of the Libellant to the first Interrogatory deposeth and saith That he doth know the Sloop *Edward* above mentioned and did sail in her as a Mariner thereof That the said Sloop was taken a prize by the Brigantine *Lexington* commanded by John Barry at Sea on the sixth Day of April Instant –

To the second Interrogatory That the said Sloop sailed last from Norfolk in Virginia and was bound to convoy a packet that she was commanded by Richard Boger fitted out for War as a Tender and mounted with six Carriage Guns and employed in his Majesty's Service by the *Liverpool* Frigate That there were no Goods on board to his Knowledge except Ammunition and Clothing –

To the third That he knows of no Writings having been thrown overboard –

To the fourth that the said Sloop had taken several Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of this Continent which were sent to Norfolk in Virginia and some of them he hath heard have been condemned That their general Business was to look out for and take as prizes Vessels belonging to the Americans and send them to Norfolk aforesaid That the said Sloop gave Chace to the said Brigantine intending to make prize of her and as soon as they discovered her to be a Vessel of War they prepared for and engaged her –

Being examined on the part of Thomas Wirt a Claimant of some of the Articles mentioned in the Inventory filed in this Cause he deposeth and saith that the *Moses* Boat mentioned in the said Inventory was taken with the *Philadelphia Packet* commanded by the said Thomas Wirt and further saith not Sworn and examined in open Court April 30th. 1776 – signed –
Andrew Robeson Regr.

James Spence and Thomas Philips two of the Crew late of the said Sloop *Edward* being duly sworn in open Court did depose and say that the Facts set forth in the above Deposition are true according to the best of their knowledge and Belief – signed – A Robeson Regr. –

And now the aforesaid Thomas Wirts a Claimant of some of the Articles mentioned in the Inventory came and prayed his Honor the Judge that the Claim by him filed in this Cause might be read unto the Jury aforesaid and that he the said Thomas Wirts might be admitted to swear the Truth and Justness of the said Claim and read accordingly in the Words and Figures following Vizt. List of Sundries claim'd by Thomas Wirt they having

been taken on board his Sloop called the *Philadelphia Packet* when she was taken by the Sloop *Edward* Richard Boger Commander in Chesapeake Bay in Feby. last Vizt.

1 Moses Boat – Belongs to Thomas Wirt

5 Oars belonging to Ditto – Do.

2 large Oars or Sweeps – Belong to Do.

1 Jack 1 Ensign 1 Pendant – Do.

1 Copper Tea Kettle – Do.

1 Boat Hook – Do.

4 Reams of Wrapping Paper – Belongs to Charles Gath & Henry Sherpat of Baltimore

6 Reams Writing Paper & some lose Quires. Belong to John McKinnon in Baltimore

4 or 5 Dz of Green Glass Bottles – Belong to Baltzen Gull Hagar's Town Philada. 29th. April 1776 (signed) Thomas Wirt

And thereupon the said Thomas Wirts being duly sworn and examined in open Court did depose and say that the Paper and Glass Bottles in the said Claim mentioned were the property of and shipped on board the frieght Boat called the *Philadelphia Packet* whereof he was Master for the persons whose Names are written opposite to the said Articles in the said Claim and that the residue of the Articles in the said Claim were his own Property at the Time the said Packet was taken by the Sloop *Edward* aforesaid

And now the Jurors aforesaid having heard all Proofs and Exhibits aforesaid upon their Oaths and Affirmations aforesaid do say that they find the Facts set forth in the said Bill are true (except as to the Articles in the Claim of the said Thomas Wertz mentioned which several Articles were the property of the persons whose Names are mentioned in the said Claim at the Time they were taken as prize from the *Philadelphia Packet* aforesaid)

And thereupon His Honor the Judge did pronounce and publish his definitive Decree and Sentence in the Words following to wit It appearing to me by the Verdict of the Jury inpannelled sworn and affirmed in this cause upon the Evidence produced to them that the armed Sloop or Vessel called the *Edward* mentioned in the Bill with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel being the property of his Majesty the King of Great Britain was before and at the Time of her Capture by John Barry Commander of the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* employed in the present cruel and unjust War against the United Colonies of North America And that part of the Goods and Articles found on board the said Sloop to wit one Moses Boat five Oars two large Sweeps one Jack one Ensign one Pendant one Copper Tea Kettle one Boat Hook four Reams of Wrapping paper six Reams of Writing paper and some loose Quires and five dozen Glass Bottles in the claim of Thomas Wirts exhibited in this Cause mentioned were at the Time of the Capture thereof the property of the said Thomas Wirts and others Inhabitants of the said Colonies in the said Claims named and mentioned from who they had been unjustly taken and detained by Richard Bo-

ger Commander of the said Sloop or Vessel called the *Edward* with her Guns Tackle Furniture and Apparel together with the Goods Wares – Merchandizes and Articles found on board her as aforesaid (except only those in the Claim aforesaid mentioned) be condemned as lawful Prize And I do order the Marshall of this Court to sell the same at publick Vendue And after deducting a proportionable part of the Costs and Charges of this Tryal and Condemnation out of the Monies arising from the said Sale to pay the Residue thereof unto the said John Barry his Agent or Attorney One Moiety thereof for the Use of himself and his Officers and Crew of the said Brigantine *Lexington* the other Moiety thereof for the Use of the said United Colonies And as to the Goods and Articles mentioned in the said Claim I do hereby adjudge and decree the same to be delivered to the said claimant for the Use of himself and the respective Owners thereof he or they first paying their respective proportionable parts (according to the true Value of the said Articles) of the Costs and Charges of this Tryal and Condemnation And one half part of the Residue of the true Value thereof to the said Marshall which said half part of the Residue of the true Value of the said Goods and Articles mentioned in the said Claims I do order the said Marshall to pay to the said John Barry his Officers and Crew and the other Moiety for the Use of the united Colonies aforesaid But in Case of Non payment of the half of such Value Then I order the said Marshall to sell the same and after deducting proportionable Costs as aforesaid to pay one Moeity of the Residue of the Amount of Sales to the said Claimant and the other Moiety thereof to the Captors aforesaid for the Uses aforesaid

And I do hereby order the said Marshall to pay all the Costs and Charges of the Tryal Condemnation and Sale into the Hands of Michael Hillegas Treasurer of this Province according to the Resolves of the honorable the Continental Congress and of the honorable the House of Representatives of this Province –

April 30th. 1776 – (Signed) Geo: Ross –

1. Docket of the Court of Admiralty of Pennsylvania, U.S. Custom Office, Philadelphia. The docket is but fragmentary. It is bound in with other papers and covers only the first eight cases tried before the Court.

JOHN NIXON TO COMMODORE ANDREW CALDWELL ¹

[Philadelphia] In Committee of Safety, April 30, 1776.

Sir: The Committee of Safety, understanding that you have Returned with the armed Boats, have directed Mr. James Mease & Mr. Saml Morris, to Enquire into the Cause. Should those Gentlemen be satisfied that the Fleet should go down again, you are to proceed back untill you are *fully* convinced that the *Roebuck* has got off. If any thing of Consequence should turn up, give us the Earliest Notice of it. I am [&c.]

By order of Committee,

John Nixon, Chairman.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 738.

PERMITS FOR VESSELS SAILING FROM THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA
ON ACCOUNT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philada 30th April 1776

Permit the Ship *Union* Capt [Sampson] Harvey, Loaded on account of Congress, to pass the Chevaux de Frize, and to go down the River & Bay of Delaware with a pilot.

By order of the Committee ²

To The Commander of the Fleet
Fort Island

1. Committee of Safety, Navy Papers, Pa. Arch.
2. Identical permits were issued the same day for the ship *Hope*, Captain George Curwin; the ship *Sally*, Captain John Osman, and the sloop *Fanny*, Captain Briton.

“COPY OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED APRIL 30, 1776” ¹

Sir, Since my last we learn that the two privateers were chased by the *Roebuck*, who returned on Wednesday [April 24] with John Baldwin's pilot-boat and a brig without a head, black sides and white drifts, which brig is since sent to Virginia. On Saturday last Capt. [John] Hun[n], from St. Eustatia, in Mr. Dawson's pilot-boat, was pursued and taken by the *Roebuck's* boats. Captain Hun and people made their escape in the skiff, it being stark calm ² while the boats were chasing them in the Cape-May channel, the *Roebuck* stood up the ship channel, and luckily run on shore on the lower part of the Brandy Wine, about five or six o'clock, it being high-water, and from the best accounts we have she lay there on Sunday morning about 10 o'clock. Eight of our gallies set off to go down on Monday 12 o'clock, and the provincial ship, yesterday: The *Reprisal* of 14 11-pounders, and continental brig of 16 6 pounders, go this day, and we have hopes that some of them will lend a hand to get her off, and bring her here to be repaired.

P.S. We have just heard that the gallies have returned to the fort, so that I fear they have heard that the ship is got off.

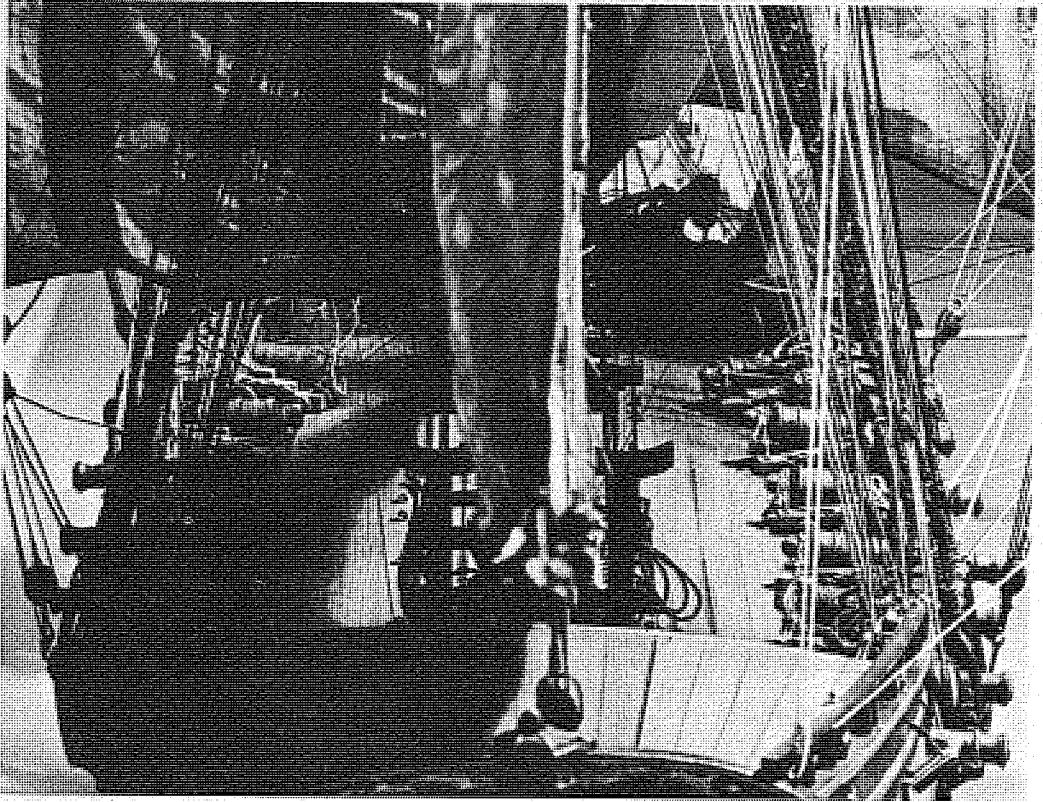
1. *Connecticut Courant*, May 6, 1776.
2. The brig without a head was probably the *Cazia*, from Cape François for Philadelphia with molasses and coffee. Captain Hunn's vessel was the *Ranger*, from St. Eustatius for Philadelphia with bale goods & arms. Both are reported on Howe's prize list, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

NARRATIVE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND ¹

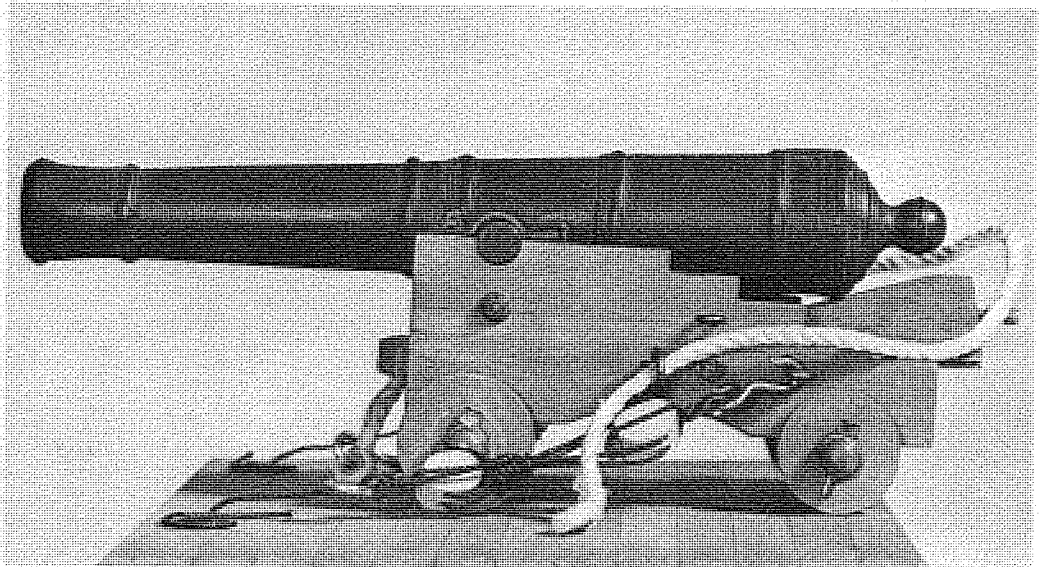
[*Roebuck*] off Delaware Bay 30th of Apl

Got under way in the Night, and at day break saw a Vessel which I chased & drove ashore, and the surf running very high she beat to pieces. I then stood after another Vessel, but the fogg clearing up about 10 o'clock I discovered a Ship to Leeward which I run down to, and found her to be the *Fowey* Capt G[eorge] Montagu with dispatches for me from the Admiral.

When I left off Chasing the Vessel I was pursuing at the time I saw the



(Top) Gun deck of the brig Fair American, 16, rigged model. (Bottom) Model of 24 pounder naval gun.



Fowey, she began to conclude that we were the Continental Squadron, and of course her Friends, and when I made a signal to speak with My Tender and call in all cruizers, she bore away and came to anchor with us in Henlopen road, where I sent a boat on board her & took possession of her. She was a Sloop from Bermuda, bound to Philadelphia, laden with salt Molasses & Rum.²

As she was well fitted and promised to be a fast Sailer; I put a Midshipman & 15 Men on board her, and armed her with 4 three pounders, and 4 Swivels, and sent her out on a Cruize with the *Ranger* Pilot boat.

1. Hamond, No. 4, UVL.

2. The sloop was the *Little John*, J. Darrel, master, Davenport & Co., owners, from Bermuda for Philadelphia with salt and limes, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487. In a journal which Hamond later submitted to Lord Howe, his account of the capture differs slightly. It reads: "saw a Vessel to Windward, which by not chacing and hoisting false Colours I decoyed down to me and took her . . . The Master told me he took us for the Philadelphia Fleet, as he had heard that Admiral Hopkins had lower Deck Ports." PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

JOHN DENT TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentn

Charles County April 30th 1776

In conformity to the appointment of George Plater Esqr and myself, by your Honors, to cooperate with the Commissioners from Virginia in erecting Beacons on the River Potomack; we have fixed the different Stations for the same, to the Number of twenty, whereof thirteen are in Maryland Viz: one in Prince Georges, Nine in Charles and three in St Mary's averaging about five Miles from each other. To accomplish which we have advanced the sum of thirteen pounds & four Pence half Penny, a Moiety of the Charge for a Boat and Hands, together with a [blurred] man exclusive of our own Expences which I flatter myself will be allowed. We have likewise agreed upon the Form of the Alarm-Post, which, is to be a kind of Iron Grate suspended by a Chain on the End of a Sweep fixed with a Swivel so as to be turned agreeable to the Wind. And as a further sum of Money will be wanting to have them erected (which with Submission to your Honors I think may be done with greater Convenience of Despatch by the Committees of Observation under our Direction) hope you'll order the same into their Hands or otherwise as you may think proper. I am Gentn [&c.]

Jn^o Dent

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

WILLIAM LUX AND DANIEL BOWLY TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 30 April 1776.

As Capt [William] Patterson does not chuse to proceed in the *Fortune*, we have engaged Capt Sund to proceed the Voyage, with your approbation and for that purpose he waits on you, the Brig is ready and we think it the fairest Opportunity to push out. We send you Inclosed some Letters we just received from Mr Vanbebber by which you will see his situation, and

that it is necessary to support him. We would recommend to order the Capt to St Martins as Capt Vanbebbber directs. You will please to give the Capt his Orders & dispatch him as soon as convenient.

A Gentleman from North Caro Yesterday brings us the Accot of their taking a Tender with Old Goodrich of Virga on board, he saw him put into Hallifax Goal. And we have an Accot today that the *Roebuck* is on shore on a Shoal called the Hen & Chickens just to the Southward of Cape Henlopen, and that the Province Ship and another with all the Gondola's were gone down to take her. We are most respectfully [&c.]

Lux & Bowly

Please to return Capt Vanbebbbers Letters.

1. Red Book, XIII, Md. Arch.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 30 April

... we have this day Got Possession of the Brig, and if to morrow is Good weather shall begin to Load her & we hope to get pay for the time she is Detain'd,² we have Light flour & half Bbls for to help Stowage...

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. Pringle's brig was seized by the Baltimore Committee as one of the vessels to be sunk in the river as a protection against the expected attack by H.M.S. *Otter* in March, 1776. However, she was spared, although held and "not to be sunk till there is Real Danger," *ibid.*, March 22, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, April 30th, 1776.

A warrant to Lieut. [William] Green for £23 for a month's pay and recruiting money in the marine service; also for use Capt. Richard Taylor for £26 for a month's half pay and recruiting money.

[A warrant] to Samuel Sim's for £2.5.0 for 9 days Pilotage of the vessel sent to seize the Brig *Hope*.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 160.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Tuesday April 30th 1776

The Committee appointed to settle the Salvage of such Vessels as were lately taken and what the Captors may be intitled to, reported as follows, vizt

That it appears to your Committee that a certain Schooner called the *polly*, of which one Silas Henry is now Master was bound on a Voyage from Edenton in this province to the Island of Maderia, loaded with Indian Corn Staves and heading, and that the said Schooner had proceeded to the Swash near Occacock Island on her way to the said Island of Madeira; and that on Sunday the fourteenth of this Instant (April) about four o'Clock in the afternoon of the same day, an Armed Sloop called the *Lilly* commanded by a

certain John Goodrich, a Tender fitted out by Lord Dunmore for the purpose of taking all the Vessels at Occacock Bar; that the said John Goodrich hailed the schooner *polly*, and Ordered the Master to come on Board the said Tender and bring his papers, That Silas Henry the Master, and James Buchanan one half owner of the Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo, went on Board the Tender *Lilly*, and delivered the papers to Capt John Goodrich who received and examined the same, and who told the said James Buchanan that the Schooner was a prize, and kept the papers; and that Lieutenant John Wright master of the Armed Sloop *Fincastle* came over Occacock Bar the evening of the said fourteenth day of this Instant (April) and about eight of Clock the same Evening a Boat with Armed Men sent from the *Fincastle* Boarded the Schooner *Polly*, and plundered the said Schooner of all the live Stock, disarmed the Men, and left a prize Master and four Armed Men on Board the said Schooner *Polly*; who remained there for the Term of fifty eight or fifty nine hours; and that on the seventeenth of this Instant (April) a number of Armed Men in five whale Boats, Boarded the Tender commanded by John Goodrich, took her and retook the schooner *Polly* and carried the Tender and Schooner up to New Bern.

Your Committe therefore humbly Submit to the Consideration of the Congress the following as their Opinion: That the Captors are intitled by a Resolve of the Continental Congress of the twenty fifth of November last to one third part of the Schooner *polly* and her Cargo, in lieu of Salvage; and that the said Vessel and Cargo Consisting of Indian Corn, Staves and heading should be sold at public Auction first giving Thirty days public Notice; and that after the Sale thereof and all necessary charges deducted, the distribution thereof shall be made as followeth, vizt One third part to the Captors the other two thirds to Messrs James Buchanan and Archibald Campbell who appear to your Committee to have owned the said Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo

The house, taking the said Report into Consideration, concurred therewith

Resolved That Thomas Sitgreaves be appointed to sell at public Auction for ready Money, the Schooner *polly* and her Cargo, first giving thirty days notice in the *North Carolina Gazette*, and that the distribution of the Money arising from the Sale thereof, after deducting all necessary Charges be made in the following manner vizt One third part thereof to the Captors, in lieu of Salvage; and the other two thirds to Messrs James Buchanan and Archibald Campbell who appear to have owned the said Schooner *Polly* and her Cargo.

Resolved That Mr George Miller Mr Corrie, and Mr. [John] Campbell be a Committee to examine the property of John Hamilton and Company in a Vessel called the *William* and her Cargo, ordered to be seized at New Bern, and make report thereon.

Resolved, That Captain Dennison be allowed Ten pounds as a Gratuity for his Care, Vigilance, and the Hazard he run in performing a Voyage from

New Bern to the French West Indies and back again to procure Ammunition for this province; that the Treasurers or either of them pay him the same, and be allowed in their Accounts.

