

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 6

**AMERICAN THEATRE: Aug. 1, 1776–Oct. 31, 1776
EUROPEAN THEATRE: May 26, 1776–Oct. 5, 1776**

Part 5 of 8

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15 Sept. (Sunday)

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Milford*¹

Septembr 1776
Sunday 15

Moor'd in Hallifax Harbour.

AM Heel'd & Scrub'd the Ships Bottom Recd Water. Came onboard a Serjeant & a party of Soldiers to demand one of the Rebels that was taken in the *John* Transport he belonging to the *Independency* Privateer, who had deserted from the 43d Regement of Foot delivered him up as their Prisoner

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1865.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOSIAH BARTLETT¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth 15th Sepr 1776

... it seems to be Settled that our Troops have quitted Long Island, the consequence I fear will be, that they must also Evacuate [New] York I have had a hint that Congress have directed Genl Washington not to destroy that City if he shod be obliged to leave it. is this right why shod we be so careful to furnish the Enemy with convenient Winter Quarters? it appears to me that the consequence will be that the States will be put to the Expençe of five if not ten times, the value of that Cursed City which ought to have been destroyed long ago

It seems that are many Complaints about the Maritime Courts the Court here has acquitted a vessel that ought to be condemn'd,² & other Courts condemn vessels that ought to be acquitted, Mr [Jacob] Sheaf has had a ship condemn'd at Providence as British Property, she was bound from the west Indies for London, his property was transfer'd to prevent her being seiz'd by British ships, I really think his case hard he intends to petition Congress. another ship belonging to Capt [Tobias] Lear of this town under the same Circumstances is to be try'd at Salem to morrow³ if this ship shod be condemn'd the Owners of her will also apply to Congress so it's probable you'll have business enough of this sort on your hands

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 20, HSP.

2. The brig *Elizabeth*.

3. The ship *Polly* taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Revenge*, Captain Joseph White.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN DANIEL SOUTHER¹

[Watertown, September 15, 1776]²

The Brigantine *Massachusetts* under Your Command and being Properly Armed & man'd and in other Respects fitted for a Cruize, You are hereby Ordered & Directed Imediately to Proceed to sea, & use Your utmost Endeavours to Protect the sea Coast & Trade of the united States, and you

are Also Directed to Exert your self in making Captures of all ships & other Vessells, Goods, wares & Merchandize, belonging to the King of Great Britain or any of his Subjects, wherever Residing, Excepting only the ships & Goods of the Inhabitants of Bermuda & the Bahama Islands. and You are Directed not to Cruize farther south, than Lattd 34° North nor farther East than the Grand Bank of Newfoundland, nor farther West than the sholes of Nantucket, at All Times using necessary Precaution to prevent your Vessell from falling into the hands of the Enemy

And whereas you have Received a Commission, authorising you to make Captures as aforesaid, and a sett of Instructions have been Deliverd You for Regulating your Conduct in that matter, these Instructions you are hereby Directed Diligently to Attend to, and if you are fortunate as to make any Captures, you are to Order them to make the first Safe Harbour within the united States of America. And you are further Ordered, not to Expend Your Ammunition unnecessarily, and Only in times of Action or firing Alarm or Signall Guns. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 234–35.

2. The date is approximated; as late as August 23, the *Massachusetts* was still in need of more cannon, and on October 2 she "returned from a short cruise."

JOSEPH GREENLEAF TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

[Extract]

Dr Sr

Boston sepr 15th 1776

Mr Austin is kind eno' to let me know that he is just going to set out for Philadelphia I thought I would imbrace the opportunity to let you know That we & our Ta[u]nton friends are all well — Capt Manley's appeal from a Judgment of a maritime court to The Congress is The occasion of Mr Austin's Journey — Altho' The capture of the Vessell² with Stolen good[s] belonging to several Merchants here is a lucky affair upon the whole, yet The trouble & expence attending the tryals at Portsmouth & Phila will settle a great loss upon the owners of the goods even Tho' They should be restored to them — It was generous in them to offer Manly £1000 Sterling after they were cleared by the Jury — I cannot see upon what principle the Jury could have condemned them. They were not the property of the enemy, nor treasure trove, but stolen goods: & it is every mans duty to detest Thieves. —

Our coast is infested with several Frigates & Cutters who frequently take our vessells & retake our prizes, Is it impossible to equip our Ships of War lately built ? If they are not soon at sea this town will be [i]n a distressed Condition, we shall not be supplied with fuel for the approaching winter. —

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

2. The brig *Elizabeth* taken by Manley's squadron on April 2, 1776, containing goods looted from the merchants' stores and warehouses in Boston at the time of the British evacuation. See Volumes 4 and 5.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF SALES OF THE PRIZES
BRIG *Bolton*, SCHOONER *Hawke* AND *Glasgow's* TENDER¹

Sales of Brig *Bolton* & Stores Schooner *Hawk* & ½ the *Glasgows* Tender
Captured by Commodore Hopkins

Cr

To Amo Sundry Charges, Wharfage &c	£ 38..10.. —	By Neet Proceeds of Vessells	} £ 1457..2. 21½
To Commissions on Sales @ 2½ pCt	44.. 7..7	& Stores as pr Vendue Mastrs	
To the United States for One half —	846.. 2..9¾	Accot	
To the Captures for the other half	846.. 2..9¾	By Amo Sundry Stores taken	} 151..4..6
	£ 1775.. 3..21½	out Brig <i>Bolton</i> for the fleet	
To Marven Waits Bill omitted	18.. —	By 2 Brass Howetts Ship'd	} 80..—..
846..2. 9¾		to Exzl Shivers at New York	
9		By Amo Sundry Slops from	} 86..16..6
837. 2. 9¾		Brig <i>Bolton</i> taken for	
		the Fleet	
			£1775..3..21½

SEPTEMBER 1776

1. Shaw Collection, Book 39, 34, 35, YUL. This account and the two following are undated. The date has been approximated to be about September 15. Three days earlier, Shaw had written that he had purchased the *Bolton*. See Shaw to Governor Trumbull, September 12.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT OF SALES OF THE SCHOONER *John and Joseph*¹

Dr Amo Sales of Schooner *John & Joseph* retaken by Captn Nicholas Biddle in Brig *Andrew Doria*. Cr

1776.			By 83 hhds & 3 bbs Molasses	
Apr	To p Guaging 43 Cask	£ 2..3..-	Conta 10202 Gallo @ 2/	£1020..4..-
	To Weighg Coffee & Coca	1..3..-	13545 lb Coffee @ 8d	451..10..-
	To Weighing & Storage 103 Cask	5..3..-	5 Bags Cocoa wt	
	Powder @ 1/	..3..-	4C..1t..21 lb @ 70/	15..10..7
	To Guagg & Storage 2 Tierces Rum	..3..-	2 Tierces Rum Conta 105	
	To Commission on Sales at 21½	53..3..4	Gs 3/	15..15..-
	p Ct		103 Cask Powder Conta	473..8..-
	To One half to the Former	1032..6..1½	1578 lbs @ 6/	
	Owners		The Hull of the Schooner	150..-..-
	To the United States 2/3 of the		as she Came from Sea	
	above Salvage £ 688..4..1			£ 2126..7..7
	To the Captures 1/3 <u>344..2..1½</u>	<u>1032..6..1½</u>		
		£2126..7..7		

1. Shaw Collection, Book 39, 36, 37, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'s ACCOUNT OF SALES OF THE GOODS SALVAGED
FROM THE BRITISH PRIZE SHIP *Nathaniel and Elizabeth*¹

Dr	Sales the Cargoe Saved from on Board the Ship <i>Nathl & Eliza</i> Captur'd By the Brig <i>Andrew Doria</i> Nicholas Biddle Commandr					Cr	
To p[d] Charges in saving Goods Freight & Storage	}	£	142..12..5	1776	By Neet Proceeds of the Stores	}	£ 1053.. 8..1
To Wages pd the SeaMen British				Sepr 3	& 39 Hogsheads Rum 5 Hhds Sugar		
To Commissions on Cargoe @ 2½ p Ct			105..10..4	Decr	By Neet Proceeds of 47 hhds Rum 5 hhds Sugar	}	2052.. 2..1
To the United States 2/3 Cargoe			77..12..9				
To the Captures 1/3			1853.. 3..—				£ 3105..10..2
			926..11..8				
			<u>£ 3105..10..2</u>				
To Marvin Waits Bill omitted			6—				

1. Shaw Collection, Book 39, 34, 35, YUL.

[illegible]

JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO CAPTAIN JOSHUA HUNTINGTON¹

[Extract]

Dear Son

Norwich Sept. 15th, 1776.

. . . Capt. Neles² is returned from his Cruse taken two Prises one Schooner about Sixty Tons and one Ship about three hundred Tons Chiefly Loaded with Rum and Sugar the Schooner is Safe arived in Norwich Harbour the Ship Hourly expected hope Soon to hear some agreeable account from Capt. Harden [Seth Harding.]

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 43-44.

2. Captain Robert Niles in the Connecticut schooner *Spy*.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES¹

Dear General,

Isle La Motte September 15th 1776. —

Your Favour of the 12th Instant was delivered me last Night by Ensign [Clemens] Botsford, who narrowly escaped being lost in his Passage down and was obliged to throw overboard three Barrels of Provision to lighten the Batteau. I am Happy to find, you approve of my returning from the Isle aux Têtes, our Present Situation is five Miles to the Southward of Point aux Fire and two Miles to the Southward of the North End of Isle La Motte, at a Part of the Island where the Lake is one and a half to two Miles Over, to the Southward of us there is no Part of the Lake less than two Miles over and entirely out of the Reach of any Batteries that can Possibly be erected by the Enemy of whose Naval Force I have been able to procure no other Intelligence, than from a Deserter one Thomas Day whom I have sentyou by Ensign Botsford with his examination; which is inclosed.² I have heard nothing from Lieutenant [Benjamin] Whitcomb, or Ensign [Thomas] McCoy since they left the Isle aux Noix, from which a Man returned from each Party, who agree that there is about one thousand Men encamped There, they saw no WaterCraft except Batteaux.

I have dispatched a Frenchman to St Johns, for Intelligence, whom I found in the Bay of Missisque, he has promised to return in four Days with Intelligence If I hear nothing from St Johns, soon, I design makeing a Remove to the Island Valcouer untill joined by the Three Gallies. There is a Good Harbour and if the Enemy venture up the Lake it will be impossible for them to take advantage of our Situation, if we should succeed on our Attack onthem it will be impossible for any of them to Escape, if we are worsted our Retreat is open and Free, in Case of Wind which generally blows Fresh at this Season ourCraft will make good Weather, when their Batteaux cannot keep the Lake.

I am glad to hear General Waterbury has taken Charge of the Gallies I make no Doubt they will soon be compleated my best Pilot I sent up by Major [David] Greer.

I requested General Schuyler tosendfor Four Captains for the Gallies, since which I have appointed only two, at that Time Three Gallies were

nearly finished and four others ordered to be put on the Stocks, which still left a Vacancy for one Captain, Captain [Seth] Warner is one of the Four which was requested: one of the others I wish sent for the *Royal-Savage*, the third for the Gally on the Stocks and the Fourth for one of the Others ordered to be built, which ought to be put on the Stocks long ere this, The greatest part of the Timber was cut for the four la[s]t Gallies before I left Skeensborough, and as the Carpenters and Materials are procured, will it not be Prudence, and Oeconomy to have them compleated. —

In my Last I wrote you we were Victualled to the 20th Instant. For that Calculation I computed ten Barrels of Pork and twenty of Flour left at Crown Point, which I ordered to be sent down in the last Gondola, the Order was neglected and the Provision left behind so that the Supply sent now will Victual us no longer than the 26th [*sic*] Instant, unless supplied by th[e] Inhabitants on the Lake of which there is little Prospect. Cannot a Frenchman or two, who is acquainted in Canada and can be depended upon be sent me, with the Tobacco I keep the two small Schooners continually cruising above and below us. The Countersign is never given until four O'Clock, two Guard Boats are posted every Night two Miles below us, at a proper Distance to discover the Approach of the Enemy, another Boat goes the Rounds every two Hours all Night every Ship keeps half their Men constantly on Deck under Arms, and Matches lighted, it will be impossible for the Enemy to surprise us.

I am greatly obliged to you for the Friendly Notice you have taken of me in your Public Letter, which I make no Doubt will have the desired Effect.

I am surprized you have received no particular Accounts of the Battle on long Island, the severe Check the Enemy have met with will doubtless Dispirit them greatly and will I hope prove a happy prelude to our future Success, I hope you will soon have the Particulars of the Affair. The Act of Independence, I will send, agreeable to your Direction I am with Sentiments of Respect and Esteem [&c.]

B. Arnold. —

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

2. See examination of Sergeant Thomas Day, September 12, 1776.

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

September 1776
Saturday 14th

At Single Anchor in the East River above the
Town of New York

at ½ past 3 P:M Weigh'd Came to Sail in Co His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck*, *Orpheus* and *Carisford*; & ran through Butter Milk Channell into the East River at [4] the Batteries on the West End of York City began to fire at us as we passed them. At ½ past 5 Came too with the Small Bower in 9 fm found riding here His Majesty's Ship *Rose* Veer'd away to ½ Cable and Moor'd

with the Stream. — Brookland Church SWt Off Shore 2 Cables lengths. In passing the Batteries Recd Several Shot through our Hull and Sails and One Seaman was Kill'd. —

Sunday 15th

Light Breezes & Cloudy Wear at 6 P:M Anchor'd here Five Sail of Transports at 3 A:M Slip'd the Stream Cable & hove Short on the Small Bower At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 Weigh'd & came to Sail in Co His Majesty's Ships *Roe-buck*; *Orpheus*; *Carisford* and *Rose* at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 Came too with the Sheet Anchor in 4 fm abreast the Enemy's Intrenchments upon York Island; in Co as before. Veer'd away to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable and let go the Small Bower Veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ Cable and hove into $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Sheet Cable. At 10' past 11 began a Constant Fire upon the Intrenchments at Noon ceas'd Firing His Majesty's Troops being landed without opposition. Lost in Sounding Crossing the River a Hand Lead and Line. —

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wear at 2 P:M Commodore Hotham came onboard and hoisted his Pendant at 5 Weigh'd the Small Bower Came to Sail at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Came too with the Small Bower at 6 Veer'd away and Moor'd a Cable each way Brookland S Et and Coilers Hook SWbS off Shore $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/694.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*¹

Sept 1776

Red Hook EBS $\frac{1}{2}$ mile

Friday 13th

A M at 4 Unmoord & Barrocaded the ship at 11 hove a Peak

First and latter Part Modt and cloudy, P.M at 4 Weigh'd as pr Signal from the Admiral as did the *Phenix*, *Orpheus* and *Carrisfort* & went thro the channel to the East wd of Governor's Island, in Passing the Town Receiv'd the fire from the several Batterys of the Enemy which was return'd by our troops from Long Island, at 6 Anchor'd of[f] Bushweeks creek in 13 fath about 2 Cables Length from the shore, found his Majesty's Ship *Rose* at anchor here at 8 moor'd with Kedge & Hawser.

Saturday 14th

First and latter Parts Modt and fair P.M. at 6 five Transports came up and Anchor'd here.

Sunday 15th

A M. at 4 got the Kedge on board, at 5 Weigh'd and made sail as did the rest of the men of War, & stood across the sound and Anchor'd off Cliffs Bay² in 8 Fath. & got a spring on the cable in order to cover the Landing of the Army from the Other side. at 9 the Troops in the Flat

Boats appear'd in sight coming out of Newton Creek and at 11 rowe'd towards the shore. Do let go the stern Anchor and soon after all the ships begun to fire in the Enemy's Lines at 12 ceas'd firing & the Troops Landed — Moderate and fair Wr P. M. at 6 Weigh'd and made sail & at 7 Anchor'd off Bushwick Creek

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.
2. Kips Bay.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Orpheus*, CAPTAIN CHARLES HUDSON¹

Septemr 1776. At Single Anchor in Bushwick Bay East River N. York.