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

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES MOORE TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Wilmington] 30th [April]

This evening I examined John Pond who escaped from the *Falcon* Sloop of War last Sunday Night and inclose you his Affidavit I have in consequence of his intelligence which corresponds with the Observations our Scouts have made Wrote the Brigadr Genls of the several districts and supposing they may not be at home I have again wrote to the Colonels of the Counties to March their Men to this place immediately unless ordired otherwise by your Committee – I am sorry to inform you that the Militia are not so ready to turn out on this important occasion as I could wish – owing I am certain to their being at this Season engaged in the farming Business – should the Enemy attempt to Land at Little River I shall dispatch of expresses to the Western Troops to Order their March as directed by you – I shall be very much in want of good horses and Waggons for the Service the powder which came from Phila cannot arrive too soon. I am Gent [&c.]

Ja Moore
Brigr Genl

The Committee of Secrecy War and Intelligence

[Enclosure]

John Pond Master of the Sloop *Polly* from Statia with Gunpowder deposeth and saith that he was taken by the *Siren* [*Syren*] Frigate at Sea on the second day of February last and bro't into this river by Captain [John] Lindsay of the *Falcon* – That there are now laying at Fort Johnston eight Transport Vessels – one of them an old India Man which he heard Capt Lindsay say had 700 Troops on board, that they have upwards of 2000 Troops in the River and that they expect there force will be 7000 men when the rest of the Transport from Ireland comes in and Sr Peter Parker from England with about 3000 Troops who is expected every hour, that the *Siren* and *Mercury* are cruising and boats are out every day looking for him that as soon as he arrives they intend to lighten their Vessels and run up to the Flats where they are to Land their Men in flat bottomed Boats that will carry 50 Men besides 18 Rowers, that he saw the Boats on Board the Transports that they have still expectations of being joined by the regulators and have appointed Officers to command them when the forces below shall Land and further this deponent saith not.

John Pond

Sworn to before me this 30th day of April 1776 James Moore
a true copy Thos Craike secy

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 33–34, NA. Continuation of April 29 letter.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY¹

- April 1776 Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
- Friday 19th Fresh breezes and Cloudy wear Came in a Transport with part of the 57 Regiment,² heard some Guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd a gun and made the Signall for the Pilots
- Saturday 20th Mode and Cloudy wear heard 2 guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd a Gun to answer them. at Noon Saw 2 ships off
- Modr and Cloudy wear Came in a Transport with part of the 33d Regiment
- Sunday 21st A M Came in & Anchored here his Majst Sloop *Falcon*
- Monday 22d Fresh Gales and Cloudy with Thunder and rain, A M mode & fair loos'd sails to dry, Saild the *Terr[i]ble* Tender & *Committ Packett* Recd on board a Hoghead of Mollasses.
- Modr and Clear wear at 5 P m saw a Ship off the New Inlet
- Tuesday 23d A M Came in one of the Transports with troops, fir'd one Gun
- Wedsy 24th Mode and Cloudy wear fir'd 2 guns to answer some Guns fir'd in the offing. saw 2 Ships in the offing, Sent the *delegate* out with Pilots to them
- Modr and Clear, Came in the *Earle of oxford* Transport
- Thursday 25th A M saw 2 Ships in the offing, Recd on board some provisions
- Friday 26 A M Came in the *Clyburn* Transport, Saluted with 5 guns, return'd three
- Saturday 27th Mode and hazey wear A M loos'd sails to dry
- Sunday 28 Fresh breezes with rain A M struck the top Gallt Masts
- Hard Gales and Squally wear Came in one of the Transports she Saluted with 5 guns return'd 3.
- Monday 29th Recd on board a Cask of rice lowered the Yards saw one of the Transports without the bar sent the tender out to her
- Modr and hazey weather P M Came in one of the Transports.
- Tuesday 30th at 7 saw 8 sail in the offing, Sent out all the Pilots to them
- Modr and hazey wear at 4 P M came in his Majesty's ship *Sphynx* and 3 Transports one Store ship, one hospitall Ship.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. This was the first transport of Sir Peter Parker's fleet to arrive off North Carolina.

DEPOSITION AND MEMORIAL IN TRIAL OF THE SHIP *America* IN THE
NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY ¹

[Cape Fear, April 30, 1776]

Depositions in Support of the Libell

No Carolina Court } Francis Parry Esqr on behalf of himself and others—
of Vice Admiralty } against The Ship *America*—

William Mackenzie Marriner being Sworn & Examined before me
Thomas Macknight Esquire a Commissr appointed to take Depositions in
the said Court deposeth, That the Ship *America* whereof Robert Cunning-
ham is Master arrived in Cape Fear River on the Tenth day of February
last, That he this Deponent went on board the said Ship with Mr Wm Reid
Master of the *Cruizer* and on Searching found that she was loaded with Salt
and three Hogsheads of Rum that appeared to contain at least three hun-
dred Gallons, and further this Deponent saith not —

Taken this 30th of April 1776 }
before me — Tho^s Macknight } William Mackenzie

— The Defence —

No Carolina. ss. To his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esquire
Surrogate of the Court of Vice Admiralty in the said
Province

The humble Memorial of Robert Cunningham
Commander of the Ship *America* now Libelled in the
said Court —

Sheweth unto your Honour That the above mentd Ship *America* is
solely the proerty of Persons in the Town of Greenock in North Britain And
your Memorialist beleives the Owners as well as those Concerned to transact
the Business of James Gammell & Co Merchants in the above mentioned
Town of Greenock, the Owners of the above mentioned Ship *America*, to be
well affected to Government, the Principal agent for the said Company as
your Memorialist is Credibly informed now lyes in Custody at Halifax in
the abovementd province to take his Trial at the provincial Council held at
the Town of Halifax for Life — The Accusation is Supplying the Troops un-
der Major [Donald] McDonald raised for the purpose of suppressing the
present Rebellion in the said Province with Gun powder & other Warlike
Stores.

That on or about the first day of October last your Memorialist Sailed
from Cape Fear River in the aforementioned Province with a Cargo of
Lumber for the Island of Barbadoes, at which Time there was no restric-
tions by any Act of Parliament on the Trade of the said Province, nor was it
beleived there would be any, as at that Time a Ship loaded with Salt was
Admitted to Entry and Sale —

That in Consequence of Orders from a Gentleman concerned in the
Cargo your Memorialist proceeded from Barbadoes to the Island of Sal
Tortuga and there Loaded the sd Ship with Salt and from thence returned to

this River of Cape Fear where your Memorialist was to inquire into the then State of the Province and if your Memorialist found that restrictions were laid upon the Trade of the said Province your Memorialist was to procure what provisions was necessary and to proceed on his voyage to Cork in Ireland where he was to remain 'till further Orders from the aforementd Jas. Gammell & Co the owners of the Ship *America*

That your Memorialist arrived here the tenth day of February last and on his Arrival your Memorialist was boarded by Mr Reid the Master of the *Cruizer* commanded by Francis Parry Esqr under whose protection your Memorialist proposed putting the aforementioned Ship *America* until such time as your Memorialist shod receive the Necessary Information concerning the present state of affairs in this aforementioned Province –

That the Honble John Tollemache Esqr Captn of his Majestys Sloop *Scorpion* gave Orders for impressing the Seamen belonging to the aforementd Ship *America* which in Consequence of the above Orders from Captn Tollemache, was done –

That the said Mr Reid informed yr Memorialist that the aforementd Ship *America* was liable to be Seized on Accot of part of Three Hogsheads of Rum, tho' no way secreted or Concealed. Two of which Hogsheads were the property of the Chief & Second Mates of the said Ship *America* & the third Hogshead for the use of the Ships Company during the said Voyage from Barbadoes to Cape Fear River and from thence to Ireland –

That on the Evening of the same [day] Captn Parry went to Bald head in the sd sloop *Cruizer* and nothing more Occurred on the Subject until the thirteenth day of the said Month of February when Captn Parry returned from Bald Head – That your Memorialist then waited on Captn Parry with the Register of the above mentioned Ship *America* with the Instructions your Memorialist received from Mr Walter Ritchie one of the Owners of the abovementd Ship *America* lately in the Province of North Carolina Transacting the business of the sd James Gammell & Co That after perusing the Register and Instructions for the said Ship *America* Capt Parry informed yr Memorialist that the Register & Instructions shod be kept in the possession of the said Captn Parry until it should be Ascertained that the Owners of the said Ship *America* were friends of Government.

That on the Evening of the preceding day Mr Reid came on board the said Ship *America* and Guaged the three Hogsheads and found them deficient each Hogshead – That no more passed on this 'til about the 8th day of March last when the Mate of the said Ship *America* without permission from or knowledge of yr Memorialist disposed of one Gallon of the said Rum to the sailors of an Armed Sloop Commanded by Lieutenant Wright out of the Mate of the sd *America's* Case –

That this being represented in a disadvantageous light to Captn Parry he ordered your Memorialists's Mate to be impressed – That the Ship *America* and her Cargo and the three Hogsheads of Rum remained under the direction of your Memorialist until the fourteenth day of March last when the said Mr Reid came on board the said Ship *America* and made seizure of all

belonging to her and Carried away the Colours and long boat belonging to the said Ship *America* –

That this is a true state of the Case and as it cannot be made appear that James Gammell & Co or any of their Factors or Agents in North Carolina are otherwise than well affected to Government and have taken every Opportunity to Suppress the present Rebellion in the said Province to the detriment of their persons and property – That Trading with the people of the said province was [not] a breach of any known Act of the British Parliament – That the Rum was no more than is Customary allowed as Stores for such a Voyage – That no part of it has been disposed of in any way but to the Ships Company – That it is the Produce of Barbadoes and for which your Memorialist could have obtained a Bill of Stores from the Officers of his Majestys Customs in the sd Island of Barbadoes had your Memorialist imagined it was necessary –

That the very day your Memorialist arrived in this River a Vessel from the Island of Jamaica was allowed to pass unmolested the property of Men who have been Active in this Rebellion against Government –

Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honour that you will be pleased to Acquit the said Ship *America* and that your Honour will be pleased to Decree all Costs to be paid by the Prosecutors –

The Evidence in Support of this Memorial –

Robert Cunningham being Sworn and Examined by me in open Court and having read Attentively the said Memorial Deposed that the Contents of it were true –

Robert McLean the Chief Mate of the *America* deposed that the facts stated in the Libel so far as related to his own Conduct were Strictly true – Upon his Cross Examination he said he sold four Gallons and a half of Rum out of his own Case to a Mate of another Vessell besides that mentioned in the Memorial, but Swears he never sold any out [of] the said three Puncheons

Dougal McGregor & John McNeil. Two Masters of Ships Swore That to refit the Ship with new Masts &c or if the State of the Province had Admitted to unload and Load another Cargo it would take up Six Weeks time at least In which time the Ships Company with Carpenters Jobbers &c would expend one hundred and twenty Gallons of Rum – That as much more would be expended on a Voyage to Europe & in Unloading the Vessel there allowance being always made by the Officers of the Customs for unloading a Vessell –

Thomas Hepburn [swore] that he hath frequently known Vessels of the burthen of the *America* nearly. have Bills of Stores at the Island of Barbadoes for Six Hogsheads of Rum –

William Thompson swore that the Vessel is the Sole Property of Messrs Gammells & Ritchie Merchants at Greenock in North Britain – That Mr Ritchie hath ever been a very Staunch Friend to Government and hath fallen under the Censure of the Rebel Committee for Concealing a quantity of

Gun powder from the Rebels at the Time the Committees compelled all the Merchants to deliver up their powder – That Mr Ritchie's Agent (Mr Robert Gillies) since Mr Ritchie left this Province Supplied Major McDonald with the same powder for the use of an Army he had raised under the Authority of Governor [Josiah] Martin to oppose the Rebels and that Mr Gillies in Consequence of a discovery of such delivery of the Gun Powder was Committed by the Rebel Committees a Close Prisoner to the Common Goal of Halifax in this Province where he now remains to be tryed for his Life – That this Witness was himself for above two Months past a Prisoner at large in Wilmington and made his Escape a few days ago and came down to the Governor for Protection –

I. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

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

April 1776 Bald Head NNE $\frac{1}{2}$ Et 7 or 8 Miles
 Monday 29th A M at 2 hauled our Wind to the Swd at 6 saw 2 Sail to the So wd at 9 spoke the *Mercury*, saw 6 Sail to the SSWt Empd setting up the Main Rigging. –
 Mode & hazy Wear P M up Top Gallt Yards & made Sail at 2 brot too spoke the *Sphynx* & bore away, in Co the *Sphynx*, *Mercury* & 5 Sail of Transports,
 Tuesday 30th A M at 4 made the Signl & bro't too, at 5 saw the Land, made Sail Spoke the *Sphynx* & fired [2] Guns, sent the *Mercurys* Tender a head to make the Signal for Pilots, at 10 made Signal to the Ships in Cape Fear Harbr dble reeft the T/Sl's & struck Top Gallt Yards, at [illegible] hauled our Wind to the So wd having seen the *Sphynx* & her Con- voy safe off the bar with Pilots on board. –
 Variable Wear P M at 5 out 2 reef of the T/Sl's at 7 close reeft the Fore & dble reeft the Main T/Sl's.

I. PRO, Admiralty 51/930.

NARRATIVE OF ETHAN ALLEN ¹

[On board H.M.S. *Solebay*, February 12–April 30, 1776]

We sailed . . . from the cove of Cork the 12th day of February. Just before we sailed, the prisoners with me were divided, and put on board three different ships of war. This gave me some uneasiness, for they were to a man zealous in the cause of liberty, and behaved with a becoming fortitude in the various scenes of their captivity; but those, who were distributed on board other ships of war, were much better used than those who tarried with me, as appeared afterwards. When the fleet, consisting of about forty-five sail, including five men of war, sailed from the cove with a fresh breeze, the appearance was beautiful, abstracted from the unjust and bloody designs they had in view. We had not sailed many days, before a mighty storm arose, which lasted near twenty-four hours without intermission. The wind blew with relentless fury, and no man could remain on deck, except he was

lashed fast, for the waves rolled over the deck by turns, with a forcible rapidity and every soul on board was anxious for the preservation of the ship, alias ther lives. In this storm the *Thunder-bomb* man of war sprang a leak, and was afterwards floated to some part of the coast of England, and the crew saved. We were then said to be in the Bay of Biscay. After the storm abated, I could plainly discern the prisoners were better used for some considerable time.

Nothing of consequence happened after this, till we had sailed to the island of Madeira, except a certain favor which I received of capt. [Thomas] Symonds, in consequence of an application I made to him, for the privilege of his tailor to make me a suit of clothes of the cloth bestowed on me in Ireland, which he generously granted. I could then walk the deck with a seeming better grace. When we had reached Madeira, and anchored, sundry gentlemen with the capt. went on shore, who I conclude, gave the rumor that I was in the frigate; upon which I soon after found Irish generosity was again excited; for a gentleman of the nation sent his clerk on board, to know of me if I would accept a sea-store from him, particularly of wine. This matter I made known to the generous lieutenant Douglass, who readily granted me the favor, provided the articles could be brought on board, during the time of his command; adding that it would be a pleasure to him to serve me, notwithstanding the opposition he met with before: So I directed the gentleman's clerk to inform him, that I was greatly in need of so signal a charity, and desired the young gentleman to make the utmost despatch, which he did; but, in the mean time, capt. Symonds and his officers came on board, and immediately made ready for sailing; the wind at the same time being fair, set sail when the young gentleman was in fair sight with the aforesaid store.

The reader will doubtless recollect the seven guineas I received at the cove of Cork: These enabled me to purchase of the purser what I wanted, had not the captain strictly forbidden it, though I made sundry applications to him for that purpose; but his answer to me, when I was sick, was, that it was no matter how soon I was dead, and that he was no ways anxious to preserve the lives of rebels, but wished them all dead; and indeed that was the language of most of the ship's crew, I expostulated, not only with the captain, but with other gentlemen on board, on the unreasonableness of such usage; inferring that, inasmuch as the government in England did not proceed against me as a capital offender, they should not; for that they were by no means empowered by any authority, either civil or military, to do so; for the English government had acquitted me, by sending me back a prisoner of war to America, and that they should treat me as such. I further drew an inference of impolicy on them, provided they should, by hard usage, destroy my life; inasmuch as I might, if living, redeem one of their officers; but the captain replied, that he needed no directions of mine how to treat a rebel; that the British would conquer the American rebels, hang the Congress, and such as promoted the rebellion, me in particular, and retake their own prisoners; so that my life was of no consequence in the scale of their policy. I

gave him for answer, that if they stayed till they conquered America, before they hanged me, *I should die of old age*, and desired that till such an event took place, he would at least allow me to purchase of the purser, for my own money, such articles as I greatly needed; but he would not permit it, and when I reminded him of the generous and civil usage that their prisoners in captivity in America met with, he said that it was not owing to their goodness, but to their timidity; for, said he, they expect to be conquered, and therefore dare not misuse our prisoners: . . . The surgeon of the *Solebay*, whose name is North, was a very humane obliging man, and took the best care of the prisoners who were sick.

1. *A Narrative of the Captivity of Col. Ethan Allen . . .* (Albany, 1814), 54-58.

1 May

COMMISSIONERS IN CANADA TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Copy

Montreal May 1st 1776

Sir After some difficulty and delay in getting thro the ice of Lake George, we arrived here on monday last, and were very politely received by Genl Arnold, who at present commands in this post.

It is impossible to give you a just idea, of the lowness of the Continental credit here, from the want of hard money and the prejudice it is to our affairs. Not the most trifling service can be procured without an assurance of instant pay in silver or gold. The Express we sent from S. John's to inform the General of our arrival there, and to request carriages for La Prairie, was stopt at the Ferry till a friend passing changed a Dollar Bill for him into silver; and we are obliged to that friend (Mr. [William] M'Cartney) for his engagement to pay the caleches, or they would not have come for us. The general apprehension that we shall be driven out of the Province, as soon as the King's troops can arrive, concurs with the frequent breaches of promise the Inhabitants have experienced in deterring them to trust our people no further. Therefore the utmost dispatch should be used in forwarding a large sum hither (we believe £20000 will be necessary); otherwise it will be impossible to continue the war in this country, or to expect the continuance of our interest with the people here, who begin to consider the Congress as Bankrupt and their cause as desperate. Therefore till the arrival of money, it seems improper to propose the federal union of this province with the others, as the few friends we have here, will scarce venture to exert themselves in promoting it, till they see our Credit recoverd, and a sufficient army arrived to secure the possession of the Country.

Yesterday we attended a Council of War, the minutes of which we inclose. The places proposed are proper to prevent the farther progress of the Enemy, in case they should oblige us to raise the seige of Qubek: The plank and timber for the Gondolas is all prepared and ready at Fort Chamblee, & some of the Carpenters are arrived from New York; others are to be engaged here: and as hard money is necessary for them we have agreed to ad-

vance some out of what the Congress put into our hands for our own subsistence, to be replaced when Cash shall arrive.

We understand that the Troops before Quebeck have not now ten days provision, but hope, as the Lakes are now open, supplies will soon reach them.

We have directed the opening of the Indian trade, & granting passports to all, who shall enter into certain engagements to do nothing in the Upper Country prejudicial to the Continental interests.

We hope to morrow to obtain an account of our Debts, that ought instantly to be paid. If besides what is necessary for that purpose, we had a sum to manage by opening a bank for exchanging Continental bills, it is supposed that we might thereby give a circulation to those bills. The twenty thousand Pounds above mentioned will, we think, answer both these purposes.

We are told that not less than the eight thousand orderd by Congress will be a sufficient army for this Quarter. As yet there are but about three thousand including those now passing down to Quebeck, who are just come over the Lakes. The small pox is in the army, & Genl [John] Thomas has unfortunately never had it. With great respect to Yourself & the Congress we have the honor to be, Sir [&c.]

1. Papers CC (Letters and Papers relating to Canadian Affairs . . .), 166, 17-19, NA.

RIGGING FOR THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Raleigh*¹

Memorandum of Rigging for a 32 Gun Frigate Vizt —

quality	length	demand	The underwritten is already Procured —
1 Cable 15 Inch	102	15. Inchs	
1 Stream do —	120.	8 do	
1 Hawser —	120.	6 do	
1 do —	120.	4½ do	
Lower Shrowds.	310	9 do	
do Stays —	28	13 do	2 Stays —
Mizen Shrowds	} 660	6 do	
Topmast Stay s[l] &			
Back Stays			
2 Coils 5 Inch each	120	5 do	
2 do —	do	4½ do	
6 do —	do	4 do	
4 do —	do	3½ do	
6 do —	do	3 do	
6 do —	do	2¾	
10 do —	do	2½	
10 do —	do	2¼	
10 do —	do	2	

10	do -	do	1¾	do	
10	do -	do	1½	do	
20	do -	Ratline of different Sizes -			c qr lb
12	do -	Spunyarn			2. .3. .4
6	do -	Worming			

[Portsmouth, May 1, 1776] ²

1. John Langdon Papers, Bills & Invoices, 1773-1785, NHHS.
2. The date is approximated. It must have been prior to the naming of the frigate by Congress on June 6, 1776, otherwise Langdon would have specified *Raleigh*, instead of "32 Gun Frigate."

ISAAC SMITH TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

Mr Adams

Salem May 1st 1776 -

since last past has Arr[ive]d a Vessel from Bilbao. I have letters to the Middle of March but have nothing New - Mr Gearey [Elbridge Gerry] Powder brige, which was thought to be taken is still there being in the law - which is better than was Apprehended - Another brige, belonging to Newbury which saild the begining of January is likewise Arrd from Bourdaux, in 34 days has Eleven Tons powder six of Brimstone, 12 Cannon 9 pounders, German Steel & 20,000 flints & sundry Other Articles. I dont hear of the last difculty in procureing them -

Itt is said that the five thousand raisd last fall had saild the 10th March - & that Russians &c were to come - the latter no Certainty - We have had so many rumors with regard to Powder that has turnd Out false which makes me mention this I am [&c.]