Sunday 15th at 4 AM weighed and made Sail in Company with the *Phoenix*, *Carrisford*, *Rose*, and *Roebuck*, at Six came too with the Best Bower in 4 fm in Ships Bay. got the Stream and Kedge Anchors Astern & moored thence distant off Shore 300 yards close by the Rebels Intrenchment at 10 the Flatt bottom Boats with the Troops came out of Newtown Creek Long Island Shore, and stopp'd astern of the Five Transports in Bushwick Creek at Noon they put off, from thence, and rowed our forces, on which We, with the Other Ships began to Cannonade the Rebels Lines, and scour the Coast. Mode and Cloudy with some rain. kept a Continual Fire of Cannon &ca on the Rebels Intrenchmt til 1½ past 4 when the first Division of the Troops landed, in Ships Bay, sent the Boats with the Flat Boats to Bushwick Creek for the 2nd Division. Commodore Hotham hoisted his Pendant on board the *Phoenix*, at 5 weighed the Stream Anchor, and hove up the Bt Bower in order to move further off. at 1½ past the Ship grounded upon a Rock, where She remained half an hour, then floated without receiving any Damage

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/650.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE¹

September 1776 In East River New York
 Saturday 14 came up and Anchor'd here HM Ships *Phenix*, *Roebuck*, *Orpheus* and *Carisford*.
 Light breezes and Cloudy with Rain at times PM at 7 came up and Anchor'd 4 Transports
 Sunday 15th at 1½ past 3 Unmoor'd and came to Sail fell on board a Transport in Casting and Carried away a Pair of Mizon Shrouds, at 6 came too in Kipps Bay York Island in 8 fm as did HM Ships *Phenix* *Orpheus*, *Roebuck* and *Caris-*

ford to Cover the landing of our Troops, at 11 all the Boats crossing the River, began a heavy firing to Clear the Rebel Trenches, at 12 began to land
 Do W^r The Boats landing the Troops at 6 PM Weigh'd and came to sail at 7 came too off Newtown Creek

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

JOURNAL OF BARTHOLOMEW JAMES¹

[September 15, 1776]²

The 23rd [*sic*], at six in the morning, we weighed in company with the former ships, and anchored a little below Blackwell's Island on the York side, about fifty yards from the enemy's intrenchments, to which place the whole body as above immediately moved, frequently making signs and calling to us to come on shore. We continued without firing at each other till eleven o'clock, when the first division of flat boats appeared, coming down Bushwick Creek, having on board four thousand five hundred men under the command of General Howe. As soon as the boats arrived within fifty yards of the ships, the signal was made from the *Phoenix* to begin the attack on the enemy's lines.

It is hardly possible to conceive what a tremendous fire was kept up by those five ships for fifty-nine minutes, in which time we fired away, in the *Orpheus* alone, five thousand three hundred and seventy-six pounds of powder. The first broadside made a considerable breach in their works, and the enemy fled on all sides, confused and calling for quarter, while the army landed, but, as usual, did not pursue the victory, though the rebels in general had left their arms in the intrenchment. The havock was by no means so great as it would have been had we not been obliged to cease firing on the landing of the troops; however, the ground in some places was filled with the slain, and numbers got off with the loss of arms, &c.

As soon as the firing ceased from the ships I was sent in the barge to tow on shore the flat boats, when curiosity led me to follow the army through the works, where I saw a Hessian sever a rebel's head from his body and clap it on a pole in the intrenchments. While I was amusing myself with these sights, and picking up some curious trifles, several volleys of musketry was fired from a boat belonging to the *Orpheus* at us, who had, in rowing along shore, taken us for rebels, as I had on a white linen jacket which I wore at my quarters, and which was all colours at this time with powder and dirt. As I knew the boat, I made signs of friendship, but all in vain; and I was obliged to throw away my little affairs and take to my heels, as the enemy had done before, amidst a constant fire from the boat, who fortunately only wounded one man slightly in the leg. On my arrival on board I found the second lieutenant amusing the captain with an account of his attack on a body of rebels, which I gave him to understand was myself and the barge's crew, by which I had lost some valuable swords and little

trifles, which in the precipitate retreat before his arms I had left behind me. Captain [Charles] Hudson permitted me to go again on shore with the above lieutenant, but all our little matters were taken, and we procured only nine drums and some fusees, one of which, being very handsome, I took from the hands of a rebel officer who lay dead in the field . . .

Mr. Barton leaving me by accident on shore, I rambled into the woods with one of the midshipmen of the *Phoenix*, who had with him the gunner and seven men. On our entrance into an orchard we took a rebel prisoner who had lain concealed there for some time. From this man we learned there had been a skirmish in the woods with the rebels and a body of the Hessians, and that the former was dispersed all round the woods. Having consulted each other on the consequences of advancing further from the ships, and pleased in some measure with the success of taking the above man, we determined to go in quest of some more, and shortly after heard several voices in an orchard at the end of the wood, on which we assembled with our muskets presented to the gate, and levelling at some men we saw in the grass, were about to fire, when up start two or three hundred Hessians, with flaming large brass caps on, and with charged bayonets advanced rapidly towards us. The sudden unexpected surprise of such a visit alarmed us prodigiously, and we made signs of being friends, which had little or no effect in our favour, as on their coming close to us they knocked us down with their muskets, frequently using the word "rebel," for which they really took us. In vain I assured them with signs that we were part of the British navy, and pointed to my white cuff, having changed my clothes on going on board, that I might not a second time be taken for an American. But I was much surprised, and in fact at a loss how to act, when they pointed at a rebel officer who lay there with a leg shot off, who had on the very exact uniform of a midshipman, which having explained to each other, they again beat us unmercifully, and would undoubtedly have put their bayonets through us had not General [Robert] Pigot, who commanded that party, and who knew me when in the *Chatham*, have come to our relief, when they made a thousand ridiculous apologies for their treatment, and we returned to our ships, in need of both cook and doctor, and totally weary of our expedition.

1. Laughton, ed., *James' Journal*, 31-33.

2. James, as usual, was wrong in his dates.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Sunday, 15th. Sepr.

This Morning about 7 o'Clock, the *Renown* of 50 Guns, Capt. [Francis] Banks, the *Répulse* of 32 Guns, Capt. [Henry] Davis, & the *Pearl* of 32 Guns, Capt. [Thomas] Wilkinson, with the Schooner [*Tryal*], Lieut. [Lancelot] Brown [Jr.], sailed up the North River. The Morning was fine, the Tide flowed, and there was a fresh Breeze. The Rebels began their Canonnade as furiously as they could, but apparently with very little Effect, as

their Guns were but poorly served. The Ships, as these were the grand Batteries of the Enemy, returned a heavy Fire, and struck the Walls of the Batteries and the Sods of Earth, which the Rebels had raised, very frequently. What other Damage our People did them, we as yet know not; but, 'tis observed, that, except for beating down particular Structures, or clearing the Way for other operations, Cannon have but a very small or precarious Effect. The great Business is always accomplished by the minor Implements of War.

About a Quarter before 9, the Ships came to an Anchor in the North River, in view of the Fleet, at about 4 or 5 Miles Distance above it, and beyond the principal Works of the Enemy.

A Transport, during the Affair upon the North River, went up the East River & joined the other Ships, almost without Molestation.

The whole Scene was awful & grand; I might say, beautiful, but for the melancholy Seriousness which must attend every Circumstance, where the Lives of Men, even the basest Malefactors, are at Stake. The Hills, the Woods, the River, the Town, the Ships, and Pillars of Smoke, all heightened by a most clear & delightful morning, furnished the finest Landschape that either art and nature combined could draw, or the Imagination conceive.

After this affair had subsided for a little while, a most tremendous Discharge of Cannon from the Ships began (as was concerted) in the East River, in order to cover the Landing of the Troops upon New York Island. So terrible and so incessant a Roar of Guns few even in the Army & Navy had ever heard before. Above 70 large Pieces of Cannon were in Play, together with Swivels & small arms from the Ships, while the Batteries added to the uproar upon the Land. The Rebels were apparently frightened away by the horrid Din, and deserted the Town & all their Works in the utmost Precipitation. The King's Forces took Possession of the Place, incredible as it may seem, without the Loss of a Man. Nothing could equal the Expressions of Joy shewn by the Inhabitants, upon the arrival of the King's officers among them. They even carried some of them upon their Shoulders about the Streets, and behaved in all respects, Women as well as Men, like overjoyed Bedlamites. One thing is worth remarking; a Woman pulled down the Rebel Standard upon the Fort, and a Woman hoisted up in its Stead His Majesty's Flat, after trampling the other under Foot with the most contemptuous Indignation. I first espied both Circumstances from the Ship, and could not help paying the first Congratulations to Lord H[owe]. upon the Occasion. The Spirit and Activity of the Troops & Seamen were unequalled: Every man pressed to be foremost, consistent with Order, and to court Distinction. The dastardly Behaviour of the Rebels, on the other Hand; sinks below Remark. The Ground, where our People landed, was far from being advantageous; the Tide rapid; the Current unequal; the Shore shallow; and themselves obliged to march up on Ground, where these Poltroons had been at Work to entrench themselves for several months. Providentially, the Wind coming in with a fine Breeze from the S.W., wch it had not done before since we have been here, and wch was the most favorable

Circumstance our People could have desired, enabled the Boats to carry over the Forces almost in a Direct Line, and return in like manner for the second Division, notwithstanding the Rapidity of the Current. Thus this Town and its Environs, wch these blustering Gentlemen had taken such wonderful Pains to fortify, were given up in two or three Hours without any Defence, or the least appearance of a manly Resistance.

In the Evening the Admiral [Howe] ordered up the *Mercury* of 24, and the *Fowey* of 20 Guns, to lie close to the Town, to prevent the Transport Boats from going on Shore & plundering, wch many of them appeared very ready to do.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 103-05.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Pearl*, CAPTAIN THOMAS WILKINSON¹

September 1776	Moor'd in [New] York Harbour
Saturday 14	A M washed Decks, at 11 our Sigl was made for a petty Officer. Modte & fair Weatr Employed clearing Ship for Action.
Sunday 15	at 3 A M. unmoor'd, At 7 weighd and made sail in Company wth his Majs Ships <i>Renown</i> , <i>Repulse</i> , and <i>Trial</i> Schooner. At 8 abreast of New York Town, Receiv'd a smart Canonading from the Town & Paulers hook, which we return'd. At 1½ past 9 Anchor'd in 7 fm water mid-Channel 1½ mile below Bulls ferry and veer'd to 1½ a Cable on the small Br recd a smart Firing of Musketry, which we returned. Fresh Breezes & fair Weather. At 3 P M. was Alarm'd by our Guard Boat, on the sudden approach of four Fire Ships, which obliged us to Cut our small Br Cable and drop lower down. Anchor'd with the Bt Br in 6 fm water. At 4 Weigh'd and turn'd in shore & Anchor'd in 5 fm to avoid them. Two of the Fire Ships were tow'd on Shore, by the Boats, and the other two drove on shore. At 5 the <i>Renown</i> Cut and run down to the Fleet with the Schooner in Company At ½ past 8 Weigh'd and worked up and Anchor'd with the Bt Bower, got the end of the small Bower Cable in. Weigh'd the Bt Br and spliced the small Do

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/674.

DIARY OF SAMUEL RICHARDS¹

[New York, September 14 and 15]

On the evening of the 14th the greatest part of the troops marched out and took post on the bank of the East river just below Kip's Bay — about

three miles from the city. Myself being one of the body — we were posted behind a slight entrenchment recently thrown up, opposite and near which lay five ships. on the 15th as the morning advanced we saw the road opposite to us — the sound not being two miles wide at that place — filled with a dense column of the enemy moving down to the waters edge and embarking on board flat boats. knowing their object we prepared to receive them.

As soon as they began their approach — the ships opened a tremendous fire upon us. the column of boats on leaving the shore proceeded directly towards us; when arriving about half way across the sound they turned their course and proceeded to Kip's bay — about three quarters of a mile above us — where they landed: their landing there being unexpected they met with no opposition: the firing from the ships being continued — our slight embankment being hastily thrown up — was fast tumbling away by the enemy's shott. Our troops left their post in disorder, and before being rallied the enemy had completely formed in the road on the adjoining hill. our regiment with some others being ordered on the Bloomingdale road and to march towards Kingsbridge

1. *Captain Richards' Diary*, 37–38.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH¹

[New York, September] 15th — About noon, the British landed at Kepp's Bay. They met with but small resistance, and pushed towards the city, of which they took possession in the afternoon. They availed themselves of some cannon and stores; but their booty was not very great. Here the Americans, we are sorry to say, did not behave well; and here it was, as fame hath said, that Gen. Washington threw his hat on the ground, and exclaimed, "Are these the men with which I am to defend America?" But several things may have weight here; — the wounds received on Long-Island were yet bleeding; and the officers, if not the men, knew that the city was not to be defended. Maj. [John] Chapman was killed, and Brig. Maj. [John P.] Wyllys was taken prisoner. A few others were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. The Americans retreated up the island; and some few, who could not get out of the city that way, escaped in boats over to Paulus Hook, across the river. The house in the fort at Horn's Hook, was set on fire by a shell, and burnt down. The fort was afterwards abandoned.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 52.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN¹

Sept 1776

Moored off Bedlows Island

Sunday 15th

½ past 6 AM made the Signals for the *Renown*, *Repulse* & *Pearle* to Weigh, which Ships Weighed & made Sail up the No River, At 10 Minutes after 7 the Batteries on New York Island began to play on them & soon after the Batteries on Paulers hook both which they returned, the firing continued

until a Quarter of an hour after 8 At 1½ past they Anchored up the No River, at 10 the *Renown* hoisted a Dutch Flag at the Foretopgallt mast head which we Answd with a Dutch Flag at the Foretopgallt mast head At Noon saw much Smoak & heard a very heavy, fireing at New York.

The first & Middle parts fresh Breezes & fair, the latter light airs

At 6 made the Parole Sigl with a Blue & White Striped Pendant made the *Asias* Signal for a Petty Officer At 6 the *Fowey* and *Mercury* got under way and Anchd close to New York At 12 the Flat Boats returned from the East River

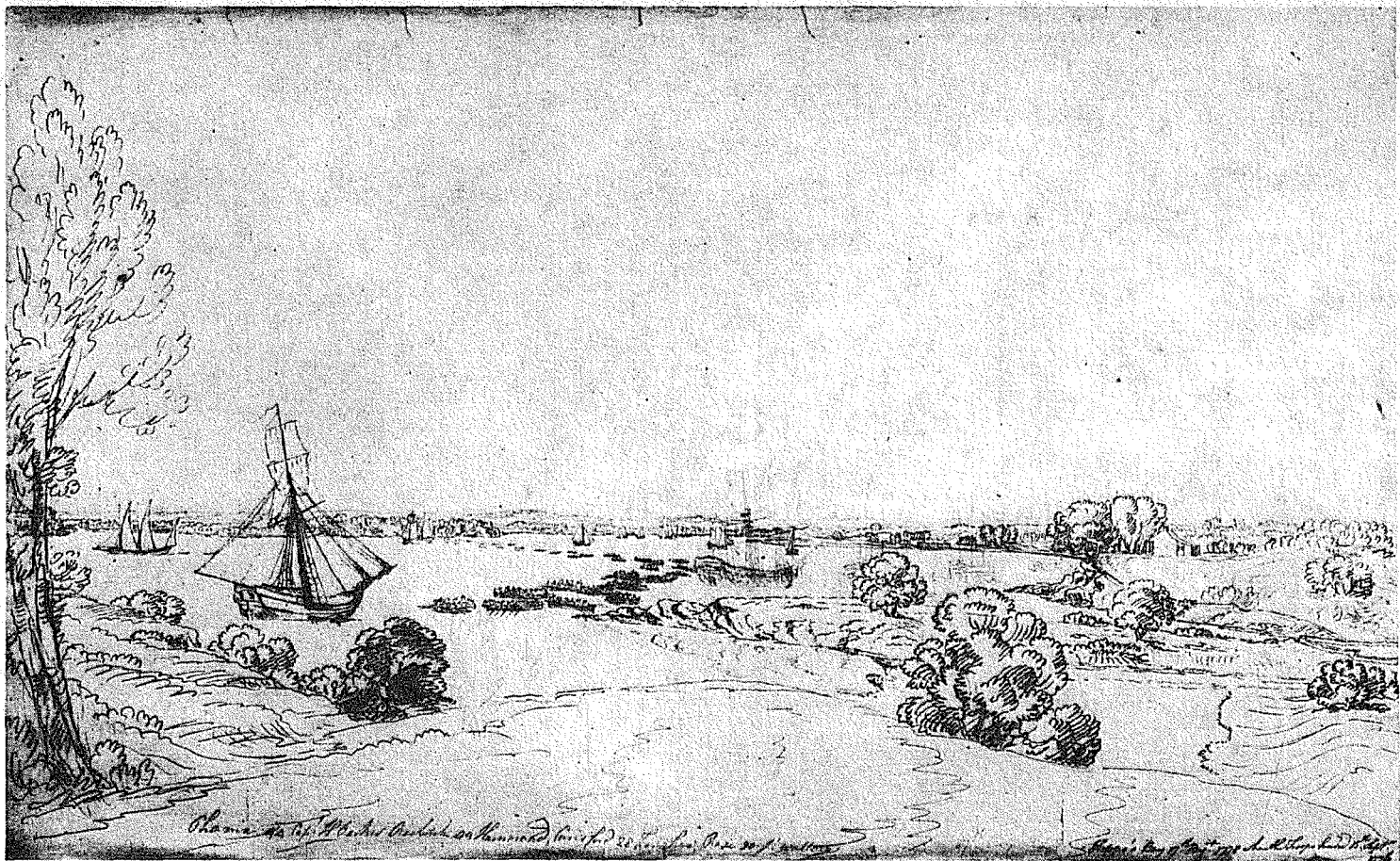
1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN, R.N.¹

[On board H. M. S. *Eagle*, off New York City]

15th September, Sunday. – Between six and seven this morning, made the signal for the *Renown*, *Repulse*, and *Pearl* to get under way, which signal they immediately obeyed. About seven o'clock, or a little after, the batteries in the town and all along that shore began to fire, as well as that at Paulus Hook; the ships returned the fire very smartly, and proceeded up the North River six or eight miles and anchored in our sight under the high land of Holbeck. At the time they got under way the transport that ran on shore last night got under way, and run up the East River, scarcely noticed, as the rebels' attention was so much taken up with the men-of-war. When the ships of war anchored, and for some time before, there were no guns fired at them. A little after eleven a most furious cannonade was heard up the East River. It appeared from our mastheads to be from the men-of-war. It continued about an hour. The admiral went on shore, and returned about two o'clock, and informed us of our army being on York Island. They landed in Kipp's Bay, about three miles above the town up the East River, under the cannon of the ships. Soon after dinner I went in a boat and pulled towards York. A flag of truce was hoisted in the town when I put off from the ship, but was hauled down soon after I put off. On approaching the town there appeared to be a rabble on the walls. Ordered the boat to push on shore. At the landing-place I was met by the mob, who gave me three cheers, took me on their shoulders, carried me to the Governor's Fort, put me under the English colours now hoisted, and again gave me three cheers, which they frequently repeated, men, women, and children shaking me by the hand, and giving me their blessing, and crying out "God save the King!" They carried me to my boat, and we parted with cheering and my promising to send them some troops. The *Fowey* and *Mercury* went close to the town.