Isaac Smith

Ps As letter[s] I Understand go free for any of the Congress. Otherwise should not trouble you with such trifeling Matters -

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

TIMOTHY PICKERING'S RECEIPT FOR CHARGES INCURRED IN THE TRIALS OF SEVEN VESSELS TAKEN IN 1775 ¹

Court fees as within.			£29. .8. .31½
Copies of Condemnation viz	s	d	
Ship <i>Jenny</i>	1.	3	
Sloop <i>Sally</i>	1.	3	
Brig. <i>Little Hannah</i>	.	9	
Sloop <i>Betsey</i>	.	8	
Ship <i>Concord</i>	.	9	
Sloop [<i>Polly</i>], Smith master	.	8	
Brig <i>Nancy</i>	.	9	6. .1
7 Warrants for the sale of the above vessels at 5/.			1. 15.
			£ 31. .9. .41½

Salem May 1. 1776 Recd of Col. Jonathan Glover the above sum of thirty

one pounds 9/ 4½ being the charges of trial &c on the vessels above named.

Tim. Pickering junr

[Verso]

Jona Glover is Dr for Court Fees (exclusive of Jury fees) and in the Bills on

Ship *Jenny* - [William] Foster.

Sloop *Betsy*.

Brig *little Hannah* [Robert] Adams

[John] Atkinson
Ship *Concord*.

Sloop *Sally* [Robert] Bosden

[James] Lawrea
Brig *Nancy*.
[Robert] Hunter²

} 7 Cases each 4.4.0½
equal in the whole
to £29.8.3½

1. William Bartlett Papers, No. 5659, BHS.

2. All of the above vessels were taken by Captain John Manley, in Washington's schooner *Lee*, except the brig *Sally*, which was taken by Captain Winborn Adams, in the schooner *Warren*.

WILLIAM GORDON TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Jamaica Plain May 1, 1776

My Dear Sir It is almost too late to congratulate you upon our regaining Boston, but I may give you joy of our not having yet relost it. We ought by this time to have had the harbour fortified so strongly that a fleet could not have ventured in to have insulted the town, without paying dear for it: but there has been strange not-doings. You will ask me who is to blame? Should I answer without reserve, I would say the Assembly in not exerting themselves more vigorously for the defence of the capital (Inter nos their capitals want to be informed & act right) I would add Gen. [Artemas] Ward for suffering matters of importance to be so disregarded & in sleeping so over them; I would further mention, the inhabitants in complaining, being uneasy, & yet not calling a town meeting & agreeing to turn out & work. In truth we have been for too longtime past amazingly disordered; however as in other cases, every culprit pleads not guilty, & like old Adam shift the blame from himself to another. We are however at last doing better. Was up on Dorchester hills yesterday, & met with two twelve pounders on each, carried there the latter end of last week, besides an howitzer on that next to the neck, which has been there for some considerable time. Fort hill goes on sure, & begins to make a respectable figure. Went from the hills to Dorchester point where the Committee have been directing the erection of a fort. Was much pleased with it. The work is as neat & good as any of the regulars. Yesterday they were carting on the timber for the platforms which will be soon laid; & in a few days I apprehend the fort will be as far perfected as to be capable of defending the entrance of the harbour. Shirley's battery is to undergo an immediate repair. I flatter myself that by the latter end of the next week, if the enemy do not pop in upon us before, we shall be capable of setting them at defiance. . . .

By the by before I forget it, there are many fine noble large masts in Kennebec river designed for the British navy, would the French King buy them tho at a low price & fetch them away, it might assist a very good pur-

pose by proving a bone of contention. Your time is too precious to be needlessly spent in reading long letters of little consequence, I shall therefore not interrupt you longer, than to assure you of my best wishes for your prosperity both temporal & spiritual, to request a kind remembrance to those honoure gentlemen of the Congress with whom I have the happiness of being acquainted (our own delegates especially) & to declare myself an independent Whig as was my namesake.

William Gordon

Boston. A number of the inhabitants have engaged to work two days in the week for six weeks in fortifying. I propose signing the paper to encourage by example.

Tracy's ² vessel is arrived at Kennebec immediately from Bourdeaux with 21,000 lbs of powder, 12,000 lb of sulphur & 16 pieces of large cannon.

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

2. John and Nathaniel Tracy, merchants of Newburyport.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, NEW YORK ¹

Sir

Providence, May 1st 1776 -

Your favour of the 25th April p Express have receiv'd—I am very much obliged to you for the Use of your Men and shall dispatch them to New York immediately in the Sloop *Providence* Capt [John] Hazard - although we still continue to be Sickly onboard all the Fleet so that it will be impossible to go to Sea with the Fleet before we get recruited with hands which will not easily be done - I am, with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E.H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

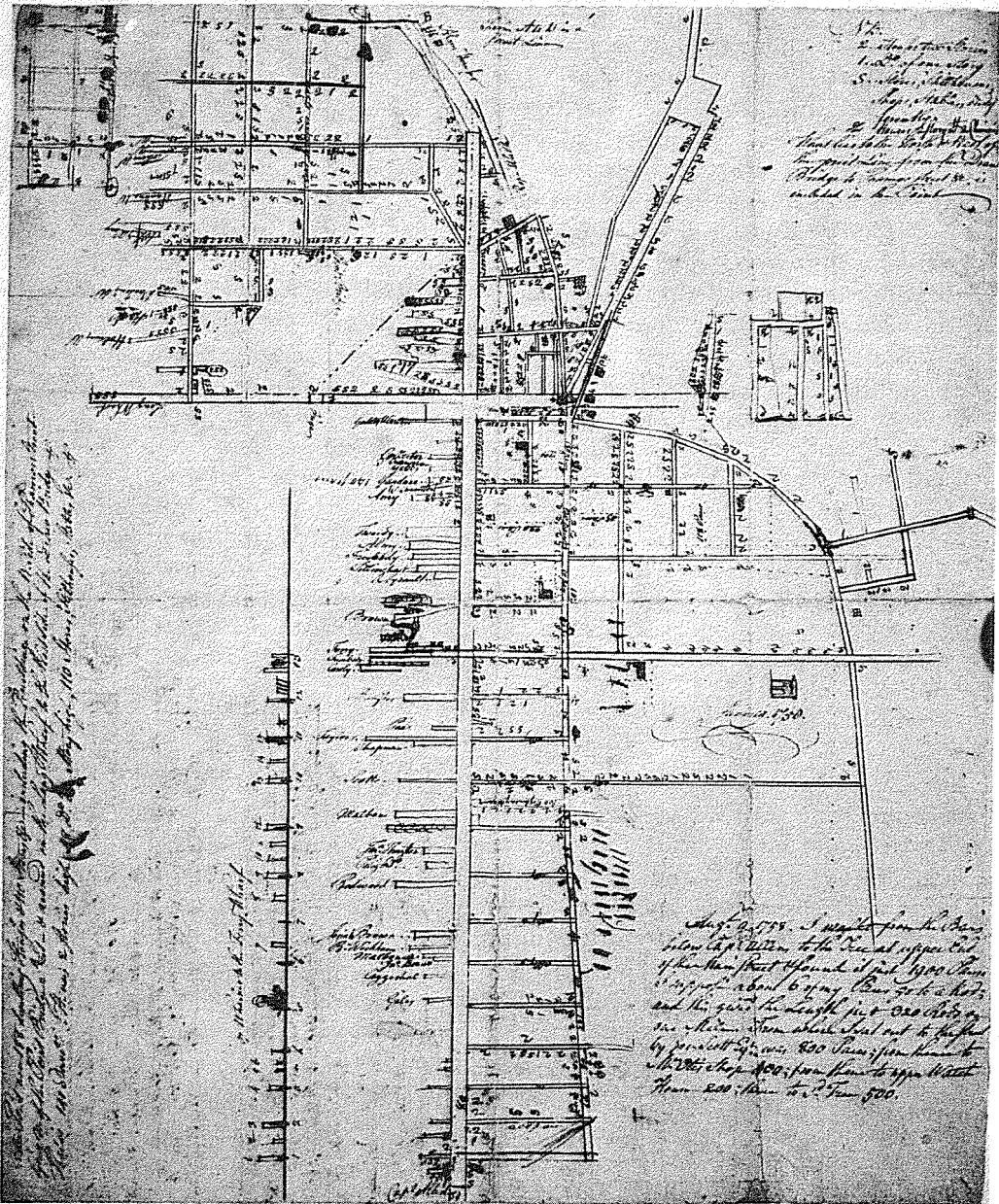
COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Gentlemen

Providence, May 1 1776

Yours I received [pr] Express this day dated in April, and observe the Contents. - Shall endeavour to give you a State of the Navy under my Coma[nd] and shall begin with the time we arrived in New London River where we landed Sick people not fit for duty in the Hospital which I provided with difficulty 72 from the *Alfred* 34 from the *Columbus*, 58 from the *Andrew Doria*, 17 from the *Cabot*, 16 from the *Providence* & 5 from the *Fly*, in all 202 people which weakend our fleet so much that I applied to General Washington, and got an Order for two hundred Men, about one hundd. & seventy of whom I got onboard the Fleet - when I came to Sail with our Fleet in Order to Speak with the Fleet at or near Newport - but the *Alfred* got ashore near Fisher's Island, and was oblig'd to be lighten'd to get her off which we did without much damage - In the mean time Wallace and his whole Fleet left Newport.

We Sailed from New London the 24th April and met nothing - the next day the Weather proved rough we put in here, where we have landed upwards of one hundred Sick Men, and there is daily more taken down with some New Malignant Fever -



Exra Stiles' manuscript map of Newport, Rhode Island.

I was making all the dispatch possible to procure Provisions & Stores in Order for a three or four Months Cruise when I received by the same Express General Washington's Orders to Send his Men immediately to New York which I must Comply with.

I had brought round here 26 heavy Cannon for the defence of the Town of Newport & by that Service expected to obtain Liberty to enlist Men out of the Government Troops to have made up my Compliment – but if the Cannon must be taken away I cant ask it with modesty, and if I do I am in doubt whether it would be granted –

I am ready to follow any Instructions that you give at all times but am very much in doubt whether it will be in my power to keep the Fleet together with any Credit to my Self or the Officers that belong to it – Neither do I believe it can be done without power to dismiss such Officers as I find Slack in their duty – I left the Sloop and the *Andrew Doria* at New London unloading stores – when I get a return of what they land Shall transmit it immediately to you – I ordered the *Andrew Doria* to Caren there which I hear is done. Should be glad you would give Orders what should be done with the New Providence Sloop which I wrote my brother about –

Inclosed you have a Copy of Captn [Abraham] Whipple's Request to me which Suppose I shall grant, and expect that may bring on some more Enquiries – but do not expect any thing which may now be done will mend what is past – I am with great Respect [&c.]

E H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

CREW OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOOP *Providence* TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS ¹

[Providence, May 1, 1776] ²

Cannot bear with it we like all our officers but Two Capt Hazzard [John Hazard] and mr [Walter] Spooner they carry stick with bullets and Ropes ends to beat us with and are kept from morning till night upon deck and have scarce time to eat we hope that you will take it into consideration we mean to be true subjects to the country [torn] we mean to do all that lys in our power for the country but wee are used like dogs on Board the *providence* we hope that you will find a new Captain or a new Vessel We are your humble Servants

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS. First part of letter is missing.

2. The date is approximated. Hazard was court martialed May 8, 1776, and Hopkins, in his letter of May 1 to Hancock, intimated that some inquiries as to the conduct of officers of the fleet might soon be made.

SAMUEL LYON TO LIEUTENANT JOHN PAUL JONES ¹

Sir

Providence May 1st 1776.

You are desired to attend at a Court Martial to be held onboard the Ship *Alfred* on Monday the 6th Instt at 10 oclock to enquire into the Conduct of Abraham Whipple Esqr on the 7th April.

By Order of the Commander in Chief

Sam^l Lyon Secy

1. John Paul Jones Papers, 6482, LC.

"A LIST AND WEIGHT OF CANNON, SHOTT & C RECD OF
ADML HOPKINS NEWPORT"¹

Guns

8 - 18 lb vitz	C	qr	lb	12 - 12 lb Guns Vitz.	C	qr	lb
No 1	42	3	25	No 1	33	3	16
2	54	"	25	2	34	3	6
3	39	"	26	3	34	0	16
4	39	3	26	4	34	2	11
5	40	0	13	5	33	3	16
6	50	2	23	6	34	0	18
7	40	2	1	7	35	2	12
8	40	1	27	8	34	"	"
	348	"	26	9	33	3	4
				10	34	"	12
				11	34	1	24
				12	34	0	16
					411	2	11
					348	"	26
746	18 lb Shott				759	3	9
594	12 lb Shott		the Carriage Trucks	Wt	83	3	3
245	Howit Shells		the Shot	Wt	183	2	4
21	Ladles & Worms						
100	Iron Carriage Trucks						
5	C.wt. Powder						

Newport May [1] 1776²

Errors Excepted

By Order of Adml Hopkins

Saml Lyon

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

2. Date set by Hopkins' letter of May 1, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Cerberus*, CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS¹

May 1776

Block Island No 30.28 W 16 2/3 Leagues

Wednesday 1 at 6 A M sett Fore Topsl at 7 saw a Sail to the So Wtrd
gave Chace 1/2 past 9 brot to & spoke the Chace a Schooner
from Cape Francois laden with Salt and Military Stores for
Dartmouth² sent a Mid & 6 Men onbd. *Diligent* & Prize
in Co
Modr & Clear at 5 P M brot too & sent the Long boat onbd
the *Diligent* at 6 hoisted in the Boat & md Sail

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/181.

2. The schooner *Lyon*, Moses Barlow, master, sent to Halifax, Shuldham's Prize List, May 23, 1776, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK TO JOHN MCKESSON¹

Sir—

Albany, May 1, 1776.

I am directed by General Schuyler to write to you, desiring you to send up one hundred spades, with all possible despatch to Mr. Philip Van Rensselaer, store-keeper at this place.

I am also directed by the General to send up to Ticonderoga a suit of sails, of certain dimensions, for a pettiauger, and as much rope as will rig two Albany sloops, (cables, shrouds and hawsers excepted) and also enough for two large pettiaugers; blocks for all.

On inquiry, I am informed that no sail-cloth is to be had in this town, and that the Provincial Congress have purchased all that was to be had at New-York, for the use of the Colonies. I, therefore, request you, in the name of the General, to send up to Mr. Van Rensselaer, five bolts of good sail-cloth, without the least delay.

I enclose you an estimate of the rope which will be wanted for the purposes above mentioned, of which none is to be had here, and which I also request you, in the General's name, to send immediately to this place.

Captain Ivers, who is now here, informs me that his son can supply this article.

It may be proper to show the estimate to some rope maker or rigger, at New-York, to know whether there will be sufficient. If there is not, you will be pleased to send as much as may be thought necessary.

I beg you to procure an account of what blocks will be necessary for two sloops and two pettiaugers, from some rigger or block maker in New-York, and to send them up with the rope, as none of these articles are to be had here.

All the articles above mentioned are so much wanted at the lakes, and not to be had any where but at New-York, that I must earnestly entreat you that no delay may be made in sending them up to this place.

I am, sir [&c.]

Richd. Varick, Secy.
to M. Genl. Schuyler.

To John McKesson, Esqr. Secy. to the
New-York Provincial Congress, or in his
absence to Robt. Benson, Esqr.

[Enclosure]

An Indenture for making running rigging and stays for 2 sloops, the size of Albany sloops. 2 coils, 2½ inches, 100 fathoms each, for haliards, tackle falls, jib sheets; 2 jib stays, 16 fathoms each; 2 down hauls, 1½ inches, 16 fathoms each; 100 fathoms ratline. 2 schooners rigging, viz: 100 fathoms 3 inch; 2 stays, 28 fathoms, 3½-inches; 2 coils, 2 inches, 120 fathoms; 1 coil of thread ratline spun yarn, in proportion for the whole; house line; marline; 1 doz. hamberline, white.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 433.

Constitutional Gazette, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

New-York, May 1.

We are just informed by a gentleman from Philadelphia, that an express arrived in that city on Sunday afternoon with an account that the *Roe-buck* man of war of 44 guns, being in chase of two brigs, run aground on the East Bank of Brandywine, in Delaware Bay, at high water; on the arrival of the express the committee of safety met, and sent down eight armed Gondolas, and two ships, one of them the Province ship, mounting 14 eighteen pounders, and the other 16 six pounders; the Gondolas went off in a few hours after the express arrived, and the ships at 10 at night. Great numbers of Volunteers went, and more offered themselves than the vessels could contain.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO VICE ADMIRAL MOLYNEUX SHULDHAM ¹

Ship Dutchess of Gordon

Sandy Hook 1st May 1776.

Sir,

Tho personally unknown to you I cannot deny myself the satisfaction of acquainting you of the Spirited behaviour of Captain [Hugh] Bromedge in the attack at the Watering place on the 7th Instant² when the Enemy treacherously fired upon the Seamen on Shore. Notwithstanding they have secreted their loss it appears by the Affidavit of a Countryman who was on the spot a few Hours after the Action that the Rebels had Twenty four Men killed and Sixteen Wounded. The particulars of this affair I presume you will receive from Captain [Hyde] Parker [Jr.]. This circumstance so honourable to Captain Bromedge, and happening within my own view induces me to wish, and I would even beg leave to solicit, that his merits and long Services may be rewarded by you with a better ship. I am with respect Sir [&c.]

W^m Tryon.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484.

2. This engagement was 7th April, not "Instant." See Captain Parker's letter of April 29, 1776.

ROBERT MORRIS TO NICHOLAS & JOHN BROWN ¹

Gentn

Philada May 1st 1776

We wrote you the 3d Inst [*sic ultimo*] to which referr, the present being to request that you will immediately send forward, One hundred pieces of Russia Duck (part of that imported by you in the Sloop Commanded by Capt B. Comstock) to John Langdon Esqr at Portsmouth New Hampshire for the use of the Continental Frigate building there, and you'l obtain his receipt for the same to serve as a Voucher of the delivery when your accounts are adjusted with this Committee. We are Sir [&c.]

By order of the Secret Committee.

Rob^t Morris, ChairMan

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

PETITION OF PETER SIMON TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

To the Honourable Continental Congress

Now sitting. the Humble Petition of Peter Simon & Israel Ambrose sheweth, that on the 10th of January Last they Sailed from the Island of Saltatuda on board of the Sloop *Sally* Loaded with Salt, Molasses, Rum, Paper, Wine &c., Bound for North Carolina, on the 14th of February was taken near Cape Hatteras, by the Armd Sloop *General Gage* George Sibble Commander, who for want of a prize master putt James McKnight (the mate of Capt Raddan who was taken the Day before) on board the afore Sd Sloop *Sally* as prize master, as the Sd McKnight had agreed to Enter in their Service. the Sd Sloop *General Gage* took your Petitioners on board and orderd the Sd McKnight to Proceed to Cape Fear with the Sloop *Sally* but that night a hard gale came on which drove the Sloop *Sally* to the Northward, after which the Sd McKnight Ran the vessell on shore in order to convert her to his own use,² to accomplish which he has misrepresented every circumstance to the Honourable Congress to obtain their order to dispose of the Sd Sloop & Cargo, Contrary to the orders & instructions given to the Sd McKnight & the Committee of Burlington, the Sd McKnight has broken open our Desks, Trunks and Secreted one hundred half Johannes wearing Apparel arms &c. also has not given any Acct of one half the goods that was savd out of the sd Sloop *Sally* to the Prejudice of your Petitioners three thousand Pounds³ therefore we pray you may take it in your great wisdom to restore our Sufferings and prevent our being Robd by Such imposters on our Country, and your Petitioners will ever pray
Philadelphia 1 May 1776

Peter Simon

1. Papers CC (Petitions addressed to Congress), 42, VII, 3, NA.

2. See Journal of the Continental Congress, April 1 and 4, 1776.

3. Israel Ambrose's inventory of the sloop *Sally's* cargo in next entry.

"INVENTORY OF THE SLOOP *Sally* & CARGO JAMES MCKNIGHT PRIZE MASTER"¹

Thirteen hundred Bushels Salt
 Fourteen hds. Molasses
 One hundred and twenty Gls Rum
 Sixty five Reams Rightg Paper
 One hd & twenty seven Demijohns Claret Wine
 twenty seven dozen Bottles french Cordials
 Five Cases oile ollives and Anchoves
 Four Anchors Brandy
 One hundred fifty thousand pins
 twenty four pr of wool Cards
 ten ps. linnen & Checks
 Five hundred pounds Shot
 One Cask powder
 One hundred and fifty pounds Coffee
 Four Ambrellas

One hundred Yards of Osnaburgs
 Four beaver hats One Negro man
 One Sute Velvet
 One Sute Black Cloath
 One do. light Collard
 One do. Purpel
 two doz & half Shirts
 two do. neck cloaths
 three do. Handkerchiefs
 Four do. Silk & thread stockings
 three doz Linnen Wescots & Breches
 four pr Silk Breches
 Several pr of Wollen and Leather Breches
 two Chince Night Gownds
 Several Short Coats
 Grate Coat & Cloack
 half ps Cambrick
 Eight yards Crimson Silk
 One doz ps French Laced Ruffels
 Bedding table Linnen
 Musquet Sword Pistols
 two Blunder Buses
 Quadrant & Other Instruments
 Small Library Books.

Memorandum of Sundrs in my Chest when taken by the
 Sloop *Genrl Gage* Febry 14. 1776 viz—

1 chest
 88 Joanes & 27 Dollars which were found in the hands of MKnite
 6 white Shirts & Some Chack one 2 or 3
 3 Cravats
 2 Coats one Never worn
 4 wes cotes —
 4 pr. Britches & 1 pr Droyer[s]
 12 do Stockins 1 do Shoe Buckls
 1 do. Nee do.
 1 do. Shoes not worn
 3½ piess. Linning 2 do. Checks 2 Beaver hats. 1 Str[aw] do 1 quadren
 & all my Books
 1 Pocket Book with sundry papers
 6 plates Bed & Beding
 3 pocket hanchfs. 1 parcel of Fine Thread.

Israel Ambrose

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety,

Philad'a, 1st May, 1776.

Resolved, That Mr. [Samuel] Howell & Mr. [James] Mease be a Committee to enquire if two of the armed Boats can be fitted out, in order to go down to the Bay of Delaware, to be there station'd for the protection of the commerce of this Province, and if they find that it is practicable to fit or alter two for that purpose, that they employ proper persons to carry the same into execution.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 553.

“AMOUNT OF MEN IN ACTUAL PAY, OFFICERS INCLUDED, IN THE NAVAL SERVICE OF THE PROVINCE OF PENN'A, 1776.” ¹

With the Company of Artillery at the Fort, Vizt.

The <i>Washington</i> ,	50 Men
<i>Franklin</i> ,	38
<i>Congress</i> ,	37
<i>Effingham</i> ,	22
<i>Burke</i> ,	24
<i>Carbden</i> ,	39
<i>Chatham</i> ,	24
<i>Experiment</i> ,	31
<i>Bull Dog</i> ,	39
<i>Ranger</i> ,	37
<i>Warren</i> ,	22
<i>Dickenson</i> ,	35
<i>Hancock</i> ,	48
	<hr/>
	446
Floating Battery,	116
Ship <i>Montgomery</i>	117
	<hr/>
	679
Train of Artillery at the Fort,	119
	<hr/>
Total,	789

Muster'd to the first of May, 1776, by

Lod'k Sprogel, M.M.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 739.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF THE PRIZE SLOOP *Edward* ¹

The Sloop *Edward*, condemned at the Court of Admiralty, with all her Ammunition, Furniture Tackle and Apparel, will be sold at the Coffee-house, To-morrow, at 12 o'Clock, agreeable to Inventory.

I. W.

[Philadelphia] May 1, 1776

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, May 1, 1776.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Philadelphia [May 1].

We hear from Lewes-Town, that the *Roebuck* man of war returned from a cruize on Wednesday last, having taken John Baldwin's pilot boat, bound from this port for the West Indies, and a brig, with black sides, no head, and white drifts, unknown; and on Saturday last her boats took a pilot boat, from St. Eustatia for this port. We also learn, that the *Roebuck*, in chasing some vessels up the bay, on Saturday afternoon, ran ashore on the Brandywine, where she lay till next morning, when she got off and returned to her old station.

HENRY FISHER TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Lewistown, May the 1st, 1776.

When I wrote you last on Sunday the 28 of April, the *Roebuck* lay in our Road, on Monday Morning she hove up and stood out to sea, and in the Evening she Returned, into our Road, on Tuesday she went out again with Bawldurns boat and gave Chase to a Schooner that was standing in, which proves to be the property of King & Harper of your Place, from Hispaniola she was chased from the southard by another British Pirate of twenty guns, so that being between two Fires he was oblig'd to run his Vessel on shore near the false Cape, the Inhabitants went down, the Pirates on seeing that Hall'd off, and stood into our Road they brought in with them two sloops, one a Bermuda built, the other is a Clump Deep Loaded, the other I believe is a tender. Mr. King has saved all his Cargo save some Molasses which they will git out to day. Just after Mr. King run on shore there came in a Brest of him a Virginia Pilot Boat, The Capt. came on shore for a Pilot, I advised him to go back to Indian River, but the surf being so high he could not get off[*f*], we made a signal to the boat to anchor, which she did, the above boat is from St. Astatia, and has five or six tons of Powder on board, the wind is now at N.W., therefore I make no Doubt of her Giting safe into the River. I beg gentlemen, that you would apply to the Congress to have twenty-five or thirty men of the Delaware Battallion to be Stationed at the false Cape to cover the Landing of any Cargo that may arive, as that is a Place where any of your Vessels may run there Jib Boom for the Sand and save there Cargos if they should be Chased, at the same time let the Congress know that there is three Companys of the above Battallion here, and that they have arms only for one, and that they have no Powder nor lead save a little that we have in our Magazeen, which is but Trifling. So that Gentlemen, I beg that you may use your Interest with the Congress to have the Companys Equipt, as they are a parcel of fine fellows, I believe would fight if they had ye Needfull. The *Roebuck* and the other Pirate with the two Sloops & Bauldwins boat Lyes in our Road, as this time the winds at N.W., fresh Breeze. I shall not send off[*f*] the Express by water till I see that they are making up the bay, without that you send me orders, for tiss uncertain how long they may Remain here. It

has Not been in my Power to get off my Boat without a risk of being taken, which I shall take great Care of, Haveing no more to add save that I shall give you the Earliest accts of the transactions of the British Pirats. I am, [&c.]

Henry Fisher

P.S. I have stationed John Adams at the False Cape on purpose to give signals to any of our ships standing in for the Land, if you disapprove of this send me word by the first opportunity. I am yours,

Henry Fisher.

[Endorsed]

The Express left Lewis at 12 o'Clock this day.

Henry Fisher.

Came to Cedar Creek 20 Minits after two & went off[f] at 3 o'clock.

Thomas Evans.

Rec'd at Dover at six of the Clock, dispatched 15 minutes after six.

F. Battell

Rec'd 50 after ten, Dispatched at Elaven.

Mat. Delany.

Rec'd at Wilmington at Four o'clock, dispatcht 10 min. after four.

Thos. Kean.

Rec'd at Chester 20 m. after 6, and Disspached 20 after 7.

Wm. Kerlin

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, IV, 740-41.

WILLIAM NEIL TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER ¹

Sir

Baltimore 1st May 1776

when I apply'd to the Council of Safety for payment of my schooner and Cargo you beg'd me to waite the meeting of the Convention which is now Soon - I will be Obliged to you if you will write me by the Bearer and let me Know if it will be needfull for me to Attend the Convention or not - and what time you would Recommend for me to go Down I have had no letters from Either the Capt or Supercargo Since those I laid before you - one of the Sailors that went out in the Schooner is come to Town and Sundry Gentlemen of this place who were at St Eustatia and can give a full Accot of that Seizure of her being Condemed and Sold - I am going tomorrow to the Country and cannot be home before the 15th of this Month. I am Sir [&c.]

William Neill

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

LIEUTENANT JAMES CAMPBELL TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER¹

Sir Baltimore 1st May 1776

Several Gentlemen here are desirous to send me out in a privateer from this place, my own inclination also, leads me to go having been Accustomed to the sea service, we have taken great pains to get a vessel fit for the purpose, and think we have Succeeded, you'l receive enclosed the commission with which I was honour'd; Retaining the utmost gratitude and respect for the public from whom I, had it, I hope to have the Testimony of my Brother officers that I served with Vigilance and attention, since my appointment and beg leave to assure you that no consideration would induce me to leave the Service but the hopes of being more usefull in another Department I entered into the service a Volunteer and now quit it with Regret I looked on the commission I held as a testimony of the public confidence and esteem, and shall endeavour in my new capacity to merrit the Attention that was paid me, – I shall go to Philadelphia to morrow to purchase Such Necessaries, as cannot be got here and make application for a Commission for the Vessel,² could I obtain a few lines from your honourable Council signifying that I was in the land service of this province, it would no doubt facilitate my business and be of service to me, we are much distressed for Canvas, I know of none, private property, to be had, could your Honble Council spare us any, would forward our Enterprize, and enable us to fit out with more expedition than will be otherwise in our power. I am Sir [&c.]

James Campbell

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

2. Campbell was commissioned June 14, 1776, as master of the schooner *Enterprize*. The commission was secured in Philadelphia, and the bonders were Mease & Caldwell, merchants of that city. The owners, however, seem to have been William Smith & Co., of Baltimore. See Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, IV, 77, 82, NA.

CAPTAIN SAMUEL SMITH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Extract] Baltimore Town 1st May 1776
Gentlemen Mr [James] Campbell – by this Conveyance resigns his Commission of first Lieut in my Company in Order to be of more Essential Service to his Country by distressing the Trade of our Enemies in a Privateer fitted out by a Gentleman of this Town: . . .

1. Red Book, XV, Md. Arch.

Maryland Journal, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Baltimore [May 1].

By a Gentleman arrived here yesterday from Philadelphia, by the Way of Hamburg, we are informed, That the *Roebuck* Man of War, of 44 Guns, in chasing two inward bound Vessels from the West Indies, up Delaware Bay, ran ashore on the Shoales called the Hen and Chickens, where she soon fell on her Beam Ends, when an Express was immediately dispatched to

Philadelphia, with Information thereof, on which a Brig of Sixteen 18 pounders; one Ditto of fourteen 12 Pounders; the *Hornet* Sloop of 10 Guns, and 13 Row Gallies, well arm'd and manned, were immediately sent down the River to take proper Care of her, and we hope in our next, to congratulate our Readers on her being safe moor'd at Philadelphia.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO HUGH YOUNG ¹

No 137.

Sir We send you inclosed a Letter to the Committee of Baltimore County, and request you would present it to them, and get the Schooner 92 ready as soon as possible & let the Captn call on us for Instructions.

P.S. We have not yet received the Letter from Captn Beatty [Annapolis] May 1st 1776.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM LUX

No 136.

Sir The Council of Safety upon Consideration some Days age on the Impracticability of Square-rigged Vessels escaping the Enemy in their Way to their several Ports of Destination did conceive that small sharp rigged Vessels would more probably meet with success – We have therefore thought it most advisable to send the Cargo of the Brig *Fortune* to the West Indies in such Vessels, and for that Purpose, have wrote to Persons who, we are informed, can furnish us with them – in the mean Time we would direct that the Cargo of the Brig should not be unloaded but kept on Board until you have further Instructions from us – Captn [Abraham] Van bebber can't be much, if any in Advance after the Arrival of the *Hannah*, and the Bill he has drawn.

[Annapolis] May 1st 1776.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, May 1st, 1776.

On consideration of a letter from Benjamin Harrison, jun'r, Esq'r, of April 29th – the comm'ee are of the opinion that they cannot with propriety engage in the ransome of the Ship *Grace*, even if the *other* [*sic Otter*] sloop of war was in this colony which however they are informed she is not.

A warrant to Capt. George Muter for £60 upon acc't for furnishing arms and material for the *Hero* Galley. Bond ackn'd and ord. record.

Same to Capt. Wm. Mitchell for £100 upon acc't for purchasing arms and recruiting his company of Marines. Bond ackn'd and o.r.

On examining George Friar, who says he was employed as master of arms on board the *other* sloop-of-war and was taken at Norfolk, it is ordered he be detained as a prisoner of war, but that he be permitted to walk any-

where within the Capitol Square, and in the Main street from the Capitol as far as to include the house of Mr. James Southall, upon his parole not to depart these limits or correspond with or give intelligence to Lord Dunmore or any of the officers of the navy or their adherents.

On the examination of Joseph White, a pilot, who was taken by Capt. [Richard] Barron, it is ordered that he be discharged on his parole not to bear arms or give intelligence or assistance to Lord Dunmore, the officers of the navy, or their adherents, upon this condition: that if he do not within ten days give security, to be approved of by one of the Judges appointed by the Comm'ee of Gloster county, in the penalty of £100.0.0 for keeping the s'd parole, he shall be liable to be taken up and confined. The s'd White engaged his parole in Comm'ee.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 162-63.

MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Northampton County Virginia 1st May 1776

In Committee

Capt Duncan Hill Commander of the schooner late loaded with flower formerly Commanded by Capt Kell, laid his instructions from the Honbl The Council of Safety of Maryland before the Committee, and desired their advice therein. The Committee accordingly took his case under Consideration and are of opinion that agreeable to his instructions he may make a trial to get out of the Capes the Committee being of opinion there is a possibility (tho' very little probability) of his escaping the Tenders.

Extract from the minutes
Drury Stith, C. Com

1. Red Book, XXVI, Md. Arch.

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

April 1776 In Hampton Road, Virginia
 Tuesday 30 at 4 AM weigh'd and came to sail ² at 8 Cape Henry S S W
 2 miles at 11 AM gave Chase to 2 sail to windward; at noon
 spoke the Chace which proved to be His Majesty's Sloop
Nautilus and a small Schooner
 PM fresh gales and hazey - parted Compy with the *Nautilus* -
 at 5 shortned sail
 May 1776 Cape Henlopen No 56 Wt. Dist. 38 miles
 Wednesday 1st 7 AM handd mn Topsl Strong gales and Cloudy Recd a
 Pilot from the *Nautilus* who Took charge of the Ship -
 First part fresh gales and cloudy midle and latter modr and
 clear found one of the main shrouds broke Spliced an eye
 and fixt Do at 6 made sail at 7 Tak'd Ship, set staysls

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. Bound for Delaware Bay in response to the *Roebuck's* request for assistance.

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 TO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1776

Charlestown, May 1.

The Report of General Clinton's having left North-Carolina is void of Foundation, he being still in that Province. It is said that two Transports lately arrived there from England with Troops, supposed to be Part of those under Lord [Charles] Cornwallis's Command. The North-Carolinians, by the last Accounts, were not in the least dismayed at these hostile Appearances in their own Country, but were making every Preparation for a vigorous Resistance, should they be attacked. General [Charles] Lee was arrived there.

A Brig. having on board about eighty Recruits for our Provincial Artillery, from Philadelphia, was unfortunately taken about six Weeks ago, by the *Syren*, and carried into North-Carolina. We hear that several of them made their Escape.¹

On Sunday se'nnight two large Ships, and a Sloop appeared off our Bar. They have been seen several Times since, and are thought to be two English Frigates and a Tender.

Last Sunday a Spanish Sloop put in here in Distress. She was bound from the Havana to Porto Rico, and got her Mast broke in a violent Squall, the Day after she left the Havana.

1. Captain Francis Proctor's company of Artillery which sailed from Philadelphia on February 15 and was taken March 15, 1776.

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS TALLEMACH AND JAMES JONES ¹

Georgia in

North America

} Before me Archibald Bullock, Esquire, — President and Commander in Chief of the Province aforesaid, personally came and appeared Thomas Tallemach and James Jones, of the Parish of Christ Church in the Province of Georgia aforesaid Gentlemen, who being severally sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God do declare and say jointly and severally that they these deponents have and each of them hath for a long time past acted as Clerks to the before named Edward Telfair & Co, and that they were present when the Inventory herein before particularly taken was had and made and assisted in the doing thereof; and these Deponents know and in their Conscience believe the same to be a true Inventory of the Goods, Wares and Merchandize remaining in the Stores of the said Edward Telfair & Co in Savannah on the first day of January last past (the same Inventory being made out and taken in the manner and form accustomed amongst Merchants in the province aforesaid) And these deponents further say that they ever since continued and still are Clerks to the said House and being always present in conducting the Business thereof they are well acquainted with every transaction respecting the same and regular Books being at all times kept, these Deponents can form a very good Judgment of every thing continuing on hand in the said Store at any time, And these De-

ponents further jointly and [severally depose and say] that on or about the 23d day of February last past several Reports prevailing in the province aforesaid and amongst the Inhabitants thereof, particularly in the Town of Savannah aforesaid that several of his Majesty's Ships had arrived in the Port of Cockspur in the Province aforesaid, having on board Soldiers and Marines whose destination was supposed to be for the Town of Savannah aforesaid, in order as it was said to take and keep possession of the same from the Inhabitants thereof and in consequence of which several Resolutions had been made and other matters talked of in the said Town as induced the said Edward Telfair & Co. as the Deponents conceive it would any other persons in their Situation to look out and secure as far as lay in their power the Goods Wares and Merchandize continuing in their Stores at that time and accordingly these Deponents did with the Assistance of some of the Copartners in the said House pack up a great Quantity of the Goods Wares and Merchandize mentioned in the Inventory aforesaid in several Trunks Barrels and Boxes, and it being publickly talk'd of that in case his Majesty's Troops should Land or endeavour to do so in the Town of Savannah, the same was to be set on fire and destroyed, the said Goods Wares and Merchandize so packed up as aforesaid were put on board Two Schooners the property of and belonging to the said Edward Telfair & Co for the purpose only and in order to secure the said Goods Wares & Merchandize from Fire or any other accident that might happen in the Confusion that would almost unavoidably ensue should any attempt be made upon the said Town of an hostile nature and for no other purpose or occasion whatsoever, that the Vessels, having on board the said Goods Wares and Merchandize were Schooners using the Inland Coasting business only, and not either of them Vessels trading coming from, trading or going to trade in any part, port, or place, on the Continent of America; that the Masters of the said Schooners in order to secure the property placed on board them aforesaid, agreeable to their orders dropped and went a small distance from the Wharves of Savannah aforesaid, where they continued for some [blotted] about Saturday the second day of March last past several armed Vessels appeared under Sail to be proceeding round an Island lying opposite the Town of Savannah called Hutchinson's Island for what purpose these Deponents knew not, but the Deponent James Jones says that he being on board one of the said Schooners in Sunday Morning the third day of March following one Captain Craik came along side and acquainted the Master of the said Schooner that it was Commodore Barclay's Orders that they should proceed up the River whenever the Tide of Flood made, they moved and soon after grounded, that in the Evening the Ship *Inverness* with some other Vessels appeared to be on Fire and in Flames, and such of the Vessels lying in the harbour as could conveniently get out of their way did so to be secure from the flames, that the said Schooners afterwards got on float, and one of the Masters of them went on board the ship *Marlborough* to enquire of Captain Barclay Commander of his Majesty's Ship *Scarborough*, who this Deponent and the said Master understood to be, and was then, Commanding in chief, as Commodore, what

was the Occasion of his Orders, and the said Master when he returned acquainted this deponent the said James Jones that Captain Barclay had ordered him to proceed down to Cockspur by the way of the back river, that on the Tuesday morning following the said Schooners with several other Vessels proceeded round to the Back River and continued down to Cockspur, near the Mouth of the River Savannah where the Deponent James Jones expected they with the Schooners as also the other Vessels that had gone down in the same manner and the Effects on board the same would have been discharged and placed at liberty to go, which way was agreeable, expecting that Captain Barclay's only inducement was to get them into a place of Security, and then permit them to depart, as the proprietors pleased; but the Deponent James Jones says, that after he was down at Cockspur a Message came for the Master of the said Schooner to wait on Captain Barclay on board the *Scarborough* ship of War, who going agreeable to such Message at his return acquainted the Deponent James Jones that Captain Barclay had desired him to give in as near as possible an Estimate of what was on board; that some time afterwards the said Schooner *Esther* having on board the Goods Wares and Merchandize aforesaid were by the [blotted] the said Captain Barclay brought alongside of the Prize Ship called the *Rittenhouse*, and all the Packages of the [said] Goods were taken out of the said Schooner and put on board of the Prize Ship aforesaid, That these Deponents Thomas Tollemach & James Jones have severally carefully examined the Books and Accounts of the Goods Wares & Merchandize sold and disposed of out of the Store of the said Edward Telfair & Co and on consideration of what was placed and put on board the Schooners aforesaid, as a Security from the Accidents before mentioned [one line obliterated] these deponents jointly say, declare and swear and in their consciences believe that the said Goods Wares and Merchandize taken and detained by Captain Barclay, being on board the Schooners aforesaid, and since by his orders carried away amount in the whole to fourteen Hundred and fifty Pounds, thirteen Shillings and seven pence Sterling Money of Great Britain, the Prime Cost thereof; and these Deponents are well assured the same would upon a reasonable advance, agreeable to the Prices Goods are now sold in the province aforesaid sell for and be reasonably worth an Advance of one hundred Pounds on every hundred Pounds prime Costs, so that the Advance upon the whole would be equal to another Sum of fourteen Hundred and fifty Pounds thirteen shillings and seven pence, lawful Money of Georgia, exclusive of the prime Cost aforesaid; and these Deponents further say that the said two Schooners they are well acquainted with, and verily in their consciences believe the same are worth with their rigging and apparel Three hundred and fifty Pounds lawful Money of Georgia, so that upon the whole These Deponents jointly and severally in their Consciencs believe the said Edward Telfair & Co by the detention and loss of the Goods Wares and Merchandize and the two Schooners will sustain at least a damage of three thousand Two hundred and fifty one pounds $7/2$, lawful Money of Georgia, which they conceive may be wholly attributed to the unjustifiable unlawful

and unwarrantable proceedings of the said Captain Barclay, which they think, considering his Conduct in Justice and [illegible] could be made liable to the same, lastly the Deponent James Jones says, that no Application was ever made to his Knowledge for the said Captain Barclay to take the Schooners, or the Merchandize aforesaid, under his protection or Care.

Sworn this 1st day of May 1776 before me Archd Bullock	}	Thomas Tallemach. James Jones.
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1. Edward Telfair Papers, DUL.

JOHN TAYLOR TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER ¹

[Extract]

Antigua 1st. May 1776

. . . I am sorry to inform you, that the present unhappy War has so taken up every person's Attention, endeavouring to guard against the inevitable Consequences (the Want of almost every Necessary of Life) that the Lawyers find very little Employment – This may perhaps prevent my having the Happiness of seeing you settled in this Island. with which I once flattered myself – The Present Appearance of Things in this Island is truly alarming, We have at this Time only a very scant Pittance of a Months provisions and no prospect of a proper Supply from England & Ireland. Three days ago a Vessel arrivd from Dublin with about 2000 bushels of Beans, which were immediately bought up at 15/ p bushel and if it had not been for the prizes brought in here by the Men of War. We shou'd long ere this have been without a Bbl of Flour or Bread or a Tierce of Rice and that Resource is I imagen now stopp'd as only one provision Vessel has been brought in these three Weeks, added to all this an extreme dry Season has destroy'd most of what has been planted, We are even scarce of Water to drink, as We have no Springs in the Island. Possibly my Fears are rather too great but be that as it may I am so much alarmd at it that I am determend to go to England early in July with my Family and remain there till the present dreadful Contest is over. I may probably call at your Island ² in my Way thither, when I hope to have the pleasure of again seeing you. . . .

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, CWM.