1. *Duncan's Journals*, XX, 127-28.



British Troops Landing at Kips Bay, New York, September 15, 1776.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE ¹

[New York] 15th Sept Early this morning the five ships of War, vizt, The *Renown*² 44 Guns, *Phoenix* 44, *Arpheus* 28, [*Carysfort*] 28, and *Rose* of 20, took their Stations along the shore of New York Island, from Kipps's bay near Turtle bay on the right, to the point behind Mr John Watts's house on the left, and about 200 yards from it. They anchored with their broad-sides to the shore.

About 10 o'Clock the flatboats began to row from the mouth of Newtown Creek, and assembled aStern of the 6 transports at Bushwick point, in four Divisions. During this time The Guards embarked in flatboats which were prepared for their reception. The whole when assembled, amounted to about 30 flatboats with troops, besides several Launches and other Craft, with some Light Artillery, Mantelets, Intrenching tools, Ammunition, &c. &c.

A little before 11, upon a signal given, the five Ships of War opened their fire upon the Entrenchments, on the shore, and the adjoining woods. This fire was continued until the Boats began to move, and the troops to land. Very few of the Rebels showed themselves, and those only in the most secure places.

The Rebels, who judged from what they saw of the movement of the Boats and Ships, that the troops would land at Turtle bay, observing the boats row from Newtown Creek, and assemble at Bushwick point, immediately conceived they were going to land on the flat grounds near the town, and therefore marched several Battalions with their Colours flying into their line and works on that side, and made every appearance of an obstinate defence; but they were deceived, for as the wind and tide set strongly up the River, the boats were under the necessity of assembling at Bushwick point, in order to be able to fetch the intended place of landing, which was Kipps bay.

At 12 o'Clock, everything being ready, the boats put off from Bushwick point, . . . They rowed over in 4 Divisions. This was a grand, and most interesting sight. The boats started off in four Columns, and passing under Cover of the Ships, which continued their fire, reached Kipp's bay, to the right of the Ships, in about half an hour, and immediately landed there, without firing or receiving a Shot. Parties were instantly sent forward, who took possession of the ground in front and flanks. As soon as the troops were formed, they advanced to Murray's hill, (or Ingleberg) an advantageous piece of ground about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the great Road from New York to Kingsbridge.

A considerable body of the Rebels finding they were likely to be cutoff from Kingsbridge as soon as the Army landed, made the best of their way to New York, and crossed the River to Paulus hook, in great confusion. Some were drowned in attempting to pass on rafts. Had our ships been able to anchor in that part of the River they would have been prevented. Another body of them, as soon as they found the troops had landed, made di-

rectly across the Island to the North River shore, and marching along, made their escape before General Howe could intercept them.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 46, 47-48, 50.
2. The *Roebuck*; not the *Renown*.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW¹

Sept'r 1776.

Att Single Anchor off Bushwick Creek East River

Sunday 15th

At 5 AM Weighed & run over to Keps's Bay, New York Isld & let go the Stern Anchor in 18 fam about 2 Cables length from the Enemy's Trenches, Do Veerd away & let go the Bt Br in 5 fam & moord head & Stern $\frac{1}{2}$ Cable each way NNE & SSW Do Run our Stream Anchor out a breast to the Etward, to get the Guns to bear on different parts of their Trenches - At 7 Our Troops on Long Island began to move in the Flatt bottom Boats - At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 Seeing the Rebels getting into their Trenches the *Phoenix* began to fire, as did the *Orpheus*, *Roebuck* & *Rose*, they being all moor'd in a line a head of us, at the distance of a Cables length from each other, After firing several Broad sides right a Shore, we hauld in the Stream Cable, and brought our Guns to bear on their Trenches on our Quarter, w[h]ere a great Number of the Rebels was assembled, on which they run off into the Woods - At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 left of[f] fireing, our Troops being Landed & Formed, Do found we fired 20 broadsides in the Space of an hour, with Double headed, round & Grape Shott, Do the Jibb was Sett on fire by accident, Several Gun Tackles & One Axle-tree broke, At 11 Unmoor'd Ship, the Rebels having left their Trenches, Do lost part of a Hawser which was for a Spring, several Wood and leather Buckets, Do Stove 2 Barrels & one Hh'd, to supply the Men wth Fresh water & Cutt one Puncheon for Match Tubbs

Fresh Breezes & Cloudy wth Rain - At 5 PM Weighed & came to Sail. Do anchor'd a breast of Bushwyck Creek as before in Company with the above Ships in 9 fam water.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/168.

JOHN MITCHELL, JR. TO ALEXANDER MITCHELL¹

St Augustine 15th Sept'r 1776

. . . about the latter end of June We were Oblig'd to leave Gwyns Island, the night after We left it it Blew Very hard by which A great many of the Vessels lost the[ir] Anchors & Cables, Some Vessels were lost, & some drove ashore, next day the remainder got into Potowmack, where Lord Dunmore took Possession of A Small Island on the Maryland

side, Call'd St Georges, But there was not Sufficient water in the Island for the whole Fleet, the *Roebuck* the *Dunmore* & 2 Transports were Sent up the River for fresh water for the Fleet after they Came down the Fleet had Orders to get in readiness to go to Sea, about thirty Vessels were Burnt that were found incapable to proceed on the 4th of August the *Otter* man of War with about thirty Vessels under her Convoy left Virginia, fifteen of which were Bound to Bermudas & the West Indies & fifteen for this place, of them that were Bound to this place none But two Vessels belonging to Mr Mitchell & the *Otter* & her tender have as yet arrived, Both Mr Mitchells Vessels got aground upon the Bar one of them got of[f] with very little damage the Other which I was in Bilg'd & damaged a great part of her Cargo however he expects to get her repair'd –

. . . a Vessel that arrived here a few days ago from Savanah in Georgia Brings advice that General Washington was kill'd at New York, however this wants confirmation, & I am affraid is too Good news to be true . . .

To Mr Alexander Mitchell

of Halglensmeere in Shire of Air near Cumnock

1. Brown Book, IX, Md. Arch. An intercepted letter.

“A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH
TO THE LATTD. OF 33:”¹

Sunday-September the 15 Day A D 1776

Latter Part Sunday Morning Six A Clock saw two [Sails] breasing South From Us the wind at N. Run for them spoke with them Prov'd to Be two Privateers Belonging to the Continent In New Lon[d]on Been out three weeks Lattd In 35:56: Capt Harden in A Brig²

1. RIHS.
2. Captain Seth Harding in the Connecticut state brig *Defence*.

16 Sept.

PETITION OF WILLIAM BARRET TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

The Petition of William Barret, an African
Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner, being on board the Ship *Anna Maria*, commanded by Capt William Pringle, bound from Barbadoes to London, was taken by the private Sloop of War *Revenge* commanded by Capt Joseph White, and brought into Salem, in this State.

That your Petitioner from various circumstances necessarily arising from his present situation, is unable to earn his living here –

Your Petitioner therefore Humbly Prays, that your Honors would be pleased to grant him permission to go for Great Britain, in the Ship, lately purchased by Messrs Ross & Morgan. And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever Pray.

his
Willm X Barret
Mark

Salem September 16th 1776

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 17[th] 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Petition be granted and the Said Willm Barret be permitted to depart from this State to any Part of Great Brittain in such Vessell as Messrs Willm Ross and Nathl Morgan, who lately obtained Liberty from this Board to depart, may purchase for that Purpose

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 236.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

furthermore your Comtee having taking into Consideration Mr Francis Shaw[s] Letter: find in one Paragraft of sd Letter a Complaint, wherein he saith that the Schooner² People Complain of not being paid for Past Services, And Affraid it might be the Same for this Trip; therefore he was obliged to promis them that theire Musterrole would be paid Immediately on there Return – Hoping that this Honorable Court would Inable him to make good his promis to them your Comtee therefore are of Opinion that as soon as Mr Shaw Shall produce his Musterrole of there Services to This Court: he may Receive out of the Publick Treasure So much as may be found Justly due on the Role Legally presented to Court for Allowance: for the said Sloop people: he giving Rect for the Money he may Receive for them

And as there is a Complaint against one O brian [Jeremiah O'Brien] in sundry of the Letters before Mentioned, your Comtee being informed that a Complaint of the Same Nature; if not the Same: is Soon to be heard before this Honorable Court: we make no Report thereon and whereas in Sundry of the before Mentioned Letters an Information is Given of one or More Ministerial Tenders are Infesting our Sea Coasts So that it is daingerous for our Coasters sailing

Your Comtee are of opinion that the Consideration of so Important a Matter ought to be Considered [by] the whole Court and not so small a Comtee

Eldad Taylor pr ordr

[Endorsed] In Council Sept 16t 1776

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 210, 337, 338.

2. The Massachusetts state schooner *Diligent*.

Boston Gazette, Monday, SEPTEMBER 16, 1776

Watertown, September 16.

Last Sunday se'nnight was taken and carried into Gouldsbrough, by two small boats, a brig from Ireland bound for Halifax, laden with beef, butter &c. She parted company with 12 other provision vessels the day on which she was taken, all bound for the above port.

List of Prizes lately taken and carried into the West Indies, by some of the Ministerial Pirates.

The Brigantine *Hester*, John Marshall, Master, belonging to New York, was taken on the Coast of Africa the 12th of May, 1776, and carried into Antigua by the Sloop *Weasel*, Samuel Warren, Commander, the 12th of June. Her Cargo consisted of Ivory, Wax, Dry Goods and Wood.

The Brig *Duff*, Captain Knapp, from Guadaloup, bound to Newfoundland, with Rum, Sugar and Molasses, was carried into Bassaterre Road the 3d of May by the *Pomona* Sloop of War, Capt. [Thomas] Eastwood.

May 8. Brig *Hero*, Capt. Jones, from Saba, in Stone Ballast, taken off Eustatia, by the *Pomona*, arrived at St. Kitts this Day.

1[0]th. The Sloop *Two Brothers*, Sanford Thompson, Master, from Ocracock for St. Croix, with White Oak Staves and Heading, taken by the *Pomona*, arrived at St. Kitts this Day.

June 19. The Sloop *Fanny*, Capt. Worth, from the Coast of Braziletto, bound to St. Eustatia, laden with *Spermacti Oyl*, &c. arrived at St. Kitts. She was taken by the *Pomona*.

20th. The Sloop *Prince of Orange*, Eber Waterous, Master, from Guadaloupe, laden with Sulphur and a small Quantity of Powder, taken by the *Pomona*, and sent up to Antigua.

23d. The Brig *Regicobus*, Captain Booker, from St. Eustatia bound to Amsterdam laden with Sugar and Coffee; but it is imagined she has a Quantity of Powder and Warlike Stores in Sugar Casks, taken off St. Eustatia by the *Pomona*, arrived at St. Kitts this Day.

Taken by the *Portland*, Thos. Dumaresque, Esq; Commander, two Days after he left the Fleet he was Convoy for; and carried into Antigua, the Sloop *Salley*, of 90 Tons, Giles Buckingham, Master, from Philadelphia bound to St. Croix, taken in Latt. 24:00 North, Long. 62°30 West. Her Cargo consists of 650 Barrels of Flour, 300 Kegs of white Biscuit, a few Barrels of Beef and Pork, a great Quantity of Staves and Heading; also a new four Wheel'd Waggon with Iron Axeltrees, Brass Bushess for the Wheels, and Harness compleat.

Two Days after was taken by the *Portland's* Tender, and carried into Antigua the Brig *Resolution*, of 250 Tons, Robert Stacy, Master, from Piscataqua bound to Martinico, laden with Lumber. When she was taken she was within Musket Shot of Port Royal Harbour.

July 17. The Schooner *Fox*, ————— Buckmaster, from New London for Curraco, taken by the *Seaford*, Capt [John] Col[poys], arrived at St Kitts this Day.

Also the Brig *Betsey*, ————— Dresser, Master, from N. Carolina for St. Eustatia, laden with Lumber, taken by the *Pomona*.

19th. The Sloop *Maria*, Capt. Gurley, from St. Croix for St. Eustatia, her Cargo consists of 21 H[hds.] Rum, taken by the *Pomona*.

A Sloop from New London, with Oxen, Horses and Lumber, taken by the [*Pomona*], sent into Tortola.

And the Sloop ————— Capt. Butterfield, from St. Eustatia for Bermuda, laden with Rum, taken by the *Pomona*.

The Firing heard last Saturday morning was occasioned by the safe Arrival of a fine Prize Ship of 300 Tons at Cape Ann. The Contents of her Cargo at present unknown to us.

JOHN BRADFORD TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

[Extract]

Boston 16th Sept 1776

I am under the disagreeable necessity of representing the Base conduct of Capt Daniel Waters in the Armed schooner *Lee*, who has lost two months meerly from an Obstinate perverse temper, he Arrived here from a Cruise Abot the last of June. I paid the vessell off, the portledge bill Amounted to £ 445. .6. . he was the best Officer'd and mann'd of any vessel in the Service; his first Leiutenant's time being up for wch he had engag'd he left him. his second chose to remain in the Service, and his Abilities are allow'd (even by Waters) to be equal to any man in the like Station in the Service and greatly esteem'd by all the men, yet Waters discharged him from the Service Contrary to my Advice, under the pretext that he refus'd to go under a first who had never been in the Service and a man who is the greatest part of his time lay'd up with the Gout; his people all told him if the 2nd Remain'd they wou'd go, But he has been from that time the first July till about ten days ago no farther from Boston than Squam, its now a week since his 2nd Lieut wch he discharged sent into plimouth a West India man, for he was immediately put in Command of a privateer on his discharge,² Finally when Waters had got mann'd, he wou'd not Consort with the *Warren* who waited for him tho I endeavour'd to point out the utility of two going together; he told me he shou'd not look on himself under any Obligation to consult with me. he shou'd go where and when he pleas'd, unless Gen Washington Or an Officer of his Appointing shou'd give him orders. then he shou'd hold himself bound. I have Just given you a Scetch of his Conduct Sir as I thought it my indispensable duty to do for I humbly presume if Conduct like his passes with impunity the little Navy will rather be a Clog than a Service to the public. you will see by the papers from time to time that we are Successfull in the privateer way. I wish our little navy was more so, the *Hancock* and *Franklin* arrived some time since with all their Sp[a]rs defective and we've meet some little detention in getting others but they are now ready and sail today the *Lynch & Lee* are on a Cruise. poor [William] Burke in the *Warren* taken by the *Liverpool*. . . .

1. Walter Fuller Don Collection, SI.

2. This was John Gill in the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Independence*. On September 7 he sent into Plymouth a prize brig bound from Antigua to London with a cargo including rum, sugar and pimento. Mass. Arch., vol. 6, 128 and *New-England Chronicle*, September 12, 1776.

CLARKE & NIGHTINGALE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

Sir —

Providence, Sept. 16th, 1776.

Last week we received a letter from Capt. William Rogers, commander of the sloop *Montgomery* in the service of your State, requesting us to undertake the agency and act in behalf of the State and himself, in libeling one brig which was returning from a whaling voyage, with about three hundred barrels of oil, and had been taken by the English, carried into New-York, and acquitted by them, and afterwards taken by Captain Rogers in company with the privateers *Schuyler* and *Mifflin*, and sent in here. The Commodore and Continental agent, in behalf of the other two privateers (which are fitted out by the Continent) gave the brig up, as there were no papers appeared by which they could condemn her, and they produced a certificate, a copy of which you have enclosed, of their permission to sail at the time they did. As matters were thus circumstanced, we imagined it would be in vain to libel her when the others who were two-thirds concerned saw no prospect of condemning her, and after consulting with the prize master, we declined prosecuting. The other is a Bermudian sloop which was taken with entrenching tools on board; the tools are taken out and were sent to General Washington, and they put a quantity of flour on board from some other of their prizes. She is libelled and will be tried the first of October next, and as there is no claimer she will of course be condemned. We shall now wait your orders in what manner to proceed, as she was taken in company with the abovementioned privateers, and shall be glad to hear from you as soon as possible. We are in the meantime with due respect, sir [&c.]

Clark & Nig[h]tingale

P.S. Enclosed with the certificate you have the affair of the brig stated by the lawyer.

[Enclosure]

[The case of the Brigantine *Temple*.]

It appears by her papers that she was owned by Wm. Rotch of Nantucket, and cleared out there on a whaling voyage, the 26th May, 1775, in common form, but did not sail till the last of October following.

After her clearing and before her sailing, to wit: in the month of August, the following resolve was passed in the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts Bay, and concurred with by the Council:

That from and after the fifteenth day of this instant, August, no ship or vessel shall sail out of any port of this Colony on any whaling voyage whatever, without leave first had from the great and general court of this Colony, or from some committee or committees, or persons they shall appoint to grant such leave.

The brig sailed from Nantucket under the command of Joshua Morris some time the last of October, for the coast of Brazil, on a whaling voyage. And upon her passage home, having about three hundred barrels of oil on board, she was taken by a British man of war and carried into Sandy Hook, and after being detained a few days was dismissed with a pass from Admiral Howe to proceed to Nantucket. Soon after she left the Hook, to wit, on the 20th of August, 1776, she was taken by the Continental sloops of war called the *Mifflin* and the *Schuylcr*, and by the sloop *Montgomery* fitted out by the State of New-York, and carried into a harbour on the south side of Long island, where she lay till the British troops got possession of Long island, when the captors sent her into this port to be libelled.

At the time of capture she had on board no certificate that she had obtained leave to go on a whaling voyage. Since her arrival here her owner from Nantucket has sent the following certificate, to wit:

Treasurey office, Sept. 28th, 1775.

I hereby certify that Wm. Rotch hath given bond according to the direction of the General Assembly of this Colony, in order to send on a whaling voyage the brig *Temple*, Joshua Morris, master.

Henry Gárdner, Treas.

Quere. Whether it is advisable to libel the brig or not?

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 216.

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1776

Newport, Sept. 16.

The Continental Cruiser, *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Nicholas Biddle, has taken 4 Prizes since he last sailed, viz. 1 large ship with near 15,000 bushels of wheat, which the Negro-catcher, Dunmore, loaded at Virginia and ordered for Halifax; a brig from Dunmore's fleet bound to the West-Indies, with a number of tories, and their household furniture, out of which he took some of the most valuable articles, and 7 Negroes, and let go; 2 brigs from the West Indies, loaded with rum and sugar; the 2 latter are safe arrived in a neighbouring port, and the ship is hourly expected.¹

The fore part of last week, the *Cerberus* frigate retook a prize brig between Block Island and Norman's Land; this prize was one of Dunmore's motley squadron, bound to Bermudas, with a number of passengers, some household furniture, and dry goods from Virginia, and was taken by the *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Biddle, close in with the Island; the people put on board to bring her in, made their escape in the boat and landed at Block Island, from whence they came to this place.²

Captain Samson [Simeon Sampson], in a brig belonging to Plymouth, has sent a sloop into an eastern port, loaded with rum and cotton, bound for Halifax.³

Three brigs loaded with rum, sugar and molasses, arrived in some neighbouring port since our last; and it is said the ship loaded with 1[7],000

bushels of wheat taken by the *Andrew Doria*, is arrived a little way to the eastward.

Last Tuesday a fine large brig, loaded with about 240 hogsheads of rum, &c. went up the east passage; she was taken by the sloop *Revenge*, from Swansey, Capt. Samuel Dunn, who was reported to have been taken.⁴

1. Ship *Molly*, brig *Maria* and brigantines *Elizabeth* and *Lawrence*.
2. Brig *Peggy*.
3. The Massachusetts state brig *Independence*. Her prize was the brigantine *Nabby*.
4. Brigantine *Ann*.

APPOINTMENT OF PRIZE AGENTS FOR THE RHODE ISLAND
PRIVATEER SLOOP *Lady Washington*¹

Know all Men by these Presents, That we the Commander, Officers and Men belonging to the Private Sloop of Warr, called the *Lady Washington*, bound on a Cruise against the Enemies of the United States of America, viz. James Godfrey commander, Henry Weeden first Lieutenant, Daniel Servat 2nd Lieutt Thomas Cotteril master.

do constitute and appoint William Vernon and Benjn Sayer, both of the State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Merchants, our Lawful Agents & Attorneys, for us and in our Names and to our Use, to Ask, Sue for, and recover & receive, of all & every Person or Persons, all Prizes and Shares of Prizes, Moneys, Goods Merchandizes &c &c, that shall or may be Taken during the whole Cruise, Granting unto our said Agents & Attorneys, in all Causes moved or to be moved for or against us, in our Names to appear Plead & Pursue to final Judgment and Execution [illegible Latin phrase crossed out] as Witness our hands & Seals this 16 day of September in the Year of our Lord 1776. the line [e]rased Out is unknown to the Subscribers²

Ja ^s Godfrey	Henry Pr[ou]d	Eleazer Senior
Henry Weeden	Silas Ligerwood	Jeremiah Simmons
D Servat	John Brothers	Reuben Hart
Tho ^s Cottrell	Silas Turner	George White
John Turner Jur	Samuel X underwood	Seth melville
Donnelly V[ia]ll	mark	William Harrison
August Newman	Seth Godfrey	Benjamin Stephens
Edward Davis	Eza Trowbridge	Job David junr
Godfree Manchester	Weeden Cardscross	Joseph Jeffries
Natha ^l Williams	William Ryder	Daniel Smith
Jeh ^l Hardy	Jonathan Gibbs	William Brown
Sumner Smith	Joseph Rider	John Smith
Nathaniel Mercer	Benjamin Hart	Benjamin Johnson
his	Ebenezer Bishop	Josias Hall
Nathan X Cooper	Enos Gibbs	John Brewer
mark	Caleb Jenks	Thomas Dring
Thos Foster	Peleg Chapman	Benedict Lewis

Hunbeck Huddy	his	Robert [Thom] as
Nathaniel Brownell	Jeremiah X Whaley	Philip Harges
Pitre Martin	mark	Williard Briggs
Job Smith Junr	George Ma[cum]ber	William Haliday
Henry Young	David L[ong]	Norton Russell

1. NHS.

2. This sentence is in the handwriting of Captain Godfrey who apparently placed no trust in Latin phrases.

Connecticut Courant, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1776

Hartford, September 16.

The following Prisoners are still confined in one room at Halifax, among felons, thieves, robbers, negroes, soldiers, &c. which we here publish for the satisfaction of their anxious friends.

James Lovil [Lovell] & Rich. Carpenter of Boston.

Consider Howland, master, and Jacob Taylor, mate of the Privateer Brig *Washington*.¹

Bigelow, Kemp, Peak and Sessions, Bunker-Hill.

Corporal Cruise and Corneliu[s] Turner, Rifle Men.

David Wells, Dorchester Neck.

Capt. Francis Proctor, of Philadelphia.²

Corporal Jeremiah Low, of Fredericksburg.

Col. Ethan Allen, of Bennington.

John Gray, Arlington.

Barnabas Castle, Saratoga.

Preston Danton, Stillwater.

1. See Volumes 2 and 3.

2. See Volume 4.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES¹

Dear General,

Isle La Motte September 16th 1776

The hard Gale of Wind yesterday prevented, my sending back Ensign [Clemens] Botsford. This Morning at one OClock Antoine Geroure [Girard] whom I mentioned to have sent to St Johns returned, and gave the following Account vizt. That at Isle aux Noix there are three thousand Troops encamped, and forty Pieces of Cannon Mounted on their Lines. at St Johns are three Thousand Men, one hundred & fifty Batteaux, and he was told by a Frenchman two hundred Batteaux were at Chamblee and a Party of Men sent down to fetch them up that two Schooners were completed and Maned, one mounting Twelve and the other fourteen Brass twelve Pounders the small Vessels on the Stocks to carry three Guns each One Gondola taken from us and three new ones Built there to mount three Guns each, a Number of flatbottomed Boats and Batteaus to carry one Gun each and a Floating Battery, with two Masts nearly done to carry twenty

four eighteen Pounders, and two Mortars, he imagines the whole will be compleated in a Fortnight. he has brought a Pass from the Isle aux Noix, from which and the Distance he had to go the bad Weather and Time he has been gone, I believe he has been no farther than the Isle aux Noix, and that he has been enjoined by the Officer there to give the foregoing Account. had not they been convinced he was in their Interest, I dont imagine they would have suffered him to return. he formerly lived with Metcalf whom he says is gone to St Johns, now remains at a French House opposite the Isle aux Motte where Serjeant [Thomas] Day, says a Number of Deserters were lately taken, betrayed to the Indians, by the Frenchman, I have every Reason to think him placed as a Spy on us I have therefore sent him to you to be disposed of as you may think Proper.² I had promised him Fifty Dollars provided he procured an exact Account of the Strength of the Enemy, agreeable to the Accounts I received from others, from the Accot of the two Men who have viewed the Isle aux Noix, one of whom I now send,³ the Accounts of this Frenchman must be False and a Story formed for him by some of the English Officers.

I have heard nothing of Lieutenant [Benjamin] Whitcomb or Ensign [Thomas] McCoy⁴ and am very apprehensive for their Safety as the Woods is full of Indians. — I am Respectfully Dear General [&c.]

B: Arnold

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

2. When Arnold employed Girard, he was unaware that the Frenchman had earlier been suspected of being a British spy. Girard was interrogated at Ticonderoga on September 20. Two days later Gates sent him on to General Schuyler at Albany. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 392-97, NA.

3. See next entry.

4. McCoy was taken prisoner October 1, 1776.

EXAMINATION OF SERGEANT ELI STILES¹

The Examination of Serjt Stiles sent from the Fleet with Ensign McCoy to reconnoitre Sept 6th: 1776

[On board the *Royal Savage*]

Sept. 16th Says that on the 9th Inst: he saw all the Tents on Isle aux Noix and counted them about one hundred and believes there is about one thousand Men there — the 12th arrived opposite St John's where were a large Number Tents which could not well be counted, he imagines about three hundred when there he counted 34 large Birch Canoes paddle by him towards Isle au Noix supposed they contained about six hundred Indians & one regular officer — Saw a Schooner at St John's mounting 12 Iron Guns, suppose six pounders another Schooner lay at the Wharf with a F. Sail bent which he supposes was not compleated and believes she mounted not more than 12 Guns one other vessel on the Stocks was planked to her Wales She appeared built in the common Form and something larger than the other two Two small Gondalos were at the Wharf, but saw Nothing of any Rideau or Floating Batteries and believes there was none Their Bat-

teaus appear twice as large as ours and carried fifty or sixty Men one of which row'd near by him — Left St John's the 12th in Company with Ensign McCoy & parted with him on the 15th at 10 A. M. opposite Hospital Island, where are about 20 Tents

Eli Stiles

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 413-14, NA.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN¹

Sepr 1776

Moored off of Bedlows Island

Monday 16th

1/4 past 3 AM Saw the appearance of a fire Vessel driving down the No River with the Ebb, heard the Report of Several Guns to the No Wd At 1/2 past Saw a Second fire Vessel on fire in the No River and soon after a third At 3/4 past 5 the *Renown* Anchor'd here At 7 made the Signal for Petty Officers from the *Renown* & *Greyhound*
At 10 Sent the Flat Boats on shore to be hauled up
The First & Middle parts fresh Breezes & fair, latter Modr Breezes & Cloudy
At 5 PM made the Signal for all Lieuts
At 6 hoisted a Blue Red & White Pendant the Parole Signal 1/2 past 9 heard 3 Guns fired from the WNW Sent a Boat to know the cause, found the *Chatham* had ran a Ground upon Robin's Reef sent the Master to assist in getting her off

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN, R.N.¹

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*, off Bedloe's Island]

16th [September]. — This morning about three o'clock I was called by the officer of watch, and informed that a fire-vessel was close on board of us. I immediately run on the forecastle, and perceived that the light was at some distance from us, and that it approached us but slowly. By daybreak we perceived them plainly to be four fire-vessels, that had been sent against the *Renown*, *Repulse* and *Pearl*. These fire-vessels came near the ships, but by slipping or veering they escaped them. The *Renown* slipped one cable and cut another; she made sail with the wind down the river and an ebb tide, and joined us here off Bedloe's Island. The two frigates kept their stations up the river. . . . A little after nine at night, three guns were fired as a signal. It proved to be the *Chatham*, in coming up here, had got on Robin's Reef. Sent the master to her.

1. *Duncan's Journals*, XX, 128.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Monday, 16th. Sept.

This Morning between 3 & 4 o'Clock, we were alarmed with three Fire-ships, which the Rebels sent down, at a Venture, against the three Ships of War which sailed up the North River yesterday morning. One of them came very near to the *Renown*, but, with the other two, was towed off, and left to consume upon the Shore. The *Renown* came down this Morning; and, by her, we understand, that Capt. [Henry] Davis had one man killed & two wounded yesterday, and that the *Renown* had two Men wounded. The *Renown* fired among the Rebels yesterday, as they evacuated the Town, & 'tis supposed, as the Ground was open & plain cut many of them off in their Retreat.

A Party of Marines was sent by the Admiral [Howe] to take Possession of the Fort, and to hoist the Union Flag upon the Staff. A great Concourse of People assembled round the Soldiers, and raised His Majesty's Colors with loud acclamations, and every possible Demonstration of Joy. Indeed the Happiness of the Inhabitants upon the Occasion drives them about like madmen. They carried our officers, at their first Landing, in Chairs or upon their Shoulders, up and down the Streets. They have felt so much of real Tyranny, since the New England & other Rebels came among them, that they are at a Loss how to enjoy their Release. The Rebels carried off their Bells, and many things of Value some Days before their Departure.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 105-06.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Fowey*, CAPTAIN GEORGE MONTAGU¹

Sept 1776

Sunday 15

At Anchor abreast of the Town - [New York]
 ½ past 5 A M. the Admiral made the Signl for the *Renown*, *Repulse* and *Pearl* to Weigh - do they Weighed and run up North River a heavy Cannonading from the Batteries on both Sides the river, which was returned by the Ships - at 11 a very heavy fire with Small Arms over at the Town, which we suppose to be on Landing of our Troops. -

½ past 2 P M. the Rebels struck their Colours at the Fort in New York - ½ past 4 English Colours were hoisted there - fired 4 Nine Pounders at the Merchant Boats that attempted to Land - at 6 Came on board an Order from the Admiral to slip the sml Bower - Do Shipt and hove up the Best - ½ past 7 Anchd abreast of Newyork Fort -

Monday 16

½ past 5 A M the Rebels sent down 4 fire Ships which drifted a Shore without doing any damage -

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Renown*, CAPTAIN FRANCIS BANKS¹

September 1776

Sunday 15th

At Single Anchor off Bedlows Island.

AM $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 the Admiral made the Signal to Weigh, Do Weigh'd & came to sail in Company with His Majestys Ship *Repulse*, *Pearl* & *Tryall* Schooner towards the No River: When I came within Gun Shot, the Rebels began a brisk fire upon me, from the Town of new York & Paulers Hook, which they continued till I was past. As soon as I was abreast of the Town & Paulers Hook, began to fire on both sides, Do discharged several broadsides, & kept a Constant fire at the Rebels, as long as I could get my Guns to bear – At 10 Anchor'd in Hudsons River with the small Br in 6 fm water, and Veer'd to $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable, Paulers Hook SWbS, Hoobuck SW $\frac{1}{2}$ S & the Fort at Moons Head NNE. Distce from both shores about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile Found the Rebels had shott away some of my Rigging, & Damaged my sails very much. Do Anchd here the *Repulse*, *Pearl* & *Tryal* Schooner.