2. Bermuda.

PRIZES TAKEN BY BRITISH SHIPS IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS ¹

Antigua, May 1, 1776

A list of Prizes taken by his Majesty's ships on this station under the honourable Admiral Young, sent into Antigua, and there condemned at several courts of Vice Admiralty since the commencement of the Prohibitory Act.

Ship *Peggy*, Charles Kerby, from Philadelphia, taken by his Majesty's ship *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Ship *Two Brothers*, James Johnson, from ditto, taken by the *Experiment*, Robert Keeler.

Sloop *Two Brothers*, Jared Star, from New-London, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Brig *Greyhound*, Walter Stephens, from Philadelphia, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier.

Sloop *Betsy and Molly*, Hezekiah Perkins, from ditto, taken by the ship *Pomona*, William Young.

Schooner *Two Brothers*, Smith Milliner, from Virginia, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Sloop *Sally*, Wilkey Dodge, from ditto, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Dolphin*, Hugh Smith from Philadelphia, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Sloop *Diamond*, Peter Wilney, from ditto, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Schooner *Polly*, Mathew Van Alstyn, from ditto, taken by ditto

Ship *Chester*, David Ridley, from Cadiz, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Sloop *America*, Robert Campbell, from St. Croix to New-York, taken by ditto.

Brig *America*, Jonathan Lambert, taken by the *Lynx*, Alexander Scot.

Sloop *Martin and John*, Martin Mahar, from North-Carolina, seized by Bertie Entwisle, Esq; Searcher.

Schooner *Thomas*, John M'Cabe, from Virginia, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Sloop *Maryland*, Samuel Sweet, from ditto, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Schooner *Elizabeth*, Benjamin Davis, from ditto, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Schooner *Fanny*, James Mahony, from ditto, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Schooner *Sally and Betsey*, James Green, from North-Carolina, taken by the *Lynx*, Alexander Scot.

Brig *Dove*, Wilkinson Timmons, from ditto, taken by the *Hind*, Henry Bryne.

Brig *Tartar*, Benjamin Dean, from Georgia, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Brig *Hancolt*, and 8 negroes, John Southcomb, from Virginia, seized by Mr. John Fletcher.

Brig *Betsey*, and one negroe, Thomas Wood, from ditto, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier.

Sloop *Sally*, Nathaniel Packard, from ditto, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Brig *Sawney*, Robert Woodhouse, from Georgia, taken by the *Viper*, Samuel Greaves.

Schooner, name unknown, and 56 negroes, from —, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Falmouth*, John Martin, from —, taken by the *Argo*, William Garnier

Schooner *Bumper*, Hillery Mosely, from —, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Sloop *Elizabeth*, John Chace, from —, taken by ditto.

Schooner *Nancy*, Samuel Hinkley, from Nantucket, taken by the *Portland*, Thomas Demaresq.

Brig *Neptune*, Hugh Russel, from Georgia, taken by the *Pomona*, William Young.

Sloop *Speedwell*, Thomas Davis, from New-Castle on Delaware, taken by the *Experiment*, Robert Keeler.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776.

2 May

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

May 1776	Remarks &c in Quebec
Thursdy 2nd	A M sent a Captn & 40 Men to reconnoitre who return'd with some scaling ladders they had taken
	Light Breezs & fair empd raising Tents at Cape Diamond for Encamping
	P M the Rebels sent a fire Ship up the river to burn the Shipping without doing any damage ² the Garrison under Arms till 11 OClock —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

2. "About this time a plot was formed to burn the shipping in the harbour. A fire ship was completed in charge of Adjutant Anderson, a very brave officer, but proved abortive, by reason of the tide ebbing before he could get up to the shipping. The combustibles took fire before he intended, by which accident he was much burnt. He was, however, got on shore, and no lives lost," *The Journal of Isaac Senter* . . . (Philadelphia, 1846), 37.

JOHN LANGDON TO NICHOLAS BROWN ¹

Sr. Boston 2d. May. 1776

I am informed you have Some Canvas which can Spare, for the Ship I am buildg for the United Colonies at Portsmouth New Hampshire, shall take it kind if you'll be good enough to forward immediately, in waggons one hundred and fifty Bolts of all Sorts, or of Such as you have — as the Sendg it by land is the only way you'll please order. The Carts to bring it from your place, thr'o Cambridge, down Thro Danvers as far as Ipswich, and Deliver it to Mr John Winthrop of the last mentioned place, who will forward it me by water from thence — I shall much Depend on your kindness in giveg every Dispatch, as our Ship is almost ready for Launchg. — am very sorry I had not the pleasure of Seeg you, last week here As I understand you were in Town — I shall Thank you to let me hear from you by Return of post, by

all means pray don't fail me in this matter, as it will much oblige me – I am
[&c.]

John Langdon

please to Direct to me at Portsmouth N.H. p post

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Diligent*, LIEUTENANT EDMUND DOD ¹

May 1776

Block Island dist: 81 $\frac{1}{3}$ Leagues

Wednesday 1st AM at 6 Joined Compy the *Cerberus*, at 9 Saw a Sail to the SE, Chaced with the *Cerberus* & brought her too, An American Schooner from Cape Francois, with Arms, Gun Powder, Flints, Brimstone, Steel, Salt & Molasses for the Rebels at Wareham New England.²

Thursday 2d

Fresh breezes & fair Wr AM Supply'd the *Cerberus* with a Cask of Beef & a cask of Pork; Recd from the Prize, Gun powder 16 Bls & $\frac{1}{2}$, Steel 20 faggots, Brimstone, 11 Casks & 2 Boxes, Flints 2 Casks & 175 Stand of Arms –

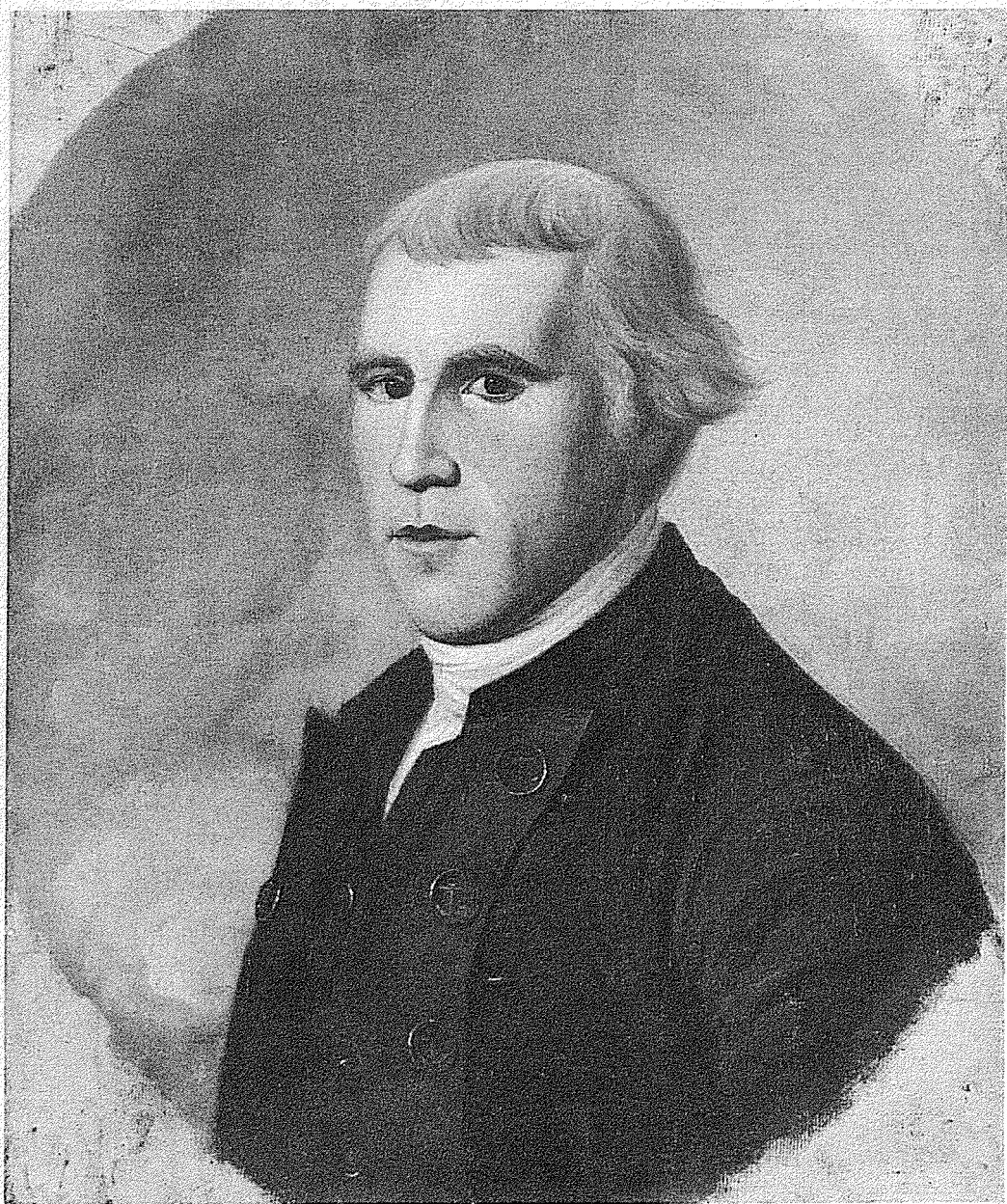
1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4109.

2. Lyon, M. Barlow, belonging to the Congress, bound from Cape François for Dartmouth, with powder, arms, salt and molasses, Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BIDDLE TO CHARLES BIDDLE, PHILADELPHIA ¹

[*Andrew Doria*, New London, May 2, 1776] ²

I with great pleasure Receivd your Note but did not see Capt Allen.³ As I Lay a League below the town While he was here – What is it that now Ails our Dear Brother, Why was you not more particular on that head, Why do you tell me only just enough to keep me in doubt and suspence about What is of much more concern to me than any thing that can happen Myself. Does the Dam'd Rhumatism still hang on him.⁴ How does our Dear Betty keep up her Spirits.⁵ I would write to her and to all the Family, but must first forget in some measure the Shamefull Loss of the *Glascow*. A More imprudent ill conducted Affair never happend. We were just off a port in which we know a fleet of Superior force to ours Lay. We had five prizes in Company and all the Stores taken at [New] Providence on Board our Armd Vessels. It was in the night, the *Glascow* was Standing off from the Land, And we were to windward of Her. We ought, in my opinion to have jogged on with her till daylight for had the Ships been with her then, that were in Company with her the day before, We should every dam'd Soul of us been either taken or sunk. She had all the appearance of a War-like Vessel. And no one in the fleet doubted her being an English Man of War And therefore there was no room to think She would fly from us till She felt our force. And as there was a tender just to Leeward of her it was more than Probable the Rest of the fleet were out for they seldom separated. If we were a match for the fleet Why did we not Chase her in. tis possible they might have afforded us some Assistance from the



Captain Nicholas Biddle, Continental Navy.

Shore. I had Rather have dawsons Pilot Boat to Cruise where I please than be even in the *A. Doria* and follow the fleet. I never but once wishd to have the Command of the *Columbus*. – And Yet I do not see how the Admiral can be Blamd for whether it was against his judgment or not he could not help the Action being brought on. For there was no signal from the time (about two oclock) I made the one for seeing a Strange sail and the one (about six) for giving over Chace. The *Cabot* and *Columbus* run on without Orders but the *Cabot* got off[f] again as quick as possible and came no more up. In fact She and the *Alfred* Received their Dose in about a Quarter of an Hour. I know the papers say three Glasses. they must mean half Minute Glasses. –

I have just Careend and expect to sail tomorrow or next day to join the fleet who have got safe into Providence. There is a Frigate and twelve Gun Brig off here.⁶ And I expect to be forced to run the Ga[u]ntlet. The Ships must have passd them in the Night as they see nothing of them –

Give my Love to our Dear Mother and all the Family and believe me to be Dear Charles Your [&c.]

Nicholas Biddle

1. Nicholas Biddle Letters, HSP.
2. Dating of the letter is based upon (a) the careening was completed on May 1, and (b) the *Andrew Doria* sailed on a cruise at 6 P.M. May 3, 1776; *Andrew Doria* Journal, PRO, Admiralty 1/484.
3. Captain Thomas Allen, an old friend of Charles Biddle. Biddle, ed., *Charles Biddle Autobiography*, 62–63.
4. Edward Biddle, the eldest son in the family was an invalid from 1775 until his death in 1779.
5. Elizabeth (Ross) Biddle.
6. H.M.S. *Cerberus* and H.M. Brig *Diligent*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Dear Sir

New London May 2 1776

I Recd a line from Capt [John Burroughs] Hopkins to putt as much Provision on Board the *Andrew Doria*, as will serve them for three Months – wich I shall Comply with, and Imagine she will be Ready to Sail by Satturday Next – I Reed a line from Bedford, and my Friend writes me that he has deliverd the Five hundd wt of Powder to Governour Cooks order, so I shall take that Qty out of the powder you landed hear – we have two Deserters hear that came from the Brigg,² that is att Block Island, they say, the Ship *Cerberus* has 32 Eighteen pounder and Two hundd Men,³ and that the People att Block Island, tell them all they know, the Ship Sails very fast – I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

To Esek Hopkins Esqr Commander in Cheif of the American Fleet att Providence

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.
2. H.M. Brig *Diligent*.
3. *Cerberus* had 28 guns and 160 men.

PETER L. CURTENIUS TO PHILIP VAN RENSSELAER, ALBANY ¹

Sr

Inclosed is Capn Johnsons Rect. for 30 fathom Chain which Genl Lee ordered to be made for to be sent to Canada, It will be necessary that you acquaint the Genl ² of it that he may get it forwarded assoon as possible, & it would also be proper that Genl [John] Thomas should know that it is aComming in order to have the Logs made to b[u]oy it up – It is to be fixt at some narrow part of the river St Lawrence a little above Quebec – If Mr [James] Price is still in Albany [he] can tell you where it is, for Genl. Lee consulted with him about the Matter. I expect every Minute thirty fathom (which complets them) more from the Jerseys which I thought proper to let you know that you might engage waggons to carry it up – I am Sr [&c.]

Peter L Curtenius

[New York] May 2, 1776

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 15, NYPL.

2. Major General Philip Schuyler.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, May 2, 1776

Resolved, That a letter be written to General Schuyler, desiring him, in case Major [William] Douglass declines to take the command of the vessels on the lakes, that he appoint Captain [Jacobus] Wyncoop to that command, and inform Congress thereof by the first opportunity.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 322, 323.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a 2nd May, 1776.

Resolved, That Colo. [John] Nixon & Capt. [Robert] Whyte, be a Committee to direct the fitting out, to Cruize in the Cape May Channel for the protection of the Trade of this Province, four of the Guard Boats now built and under the Command of the Captains [Charles] Lawrence, [William] Gamble, [William] Greenway, & [Jacob] Hans.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 554.

ARCHIBALD MC CALL TO HENRY FISHER, LEWES ¹

Mr Henry Fisher

Phila May 2nd 1776

I wrote to you Yesterday. I am much Oblidged to you for your care & attention to Capt: Mullet I now send 4 Good waggons to bring Capt: Mullets whole Cargo to Phila as by carrying it to Muspilion, it might be some time before it got here, any Charges that might have acrued, I must beg the favor of you to pay, as the greatest danger in the Voyage is in our Bay, I have ordered Capt: Mullet to Ballast his Boat with Corn & make an another push provided his People will go, or he can get a crew with you, If he succeeds I must request the favor of you, to Supply him with what he may

want if he cant Succeed I have given him, Liberty to come up with the Waggons & leave the Boat in Care of the Pilot, who are to run her up here if a favorable Oppertunity Should Offer, of which I beg you be the judge & give Orders, – I am [&c.]

Arch^d M^cCall

1. Emmet Autograph Collection, NYPL.

JOHN HANCOCK TO COMMANDER OF CONTINENTAL BATTALION.
IN DELAWARE ¹

Sir,

[Philadelphia] May 2d 1776.

Your are hereby directed to station thirty five Men with a proper officer of your Battalion at the false Cape to protect the Navigation & do Duty there until further Orders. I am Sir [&c.]

J H. Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), 12A, I, 121, NA.

“EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED MAY 2.” ¹

The *Roebuck* Man of War after being ashore a few Hours, got off again, without Damage. This Morning came up an Express from Lewis Town, informing that the *Roebuck* last Monday went out to Sea, and was joined by a Ship of 20 Guns: They chased a Schooner inward bound from Hispaniola ashore a little to the Southward of our Capes, where her Cargo is saved. A Schooner from St. Eustatia is got safe into Indian River, and another Schooner was off the Capes from St. Eustatia with 5 Tons of Powder, sent ashore for a Pilot, but was desired to go into Indian-River, where I hope she is safe. The *Roebuck* and the other Man of War came into our Road on Tuesday with two Sloops, one looks like a Bermudian Vessel, the other a Clump.

1. *New-York Gazette*, May 6, 1776.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GONDOLA
Bull Dog ¹

DESERTED from the *Bull Dog* armed boat, Alexander Henderson, Esq; commander, six men,² viz. John Parker, mariner, about five feet six inches high, well made, light coloured short hair, and about twenty-two years of age; had on, when he went away, a white cloth jacket and breeches of the same, and is a native of New England. John Sayer; trade unknown, about five feet three inches high, a little stooped shouldered, about twenty years of age, wears generally a blue body coat and red waistcoat, short brown hair, and is a native of England. John Stewart, labourer, near five feet six inches high, about twenty-four years of age, has short light coloured hair, and very swarthy complexion; had on, when he deserted, a ragged white coat, and canvas trousers, walks a little lame, and is a native of Pennsylvania. James Welsh, about five feet six inches high, swarthy complexion, about twenty-two years of age, a little marked with the smallpox;

had on, when he deserted, a coarse grey jacket, and breeches of the same, and was born in Pennsylvania. Samuel M'Cormack, a broadset man, about five feet five inches high, swarthy complexion, short black hair, about forty five years of age. Had on, when he deserted, a brown cloth jacket and leather breeches, and is a native of Ireland.

Whoever takes up and secures any of them, so that they may be brought to the said boat, shall have Four Dollars for each.

Alexander Henderson

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, May 2, 1776.
2. While stating six men deserted, but five are described.

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

April 1776 The Lighthouse West distant 3 Leagues

Tuesday 30th at 8 in the morning weighed and made Sail with the prize in Co² at 9 Saw a Sail and chased her, Armed the *Ranger* and sent her after the chace, as she was Steering between the Hen and Chickens, who run her ashore near the Lighthouse; at 10 gave chace to a Sloop in the SE quarter, and at 1/2 after Saw a ship and chased her, at 11 came up with the chace, which proved his Majestys Ship *Fowey*; Began to attempt to decoy the Sloop down to us.

Fresh gales and cloudy weather, In the afternoon, at 1 Anchd in Old Hoar Kill Road in 7 fms the Lighthouse SbE1/2Et, the *Fowey* and 2 prizes in Company. at 2 the Sloop came down accordingly having taken us for the Rebel Ships, and proved to be from Bermuda bound to Philadelphia Laden with Salt and fruit.³ employed variously

May 1776

Wednesday 1st Fresh gales and cloudy weather, In the Afternoon Armed and Manned the Prize and named her the *Pembroke*, for the more effectual annoying the Enemy . . . Sent the Tenders on a Cruize

Thursday 2d at 8 in the morning they returned with a Schooner from Philadelphia to St Eustatia laden with flower:⁴ At 9 Anchd here His Ms Ship the *Liverpool*: Read the Articles of War &ca to the Ships company: And Gave Captain [George] Montagu⁵ an order to put himself under my command.

Moderate and fair weather employed taking on board from the *Fowey* Several Species of Provisions:

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/796.
2. The sloop *Ranger*, taken April 27.
3. *Little John*, J. Darrel, master, Davenport & Co., owners, from Bermuda for Philadelphia, with salt and limes. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.
4. *Ibid.*, *Dolphin*, T. Woodhouse, master, Henry Cowper, owner, from Philadelphia for St. Croix, with flour, bread and staves.
5. Commander of H.M.S. *Fowey*. Hamond's journal explains further, "As the *Fowey* wanted much refitting I sent her to supply the place of the former [*Liverpool*] at Virginia," PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE¹

Gentn We understand from Captn [James] Nicholson that you have now bot your Boom down at Whetstone Point – We desire therefore the Schooner *Ninety two* may no longer be detained, and have ordered Mr [Hugh] Young to dispatch her immediately.

[Annapolis] 2nd May 1776.

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

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *St. Lawrence*, LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES¹

May 1776

In Cape Fear River No Carolina

Wednesday 1 at 2 A M Came on Bd 4 Refugees who Escaped from the Rebbels

Thursday 2 Fresh Gales and Clear at 4 P M fired 4 four pounders & 6 swivels at the Rebbels.

Sent the Cutter mann'd and arm'd after a small Schooner Boat which [we] brought alongside with 3 Reffugees.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

RESPONSE TO MEMORIAL IN THE TRIAL OF THE SHIP *America* IN THE NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY¹

[Cape Fear, May 2, 1776]

No Carolina ss.