First and Latter parts Modte and Cloudy, Middle fresh gales and Squally.

at 2 PM fir'd several Upper and lower Deck Guns at a Number of the Rebels which were Retreating past the Ship, At 3 came onboard several People for protection, at 11 sent my Barge & Cutter wth a Lieut & Petty Officer to row Guard the other Ships sent two boats also; A M at 3 the Guard boats made the Signl for a Fire Vessell coming down, which was repeated by the *Tryal* Schooner. We soon perceived her to be close onboard the *Repulse*, but found she drifted clear of her & coming down on me Cut my small Br Cable, $\frac{1}{4}$ past 3 finding the Fire ship clear of me let go the Bt Br & Veer'd to a Cable; Soon after the Guard boats made the Signl for more Fire Vessells, perceiving Three to be drifting directly in my Hawse Cut the Bt Br Cable & mde sail, Do made the Signl for the *Repulse* & *Pearl* to cut; at 5 past Paulers Hook from wch place the Rebels kept a Constant fire on me, which Damaged the sails & Rigging a little; When abreast of the Rebels fir'd several Broadships at them. Found the Town of new York in our possession at 6 came too with the Sheet Anchor off Bedlows Isld in 9 fms veer'd to $\frac{1}{3}$ of a Cable New York NEbN. Bedlows Isld WNW. & Goveners Island NNE distce abt 1 Mile. Empd over hauling our Rigging sent one of the Pilots onbd the *Eagle*. –

Monday 16th

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY¹

September [1776]

[Off Red Hook]

Friday 13

A M heeled & scrub'd both sides between wind and water.

Ditto [Little wind and rain]

unmoored, the *Phoenix Roebuck Orpheus* & *Carysfort* passed the Town of New York & went up the East River Anchored here his Maj: Ship *Galatea* from England

Saturday 14

A M hauled down Commdr Hothams broad Pendant & hoisted Sir Peter Parkers²

Do Wr sailed several Transports up the East river sent three flat boats to accompany them,

Sunday 15

A M his Maj: Ships *Renown*, *Repulse* & *Pearl* passed Paulers hook & the Town of New York & went up the No river several shot were fired at them as they passed which they smartly returned, weighed & dropt farther up & heard a very smart Cannonad-[ing] in the East river, soon after the Troops landed on New York Island, employed in watering.

Ditto weather moored Ship at 4 P M saw English colours hoisted at New York, rowd guard.

Monday 16

3 A M heard several Guns fired & saw a Fire Ship on fire coming down the No river, and after saw two other Fire Ships on fire coming down the stream got out all the Boats & mann'd them the Fireships were intended to burn the *Renown*, *Repulse* and *Pearl* but past them & drove onshore without doing any damage, Anchored here the *Renown*, sent a party of Marines onshore to take possession of New York & sent two Flat boats onboard the *Repulse*.

Little wind & cloudy weather our Marines returned onboard, Admiral made the Signal for all Lieuts

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. *Ibid.*, the flags of Commodore Hotham and Sir Peter Parker alternated on the *Preston*.JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 16th.

About 2 o'clock this morning, an attempt was made to burn the ships that passed up the North-River yesterday, and anchored about three miles above us; one of them (the *Renown* of 50 guns) was grappled, but broke her grappling, and came down by us again — another cannonade ensued, but no damage was received on our side.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776. Boardman was Chaplain, 20th Continental Infantry.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Carysfort*, CAPTAIN ROBERT FANSHAW¹

Sept'r 1776. Att Single Anchor off Bushwyck Creek [East River]
 Monday 16 Do Had the thanks of the General & Admiral, which was
 read to the Ships Company, for their behaviour yesterday.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/168.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 16th, 1776.

A Letter was wrote to Commodore Sam'l Mifflin, requesting his speedy return to this City, to take the Naval Armaments under his care.

An order was drawn on The Marine Committee, for what Arms are due from Congress to this State, to deliver Mr. Towers.

Resolved, That Mr. [Thomas] Wharton & Mr. [John] Bayard be directed to engage and send off as soon as possible, three fast sailing sloops or schooners, to bring in such articles of Cloathing, Blankets & other necessaries, as are wanted for the use of the Troops belonging to this State.

Resolved, That application be made to the [Continental] Board of War to employ the Marines now in this City, as Guards over the Frigates, Prison, and Powder belonging to the Continent, &ca.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 718-20.

RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 16th Sept'r 1776

Since your brother left this City, Mr [John] Nicholson has been confirmed first Lieutenant of the *Washington*, and his worthy brother may be assured that in settling the rank of the Captains his merit will not be forgotten. It is not probable that the Frigates will sail in fleets for some time; and therefore tis likely that no higher appointment than that of Captain will soon take place.

It will be highly proper for Captain [James] Nicholson to hasten on the *Virginia* (for that is most certainly the name of the Baltimore Frigate) as much as possible. Her great obstruction, I fear, will be Anchors — However, we hope that will be removed eer long, as measures have been taken to pro[cure] them

You will shortly see published the conference of our Members with Lord Howe on Staten Island, in which you will find that his Lordships much talked of powers, are no more than to confer & converse with Gentlemen of influence, and to prosecute the war! We anxiously expect here, the issue of a

long Cannonade at [New] York, and another lately on Lake Champlain –
I am Sir [&c.]

Richard Henry Lee

Samuel Purveiance junr Esqr
Merchant in Baltimore Maryland

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION OF LETTER OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL
FOR THE MARYLAND SLOOP *Baltimore Hero*¹

Name and Burthen of the Sloop *Baltimore Hero*, Together with her Number of Guns, and Weight of Metal, The Name and Place of Residence of the Owners, the Name of the Commander and other officers, the Number of the Crew and her Quantity of Provisions and Warlike Stores. –

The Sloop *Baltimore Hero* burthen 50 Tuns – 6 Three pound Carriage guns 6 Swivels and 8 Muskets –

Abraham Vanbibber Robert Hooe Thomas Ringold and John Crockett Owners of the Province of Maryland Thomas Waters Commander, William Jones 1 Lieutenant John Pine 2d Lieutenant John Sharp Mate and 20 hands Eight Barrels bread and five Barrels Pork and Ten bbls flour Sixty Pounds wt. of Powder and 20 C wt. of three Pound Ball and 100 wt. of Muskit Ball –

Given under my hand this 16th day of Sept. 1776

Tho^e Waters

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, I, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Monday. Sepr 16th 1776

Permit was granted to Wm Thomas Master of the Sloop *Hazard* to go to Martinique & dispose of his Cargo, he having given Bond, and lodged a manifest against the resolve of Convention. –

Ordered That Captain [Samuel] Smith be directed to let Job Green of The Schooner *Two Brothers* to proceed on his Voyage, according to Permit heretofore granted. –

Permit granted to Thomas Waters Master of Sloop *Baltimore Hero* to go to Martinique or any other foreign Port, he having given Bond with security, agreeable to the Resolves of Convention.

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

CAPTAIN FRANCIS DE MONTEIL TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON¹

On Board the frigate *La Renommée*
Port Royal Jamaica 16th Sepr. 1776

Sir/

I send to your Excellency Monsr. Desfarge de la Voltiere my Second Lieutenant who will desire you to permit me to have the Honor of seeing

you he will first tell you the urgent reason why I left the Mole St Nicholas in such a hurry where I was engag'd to repair my Ship.

Monsr. de la Voltierre with respect will tell you concerning the matter that happen'd on the 14th. His Britanick Majestys Ship the *Squirrel* with a Sloop Cruizing a head of her, chased a Schooner with great eagerness and by means of her Oars took her at a Miles distance from the Shore in my Sight, and in short so close that three Men belonging to the Schooner had scarce time to reach the Town with their Papers & other Effects.

In vain I endeavored to tow my Frigate [*La Renommée*] out but it being Calm in the Bay and then the Wind coming contrary prevented me from getting out before the Night had depriv'd me of the sight of His Britanick Majestys Ships, three different Schooners told me that they were gone for Jamaica.

I look'd for the Captain of the *Squirrel* to observe to him (on account of the good understanding subsisting between the two Courts) that an officer who commanded a Frigate in the Mole a Month before had given protection to a Vessel belonging to Jamaica and therefore I have more reason to complain of Captain [Stair] Douglas's Lieutenant for so gross a breach of the Treaties His going away appear'd to me a matter of so much consequence for the Honor of my King that I was determin'd to come myself to demand the Schooner, I flatter myself your Excellency will think that 'tis very natural for the Schooner to avail himself of the Protection afforded them by our Court, which would be equally the same to any of His Britanick Majestys Vessels that might require it, and more particularly in a case of this kind where our Colours were Hoist'd and under our Cannon where all your Vessels are receiv'd.

To conclude I have the Honor to remit to you the Memoir of my Demand of which I have transmitted an exact Copy to the Marine Minister.²

I will express in Person every thing else necessary to Justify the Demand that my Situation obliges me to make and I desire you that if the matter requires any delay to give an answer, at the receipt of this, to Justify my Conduct to my Master I would return immediately with the Confidence of your Justice in a matter which so essentially Interests both our Courts and without presuming you would be displeas'd at its being Communicat'd to our respective Ministers. I have the honor to be with every Sentiment of respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

Signed Le Chev^r de Monteil

A Copy

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Gayton to Stephens, October 8, 1776.

2. See Memoir of the Chevalier de Monteil, September 17, 1776.

CAPTAIN THOMAS LLOYD, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON ¹

Extract of a Letter from Captain Thomas Lloyd of His Majestys Sloop *Atalanta*, dated at Sea the 16th September 1776.

I am sorry to be under the Necessity of laying a Complaint before you against the Master of the Packet but his Conduct has been such that I can-

not look over it, On Monday the 9th September P M, the Packet went a head, Fird two, 6, Pounds to make her keep her Station, when she came within Hail I ask'd him why he did not Obey his Instructions, he answer'd he did all he could & that he would leave me to Morrow; I told him he should not if I could come up with him, he immediately shot a head, drop'd in our Hawse & carried away the Spritsail Yard, which you will see by my Journal on my arrival and last Night about 7 oClock, I made the Signal & Tack'd, in order to speak with the *Porcupine*, he then took that Oppertunity to make off, and I have not seen him since I am Sir [&c.]

Thomas Lloyd

A Copy. Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Gayton to Stephens, October 8, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Atalanta*, CAPTAIN THOMAS LLOYD¹

September 1776

Monday 16

Island Tortuga W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 6 Leagues
at 40 Minutes past 10 [A.M.] brot too a Vessel from
Salem, sent a Petty Officer and 5 men on board²
Fresh breezes and fair weather made sail and gave
Chase at 2 P M fired a Gun and made the signal to a
Ship which we took to be the *Squirrel* at 3 shortned
Sail and brot too, at 4 the Prize parted company wore
and made sail in 2d reef TKd at 6 A M Cape Nichola
So distance 5 Leagues,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/75.

2. Schooner *Benjamin*, see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT JAMES COTES¹

September 1776

Monday 16

Cape Nichola SbE 5 or 6 Legs
AM at 5 TAKd at 6 Saw 2 Schooners, One to Wind-
ward & the other to Leward & gave Chase to the Weather-
most at Noon Saw the Land
Light Airs & Rain,
still in Chase, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 3 Hoisted the Boat out and
sent her Manned and Armed after the Schooner to
Windward, do brought her to and found her to be a
Prize from the Mole bound to Newberry,² Sent a Mid-
shipman & 7 hands on board her & the Master & Cooper
to Carry her down to Port Royal, took on bd the Mate 2
Passengers & 5 hands At Sun Set Hiniago NE Distce 4
Miles

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.

2. Schooner *Unity*, see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM CORNWALLIS TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Pallas at Sea 16th Sepr 1776.

Sir

Latitude 32° N. Longde 73° W.

I beg you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships that his Majesty's Ship *Pallas* under my Command has been Six Weeks from Portroyal, Jamaica, with a Convoy of 104 Sail a List of which I sent by the *Grenville* Packet who parted Company the 6th instant. We have been three Weeks since we came through the Gulf getting three degrees to the Northward owing to Calms and light Airs of Wind from the N. Et; We went to as short an Allowance of water both Officers and Men soon after we sailed, as I thought we could well be reduced to, the Weather being very hot, we have at present only Ten Butts besides the Ground Tier.

I intend keeping along the Coast of America in hopes of meeting with some Man of War upon that Station to enquire at what place we can get a supply, for unless we have a fair and fresh Wind soon I do not think it will be safe to Cross the Ocean with the small Quantity of water we have on board.

Many of the Merchant Ships parted Company as soon as we got through the Gulf, a great many of the others keep constantly so far off that we can but just see them from the Masthead, I have sent on board those that are nearest to us, and find some of them intend parting Company, others are as bad off for water as ourselves, and intend going to the Northward with us, I should hope that two or three days sail will put them pretty well out of the reach of the American Privateers, however I shall take all the care I possibly can of those that chuse to keep Company with us. Inclosed I send a weekly account of the State and Condition of the Ship. I am Sir [&c.]

W: Cornwallis

Endorsed Recd 4 Nov. & Read

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1611, 3, 10.

17 Sept.

CONDEMNATION IN HALIFAX VICE ADMIRALTY COURT
OF THE AMERICAN SCHOONER *Sandwich*¹

Cause

Nova Scotia
Court of Vice
Admiralty

Matthew Squires Esqr Commander of his Majestys Ship of War the *Otter* V.S. Schooner *Sandwich* – 28 August 1776 – John Buchanan, Midshippman being Duly sworne Deposeth that the Schooner *Sandwich* was seiz'd & taken at a Wharfe in Norfolk in Virginia by Matthew Squires Esqr Commander of the said Sloop *Otter* that she had no Cargo on board or any Papers – that this

Deponant was put on board as Prize Master & Order'd to proceed with her to this Port of Halifax where she now is that she is about 40 Tons or thereabouts –
31st August 1776. John Buchanan

Sept 17th 1776

Sworn to before me, Chas Morris junr Regr
Court open'd by makeing Proclamation as usual Proclamation made for all Claimers to appear and assert their Claims and Defend their Rights to the said Schooner *Sandwich* none appear'd the Advocate General then mov'd for a Decree which was Pronounc'd as on file whereby the said Schooner was Condemn'd as lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof, Court adjourn'd without Day in this Cause²

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

2. *Ibid.*, schooner *Dolphin*, taken by H. M. Sloop *Otter* off Cape Charles, Virginia, about June 17, 1776, was also condemned this date.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Tuesday September 17th 1776.

Petition of Shubael Cottle a member of the House of Representatives for the Town of Tisbury in Dukes County in the behalf of Nathan Smith Captain of the first Company of Sea-Coast Men station'd in said Tisbury in Dukes-County aforesaid for the defence of the said County – setting forth –

That from the Encouragement given by these States to all Persons to make Captures of Vessels belonging to the Enemy employ'd against the united States, as also by a Resolve which passed the Honorable Continental Congress on the 23d of March in 1775, respecting such matters. That the above said Captain Smith from a principle of serving his Country, and stimulated with the hopes of Reward, He with divers other persons belonging to a Sea Coast Company station'd on the Island of Martha's Vinyard, with some of the Militia of the same place, with three Pilot Boats provided by said Smith, & Company did on the 12th day of April last past at the risque of their Lives board, take, and bring into the Port of Bedford in this State a certain Schooner called the *Volante* of about Sixty Tons burthen laden with Provisions, and Stores for the use of the Fleet, and Army employed against the united States of America the said Schooner then being a part of said Fleet, & Tender to the *Scarborough* Man of War – One Edward Marsh Master – The Petitioner at the time of the Capture did humbly conceive after condemnation and deducting the Charges incident thereto, that the Vessel, Cargo, and appurtunances was to be divided amongst the Captors, but by a Resolve which pass'd the late General Assembly at their last Session on the 23d day of April 1775 [*sic* 1776]. the State thereby taking two thirds of all such Captures, and the other third to the use of the Captors – the Petitioner, humbly suggests that should the Honorable Court take any part of said Capture by virtue of said Resolve passed the 23d of April afore-

said to the use of this State that two thirds is by far too great a part in the opinion of the Petitioner – He therefore (in the behalf of said Captain Smith, and Company) prays that the Honorable Court would take the matter into consideration and as the State were at no Expence, nor suffer'd any Risque for Vessels, Cannon in making said Capture, that the Honorable Court would order the whole, or such a part of said Schooner, Cargo and Appurtunances to the use of the Captors, as they shall think proper.

Resolved that whereas it appears to this Court that certain persons mentioned in said Petition, [were concerned in taking and bringing into this State a certain Schooner mentioned in Said petition]² and it further appears, that the Vessels, or Boats which attacked, and took said Schooner were procured by, and at the risk of the Captors –

Therefore Resolved, that after the Charges of Tryal, and Condemnation are deducted from the gross proceeds of said Vessel and Cargo, and the Share of the other Captors have been assigned, the Colony shall receive one third and the Sea Coast Men the other two thirds of said Schooner, Cargo, and Appurtunances.

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take under consideration the claim this State has to the Prize Ship *Queen of England* Arnot [James Arnout] master loaden with Pork, and other provisions for the use of the Enemy lately taken in the harbor of Boston have attended that service, and ask leave to Report as follows.

D Sewall p order.

That since the appointment of your Committee the Trial of the Justice of the said Capture, has been determin'd in the Superior Court, upon an Appeal made from the Maritime Court in the Middle district, by a Pilot on Board of the said Ship at the Time, of the Capture, who claimed the whole prize.

Upon which Trial your Committee are Informed, for they have not been able to obtain the Record thereof, That one fifth part of the said Prize, and her Appurtunances have been adjudged to the said Pilot as an original Captor, and the remaining 4/5 to the said Crafts, & Whitney, & their Regiments, who at the Time of the Capture where in the service, and pay of the State –

That by a Resolve of both Houses on the 23d of April last “The Sea Cost men station'd in any Port of this Colony, shall be intitled to one third part of the neat proceeds, after charges of condemnation, and other expences are paid of all Vessels & Cargoes that have been, or shall hereafter be taken by them, and legally Condemned by the Court Establish'd 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”

That your Committee are of opinion there can be no just pretence for the said Colonels, and their Regiments retaining the whole of the 4/5 of the said Capture to their own use.



Now fitting for a

Privateer,

In the Harbour of *B E V E R L Y*,

The BRIGANTINE

Washington,

A strong, good vessel for that purpose and a prime sailer.

Any Seamen or Landmen that have an inclination to
Make their Fortunes in a few Months,

May have an Opportunity, by applying to

JOHN DYSON.

Beverly, September 17th. 1776.

And unless they are to be consider'd in this matter as Sea Coast Men, they have no legal demand to any part of the said Capture, and that an Adjudication of the 4/5 to them is in effect an adjudication of so much to the use of this State –

But your Committee are of Opinion that the said Colonels, and their Men, are equitably intitl'd to 1/3 of the 4/5, and no more, and this they conceive one of the said Colonels by his memorial laid in, before the Board is fully convinced of, and is contented with. –

Your Committee are likewise of Opinion, that the Superior Court may now legally, in Consequence of the Resolution of April last beforementioned, Order in the Precept for Sale of said 4/5 of the said Prize, a distribution thereof in manner following – viz: 1/3 to the said Colonels, and their Regiments in proportion to the pay they respectively receive from this State, and the Residue to this State, and that the agent for the middle District of this State ought to be by this Court directed to apply to the said Superior Court for a distribution accordingly. –

Read, & Accepted.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 266, 269–71, 273–74.

2. Omitted in error from Mass. Arch., vol. 35, but included in vol. 181, 230.

SAMUEL COOPER TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN¹

[Extract]

Boston N. E 17 Sepr 1776

We have Nothing new here except Captures from the British Trade, which are likely to increase – Our own Navigation is almost Wholly turn'd into Privateering, so that their Cruizers can take little or Nothing from us but empty Hulls, while their Ships come fast to us richly laden'd –

It is regretted among us that the American Fleet is not in greater Forwardness. We have two fine Frigates built at Newbury & Portsmouth, but after so long a Time, not yet ready to put to Sea: Many are the more uneasy at this, as two Frigates of the Enemy have had the undisturb'd Range of our Bay for five or six Weeks past, retaken some valuable Prizes, and greatly prevented the Coasters from coming in with Supplies to this Town. Whether there be any Fault in this or where it lies, I am unable to determine – I expect Mr [Samuel] Austin, a worthy Gentleman, & Select Man of this Town will call for this Letter and deliver it to you. . . .

1. Franklin Papers, IV, 113, APS.

SHIPPING ARTICLES FOR THE CONNECTICUT STATE SHIP

*Oliver Cromwell*¹

We the Subscribers Do hereby severally Acknowledge ourselves Inlisted on Bord the Armed Ship belonging to the Free State of Connecticut under Command of Capt Wm Coit and Such other Officers as are or shall be from Time to Time Appointed to the Several Departments and Duties on Bord said Ship in Defence of the Rights & Liberties of the United States of

North America in General & of Connecticut in Particular subject to Do the Duties of our Respective Places on bord and Obey the Commands of all Officers Superior to us on bord said Ship untill the first Day of May 1777 unless Soon[e]r Discharged by Proper Authority. During which Time we agree to Obey the Commands of our Officers and Do the Duties of our Several Places on Bord under the Laws & Regulations of the Naval Service of said State of Connecticut which shall be Similar in Substance to those of the United States aforesd and for the Wages allowed & Agreed upon P Month as severally Annexed to our Names In Witness Whereof we have hereunto Set our Hands —

Names	Capacities	Wages p Mo	Times when Inlisted
Eben ^r Backus Junr			
Christr Prince			Sept 17: 1776
Josiah Ware			
William Copps	Marine	2..0..0	Sept 17, 1776
Edward X Culver			August 1st
Benje X Short	Seaman	2..8..0	Do.
John Merrow			
Stephen Dewolf			
Henry X Kennedy	Seaman	2..8..0	August 26
Ichabod Sheffield	Seaman		
Wm. Fagins			

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 153a, 153b, ConnSL. This document is incomplete.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO CAPTAIN JOHN HUNN¹

Sir

Head Qurs Albany Sepr 17th 1776.

You are Immediately to take two Batteaus & some of Your best Hands & proceed with the utmost Dispatch to Poughkeepsie; On Your Arrival there You are to deliver the Letter directed to Mr Van Zandt, Either to him or any of the Gentlemen to whom the Care of Building the Vessels of War is Committed, & as soon as You receive the Cordage, For which I have wrote, or such Part as they can furnish You are with the Greatest Dispatch possible to convey It to this Place & deliver It to Mr Ph: Van Rensselaer. —

I Expect that You will push Night & Day to accomplish this Service. —
I am sir [&c.] Ph:Schuyler. —

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

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO THE COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATES AT POUGHKEEPSIE ¹

Gentlemen

Albany Sepr 17[th] 1776

I have this moment received a Line by Express from Gen: Gates he is in the Greatest distress for the Cordage Mentioned In the Inclosed list

not a fathom of It is to be had In this place I must therefore Intreat you to Send It by the bearer who goes Express for It, the row Gallies which are the Greatest Strength of our Naval force on the lake cannot be Equipp[ed] unless we are furnished with the Cordage – I am Gentlemen &c

P Schuyler

To Messrs. [Jacobus] Van Zan[d]t [Samuel] Tudor & the other Gentlemen to whose Care the build[ing] of the Frigates at Pokepsie is Con[signed]

1. Schuyler Papers, Miscellaneous Military Papers, NYPL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION¹

Die Martis, 4 ho. P. M.

[Fishkill] Septr. 17th, 1776.

The Convention on information that the soundings of Hudson's river, at and about Fort Washington, is not accurately sounded, and thereupon came to the following resolutions.

Whereas, there is reason to apprehend that the channel of Hudson's river opposite to Fort Washington is not yet sufficiently obstructed; And Whereas it is of the utmost importance to the safety of this State, and the general cause of America, that the navigation of that river should not be occupied by the enemy's ships: Therefore,

Resolved, That Captain Thos. Greenhill be, and he is, hereby requested and authorized to proceed with all possible dispatch to Mount Washington, in order to take an accurate survey of the landings of that part of Hudson's river, and that he report his proceedings to the Convention of this State with all possible despatch.

Resolved, That the commanding officer of Fort Washington be applied to by Captain Greenhill for his permission to sound the river, and for his assistance in carrying the above resolution into execution.

Resolved, That General James Clinton be requested to furnish Captain Greenhill with a whale boat, and a sufficient number of hands whose attachment to the American cause may be relied on, in order to assist in carrying this measure into execution, that General Clinton and Captain Greenhill be earnestly requested to conduct this matter with all the secrecy possible.

A letter from Gilbert Livingston, Esquire, at Poughkeepsie, was read. He therein informs that the chain intended to obstruct the navigation of Hudson's river, has been delayed for want of iron. He requests that one of the other members of the committee may come to him to assist him, and bring with him two thousand pounds, as their treasury is nearly exhausted; and informs that he expects to go to the fort to see that the apparatus is ready to fasten and stretch the chain.

Ordered, That the secret committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, have permission to go to the fortifications in the Highlands to-morrow morning.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 628, 629.

MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Sir

Camp at Harlam Heights 17. Sept 1776

I suppose you have heard of the Retreat from Long Island and the Evacuation of New York. The Retreats were both Judicious and necessary our numbers being very insufficient to hold such an extent of ground. His Excellency had proposd to Evacuate the City & Subburbs of New York sometime before the Enemy made their last landing, and had the Quarter Master General been able to furnish the necessary Waggon to remove the Stores and Baggage, the Retreat would have been effected in good Order, had the Enemy delay'd their landing twenty four hours longer. Almost all the Old standing Regiment was drawn out of the City in order to oppose the Enemy at Hell Gate where they made an appearance of a very large body of Troops, and movements as if they intended a landing. We made a miserable disorderly Retreat from New York, owing to the disorderly conduct of the Militia who run at the Appearance of the Enemies Advance Guard, this was General [John] Fellows Brigade, they struck a pannick into the Troops in the Rear and Fellows, and [Samuel Holden] Parsons whole Brigade run away from about fifty men and left his Excellency on the Ground within Eighty Yards of the Enemy, So vext at the infamous conduct of the Troops that he sought Death rather than life. The Retreat was on the fourteenth of this instant from New York, most of the Troops got off but we lost a prodigious deal of Baggage & Stores. On the 15th [*sic* 16th] we had a skirmish at Harlam Heiths a party of about a thousand came and Attackt our Advance post they met with a very different kind of a Reception from what they did the day before the fire continued about an hour and the Enemy Retreated our people pursued them and by the spirited conduct of General Putnam and Col [Joseph] Read the Adjutant General our people advanced upon the plain ground without cover and Attackt them and drove them back. His Excellency sent and order'd a timely retreat to our Advanced Post for he discovered or concluded the Enemy would send a large reenforcement, as their main body lay near by. I was sick when the Army retreated from Long Island, which by the bye was the best Effected Retreat I ever read or heard off, consedering the difficulty of the Retreat. The Army now remain quiet but expect an Attack every Day. Col [James Mitchell] Varnum[s] & Col [Daniel] Hitchcocks Regiments were in the last Action and behaved Nobly, but neither of the Cols was with them both being Absent one Sick the other taking care of the Sick. Time wont Permit me to say much more as I am wanted to go into the Jerseys –

I had the honnor of seeing & conversing with your Committee. I think and so does his Excellency, That the Opperations of the Campaign will have no Effect upon you as it will be impossible for the Enemy to detach any part of the Army while our Army is able to make any stand. I would not Evacuate one foot of ground, as it will tend to encourage the Enemy and disperit our People. I am sure the Government is safe and will remain so unless the Enemy can ruin this Army, this is their grand Object and every nerve will

be exerted to effect it, that they will not have opportunity and strength sufficient to molest you. I have not time to add one word more. I am with all due respect [&c.]

N Greene

1. Letters to the Governor, 1776-1781, R. I. Arch.

JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 17th.

This day a large quantity of lead musket ball and buck shot was discovered in a suspected house, about a mile and a half above us, and brought down to this place and properly secured for the United States. — Towards night the *Renown* returned back to her station up the North-River, but kept near the Eastern shore, to avoid the shot from our battery, which, however, kept up a brisk fire upon her as long as she was within reach.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Tamar*, LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER MASON¹

September 1776

Moored off the Town of Amboy

[Tuesday] 17

A M at 10 hove up the Stream Anchor & moored with the Bt Br a Cable each way Longbt Watering
First pt fresh Breezes & Clear Middle & latter Mode & Cloudy at 1 P M sent our Boats Mann'd & Arm'd & took a Boat with 4 Rebell Soldiers, at 2 took a small Schooner off Amboy Town, they fired several Shot from their Batteries at our Boats, and the Hessians fired a Number at them.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/968.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, September 17, 1776

A letter of the 23 August last, from V. De Coetiry Prejent, was laid before Congress, and read.

Resolved, That the same, with paper inclosed, be referred to the Marine Committee.

The committee appointed to confer with Lord Howe, agreeable to order, brought in a report in writing, which was read as follows:

In Obedience to the order of Congress, we have had a meeting with Lord Howe. It was on Wednesday last, upon Staten island, opposite to Amboy, where his lordship received and entertained us with the utmost politeness.

His lordship opened the conversation, by acquainting us, that, though he could not treat with us as a committee of Congress, yet, as his powers ena-

bled him to confer and consult with any private gentlemen of influence in the colonies, on the means of restoring peace between the two countries, he was glad of this opportunity of conferring with us on that subject, if we thought ourselves at liberty to enter into a conference with him in that character. We observed to his Lordship, that, as our business was to hear, he might consider us in what light he pleased, and communicate to us any propositions he might be authorized to make for the purpose mentioned; but that we could consider ourselves in no other character than that in which we were placed, by order of Congress. His Lordship then entered into a discourse of considerable length, which contained no explicit proposition of peace, except one, namely, That the colonies should return to their allegiance and obedience to the government of Great Britain. The rest consisted principally of assurances, that there was an exceeding good disposition in the king and his ministers to make that government easy to us, with intimations, that, in case of our submission, they would cause the offensive acts of parliament to be revised, and the instructions to governors to be reconsidered; that so, if any just causes of complaint were found in the acts, or any errors in government were perceived to have crept into the instructions, they might be amended or withdrawn.

We gave it as our Opinion to his lordship, that a return to the domination of Great Britain was not now to be expected. We mentioned the repeated humble petitions of the colonies to the king and parliament, which had been treated with contempt, and answered only by additional injuries; the unexampled patience we had shown under their tyrannical government, and that it was not till the last act of parliament which denounced war against us, and put us out of the king's protection, that we declared our independence; that this declaration had been called for by the people of the colonies in general; that every colony had approved of it, when made, and all now considered themselves as independent states, and were settling, or had settled, their governments accordingly; so that it was not in the power of the Congress to agree for them, that they should return to their former dependent state; that there was no doubt of their inclination to peace, and their willingness to enter into a treaty with Great Britain, that it might be advantageous to both countries; that though his lordship had, at present, no power to treat with them as independent states, he might, if there was the same good disposition in Britain, much sooner obtain fresh powers from thence, for that purpose, than powers could be obtained by Congress, from the several colonies, to consent to a submission.

His lordship then saying, that he was sorry to find, that no accommodation was like to take place, put an end to the conference.

Upon the whole, it did not appear to your committee, that his Lordship's commission contained any other authority of importance than what is expressed in the act of parliament, namely, that of granting pardons, with such exceptions as the commissioners shall think proper to make, and of declaring America, or any part of it, to be in the king's peace, upon submission; For, as to the power of enquiring into the state of America, which his

Lordship mentioned to us, and of conferring and consulting with any persons the commissioners might think proper, and representing the result of such conversations to the ministry, who, (provided the colonies would subject themselves,) might, after all, or might not, at their pleasure, make any alterations in the former instructions to governors, or propose in Parliament, any amendment of the Acts complained of, we apprehended any expectation from the effect of such a power would have been too uncertain and precarious to be relied on by America, had she still continued in her state of Dependence.

Ordered, That the foregoing report, and also the message from Lord Howe, as delivered by General [John] Sullivan, and the resolution of Congress in consequence thereof, be published by the committee who brought in the foregoing report.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 764, 765-66.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 17th, 1776.

Rich'd Wallace, Samuel Walston & Levi Horner, Prisoners taken on board the Sloop *Lady Susan*, commanded by Wm. Goodrich, were discharged & permitted to go to their Families In Maryland.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 720.

JOSEPH HEWES TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.¹

Dr Sir

Philada 17th Sepr 1776

Agreeable to my Promise to your brother I now send a printed Article for Seamen, you will observe the wages allowed to able Seamen is eight dollars p month, ordinary Seamen & Landsmen Six dollars & two thirds of a dollar p month. I am respectfully [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

1. Purviance Papers, MdHS.

"LIST OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE STATE PRISON OF PHILAD'A,
SEPTEMBER 17, 1776."¹

[Extract]

Capt. Wm. Goodrich, of a Cruizer.