The Reply

To his Honour James Elletson Bowen Esqr

Surrogate of the Court of Vice Admiralty in the sd Province

Francis Parry Esqr Commander of his Majestys Sloop *Cruiser* who Libells the Ship *America* in behalf of himself and others begs leave to shew in Answer to the Memorial of Robert Cunningham who claims the sd Ship –

That it is unnecessary to enter into a discussion of the Characters or general Conduct of the owners of the Ship *America* or that of their Agents which are not at present in question before this Honble Court –

The Prosecutor will therefore only Observe that the facts Charged in the Libell against the Ship *America* are fully Proved by the Evidence of William McKenzie and Robert McLean and that they are Confessed by the Claimant in his Memorial – From these it appears that the Ship *America* came into the Province of North Carolina on the Tenth day of February last with a Load of Salt and three Hogsheads of Rum two of which were the property of the Mates of the said Ship and for which Rum it is not so much as pretended that there ever was a Certificate Clearance Bond or Bill of Stores –

That the Salt was brought to be disposed of in this Province if possible but the same was prevented by the prosecutor, who in discharge of his Duty & to distress the Rebels detained the said Ship and Salt –

That part of the said Rum was Actually disposed of after its Arrival here to different People and at different Times –

That the Prosecutor in discharge of his Duty as an Officer of the Customs seized the said Ship *America* together with the Rum by Mr Willm Reid who is also an Officer of the Customs on the fourteenth day of March last and not having it in his power to Libell sooner, did on the first day of April Libel the said Ship *America* in the first Court of Vice Admiralty held in this province after the said Seizure and Charges that the said Ship having been detected importing into this Province three Hogsheads of Rum contrary to Acts of Parliament is therefore become forfeited to his Majesty against this Charge the Claimant Alledges that the said Rum is the produce of Barbadoes – That it was no more than Necessary for Ships Stores And that he could have had a Bill of Stores for it, but he at the same time Acknowledges that it was not intended as Ship Stores being the Property of Robert McLean and the other Mate which is also proved by the Oath of the said Robert McLean who sold and disposed of it as his Property since his Arrival in this Province – Wherefore it is Evident by the Claimants own Shewing That his Majesty hath been Unjustly defrauded of his Dutys on two Hogsheads of the said Rum in the Island of Barbadoes and that it was intended farther to Defraud his Majesty of the Duties that should further Arise on the said Rum on its being imported into any part of his Majesty's Dominions but the said Rum being without Certificate Clerance or Bond must by Act of Parliament be deemed and Adjudged foreign and Subjects the Ship *America* in which it is Imported into this Province to forfeiture together with itself.

The Prosecutor also Charges in the Libel against the Ship *America* that she Contrary to an Act of Parliament prohibiting all Trade &c with the Colonies therein mentd came into the Province of North Carolina on the Tenth day of February last with a load of Salt and Rum and that part of the said Rum was actually sold and disposed of And that it was intended to have sold and delivered the said Salt in this Province contrary to Act of Parliament whereby both the Ship and Cargo is become forfeited to his Majesty –

This second Charge is also fully Supported by the Oath of William McKenzie and Robert McLean and the Claimant in his Memorial and therefore the Prosecutor having supported both Charges by the fullest and Clear-est Evidence prays the Judgment of this Honourable Court.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

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

May 1776 Moored in Savannah river Georgia
 Thursday 2 at 6 AM sent three Seamen Armed on board the *Raven's*
 Tender. Do sailed hence the Tender in Chace of a Brig in
 the Offing.
 Mode and fair Wear at 4 pm the Tender returned having

seized the Brig she proved to be the *Sally* Peter Ridge Master
Laden with [blank] she is detained on Suspicion of Smuggling

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1662.

JOHN BROWN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

[Extract]

Bahamas New Providence 2d May 1776

My Lord I take this first opportunity of informing Your Lordship that His Majesty's rebellious Subjects of North America, knowing that the Company of the fourteenth Regiment was removed from hence, and the *Savage* Sloop of War recalled from this Station, and that thereby these Islands were left in a defenceless State, fitted out an armed Force from Philadelphia, consisting of one Ship of thirty two Guns, one of thirty, two Brigantines of sixteen Guns, each, a Sloop of fourteen, and a Schooner of six Guns,—having on Board, besides Seamen, about three hundred Marines and Riffle Men, in order to attack this place, and to possess themselves of His Majesty's Powder, Artillery, and other Stores in his Forts in New Providence. On the third of March last this Fleet came off the Bar of the Harbour of Nassau, on which the Country was, by order of his Excellency the Governor alarmed, and the greatest part of the Militia assembled in Fort Nassau, to prevent its coming into the Harbour, but, when it was expected these Vessels would come in, they suddenly tacked, and made to the Eastward, and the Ships and Brigantines being anchored at a place called Hanover Sound, about three Leagues distant from this Harbour, the Sloop and Schooner, with two Sloops belonging to these Islands, which they had taken in their passage hither, proceeded to the east end of this Island; on which the greatest part of the Militia were sent off from Fort Nassau to join a small party lodged at Fort Montague, in order to prevent the landing of any Troops; but, before the Militia could reach the place where the Sloop and Schooner were anchored, the Rebels had disembarked their Marines and Riffle Men, and the Militia, finding themselves unable to oppose such a force, were obliged to return to Fort Montagu, where the Governor then was, and from thence to Fort Nassau, where the Powder and Stores were lodged: The Rebels soon after took possession of Fort Montague, where they remained till next Morning; in the meantime the Governor, finding that many of the Inhabitants had left the Fort, and that part of those remaining were unwilling to stay longer, called together the Council, Militia Officers and some of the principal Inhabitants, to consider whether the Fort in its then present Condition, with the few People then in it, could be effectually defended, the majority of whom were of opinion that as most of the Gun carriages were defective, and as different kinds of Shot and other material Stores were wanting, it was not defensible, on which His Excellency consulted with the Council what should be done with the Powder (in all about one hundred and sixty Barrels) when it was determined to ship the same to St. Augustine to prevent its falling into the Hands of the Rebels, and it was accordingly shipped, and ordered to be delivered to His Excellency Governor Tonym, and the Fort was soon after

evacuated. On the fourth the Rebels marched to the Town of Nassau, and took possession of the Fort, and also took the Governor Prisoner, and having taken on board their Vessels, which were brought into the Harbour for that purpose, His Majesty's Cannon, Mortars and Stores, from both the Forts, except a few Shott and Shells, they sailed from hence on the sixteenth of the same Month, and carried with them Governor [Montfort] Browne.

As soon as possible after the departure of the Rebels I dispatched an Express to His Majesty's Admiral at Jamaica, acquainting him with what had happened, and representing to him the unhappy situation His Majesty's Servants here would be in, in case the Americans should return; as at their departure they had threatened to do, and requesting that he would afford what assistance he could for the defence and protection of this Government. I also requested that he would embrace the very first opportunity he should have of acquainting His Majesty's Ministers of this Rebellious Transacton, and of the present defenceless conditon of these Islands, as I had then no other way of communicating them to your Lordships.

On considering, My Lord, the precarious condition of the Trade of this Place, and of the property of its Inhabitants, and thinking it incumbent on the People of this Government to do all in their power for the future security and protection of both, I thought fit, by the advice of his Majesty's Council, to convene the General Assembly, who passed a Law for Appointing Commissioners to put the Forts Nassau and Montague in a defensible State; but as no new Fund was provided for defraying the Expense, I am doubtful whether anything can be done to them; especially, as the present Revenue is so small as not to be sufficient to defray the usual contingencies of the Colony, and during the present unhappy disturbances it cannot be increased, as the Trade of these Islands is almost entirely ruined: so that His Majesty's Servants and Subjects, relying on his known Goodness, hope he will be graciously pleased to grant them such Support and Protection as their present Situation requires.

When His Excellency Governor Browne was carried from hence, My Lord, he carried with him, His Majesty's Commission appointing him Captain General, etc., and also that constituting him Vice Admiral of the Bahama Islands, but left His Majesty's Instructions to His Governor, the Great Seal, and the Commission for the Trial of Piracies; so that when I took the Command of the Colony, I found no other Authority for so doing but the said Instructions and the Record in the Secretary's Office of the Governor's Commission, and by which I shall continue to act, until His Majesty's Royal Will shall be known.

I have the Satisfaction to inform Your Lordship that William Chambers in the Sloop called the *Mississippi Packet*, who voluntarily took the Powder on board his Vessel, was so fortunate as to escape the Enemy, and carried the same safe to St. Augustine, where it was delivered by him to Governor Todyn.

[Endorsed] R. 20th June.

LETTER FROM JAMAICA, MAY 2, 1776 ¹

The attention which Admiral Gayton pays to the interception of the American vessels, demands the warmest praises. Seven vessels have been fitted out from this island by the Admiral, for the service of government, mounting from eight to twelve carriage guns, and from 40 to 80 men, commanded each of them by a Lieutenant. The French islands have been all along magazines for the Americans, and it was to put a stop, if possible, thereto, that these vessels were fitted out, as the number of frigates and sloops on this station were not sufficient for that purpose. Lieut. Brown, who commanded a brig of eight guns, and 40 men, brought in here a very stout vessel last week; she is 300 tons burthen, had ten guns, besides a number of swivels, and 29 men. She was bound to Cape Francois with flour and lumber.

1. *London Chronicle*, June 29 to July 2, 1776.

3 MayCONDEMNATION IN VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF PART OF CARGO OF BRIG
Juno ¹

Nova Scotia Court of Vice Admiralty	}	Court open'd by making Proclamation as usual Proclamation made for all claimers to appear and assert their Claims
Friday 3d March [<i>sic</i> May] 1776	}	James Monk Esqr his Majestys Sollicitor General mov'd for a decree in this Cause The Judge then Order'd the decree to be Pronounced as follows –

In the Name of God Amen We Richard Bulkeley Esqr Judge and Commissary of his Majestys Court of Vice Admiralty for the Province of Nova Scotia & the Maritime parts thereunto belonging

Haveing maturely consider'd the Circumstances of the Brigantine called the *Juno* one William Keith Master Seiz'd and detain'd by Alexander Grame Esqr Commander of his Majestys Sloop of War the *King Fisher* and Libell'd in this Court by James Monk Esqr his Majestys Sollicitor General as well for and on behalf of his Majesty as for and on behalf of the said Alexander Grame wherein the said Sollicitor Alledges that the said William Keith in the said Brigantine was taken by the said Alexander Grame on the Twenty eighth day of February last near the Mouth of the River Delaware laden with Twenty four Hogsheads of Salt Petre twelve Barrels of Sulphur and twenty Barrels of Gun Powder Contrary to an Act of Parliament made in the sixteenth year of his present Majestys reign, and it appearing to us by Papers produced in open Court and provd to have been found on Board said Brigantine and by other Evidence sworn and examin'd in open Court that the said William Keith was carrying on in said Brigantine a most illegal and Treasonable Commerce by which his Majestys Rebellious Subjects in America may be enabled to carry on the war already commenc'd against his Crown and Government and repugnant to the Honour and well being of his

Dominions and all Persons claiming any Right and Title to Twenty four Hogsheads Salt Petre and Twelve Barrels of Sulphur part of the Cargo of the said Brigantine (now within the Jurisdiction of this Court) having been duly notified to attend and assert their Claims if any they had but no Person appearing so to do tho thrice called upon for that purpose and all matters and things requisite for a fair and Impartial tryal of the Premises haveing been duly attended to –

We do adjudge and decree the said Twenty Hogsheads of Salt Petre and twelve Barrels of Sulphur to be lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof & do Condemn the same accordingly and order them to be deliver'd to the agent or Agents for the said Alexander Grame his Officers and Crew to be divided in such Proportions & after such manner as his Majesty shall think fit to Order* and direct by his Royal Proclamation or Proclamations hereafter to be Issued for that purpose. Given under our hand and the Seal of the said Court this 3d day of May Anno Domini 1776 and in the sixteenth year of his Majestys reign

Rich. Bulkeley Jud Admty

Court adjourn'd without day in this Cause –

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

JOSEPH WILLIAMS TO WILLIAM COIT, NORWICH MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

Cambridge May 3rd 1776

I have Some thoughts of being Concernd in 2 Private[e]rs thats now fixing out of Boston, to Cruize after the Jama Ships, bound for London – One is Abt 80 Tons & the Other About fourty, to be well fixd & to go in Comps as One – Colo Sergants is 1/8th Concernd in the whole, & their is 1/16th not taken up yet, & the Concernd have a mind I Should take it, Our Leiut Colo [(J)ackson()]² has a mind to be 1/3d Part – Please to write me whether you have A mind to be Concer[n]d or not, I Shall Conclude before I Can hear from you [but] if I Should be Concernd you may be Equally Concd w[ith] me, or I will take it all to myself. I Should Like to have had your Advice in the Affair if it was So that I Could – the two vessels whole Outsets will be About Two thousand Pounds Lw Money – we have Nothing New this way, trade grows dull, but I believe Shall get rid of Our goods with a good Profit – I am Sir [&c.]

Jos Williams

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

2. Paul Dudley Sargent, colonel, and Michael Jackson, lieutenant colonel of the 16th Continental Infantry. One of the privateers was the *Yankee* Sloop, commissioned May 23, 1776, Henry Johnson, commander, 9 guns and 60 men, Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 342; vol. 164, 339.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Friday May 3d 1776

Resolved That the Committee of Inspection for Deer Island be, and they hereby are directed to deliver unto Jonathan Rich of Marblehead, the Schooner *Nightingale* with her Cargo and Appurtenances that was taken

into Custody some time in August last past by said Committee – it not appearing upon Examination that the said Rich has Acted any thing against this or the United Colonies, whereby his property should be forfeited – he giving the said Committee a discharge for any demands he may have against them for detaining said Vessel and Cargo –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 838, 844.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ORDER TO JAIL KEEPER AT BOSTON ¹

Colony of the } The major part of the Council
Massachusetts Bay } of said Colony

To the Keeper of the Goal in Boston, in the County of Suffolk –
Greeting

You are hereby commanded to deliver into the Custody of Commodore Jno Manly Peter Ramsen,² now a Prisoner in Your keeping, in order that he may be examined before his Honor, Gen[eral] Ward, touching the Cause of his imprisonment and be by him disposed of as he shall think fit –

In the name of & by Order of the
major part of the Council
James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] May 3d 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 343.

2. Master of the Tory brigantine *Elizabeth*.

THOMAS CUSHING TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

[Watertown] May 3, 1776

The General Court of this Colony has appointed a Committee whereof I have the honour to be Chairman to give you the following Interesting Intelligence

Capt John Lee (a Gentleman who may be depended on) arrived at Newbury on the 2d Inst in 29 Days from Bilboa and gives information that on the fifteenth of April he fell in with a brig from Plymouth bound to Newfoundland the master of which informed him that three days before he parted with a fleet of 60 Sail of Transports under the Command of Lord [Richard] How[e] having on Board 12000 Hessians bound to Boston together with 27 Commissioners, that Genl Burgoyne with 4000 Hannoverians sailed or was to Sail about the same time for Quebec. Lee says he read the English papers on Board the Brig by which it appeared that the parliament had Voted to pay foreign Troops & that the King of Prussia's Demand on Britain was complied with that the people of England were very desirous of a settlement and that the Commissioners were to use their utmost Endeavours to Effect it which if they failed in the forces were to Lay waste the whole Country if they could. Mr Gourdroqui [Joseph Gardoqui] of Bilboa writes by his Letter dated the 27th of March last to Isaac Smith Esqr by Capt Lee in these words "No other News from England but that 17300 German Troops were going to Boston & Canada some of which were Embarking about three weeks ago" –²

This intelligence appears to the Genl Assembly of this Colony too important to the whole Continent not to be forwarded to you by express – where these Troops will Endeavour to begin their Ravages is uncertain but as the british arms were brought into disgrace by General [William] Howes being compelled to abandon this Colony it is reasonable to suppose that they will endeavour to regain their honour in the place where they lost it – and we should be guilty of injustice as well to the other united Colonies as to this if we should not inform your Honr that this Colony is by no means in a good State of Defence a great number of our arms being carried away in the Continental Army & to Canada and our powder which we Supplied the Army with being Eight Tons at the least not being replaced wherefore we cannot have that dependence on our Militia which we otherwise should have and the detachment of the continental Forces under General [Artemas] Wards Command being as we apprehend insufficient to repel an heavy attack there being but five regiments & they not half full – We are by no means Solicitous about the particular Interest of this Colony – nor do we wish ourselves to be excused from being the more immediate object of their relentless rage but for the Sake of the public Cause we wish ourselves in a Situation fit to receive them with that Spirit which they have been taught to expect in men fighting for the freedom of America – the attention which the Congress has Shewn to the Safety of this Colony as well as the whole of the united Colonies gives us reason to hope that they will Neglect nothing that can tend to our Releif and Protection.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 368–70, NA Photocopy.

2. To this point the text is verbatim from Timothy Pickering's letter of May 2, to the General Court. Cushing also passed the information to General Washington suggesting reinforcing General Ward's troops since the British might return to attack Boston to "retrieve their character." *Ibid.*, 371–73.

MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Boston 3 May 1776.

. . . Commodore Manley declines going on another Cruise until he has a larger Ship, and he says he cannot recommend his first Lieut² for the Command of the Vessel he last sailed in. Frequent applications are made to me to appoint Commanders of the Privateers, and for other matters which no Person here is authorised to transact.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Lieutenant Richard Stiles.

PHILIP SHEARMAN TO COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS¹

Comadore Hopkins Sr

We Received yours of the Eighteenth march pr Capt Jenne together with The Guns & Shot permit us to return you our Sincere thanks for your publick Services and in a perticular maner for Those nessecary Ingines of Defence Sent us by Capt Jenne, Those Shot which will not Answer for us we Shall Convey By the first oppertunity Either to Providence or Howlands

Feary we are yours & the Countrys [&c.] Signed in & on behalf of the Committee of Inspection for the town of Dartmouth by –

Philip Shearman {Clark :

Dartmouth, may the 3rd 1776.

1. Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

BILL OF DAVID ATWATER, JR., FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR CAPTAIN
SETH HARDING ¹

Colony of Connecticut Dr	To David Atwater junr	
To Pocket Instruments 1 Case		2..0..0
1 Qt Elix Salutis		0..4..0
1b 2 fs Flor Sulph		3..9
1b 1 Allum		0..7
3 Doz Vial Corks		0..6
Bottle & Pot		1..2
Box		1..0
		<hr/> 2.11..0

Seth Harding

New Haven

May 3d 1776 Receivd of James Rice the Contents in full

David Atwater Junr

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX (*Defence*), 69, ConnSL.

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

[New London Harbor]

Friday 3 Fresh Breezes & heazy Employ'd stowing the Water & taken in
Balace

Moderate Breezes & Cloudy At 6 P M left New London in
Company with several merchantmen, Bound out.

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

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Fort George May 3d 1776

The Commission arrived at St Johns on the 27th and on the 28th ult. twenty four Batteaus with troops &c &c had Already [arrived] and the others were momentarily expected. I believe the whole are now before Quebec

I have found myself under the necessity of building a number of Batteaus far Exceeding what Congress ordered One hundred and thirty are now built and I propose to Compleat them to two hundred; but If more troops should be sent Even that number will be Insufficient

Commodore [William] Douglass is not arrived nor is a single Sailor come up so that I shall be Obliged to send on the provisions in Batteaus

from hence to St Johns and for this arduous service I have only Seventy men of the troops raised for the defence of this Colony, the others being not yet come up If raised, which I much doubt

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 129-32, NA.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

[Extract]

New York, May 3, 1776.

In Respect of Sailors to cruize and pass in the Lakes; on the 24th. Ulto., I gave a Warrant to a Captain Jacobus Wynkoop for 276 2/3 Dollars for a Month's advance Pay for himself, Officers and Men, who are engaged in that Service; Of this, I there advised you, of their different Pay that you might take an Account of it, and know what they are to receive in future.

1. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*, V, 7-9.

EBENEZER HAZARD TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ¹

Sir,

New York May 3d 1776

We have no News here, except that the last Phila Post brought Advice that the *Roebuck* of 44 Guns was on Shore on the East Bank of Brandywine, & that eight Row Gallies, the Province Ship & *Reprisal* were gone down to take her. The Phila Post is not arrived today, & we are not yet informed whether they have been successful. -

Mr [George] Measum writes me that the Genl has ordered him to frank Soldiers Letters. - Yesterday a Detachment of Troops sailed for Albany. -

I enclose Holt's Paper ² & am [&c.]

Eben Hazard

P.S. Should any Thing remarkable happen in Canada I beg to be favd with a Line

[Addressed] Doctor Franklin Montreal

If not there, to be forwarded.

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 84, APS.

2. *New-York Journal*, printed by John Holt.

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

May 1776 Moor'd off Sandy Hook The Light House EBN Distance
1 Mile

Friday 3d AM Sail'd his Majestys Sloop *Savage* & three of our Prizes under
Convoy & *Swallow* Packet.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/693.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 3rd May, 1776.

Resolved, That the Pilot to be employed on Board the Provincial Ship, be allowed sixteen Dollars p month & two Rations of Provisions per day.

Robert Towers Reports . . . That he has deliver'd
To Capt. [Robert] Whyte, 5 pieces of Sail Cloth.
[To] Matthew Strong, for his look-out Boat,

5 Firelocks. 15 Flints.
48 Cartridges. 8 Swivel Balls.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 555-56.

PETITION OF A SLAVE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

To the Honble Committee of Safety

Sheweth that your poor Petitioner was Bought By Capt John Barry and taken to Sea in the Brig *Lexington* belonging to the Honorable the Congress and has since Sold him for the Same Money that he Paid for Him Besides Having Received Your poor Petitioners wages and Prize Money—

Therefore your Humble Poor Petitioner Requests that you Would take his case unto Your Serious Consideration and order Him Such Part of the Prize money as you shall Deem fit and In so doing Your Humble Petitioner will be for ever bound To pray &c —

[Philadelphia, May 3, 1776] ²

[Endorsed] Servant to Capt Barry

1. Pa. Arch.

2. The date is approximated. During the life of the Committee of Safety, Barry had sent in only one prize, the sloop tender *Edward*. Her condemnation in Admiralty Court was completed April 30, 1776, and distribution of prize money ordered that day. Admiralty Court Docket, Case No. 1, U.S. Custom Office, Philadelphia. Presumably the unnamed slave heard of it reasonably soon thereafter, and petitioned accordingly.

COMMITTEE TO OUTFIT THE SCHOONER *Resolution* TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Baltimore May 3d 1776

Inclosed you have a List of the Different Bills of Disbursements in the Outfit of the Schooner *Resolution*. The Original Bills for these Accots shall be furnish'd you by one of us in person as soon as we know when it may be convenient to wait on you with them. In the mean time as we have been oblinded to Advance a great part of the Money and the Remainder is wanted we wou'd request you to send us by Capt Nathl Smith a Thousand Pounds towards the discharge of what is yet due, untill we have the whole Accots examin'd We are Gentlemen [&c.]

Robert Purviance David Stewart Geo: Woolsey

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Williamsburg] Friday, May 3rd, 1776.

It being represented to the Comm'ee that the wife of John Goodrich, jun'r, had lately gone on board the Fleet at Norfolk with her child, upon fir-

ing the house in Portsmouth: ordered, that her Father, Mr. Wm. Harwood, be allowed to employ a boat to send from Hampton on board the Fleet for their removal, and the commanding officer at Hampton is requested to furnish him with a flag of truce for that purpose.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 166.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1776

Williamsburg, May 3.

Last Sunday se'nnight a tender came up Rappahannock, and chased a New England schooner, outward bound, into Hobb's Hole, from whence she carried her off, as low down the river as Bowler's warehouse, where she got aground on an oyster bank, and stuck there till the Tuesday following; by which time some spirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood got together four sailing boats, and manned them, with a view to retake the prize, and, if possible, to board the tender, which was commanded by one of old [John] Goodrich's sons, and had on board a large quantity of sail canvas, &c.&c. As soon as the tender's people saw our vessels bearing down upon them, they set fire to the prize, and quitted her; upon which some small boats from the shore put off, and arrived time enough to extinguish the fire, without its materially damaging the vessel, having only one or two of her sails burned. Mr. Hugh Walker, and Mr. Richard Banks, who commanded two of the vessels, got quickly up with the tender, and engaged her at close quarters for at least 15 or 20 minutes, with small-arms, during which a valuable negro man, a pilot on board Mr. Walker's vessel, was shot through the head, attempting to board, and three or four of the tender's people were seen to fall; when, a breeze springing up, Mr. Goodrich took the advantage of it, and ran off, leaving his prize behind, which is now safely secured. During the action, Mr. Charles M'Carty of Richmond, Mr. John Edmondson, and Mr. Nathaniel Crow, of Essex, Mr. James Montague, of Middlesex, with Mr. Walker and Mr. Banks, greatly distinguished themselves, by their intrepid and gallant behaviour; and Capt. Thomas Strathley, and Mr. Thomas Bowler, of Essex, who commanded the two other vessels, although they did not get up in time to engage, yet shewed much zeal and alacrity, and no doubt, had they been present, would have signalized themselves.

Yesterday evening, his Excellency the General¹ attended by his aids-de-camp and secretary, with adjutant-general [Thomas] Bullitt, arrived at headquarters in this city, from Suffolk, having visited Portsmouth, the Great Bridge, and Kemp's Landing; and we hear, that several effective regulations for crushing the Tory interest in that quarter have taken place. The town of Portsmouth has suffered in no other respect than that of *demolishing the lodgings, entirely*, of three noted and disaffected persons, and seizing a quantity of stores, the property of Tories. Old Capt. Goodrich, and Mr. George Blair, late of Smithfield, are now in Suffolk jail; sent by the Council of Safety in North Carolina for trial, having been taken on that coast in a piratical vessel.

1. Major General Charles Lee.

"INFORMATION OF A SPY, GIVEN TO LORD DUNMORE THE 3D DAY OF
MAY 1776." ¹

Saturday in the evening [April 27] as I was laying on the floor of Veals House as if a Sleep, I heard Majr Thomas Parker, Josiah Parker, and [Blank] Lawson, Speak freely, that, that Night or before Morning, that Dunmore and the Fleet would be destroyed, and that on Majr Parkers being ordered out with a Company to join Hoffer,² at the Mouth of the Western Branch, he asked Josiah Parker what should be done with the Tories he found on Board the Vessels, he answered damn them, Tomahawk them all and throw them over Board, and give yourself no further trouble about them, that on firing two Signal Guns at 4 O'Clock on Sunday Morning the Ship *Dunmore* if possible, (if not her) that any other Vessel Should be Boarded and Set on fire; At the same time they should Attack the lines on the Mill point, and Burn Portsmouth; that on Sunday Morning about 7 O'Clock the Party returned to Neals, when Parker reported to the other Officers that just before day light they were under the Stern of the *Dunmore*, heard a Noise in the Cabine, went close by the Accomodation Ladder, and thought to have Boarded her, but day light Approaching too fast prevented the Attempt, that they Shot a Negro going a Shore in a Canoe with a Bottle of Rum, which they Drank to his health as he was expiring.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 781, enclosed in Dunmore to Germain, June 26, 1776.

2. Josiah Parker is listed as Major of the 5th; Thomas Parker as Lieutenant of the 9th; William Hoffer Captain of the 1st—all of the Virginia State Regiment. Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April, 1775 to December, 1783* (Washington, 1914). Lawson was probably Major Robert Lawson of the 4th Virginia.

JOURNAL OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[Halifax] Friday May 3rd 1776.

Ordered, That the parole of Robert Atcheson Midshipman of the *Syr-en*, now within the Limits of the Town of Halifax be extended five Miles without the Limits of the same

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

MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

No 39

Cape Fear River

Lord George Germain

the 3d May 1776

My Lord! I am this day honored with Your Lordships letter of the 6th Decr signifying to me His Majestys pleasure on the subject of the expedition to the Southern Colonies under my Command.

And I am now to inform Your Lordship that in consequence of Orders from Major Genl Howe I arrived in this River on the 12th of March last, having been previously informed of the Object of the intended expedition and the Grounds upon which it was adopted by the Earl of Dartmouths Letter to Genl Howe of the 22d October.

By this Letter it appears that the 15th 37th 53d, 54th & 57 Regts of Foot had received orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark at Corke on or before the 1st Decr and that they were to be joined by two Companies of Artillery who were to take with them 10 Batallion Guns, and as many Howitzers or light three pounders (a piece of Ordnance which would have been of infinite use in this Country) as the number of Artillery Men could serve. together with 10,000 Stand of Arms.

Had the embarkation then taken place and arrived at Cape Fear at the time we might naturally have expected them – there is every reason to believe that the intentions of Government pointed out by that dispatch might have had the fairest Tryal in this Province – But Mr [John] Pownall will no doubt have made Your Lordship acquainted with the Contents of my Letter by the *Duke of Cumberland* Packet, informing him of the check the well affected inhabitants from the back Settlements had met with in the neighbourhood of Moore's Creek, and the consequences which had ensued – And I beg leave now to add that by all the Accounts we have since been able to collect their Chiefs have been imprisoned, those who had taken up Arms on that occasion, and all others who have been even suspected, have been disarmed and watched with a most jealous eye.

At this advanced Season of the Year for military operations in this Climate, I receive Your Lordships dispatches by which I am directed with the Assistance of the well affected inhabitants to endeavor to re-establish legal Government in the Southern Colonies and when these operations are finished, to join Genl Howe with the Forces under my Command as early in the Spring as possible.

In this Situation of Affairs in the Province of North Carolina when no immediate Success can I apprehend be expected, when so little time will probably be allowed to carry the intentions of Government into execution, without Horses to convey our Cannon &ca, or that species of Cannon which could possibly be conveyed without them, without Water Carriage that we can call our own, we shall be obliged to penetrate at least 150 miles through a Country of chicane, every inch of which would probably be defended – and the uncertainty after all of being joined by those on whom Government chiefly depends, I beg leave to say My Lord that under all these circumstances in my humble opinion an attempt will be scarcely adviseable –

The present State of the Province of So Carolina differs little from that of No Carolina – the well affected have sometime since assembled in Arms, and are now totally dispersed – The reduction of Charles Town a place now garrisoned wholly by Rebels, could that be effected (which from the best accounts received we have reason to believe would be exceedingly difficult) – in my humble opinion would contribute but little to the re-establishment of order in that province at this advanced Season of the Year – The well affected to Government in that as well as the other Provinces reside principally in the back Country. – To attempt a junction with the Kings Troops, unarmed peasants must force their way through a Prov-

ince in Arms to oppose them, or His Majestys Troops must effect it under the difficulties, and through the Country I have been describing.

With respect to the province of Georgia the Climate alone at this Season of the Year must render every attempt of this kind abortive.

My Views therefore will probably be directed to the Provinces bordering upon the Chesapeak Bay during such time as may be left me to dispose of, recollecting that part of Your Lordships Letter which leaves me at the immediate Call of Mr Howe and from whom I expect to hear before the close of my Letter, having seen by some public papers taken in a Vessel lately from Providence in the Colony of Rhode Island that he had evacuated the Town of Boston on the 17th March tho as yet I have received no Letters from him.

I have taken pains My Lord since I left Boston to procure the best information of the State of the different provinces by touching at New York and at Virginia in may [*sic* my way] hither – I have seen most of the Governors, many of the back Country people, have intercepted many Letters, obtained intelligence through a variety of Channels, and am convinced from fatal examples of experience in many Provinces, that an attempt to assemble the Friends of Government in any of them without giving it a full tryal, so far from producing any Salutary purposes, serves only to inflame mens minds, and to sacrifice those Friends you abandon to the rage and fury of an incensed multitude – Upon this principle My Lord I shall proceed warily during the Short time it may fall to my Lot to command in the Southern provinces. I have the Honor to be with great Respect &c

[Endorsed]

H Clinton. –

By the *Mercury* to the Northward to be dispatched from Head Quarters by the earliest opportunity for England –

[Second endorsement]

Sailed from Cape Fear the 19th May

1. Clinton Papers, Misc. Letter Books, CL.

VERDICT OF CONDEMNATION OF THE SHIP *America* AND CARGO IN THE
NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY ¹

[Cape Fear, May 2–3]

No Carolina Vice
Admiralty Court

Decree

Parry Esquire and others against
The Ship *America*

Having heard all the Depositions filed in this Cause Read and also Examined the Several Witnesses Produced to this Court it Appears that the said Ship *America* is become forfeited under an Act made and passed in the Second Session of the fourteenth Parliament of Great Britain Entituled “An Act to Prohibit all Trade and Intercourse with the Colonies of New Hampshire Massachussets Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, the three lower Countys on Deleware, Maryland Virginia North Carolina South Carolina and Georgia during the Continuation of the

present Rebellion within the said Colonies respectively: for Repealing an Act made in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty to discontinue the landing and discharging, Lading and Shipping of all Goods Wares & Merchandize at the Town and within the Harbour of Boston in the province of Massachusetts Bay, And also two Acts made in the last Session of Parliament for restraining the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies in the said Acts respectively mentioned and to enable any person or persons appointed and Authorized by his Majesty, to grant Pardons, to Issue Proclamations in the Cases and for the purposes therein mentioned” The said Ship *America* having been found Trading within the said Province of North Carolina after the Twenty fifth day of March last wherefore I do ad- judge the said Ship *America* a lawful Prize and she is hereby accordingly Condemned as such and I do further Order and Decree that the said Vessel & her Cargo together with all her Tackle Apparel and furniture shall be put up to Publick Sale on Monday the Twentieth day of this present month of May and to be absolutely and bonafide sold to the highest bidder without any reserve And I do also hereby further Order that after Paying the Wages due to the said Ships Company at the time of her Capture The Remainder of the neat proceeds arising from such Sale shall be divided among the Cap- tors in proportion to their respective Shares Except such share as shall appear to be due Francis Parry Esquire Commander of his Majestys Sloop *Cruizer*, which I do hereby Order to be retained in the Hands of the Agent until the Court can be informed whether the Agent for the Royal Hospital of Greenwich intends to demand such Share as a forfeiture to the said Hos- pital under the Act of the twenty Second Year of his late Majestys Reign Chapter the thirty third, Section the Seventh, Dated at Cape Fear this Sec- ond Day of May in the Year One Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Six –

Notice being given by the Claimant in this Cause of his intentions to appeal from the D[e]cision of this Court – Let this Decree (except such part of it as relates to the Publick Sale of the said Ship) be Suspended from Exe- cution untill Such Security given by the Appellees as the Law requires

(Sign'd) Ja^s E. Bowen

May 3d 1776 –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/3680.

SILAS DEANE TO ROBERT MORRIS ¹

Dear sir

Bermuda May 3d 1776 –

My Lettr of yesterday I closed without the final Determination of the Custom House, Capt H Tucker being yet at Town on his Return he told Me that Comptr[oller] continued obstinate as to Entry or Register, coming to this Resolution that we would not Seize any Vessel coming with provi- sion, nor would he enter them – indeed to Seize her he dare Not – This is the more abusive As our Cargo was landed, & disposed of, & I had provided the other Sloop on the honor of the Collectr that the *Betsey* should be en-

tered & a Register obtained otherways I might have disposed of her Cargo to better advantage than here, – To send her to Hambourgh as You proposed seems attended with expence, & great risque, and on the best advice I could obtain, finally determined To send her, with her Hhds filld with Water for Ballast To Turks Island directg the Captn to call at one of the Keys, & go & inquire in his Boat how the Situation of Affairs are & if he can obtain an Entry there to make out a New Register in Name of Captn H. Tucker of this Island & himself and proceed for Jamaica – he will have Lettrs and papers prepard for his purpose to give the Appearance of his having been at St Eustatia & returning for Salt – But should any Difficulty arise he is To Take a Trifle of Salt for Ballast & return To This Island & enter in Ballast which the Comptroller has promised he will have no Objectiion To – This is the best I have been able to do with the Sloop and wish She may meet with no Accident on her Voyage – inclosed you have the Charter party, of the Sloop I go in, and Acct of provisions, Stores & disbursements, also of the Terms I have recd of Mr Tucker, whom I have ordered on Closing the Sales to Invest the Balle in good Bills & remit them to me, by way of St Eustatia unless he should receive other Directions from you, The Quantity of Light Money passing prevented my obtaining a larger Sum & the pork is principally on hand, but I feel sure will go off at Six pounds p Barrel in a few Days – I have agreed with Capt Tucker on proper Signals, in Case of my sending any thing this Way, and in your Lettrs to him direct to Henry Tucker Esqr of Somerset in Bermuda, there being four of the Name in The Island some Mistake may otherways happen, & one of Them so I understand Connected with the Governor – The Charter of the Sloop is I think high but it is the best I could do & She suited my Business well, & wish She may answer so well as She appears – I shall sail this Day & am in haste – my Compts To all Friends – I am Dear sir [&c.]

Silas Deane

1. Papers of Robert Morris, LC.

DEPOSITION OF RICHARD BURRELL ¹

Black River
Mosketo Shore } ss

Personally appeared before me His Majesty's Chief Justice of the Peace for the said Shore, Richard Burrell Mariner who made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he this Deponent was a Passenger on board the Sloop *Nancy* John Coffell Master, on a Voyage from Prena Creek to Cape Gracias a Dios on the said Shore, and on Monday the Twenty Ninth day of April last, about Nine OClock in the evening of that day, the Moon shining very bright, the aforesaid Sloop *Nancy* being then about eight Leagues to the Northward of Patock River, they fell in with two Spanish Guarda Costas, the smallest of which fired a Gun, and brought the said Sloop *Nancy* to, at same time hoisted Spanish Colours, and then hailed in Spanish first, and in English afterwards to know where the said Sloop *Nancy* had come from, and where she was bound to; John Coffell Master of said

Sloop answered, from Prena Creek, and bound to Cape Gracias a Dios, on which the smallest Guarda Costa went a head, and then the largest came along side of said Sloop *Nancy*, and hailed her in the same manner, that the small Guarda Costa did, and asked her what she was loaded with, to which they were answered, that she was only in ballast, on which the Guarda Costa ordered the said Sloop *Nancy* to heave to, and kept up in that manner until three O'Clock on Tuesday morning when the Guarda Costa hailed, and asked what Provisions were on board, to which Captain Coffell answered, he had none, but would be glad that the Spaniards would spare him a Barrell of Bread or Barrell of Flour; at same time asking, why they detained him so long, the Spaniards then asked the bearings and distance of the Island of Bonaca, and what Vessels were at Black River, to which this Deponent answered, that Bonaca bore West and by North, and Captain Coffell answered that there was a Brig and Schooner at Black River; they the Spaniards then told the People on board the Sloop *Nancy*, that they may go about their business; on which the Sloop *Nancy* bore away for Black River her Sails being bad, and about seven o'Clock the same morning, they saw the two Spanish Sloops under Dutch Colours, and standing in for Black River, where he this Deponent saw them at an anchor, about twelve o'Clock at noon; and the sd Sloop *Nancy* run down by the said Spanish Sloops, not suspecting that any hostility was intended; the largest Spanish Sloop hailed the said Sloop *Nancy*, and ordered her to come along side, to which one of the *Nancy's* people answered, that as soon as she got a little further in, they would heave to for them, by this time the Deponent saw a Launch or Boat coming towards said Sloop *Nancy*, full of Men, and he verily believes, there were twenty men in her at least, all armed with Cutlasses and small Arms; they soon came along side said Sloop *Nancy*, and called for a Rope, but none was handed; on which the Bowman hooked the Quarter Rail with his boat hook; the foresail being by this time hoisted, gave the Sloop *Nancy* such way on her, that the Bowman in the Boat or Launch, was obliged to let the Boat Hook go; and instantly the people in the Boat or Launch fired four Muskets, two of which hit the said Sloop, and the smallest Guarda Costa fired three Cannon; as soon as the Launch or Boat left the said Sloop *Nancy*, this Deponent saw her or another, go on board a large Sloop that was then at Anchor, which Sloop had an English Pendant and Ensign hoisted, and presently after the Boat or Launch got on board said Sloop he observed the Colours were struck, which Sloop this Deponent has been since informed, is the Sloop *Morning Star*, David Miller Master, and this Deponent saith that in about an hour, after said Launch or boat got on board said Sloop *Morning Star*, he saw her and the other Sloops, under way, and standing to the Northward; and this Deponent saith, that the Middle Cloath in the Main Sails of the above two Sloops were black; and this Deponent saith, that the largest Sloop, he believes, had fourteen Cannon mounted, and the

smallest Sloop had twelve Cannon mounted, and that both Sloops were full of Men, and further this Deponent saith not.

Rich^d Burrell

Sworn before me at Black River }
aforesaid this 3d day of May 1776 }
John Bourly² }

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part III, LC Photocopy.

2. *Ibid.*, Burrell's deposition and that of one Thomas Archdeacon were sent to Sir Basil Keith, accompanied by a plea "that a Ship of War should be sent down to cruize on this Coast over part of the Seacoast in order to prevent any more depredations being committed, and also to quiet the minds of the Inhabitants. . . ."

4 May

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE¹

May 1776

Isle Bic NE Dist abt 1 League

Saturday 4th At 9 A M, weigh'd & came to sail – I sent the Cutter on Shore on the So Side with Captn Carleton of 31st Regt who got Intelligence that Quebec was besieged by the Provincials who were encamped on [St.] Charles River & had erected a Battery on Point Levi opposite the Town, & also (they believ'd) on the Wt End of Orleans – that 4 or 5 Ships had gone up the River in the Course of the Last Week & that Genl [Guy] Carleton had receiv'd some reinforcement – AM heard many Guns fir'd in the NW, which I supposed to be from the *Lord Howe* Transport –

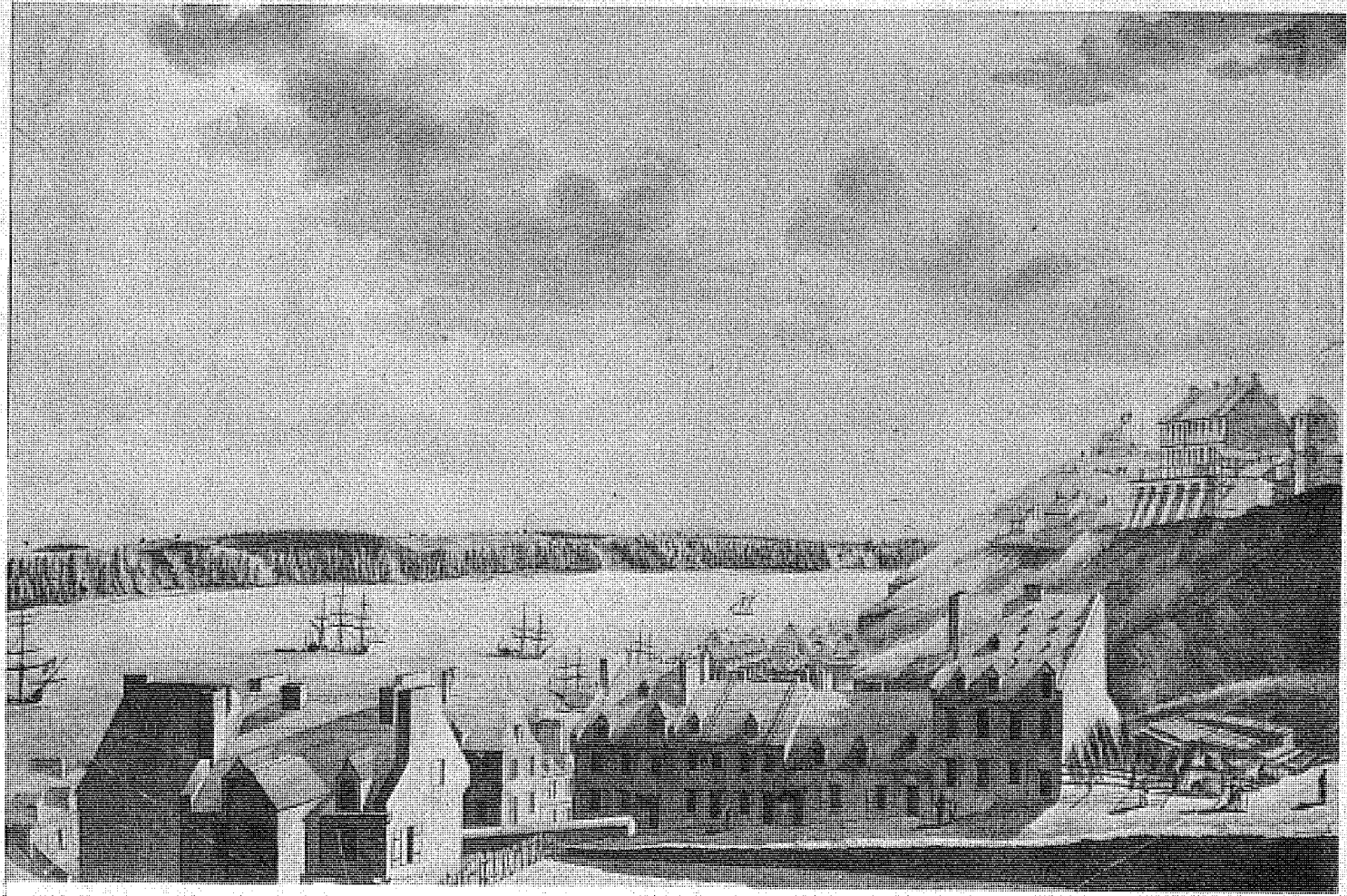
Fresh Gales & Cloudy Wr P M, I recd an Order from Captn [George] Talbot of the *Niger* to remain at Isle Coudre, on my Arrival there with my Convoy for farther Intelligence – at 6 P M, anchor'd on the So Shore with the B.Br in 8 fms and veer'd to ½ a Cable – Cape L'original ESE abt 4 Leagues Isle Bic ENE 4 Leags – at 8 lower'd the lower yards –

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1013.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DEARBORN¹

[Seminary, Quebec] May 4 [1776]

As I was laying down my book this evening about Ten of the Clock, preparing for bed, I heard a Centinel hale a ship, which very much surprized me, as I expected some relief had arrived, But I soon was undeceived by a brisk fire of Cannon, and Small arms, & the ringing of the alarm Bell, as also hearing a great confusion in all parts of the Town, we now Concluded, that our people made an attack upon the Town, we soon discover'd a fire ship in the River, near the Lower town, which was sent as we since heard, in order to set fire to the shi'ping in the Lower Town, & which must Consequently set fire to the Lower Town, & at the same time he heard Genl Worster [Wooster] with his Troops had drawn up near the Town, with their



"A Bird's Eye View of the Lower town of Quebec."

Ladders ready to Scale the walls, when ever the Lower Town was on fire, but as the fireship fail'd the attack was not made.

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, II, 298. Dearborn was among the prisoners taken on the night of December 31 in the unsuccessful attack upon Quebec and, along with other officers, was confined in a fourth floor room in the Seminary.

H. HUTTON TO NATHANIEL COFFIN ¹

Sir,

Halifax May 4th 1776

The Receivers of the Duties arising to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich in the several Ports in America, being instructed to make returns to me of their Hospital Accounts, and to remit the Ball[ance]s. thereof before they apply for payments of their Salaries, and the correspondence with most parts of America being for some time past interrupted, so that the Accounts and ballances cannot have been remitted; and as it may be supposed, that little or no Duties have been received, since the Period that the Commerce with the other Ports of the British Dominions have been suspended, I have endeavoured to draw an Average of the Annual Sums that may be supposed to have been received in the several Ports, and from thence to make an Estimate of what may be supposed to have been received by the several Collectors from the time their Accounts are due to Michaelmas last, and inclosed is a Copy of a State of what may be supposed to be due on such Calculation. ²

If those Officers, or their Agents apply to you for payment of their Salaries, you will please to acquaint them, that by the Established Rules of Office, you are desired not to pay the Salaries of those Persons, 'til I have received their Accounts, but that as all communication is now interrupted, upon their payment to me of the respective Sums as hereto annexed, I shall pass the same to their Credit, take off the restraint on their Salaries, and wait the settlement, till they can make returns of the Accounts &c And if you as Agent to any of those Receivers, will pay me the Sums here set down, I will give you a Receipt for so much received for Account of such respective Receivers for their Receipt of Duties arising to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich Yours &c.

H. H.

1. English Accounts, NCDAH.

2. The appended table is not printed herein as it deals with payments not applicable to this volume.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ORDER TO JAIL KEEPER AT CAMBRIDGE ¹

Colony of the } The major part of the Council of
Massachusetts Bay } said County

To the Keeper of the Goal at Cambridge in the County of Middlesex –
Greeting

You are hereby commanded, to take into Your Custody Richard Fisher & Jeremiah Colman Mariners, and John Jones & James Neal, Marines lately taken Prisoners in the Sloop *Hannah* & brought into a Place called Mount

Desert, bound on a Voyage to Hallifax – and them and each of them safely keep, till the further Order of the major part of the Council, or they be otherwise discharged by due course of Law –

In the name & by Order of the major part of the Council

James Otis President

Council Chamber [Watertown] May 4th 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 344.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

[Watertown] Saturday May 4th 1776

Resolved That the Vessell now Building at Salisbury, by the Com[m]ittee for Building and fixing out armed Vessells be rigged a Brigantine instead of a Sloop, and that Capt Souter [Daniel Souther] who has been chosen one of the Com[m]anders of said Vessells have the Command of said Vessell Building at Salisbury, as soon as she can be compleated – And the said Committee are hereby impower'd to Arm and Mount said Vessells with Canon of such size as they upon consulting said Commander shall judge most expedient, provided the number on board each be not less then twelve or more than Sixteen, any Resolve to the contrary notwithstanding –

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34, 845, 849.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1776

Providence, May 4.

The Sloop *Haley*,¹ Capt. Treadwell, of this Port, which was taken a short Time since by one of the piratical Fleet then on this Station, and ordered from Newport to Halifax, was last Week retaken at the Eastward by some Whaleboats, and carried into Mount Des[e]rt

A Person who was retaken in the above Sloop has since arrived here, and advises, that on the *Glasgow's* Arrival at Newport, after the late Engagement, an Officer on board the Sloop hailed her, and enquired what loss she had met with, when he was informed that between 30 and 40 of her Hands were killed and wounded.

1. *Hannah*; see Massachusetts Council order, May 4.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract] Fort George May 4th 1776 ten O'Clock A.M:
Dear Sir Your Excellencys favours of the 24th and 29th april are this moment come to hand.

Tomorrow Evening I shall finish batteaux Sufficient to Carry the remainder of Genl [William] Thompsons Brigade to Canada But as we can build only four a day the troops must necessarily be detained some time unless part of the Batteaux should return from Canada which I ordered to be done when the first left this – To Supply so large an army with provisions will require the Greatest Attention and Alertness nothing shall be Wanting on my part

I shall procure more Carpenters that the troops may be dispatched the Soonest possible And hope four days hence to build Six batteaus a day, one regiment will be able to Cross lake Champlain in Vessels and I shall find means to get It to Tyonderoga without waiting for Batteaus to pass lake George I am [&c.]

Ph: Schuyler

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, May 4, 1776

Resolved, That the marine committee be directed to lay on the table, on Monday next, the instructions given by the naval committee to Commodore Hopkins, upon his leaving this port.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report on the letter of General Washington of the 24 of March: Whereupon,

Resolved, That all the cannon and other stores, in Boston, which were originally purchased and provided by and at the expence of the colonies of Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire, be considered as belonging to the colony that so purchased and provided them; and that all the other cannon left in the colony of Massachusetts bay, by the British forces, be presented to the said colony.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, IV, 326, 327.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. ¹

Sir

Philadelphia 4th May 1776

I am favoured with yours of the 20th April, note the contents, but before it came to hand, I had the pleasure of procuring you to be appointed Agent, being the most suitable person I could think of, the Resolution of Congress appointing you will doubtless come to hand before this reaches you: ² we have obtained an order of Congress for exchange your powder in this City for continental powder in New London, the Committee will soon give you particular directions on that subject, hope the harbour of New London will soon be sufficiently fortified as I make no doubt Ships of force will soon be in there if it be not made secure. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Huntington

1. Ernest E. Rogers, *Connecticut's Naval Office at New London . . .* (New London, 1933), 20.

2. As late as June 19, Shaw had received neither the resolve of Congress, nor the instructions from the Marine Committee.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU, H.M.S. *Fowey* ¹

By Andrew Snape Hamond Esqr &ca

You are hereby required and directed to proceed without loss of time with his Majesty's Ship under your command to Virginia, where you are to take the *Otter* Sloop under your command, and consulting with his Excel-

lency the Earl of Dunmore (to whom you are to give every sort of Protection and assistance that may be in your power) to station the Ships so as best to frustrate the designs of the enemy, and at the same time so as to give the surest protection to the Lines at Tuckers Mills, and to the Friends of Government who have taken Shelter on board Vessels in Elizabeth River.

You are to deliver the inclosed dispatches to Lord Dunmore; and to send the *Nautilus* or *Otters* Tender to Cape Fear with those Stores you have on board for the *Cruizer* Sloop as soon as possible.

The Victuallers sent out to His Majesty's Fleet in America not having yet arrived at Halifax renders it necessary that you should make the provisions you have remaining on board last as long as possible. You are therefore to victual your Ships Company at two thirds allowance untill a further Supply can be had.

You are most earnestly required to keep a strict watch over the motions of the Enemy, and by a constant Guard to prevent any designs they may put in execution against you, by sending down fire rafts &ca and to exert the force under your direction to the utmost for the advantage of His Maj's Service. You are to remain on this duty untill further order, or untill another Ship Shall arrive that may be left to perform that Service, when you are immediately to join me in the River Delaware.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship the *Roebuck* in Whoorkill Road Delaware bay the 4th May 1776 -

A.S.Hamond

I. Hamond, Orders issued, UVL.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO MAJOR GENERAL HENRY CLINTON ¹

My Dear Sir

Roebuck River Delaware 4th May 1776

I have had no opportunity of writing to you before this, or you Sooner would have had my acknowledgements for the favour of your letter by the *Fincastle*, which was forwarded to me hither. You know how positive my Orders were about the River Delaware, in consequence of which I came here as early as the 25th March, having first sent to Admiral Shuldham for more force and further instructions: It was only yesterday that I had an answer from him, which amounts to no more than that he has sent me another Ship, allows the propriety of all my other requests, but has it not in his power to comply with any one Article of them at present. Without a Body of Troops to act in conjunction with me, I confess, I see no great advantage that would arise in clearing the Passage of the River; It would only afford an opportunity of cannonading the Town for a short time, and the Navigation can be Stopped without it. I conclude and hope Sir Peter Parker is arrived. I would give the world to have an hours conversation with him and you together. The Admiral has left me quite at liberty. I have seen nothing to alter my first Idea of Virginia: Yet I think a Stroke at Philadelphia might come within the plan; D'ont be Surprized if you should See me, I have not yet had time since the Arrival of the *Fowey* from Halifax to turn

this matter sufficiently in my thoughts, and I cannot delay a moment to send her to Lord Dunmore, as I find [Charles] Lee is getting into his Neighbourhood. Our situation there is not much Altered from when you left us, it is certainly no worse; We want Pork it is true, but we have a plenty of flour, and more can always be had. The little Tenders have had great success in taking small Vessels, which has distressed the enemy much, but we have had the misfortune to lose one of the best of our cruizers, the *Liverpool's* Tender. You will no doubt have heard that [Esek] Hopkins's fleet has been well thrashed by the *Glasgow*, and they are now blocked up at New London by our Rhode Island Squadron. The people of Maryland and this Government are fitting out a Number of Privateers, and unless we get more Small Vessels will do mischief among our Scattered Transports &ca I have the honor to be sir &ca

A S Hamond

General Clinton No Carolina

1. Hamond, Letters and Orders, 1775-1778, UVL.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU ¹

- April 1776 Cape Henlopen Wt 4 Leagues.
 Tuesday 30. at 2 AM 17 fm at 5, 15 at 6, 13 at 7, 12fm & out reefs at 10 saw a sail to the Westward [And] got ready for engaging at 1/2 past 11 spoke her and proved his Majts ship the *Roebuck*. First and Middle parts Moderate latter fresh gales and squally. P M sailing into Cape Henlopen Bay in Company with his Majesty's ship *Roebuck* And the Prize sloop at 2 Anchored with the best Bower in 6 fathom muddy ground, veered to 1/2 a Cable.
- May 1776 At Anchor off Cape Henlopen
 Wednesday 1. at 7 AM veered to a whole Cable. First and Middle parts moderate and Clear latter light Winds hove in to 1/2 a Cable
- Thursday 2. at 7 AM Anchored here his Majesty's ship *Liverpool*, And sent her stores on board her, And the *Roebuck*. Light Winds and fair The *Liverpoole* sent for provisions
- Friday 3. A M exercised great Guns & small Arms, And read the Articles of War and Abstract to the ships Company. First part fresh gales Middle and latter Moderate P M rattled the lower shrouds, found the ship drive and let go the Small Bower, veered to 1/3 of a Cable.
- Saturday 4. at 10 AM hove up the small Bower, And on the Ebb Tide the best Bower let go the small do and veered to 1/3 of a Cable, at 1/2 past 11 weighed & made sail for Virginia. Light Winds at 1/2 past 5 PM came to with the Stream Anchor in 9 fm to stop Tide Cape Henlopen NW 1/2 N distance 4 Leagues, at 6 fired 3, 9 Pdrs to bring to a Brigg, hoisted out and Armed the Barge to send on board her at 1/2 past 7 she

returned & found her to be from Virginia to assist the *Roebuck* at 10 weighed and made sail the Brig & Sloop & schooner in Company.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

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

May 1776 Delaware Bay
 Thursday 2 1 AM 20 fm fine sand at 5 saw the land bore away and made sail Cape May N.N.W 4 Leags, distance – came too with the Best Bower in Delaware Bay – Light House 2 miles found here H.M. Ships *Fowey* & *Roebuck*
 PM modr and cloudy recd Stores and Provisions from the *Fowey*.
 Friday 3 AM sighted the anchor and let it go again Exercis'd Great Guns, and small Arms
 Saturday 4 at 6 a m the *Roebuck* made the Signal to weigh Do weighed and made Sail at 7 anchored again with the small Bower, sailed the *Fowey*

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE ¹

[Extract]

[Baltimore] 4 May [1776]

Your Brig has 700 bbls in & will have 900 in by night in all, and next week will be Ready for sea but God knows when she will saill however we will do our best for you, Capt Ridley Brought a 11 little Swords do they belong to You, are the[y] to sell, and what is the Value of them we hope You have the *Roebuck* with You Ere this she would be a good Prize . . . Please Inform us when You think there will be any Opportunity to write to England or Ireland –

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEORGE WOOLSEY, BALTIMORE ¹

No. 146.

Sir We contracted with you on the 9th of Feby last for the Brig *Rogers* to proceed on a Voyage to the foreign West Indies on Acct of this Province, and advanced you £ 1800. . . towards purchasing a Cargo of Flour for her, we have not since then heard from you on that Subject, nor doth it appear to us that you have done any Thing therein, we therefore request you would acquaint us by the Return of Captn Fulford what you have done in this Matter

[Annapolis], May 4th 1776.

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

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Saturday 4th May 1776.

Ordered That the said Treasurer [of the Western Shore] pay to Messrs Robert Purviance, David Stewart and George Woolsey five hundred Pounds on Account of the Schooner *Resolution*.

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

MINUTES OF THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday May 4th, 1776.

The Comm'ee agree to take Mr. Maximilian Calvert's vessel lying at Hampton, to be employed as an armed Cruzier in James River, and Capt. Y'ghusband is directed to repair to Hampton immediately, and either engage seamen there to carry her up the river, as he shall judge best, and watch a safe opportunity for carrying her up the river, there to be fitted up for her intended purpose, taking on board 2 Six pounders for defence, and putting on board all the cannon at Hampton unfit for use to be conveyed to the falls of James River, that he apply to the two Capt. Barrons' for their assistance and to the Commanding officer at Hampton, for a few soliders if necessary for escorting the s'd vessel so far up the river, as to be out of danger from the Enemy's tenders.

[A warrant to] Fielding Lewis, Esq'r, for £500 upon acc't for the Comm[issione]rs of the Gun Manufactory, and £400 for the outfit of Sundry vessels, &c.

Same to Same £1059.17.11, Ballance of his acc't for the Sloop *Patsey*, the Schooner *Hannah*, and the pilot boat and their cargoes' adventures for the Importation of arms and ammunition.

Ordered, that 1200 lbs. Powder remain at Fredericksburg for use of the Vessels in Rappahannock River, and 100 lbs. for proving arms at the manufactory and at Mr. Hunter's.

On considering a Letter from Colo. Hugh Mercer, the Comm'ee approve of having a pilot boat with oars, furnished at the joint expense of this Colony and Maryland, and stationed at the mouth of the Potomac river, for the purpose of giving intelligence, w'ch Colo. Mercer is desired to communicate to the Comm[issione]rs of Maryland.

1. *Virginia State Papers*, VIII, 167.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1776

Williamsburg, May. 4.

We have advice from Portsmouth, that our Troops entered that town without opposition, and have taken a number of waggon loads of effects, viz. rum, sugar, molasses, and a variety of dry goods, belonging to persons who are enemies to the American cause; they have also destroyed two or three houses which were the property of John Goodrich, and brought off some

prisoners. Lord Dunmore is very strongly entrenched at Tucker's mills, and has a great quantity of cannon mounted, defended by about 500 men.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Cruizer*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY ¹

- May 7⁶ Moor'd off the Fort [Johnston, Cape Fear River]
 Wedy 1st fir'd 5 guns to answer some guns fir'd in the offing, fir'd several guns at the Rebels ashore. Fresh breezes and Cloudy wear. Sailed up the river the *Terrable Tender* and *Glasgow Packett* Transport
- Thursday 2^d A M recd on board some Water Mode and Cloudy Weather Recd on board some Provisions, saw several sails of ships in the offing, Sent all the pilots out to them.
- Friday 3^d A M Crane in His Majestys Ship *Sol[e]bay*, Several of the rebels Came down and fir'd, fir'd at them again. Mode and fair weather at 3 P M Came to an Anchor without the bar his Majesty's ship *Bristoll* Commodore [Sir Peter] Parker & *Harcourt* Transport. Came into the harbour 14 Sail of Transports
- Saturday 4th Came in his Majestys ship *Action* [*Actaeon*] & *Hinchinbrook* and 2 small prizes taken by the *Action*. at 9 the Commodors Pendant was hoisted on board the *Solbay*, When all the Men of War Saluted him with 13 Guns each ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/218.

2. The *Bristol's* draft was too deep to cross the bar. The Commodore shifted his flag to the *Solebay*.

ALEXANDER BLAIR TO GOVERNOR SIR BASIL KEITH ¹

[Extract]

Copy

Sir I have the misfortune to acquaint your Excellency that the Sloop *Morning Star*, belonging to Doctor Charles Irving and myself, was on the 30th of last month, forcibly seized, and carried away by two Spanish armed Sloops, from the usual anchoring ground, near the mouth of this River – As we have never been to the Southward of Great River in Lat 12°, 47", nor to the Westward of this place, nor have had any trade or intercourse with any place or person belonging to Spain, nor had not any Spanish produce on board, I am afraid, that this Stop can only be considered, as an armed declaration of their intention, to seize every vessel they find on any part of this Coast & which if permitted, must at once annihilate this promising Colony.

As many of my Papers have been carried away with the Sloop, I have not been able to make out so minute a detail of our Loss, as I could wish; but I can assure your Excellency, that from the best estimate I have been able to form, it amounts to £3509.8 – Jamaica Currency; besides the great detriment we sustain, from the loss of many of our Plantation Stores, the incompleting of those already landed, and the want of a proper vessel, to

keep up an intercourse with Jamaica, for the procuring Slaves and many necessaries.

Black River.

Mosquito Shore May 4th 1776

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 137/71, Part III, LC Photocopy.

INHABITANTS OF THE MOSQUITO SHORE TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Sir

Mosquito Shore 4 May 1776.

Since the last Letter to you from the principal Inhabitants of this Colony, by Captain Judd then Commander of His Majesty's Sloop *Squirrel*, nothing of consequence sufficient to merit Your attention has happened, untill within these few days past, we have been alarmed by the appearance of two Spanish Armed Sloops upon this Coast, who immidiately after their arrival boarded and carried off a Sloop at anchor in this Road, the property of Capt Blair and Doctor Irvin two Gentlemen lately come from England with an intention of making a Settlement upon this Coast.

This unexpected act of Hostility, at a time when we imagined the Strictest harmony subsisted between the Courts of Great Britain and Madrid, has filled the minds of the Inhabitants with the greatest consternation, and the expectation of their paying us another visit (as we are well assured they are still upon the Coast) renders our Situation truly miserable, the late dreadfull hurricane in the month of November last has destroyed many of the necessaries of life, our usual and wonted supplies of provisions from North America totally cut off by the present unhappy differences there subsisting, and to Add to our distresses, the Only prospect we have left of supplies from England by a number of Vessels daily expected rendered very precarious by the two Spanish Sloops above mentioned cruising upon the Coast

We have sent David Miller master of Messr Blair and Irvin's sloop, express with this, and some dispatches for His Excellency Sir Basil Keith, informing him of our present distressed and defenceless situation we have also inclosed to His Excellency two different affidavits which will set this affair in clearer light; to them Sir we beg leave to refer You, as also to Mr. Miller the bearer hereof who will we make no doubt give you every necessary information upon this affair, and we flatter ourselves that when you have sufficiently informed Yourself of the Nature of this unjust attack upon us, You will be pleased to afford such relief as you may judge adequate to the exigence of our present situation We have the Honor to be Sir [&c.]

John Bourke

John Lawrie

Daniel Hewlett

William Walker Senr

Matthew Ernest Jun

John Gallin

William Reid

John Orrett

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.