Seamen from Virginia:

Lieut. Andrew Miller,
Brdgers Jones,
R. Hardy,

A. Lybourne,
Wm. Sturt, Seaman belong'g
to the *Swan*.

John Ryan, Seaman belong'g
to the *Roebuck*,
Capt. Thos. Slater of the *Roebuck's*
tender.

Capt. David M'Culchen, of New
York.
Messrs. James Fonest.
James Shanks.
Thos. Bryon.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 423.

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] September 17, 1776.

The Council of Safety want immediately to charter several vessel[s] to load for the foreign West-Indies. Any persons having vessels to hire, may know the terms, by applying to the Council at Annapolis.

By order,
R. Ridgely, clk.

1. *Maryland Gazette*, September 19, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

At a Council, held at the Capitol in the City of Williamsburg on Tuesday the 17th September 1776.

Pursuant to a former order, Lieutenant Samuel Towls of the Schooner *Revenge* in the Naval service of this State, received, and qualified to, his Commission, dated the 16th Instant.

Captain Ephraim Gilbert of the Sloop, *Johns Releif*, having laid before the Board his papers, which were examined, he is permitted to proceed to any part of this Commonwealth, break Bulk, and dispose of his Cargo.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Matthew Phripp for seven hundred and Ninety pounds, for the purchase money due for the Brig *Liberty* by agreement with the Committee of Safety.

The Board, having heretofore Ordered that a Suit should be prosecuted against Matthew Phripp, one of the Owners of the Schooner *Polly*, John Middleton Master on the Bond given at her clearance for Hispaniola, the said John Middleton having violated the condition thereof, by proceeding to Bermuda; at the request of Mr Phripp. who produced attested Copies of the Instructions given Captain Middleton, whereby it appears the said Captain has disobeyed his orders. It is Ordered that to relieve Mr Phripps Character from any Stigma in consequence of the said transaction, and that his reputation may not unjustly suffer by a proceeding which publick Justice has rendered necessary, the Clerk deliver him a Copy of this Entry.

Ordered, that the Commissary of Provisions, deliver to Captain Richard Taylor of the Schooner *Hornet* four hundred pounds of Bacon, and one Bushel of Salt for the use of the said Schooner.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 163, 165.

MEMOIR OF THE CHEVALIER FRANCIS DE MONTEIL¹

Francis Aimar de Monteil, Knight of the Royal and Military order of St Louis, Brigadier in the Navy, First Captain in Command of the Ships of War Station'd at the French Islands has the Honor of claiming from His Excellency Admiral Gayton, the Schooner *Lady Caroline*, taken three days ago at the entrance of St Nicholas Mole, as will appear in the annex'd declaration,² within a Mile of the Shore and in Sight of the *Renommée* which was then getting ready for Sea,

He hoist'd the French Colours several times and Slip'd his Cable using his best endeavours to get out of the Bay, in order to Demand the above-mention'd Schooner and Cargo

The Chevr de Monteil not being able to speak the English Frigate, she being a little afterwards at some distance from the Coast, judging that he had a right to claim a Capture made within Gun Shot at the Point under the Colours at the Mole has not lost a Moment, & the necessity of the case was such, that he would not dispatch to His Excellency the Officer of the Sloop of War who went out with him, but thought it most proper to execute such an important Commission himself.

He hath already set forth his motives in his Letter³ (which are found'd from the good understanding subsisting between the two Courts) that the Sloop that went before the *Squirrel* pass'd the bounds of the Treaty, and violat'd the Laws of Nations & ought to have relinquish'd his pursuit the People of the Schooner were so near the Shore, that they came with great ease to make Depositions of the Act, to a Town; where all British Subjects trade unmolest'd.

The Chevr de Monteil being persuaded that the Captain of the *Squirrel*, or the Admiral would deliver up said Schooner, has brought down some French Sailors, who were delivered to him at the Mole, to bring her back, and altho' he knew the little Vessel, with which he came in, he prefer'd to follow her at an easy Sail to ask the Restitution with that Deference which is due between the Officers of both Monarchs

Whether His Excellency Admiral Gayton immediately consents to this Restitution (provid'd that the Oaths of the People belonging to the *Squirrel* who have brought said Schooner down here, agree with the Tenor of the above) whether she is not sent back, but to the end of being Deposit'd in the care of Monsr L'Comte Dennyery.

The Chevr de Monteil begs that Admiral Gayton replies in writing to this Memorial as it is his indispensable Duty to send a Voucher to the Court of France, of his having done himself the Honor of addressing Admiral Gayton, and of sending him a Duplicate of the Declaration of the Master of said Schooner, and by his desire, and has set forth his reasons for having made the demand — He must once more repeat the necessity of an answer (which he hopes to receive) to the end that if the affair is not determin'd here in its Origin, the French Ambassador at the Court of Great Britain; shall be able to treat upon the Subject there.

And it is in this expectation that the Chevr de Monteil was satisfied to do nothing else but to follow the Schooner here confiding in the mutual proceedings of his Excellency the Admiral Gayton

(Sign'd) The Chev^r de Monteil

From onboard the *Renommée*, at Jamaica 17th September 1776.

P S In handing the above Memorial to Admiral Gayton, I beg that he will take Notice, that the word Protection, is only meant to imply Assylum, the Sense I use it.

I am Satisfied that his Excellency leave the matter in dispute concerning the said Schooner which I have claim'd in the name of Monsr L'Comte Dennery Commander in Chief of St Domingo, to be Decided by the two Courts, and to please to acquaint the same to the said Comte Dennery

(Sign'd) L'Chev^r de Monteil

[Endorsed] (A Copy)

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. The translation is in the handwriting of Admiral Gayton's secretary. Enclosed in Gayton to Stephens, October 8, 1776.
2. See Declaration of John Douglass, master of the *Lady Caroline*, September 14.
3. See de Monteil to Gayton, September 16.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH
TO THE LATTD. OF 33:"¹

Tuesday September the 17 Day A D 1776

Latter Part Tuesday Morning Something jumbling the Wind starts to the NNE Six A Clock saw A sail bearing NE. A standing For Us We Hug'd our wind she overhals Us Fast Keep Away Afore it Lattd In by observation 34 33. First Part these 24 hours Good Weather the Wind at NE A small Brease A sail I[n] Chase of Us two A Clock Fir'd at Us Got Almost Up with Gave Us Another Gun Came Up With [us] It was A Privateer From Rhode island Capt Ladd.² Cheif Commander Been out Seven Days spoke With A Prize Ship taken By A Privateer Belonging to Capan [Cape Ann] Capt Ladd. Bound to Newfoundland if Not Meets With Success Before

1. RIHS.
2. Captain William Ladd in the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Batchelor*.

18 Sept.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE CONTINENTAL FRIGATE
*Raleigh*¹

5 Dollars Reward.

Deserted from on board the Ship of War *Raleigh*, commanded by Thomas Thompson, Esq; Edward Thorp, an Englishman, five feet six inches high, dark complexion, has a cast with one eye. — William M'Daniel,

an Englishman, five feet eleven inches high, dark complexion, — And Michael Brown, an American five feet eleven inches high, dark complexion. — Benjamin Gerrish, five feet eight inches high, dark complexion, — Joseph Howard, five feet, 4 inches high, brown complexion — John Allen, five feet nine and three quarter inches high, dark complexion. — Whoever will apprehend said deserters, and return them on board said ship *Raleigh* or secure them in any of the colony gaols shall receive Five Dollars Reward for each, and necessary Charges allowed.

Peter Shores.²

Portsmouth, Sept. 18, 1776.

1. *The Freeman's Journal*, September 21, 1776.

2. First Lieutenant of the *Raleigh*.

PETITION OF A STEERAGE PASSENGER IN THE BRITISH PRIZE SHIP
Anna Maria TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

The Humble petition of William Pascall, steerage Passenger, On Board The Ship *Anna Maria* William Pringle — Commander from Barbadoes, — Bound for London and taken by the Privateer sloop *Revenge*, of Salem, Joseph White Commander.

Sheweth, That whereas, I hear of a Ship in Boston Harbour, purchased by Messrs Ross and Morgan of said Boston, with intent of carrying Passengers to London. —

I humbly crave the favour, your Honours will, of your goodness, grant me the Liberty to return in said Ship to London, my native place; as I have a tender Mother a Widow; and two Children younger than my self, whose whole dependance (under God) is on my Labour, and industry, for their support. — I complain not (May it please your Honours) of any ill treatment since my being made a Captive, but on the contrary declare, and will at all times declare, my being exceedingly well used. — But my money being on the decline, and a long, and (in all probability) tedious Winter approaching, is the sole cause of this my earnest prayer. I Beg therefore your consideration of my Case, and that this my request and prayer may be granted. — And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray. —

William Pascall

Salem 18th Sepr 1776.

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sepr 24, 1776 Liberty is hereby granted to the within named William Pascall to depart this State in the Ship *Creighton* (Benjn Moore Master) lately purchased by Mr Ross for the purpose of transporting himself & others to Great Brittain —²

Jn^o Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 259.

2. Other crew members and passengers from various prizes were granted permission to depart on board the *Creighton*.

ACTS AND RESOLVES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT¹

[Watertown] Wednesday September 18th 1776.

Resolved, that this State will furnish the Agent for building the Continental Ships at Newbury Port with a sufficient number of Guns provided they can be obtained by purchase, or otherways for the Continental Frigate called the *Hancock*, John Manley Commander, and which Ship is built to carry thirty two Guns, and will afford him every other assistance Possible for fitting out, and Manning said Ship, and the Honble Richard Derby Jr Esqr is appointed Agent in behalf of this Colony for the purposes aforesaid provided leave can be obtained from the Honorable Congress for said Vessel to Cruise on this Coast for the protection of the Trade thereof. The said Continental Agent engaging to reimburse all the expences this State shall incur in fitting out, and manning said Sloop [*sic*], and return said Guns whenever said Ship shall be otherwise employ'd It being of great Importance that there should be a sufficient Number of Armed Vessels fixed for Sea effectually to free this Coast from the Enemies Armed Vessels now Infesting of it. —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 35, 279, 284.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR A DESERTER FROM THE CONTINENTAL
FRIGATE *Providence*¹

Run away from the Ship *Providence*, William L[i]ng, about 5 Feet 8 inches high, has dark Hair, and dark Eyes: Had on when he went away a light blue Jacket, a Pair of Canvass Trowsers, and an old Felt Hat; says he run away from the *Phoenix* Man of War. Whoever will apprehend said Runaway, and commit him to any Gaol in the United States of America, shall have Five Dollars Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by

William Barron, Lieut.

Providence, September 18, 1776.

1. *Providence Gazette*, September 21, 1776.JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] September 18th, 1776.

Voted, That this Council do advise his Honor the Governor to grant to Mr. James Church of Hartford a permit to export a cargo of the value of sixty or seventy pounds to the foreign West Indies, for the purpose of purchasing a load of salt, to be brought into this State for supplying the inhabitants with that article.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 521.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M. BRIG *Halifax*¹

Remarks on Wednesday 18th of Sepr 1776
[in Huntington Bay]

- 6 [A.M.] saw a small Schooner Boat to the WWd Sent the Tender² to Chace her weighd and Came to sail.
- 10 [A.M.] the Tender Returnd wt the Chace found Her to be from the Rebel shore wt four Cask[s] of Po[r]ter took possession of the Boat. took the po[r]ter out of her and sunk her
- At Noon Norwalk Town NNE Janseys point WSW Empd Twining to the WWd
- at 2 Came too wt the Small Br at the Mouth of Oyster Bay in 7 fathoms of water Hog Island SWbW NE point of the Bay NEbN Tenders In Company

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

2: *Ibid.*, the sloop *Sally* taken September 9 had been fitted as a tender on September 14. She was armed with two 2-pounders and four swivels, and manned by a midshipman and six seamen:

"FORCE ON THE LAKE [CHAMPLAIN] TOLERABLY EXACT, ON
SEPTR 18TH. 1776."¹

<u>Names.</u>		<u>Guns.</u>	<u>Commanded by</u>
<i>Inflexible</i>	{ will be ready in 8 Days }	{ 16.. 12 lbs & 2.. 9 }	Lieut John Schank of his Majts Armed Ship the <i>Canceaux</i>
<i>Maria</i>	quite ready	14.. 6	Lieut John Starke
<i>Carleton</i>	Do	12.. 6	Lieut Jas Rd Dacres of the <i>Blonde</i>
<i>Radeau</i>	Do	{ 6.. 24 on the lower deck 6.. 12 on the Quarter Deck & 2.. 12 on the Forecastle, 2 Howitzers where most of use }	Lieut John Stone of the <i>Lizard</i> .
retaken Gondola		6.. 6 & 2. 12	{ Lt Edwd Longcroft of the <i>Brunswick</i>
6 Gun boats	each	1.. 9	{ Each Commanded by a Petty Officer.
8 Do	Do	1.. 6	
14 Do	{ Army Guns of differ- ent Calibers Howitzers }		

4 Long Boats carrying 1 . . 3 Each

26 other Transport Long boats to Convey Provisions, and about 450 Batoes for the conveyance of the Troops.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 69c.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES ¹

[Extract]

Isle La Motte September 18th 1776.

Dear General, My last was the 16th Inst. by Ensign [Clemens] Botsford; the next Morning, Lieut: Whitcomb and his Party returned from St John's with Two Prisoners, Ensign Saunders, and a Corporal of the 29th Regiment, who were taken between St John's, and La Prairie. The Ensign says there is a Ship on the Stocks at St John's, designed to mount Twenty Guns, Nine, and Twelve Pounders, several Schooners, and small Craft; but seems ignorant, as to their Size and Numbers. He says there was talk of crossing the Lake soon; but in general it was thought they would not cross this Fall. Both him and the Corporal seem cautious of giving any Information . . .

I am inclined to think, on comparing all Accounts, that the Enemy will soon have a considerable naval Force. The Ship, the Ensign says, will be completed in a fortnight, and is to be manned from the Navy in the River.

I make no Doubt of their soon paying us a Visit, and intend first fair Wind to come up as high as Ile Valcour, where tis a good Harbour, and where we shall have the Advantage over the Enemy; and if they are too many for us, we can retire. I believe their Army crossing the Lake, depends entirely on the Advice they may receive from New York.

I beg that at least One Hundred good Seamen maybe sent me as soon as possible. We have a wretched motley Crew, in the Fleet; the Marines, the Refuse of every Regiment, and the Seamen, few of them, ever wet with salt Water. We are upwards of One Hundred Men short of our Complement.

Ensign [John] Bush arrived here last Night, and brought four Beeves, which is all the fresh Provision we have received. By him I send up Lieutenant Whitcomb and his Prisoners. I could wish to have a Six or Eight Inch Howitz mounted in Two or three of the Gallies. If they are arrived, they will be of infinitely more Service than Guns especially to attack a large Vessel. If the Grape and Chain Shot is arrived, I beg it may be sent with some good slow Match, and three Cables and Anchors. We have not a spare one in the Fleet, and the blowing Season is now coming on.

There is a small brass Royal at Ty, which with a hundred Shells and a Gunner, may be very useful to us . . .

(Copy)

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION ¹

Die Mercurii, 9 HO. A.M.

[Fishkill] Sept. 18th, 1776.

Mr. Hobart, from the committee to report the most proper disposition of the sloop *Montgomery*, delivered in their report, which was read. That part of the report which respects the condemnation and sale of prizes was agreed to, Thereupon,

Resolved, That a letter be immediately written to Mr. Joseph Hallett, the agent for prizes, requesting him forthwith to repair to New-England, and take the most speedy and effectual measures for the condemnation and sale of such vessels and goods as Capt. [William] Rogers the commander of the said sloop may have brought into that country.

The said committee also reported a draft of such letter to Joseph Hallett as above mentioned, which was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir — The Convention having received information that Capt. Rogers of the sloop *Montgomery*, has left the south side of Long island, and is arrived at Norwalk, in Connecticut, with some of his prize goods, and that some vessels which he brought off with him are arrived in other parts of New-England, it is their desire that you repair forthwith to that country, and take the most speedy and effectual measures for the condemnation and sale of such vessels and goods; which I am directed to signify to you, and am, sir [&c.]

To Joseph Hallett, Esqr.

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

That part of the said report which relates to the sale of the sloop *Montgomery*, was recommitted to Mr. Wm. Smith, General Ten Broeck, Mr. [William] Duer and Mr. Bancker, Mr. Hobart being excused on his earnest request and reasons assigned.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 629, 630.

VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD LORD HOWE TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Duplicate
Number 8.

Eagle, New York River,
September the 18th. 1776

Sir, By the *Halifax* Packet, sent to make known the Progress of the Army since the Date of the General's last Dispatches, I have Opportunity to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 25th of June by the *Galatea*, giving Advice of the Reinforcement ordered for the Fleet and Army, and enclosed with the Duplicates of Letters forwarded by the Captain of the *Diamond*, who is charged with the Conduct of that Reinforcement.

I have the Satisfaction of being able to inform their Lordships that a Disposition having been made for landing the Army on York Island on the

Morning of the 15th, the Captains [Hyde] Parker [Jr.] and [James] Wallace, whose Abilities and distinguished Resolution point them out for the most important Services; with the Captains [Charles] Hudson, [Robert] Fanshawe and [Andrew Snape] Hamond, Officers of great Merit, passed the Fire of the Town of New York with their Ships on the Evening of the 13th, to wait off Bushwyck Creek, opposite to Kepp's Bay where the Landing was proposed to be forced, in the East River. The Flat Boats, Bateaux and Gallies under the Direction of Commodore Hotham, but arranged in Divisions commanded by the Captains [George] Vandeput, [Benjamin] Caldwell, [Archibald] Dickson, [Toby] Caulfield, [Charles] Phipps and [Anthony] Molloy, and the Lieutenant [John] Howorth of the *Eagle*; assisted by the Lieutenants [John] Henry, [Anthony] Parrey, [Henry] Chads and Bristow, Agents of Transports; were manned from the two-decked Ships and Transports as on the former Debarkation, and sent up at different times under the Shore of Long Island, undiscovered by the Enemy on the opposite Side.

Six Transports, which Messrs Robt Roughhead, Richd Fowler, John Randall, Tho: Brown, — Chambers and — Stuart, the different Masters, making a voluntary Offer of their Services engaged to conduct, were sent up the East River on the 14th, under the Direction of the Agent Lieutenant [John] Knowles, and Lieutenant Laird whose active Assistance in the most fatiguing Parts of the Debarkation-Duty, the Conveyance of the Artillery, has marked his Zeal for the King's Service in a particular Manner. They were appointed to take in a number of Troops from Bushwyck Creek for facilitating the more timely Support of the first Division embarked in the Flat Boats at New Town Creek.

The Pilots declining on Account of the Strength of the Tide, to take Charge of the particular covering Ships that were intended to be placed toward Hell Gate, for countenancing the Appearance of a Descent on that Part of the Coast, all the five were placed in Kepp's Bay on the Morning of the 15th and having by the Effect of their well-directed Fire compelled the Rebels to quit their Intrenchments upon the Shore, the Debarkation was made without further Opposition.

The General's public Acknowledgments addressed to the Commodore and the several Officers and Seamen employed, will be the best Testimony I can render of their meritorious Services on this Occasion.

In order to facilitate the Operations of the Army in the East River, another Detachment of the Ships of War was appointed, by the General's desire, to proceed up the North River; to give Jealousy to the Enemy on this Side. The *Renown*, Captain [Francis] Banks, with the Captains [Henry] Davis and [Thomas] Wilkinson in the *Repulse* and *Pearl*, were ordered for that Purpose. They passed the Enemy's Batteries without material Injury early on the 15th to a Station about six Miles to the Northward of the Town. On the ensuing Night the Enemy directed four Fire-Vessels in Succession against them; But with no other Effect than that of obliging the Ships to move their Stations, the *Repulse* excepted. The *Renown* returned to

this Side the Town: But the two Frigates remain still in the North River, with the *Tryal* Armed Schooner, to strengthen the left Flank of the Army extending to the Western Shore of York Island, as Circumstances will admit.

Since my last No 6, of which a Duplicate is herewith enclosed, the *Carysfort*, *Pearl* and *Tartar* from the St Lawrence are arrived, and yet remain here, to be employed as the Service may require.

The *Galatea* being the first Frigate which the State of Things, with respect to the Operations of the Army, has allowed me to detach for a Continuance to the Southward, Captain [Thomas] Jordan is under Orders to proceed off the Island of Bermudas; In quest of several small Privateers of the Enemy ranging the Stream of that Island to intercept the West India Trade. Concluding the *Nautilus* will be in great Want of Naval Stores as well as provisions and probably Repairs, I have sent Orders by the *Galatea* for Captain [John] Collins (if still at Bermuda) to join me at this Port.

In the Duplicate of your letter of the 23d of June by the *Galatea*, on the Subject of the large Supplies [of] Naval Stores provided, You mention, Sir, their Lordships Reliance that the Ships will be kept in constant Employment. I conceive from thence, that they will expect to receive some Report from me touching suitable Disposition of the Ships for effecting the intended Restraint upon the Trade of the Rebellious Colonies, and for suppressing the Armed Force fitted out from the different Ports along the Coasts of this extensive Continent.

It is with great Concern that I am still unable to make a satisfactory Return to their Lordships probable Expectations therein. But I flatter myself that my Deficiency will be deemed less singular, when they are pleased to consider the full Employment which a much inferior Land Force afforded for the Fleets that attended their Operations in the last War, Tho' I conceive, it is not from the Numbers in either Profession that a true Judgment of the Proportion they should bear to each other is to be deduced, But from the Nature of the Service to be carried on; the Country, and Communication. Seeing that from the Ships must be provided practised Men to be employed in Boats, for landing with the requisite Expedition, and transporting, the Troops, Baggage and Artillery; And, where Water Carriage is so much in Question, the Means also of intercepting the Enemy's Supplies: Besides the Protection of the Transports, on which the Existence of the Army has depended, so far as the Operations of this Campaign have hitherto advanced.

I shall dispose of the Supernumerary Men their Lordships have ordered out in the Hulks and Frigates, according to their Qualifications. And as Reference is had in your said Duplicate to the Provisions in the prohibitory Act amongst the Expedients their Lordships have in Contemplation for keeping the Complements of the Ships complete; I beg leave to observe of the Men to be so procured, that the Europeans are unquestionably the most preferable; And, from all I have yet experienced, the only Men on whom any Dependence is to be placed. The Prejudices the native Americans have

imbibed, disqualify them for every Trust. And the extravagant Advantages with which they tempt the European Seamen to desert, render their Continuance dangerous in the Ships. Wherefore, I presume to think no Aid can be derived from the Capture of American Ships at the present Crisis; Except in the Exchange of their Crews with the British Seamen now Prisoners in the different Colonies, upon the Plan submitted in my last Letter.

The Want of a sufficient Naval Force for the various Occasions consequent of the Movement of the Army, obliges me still to detain the Frigates on that Account. The State of many of them, and of the two-decked Ships is such, as will require their being sent to Europe or different Ports in the West Indies, when the Operations of the Army become more confined during the Winter Season: That they may be made ready with most Dispatch, for cruizing Service in the Spring. I may then be able to keep them fitted and employed in more regular Succession. But as no Port on the Continent is yet open for supplying the Cruising Ships with Water to the Southward, I must plead for their Lordships favorable Construction of my Endeavors to use the Means with which I have the Honor of being entrusted, to the best Advantage, according to the Exigencies of this complicated Service.

Due Attention will be given to the Contents of the Abstract of Lord George Germain's Letter to the Generals Carleton and Howe, respecting the Dismission of the Transports, as they can be spared. I flatter myself his Lordship will be satisfied from his subsequent Knowledge of the actual State of the Operations here, that no Want of Regard has yet been shewn to that highly interesting Consideration.

I have only to trouble you further as of immediate Consequence, with Relation to that Paragraph in your Duplicate aforesaid, concerning the Supply of Ordnance-Stores.

The Store-Ships referred to in Mr. [John] Boddington's Letter of the 9th of June, contained Articles suited principally to the small Armed Vessels and Frigates of the lower Class; But had neither Powder, Ball, or Cartridge, in any adequate Quantity for the Ships of superior Rates. Wherefore, but for the Ball the Enemy have left in and near the Town of New York, whereof the Numbers of 12 and 18 lb have not yet been ascertained, the Service of the thirty two and forty Gun-Ships would have been greatly confined. I have added a State of the Expence of Ordnance Stores in the Ships here, as a Rule for proportioning the future Supplies, which I am to request, thro' their Lordships Interposition, to have sent out by such safe and expeditious Conveyance, as the Importance of the Concern may induce. Proper Supplies of Medicines for the Fleet will be equally necessary; the Surgeons having no Means of providing Medicines in this Country.

I learnt on my Arrival here, from the Accounts Captain [Charles] Douglas transmitted to Vice Admiral Shulldham, the Progress of the Naval Operations under his Direction; And the Success of His Majesty's Arms in the Province of Canada. By the *Carysfort* and *Pearl* he let me know his subsequent proceedings to the 4th and 12th of last Month, as contained in the Copies of his Letters herewith enclosed. My Letter of the 13th of June, of

Colony of MASSACHUSETT'S-BAY, 1776.

WE the Subscribers, Do each of us severally for ourselves, profess, testify and declare, before GOD and the World, that we verily believe that the War, Resistance and Opposition in which the United American Colonies are now engaged, against the Fleets and Armies of Great-Britain, is on the Part of the said Colonies, just and necessary. And we do hereby severally promise, covenant and engage, to and with every Person of this Colony, who has or shall subscribe this Declaration, or another of the same Tenor and Words, that we will not, during the said War, directly or indirectly, in any Ways, &c., abet or assist, any of the Naval or Land Forces of the King of Great-Britain, or any employ'd by him; or supply them with any Kind of Provisions, Military or Naval Stores, or hold any Correspondence with, or communicate any Intelligence to any of the Officers, Soldiers or Mariners belonging to the said Army or Navy, or enlist, or procure any others to enlist into the Land or Sea-Service of Great-Britain, or take up or bear Arms against this or either of the United Colonies, or undertake to pilot any of the Vessels belonging to the said Navy, or in any other Way aid or assist them: But on the contrary, according to our best Power and Abilities, will defend by Arms, the United American Colonies, and every Part thereof, against every hostile Attempt of the Fleets and Armies in the Service of Great-Britain, or any of them, according to the Requirements and Directions of the Laws of this Colony that now are, or may hereafter be provided, for the Regulation of the Militia thereof.

Wm Reed
 Joshua Reed
 Moses Hammingford
 John Fidd
 Josiah May
 Benjamin Fidd
 Richard Cook
 Josiah Smith Jr
 Jacob Robinson
 George Fidd
 Thomas Hadley
 William Grimes
 Thomas Hadley

which I likewise trouble You with a Copy, will have informed Captain Douglas of my general Ideas in respect to the Appointment of the Ships under his Order at that Time. I have not yet had an Opportunity to forward any more particular Instructions to him in consequence of his later Informations. The necessary Preparatives for the Service on the Lakes will have detained him in the St Lawrence whilst the Season ad[mits] of his Stay there. And his diligent Attention to that Service will, I make no Doubt, engage further Testim[ony] of their Lordships indulgent Approbation.

To the other Papers enclosed, I have added [a] State of the Disposition of the Ships;² And am, With great Consideration, Sir [&c.]

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

2. See next entry.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 18th, 1776.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Arthur Donaldson, for £ 300, on acco't of the floating Battery building by him, to be charged to his acco't.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Wm. Perkins £ 3 18 1, for Blacksmith Work, done on board the Gallies.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 721.

Pennsylvania Gazette, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1776

Philadelphia, Sept. 18.

On Friday last arrived here from Martinico, the Continental ship of war the *Reprisal*, Lambert Weeks, Esq; Commander. On board of said ship came passengers several French Officers, who we hear are strongly recommended to the Honourable the Congress by the Governor of Martinico. One of them it is said is an accomplished Engineer.¹

Since our last a vessel arrived in this port with 2000 bushels of salt. The whole of it was immediately bought up by a respectable merchant of this city, who is now selling it out in small quantities, at a very moderate advance, for the benefit of the public.

Yesterday the Continental brig of war *Andrew Doria*, Captain Biddle, returned here from a cruize. We hear she has taken four prizes, viz. a ship and a brig, from Virginia, a [brig] from North Carolina; and a brig from Barbados for Newfoundland, which were ordered for any port they could get in to the Eastward.²

1. The engineer was Jean Louis Imbert, and the other French officers were: Marquis de Malmedy, Christian de Colerus and Jean Louis de Vernejous. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 783-84.

2. For names of Biddle's prizes see *Pennsylvania Journal*, Wednesday, September 18, 1776.

SEPTEMBER 1776

168

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS EMPLOYED IN NORTH AMERICA
UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL THE VISCOUNT HOWE" Continued

Rate	Ships Names	Guns	Men	Commanders	Appointments.
5	<i>Brune</i>	32	220	Capt: Ferguson	} In the Sound.
"	<i>Niger</i>	"	"	" Talbot	
Brig	<i>Halifax</i>	14	40	Lieut: Quarme	
5	<i>Orpheus</i>	32	220	Capt: Hudson	} In the East River.
6	<i>Carysfort</i>	28	200	" Fanshawe	
5	<i>Repulse</i>	32	220	Capt. Davis	} In the North River
"	<i>Pearl</i>	"	"	" Wilkinson	
[Armed] Vessel	<i>Tryal</i>	4	20	Lieut: Brown.	
Sloop	<i>Kingsfisher</i>	14	125	Capt: Graeme	} Between Staten Island and the Main.
"	<i>Tamer</i>	16	"	Lieut: Mason	
"	<i>Senegal</i>	14	"	" Curtis	
Schooner	<i>St Lawrence</i>	6	30	" Graves	
6	<i>Solebay</i>	28	200	Capt: Symonds	} Gone to St Vincents to convoy the Transports destined to bring the 6th Regiment from thence.
6	<i>Mercury</i>	20	160	Capt: [James] Montagu	} Appointed to Convoy the Packet and empty Transports destined for Europe, 300 Leagues into the Sea.
6	<i>Liverpool</i>	28	200	Capt: Bellew	} Off Boston.
"	<i>Milford</i>	"	"	" Burr	
6	<i>Cerberus</i>	28	200	Capt: Symons	} Off Block-Island.
"	<i>Syren</i>	"	"	" Furneaux	
Sloop	<i>Merlin</i>	18	125	" Burnaby	

6	<i>Active</i>	28	200	Capt: Hunt	- Off Cape Fear.
Sloop	<i>Falcon</i>	14	125	" Linzee	} At Cape Fear
"	<i>Scorpion</i>	"	"	" Tollemache	
"	<i>Cruizer</i>	8	80	" Parry	- Unserviceable.
6	<i>Sphynx</i>	20	160	Capt: Reid	- Off Savannah.
Sloop	<i>Raven</i>	14	125	" Stanhope	} At Savannah.
A: Vessel	<i>Cherokee</i>	"	30	Lieut: Fergusson	
6	<i>Lively</i>	20	160	Capt: Bishop	- Ordered to St Augustine.
Schooner	<i>Hinchinbrook</i>		30	Lieut: Ellis	} At St. Augustine.
"	<i>St. John</i>		"	" Grant.	
5	<i>Rainbow</i>	44	280	Capt: Sr G: Collier	- Ordered to Halifax
Sloop	<i>Savage</i>	8	80	" Bromedge	} At Halifax.
"	<i>Hope</i>	8	50	" Dawson	
"	<i>Albany</i>	16	125	" Mowat	
6	<i>Scarborough</i>	20	160	Capt: Barkley	} In the Bay of Fundy.
Sloop	<i>Viper</i>	10	110	" Graves	
Sloop	<i>Otter</i>	14	125	Capt: Squire	- Order'd to this Port from Virginia.
6	<i>Galatea</i>	20	160	Capt: Jordan	- Order'd to cruise off the Island of Ber-
Sloop	<i>Nautilus</i>	16	125	" Collins	muda - Ordered to this Port from Do

"DISPOSITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS & VESSELS EMPLOYED IN NORTH AMERICA
UNDER THE COMMAND OF VICE ADMIRAL THE VISCOUNT HOWE" Continued

Rate	Ships Names	Guns	Men	Commanders	Appointments.
4	<i>Isis</i>	50	350	Capt: Douglas	} In the River St Lawrence.
5	<i>Juno</i>	32	220	" Dalrymple	
"	<i>Blonde</i>	"	"	" Pownoll	
6	<i>Triton</i>	28	200	" Lutwidge	
A: Ship	<i>Bute</i>	20	110	" Parrey	
	<i>Lord Howe</i>	24	100	Lieut: Berkeley	
	<i>Canceaux</i>		55	" Schank	
Brig	<i>Gaspee</i>		30	" Scott	}
Schooner	<i>Magdalen</i>		30	" Nunn	
Brig	<i>Diligent</i>	—	—	Lieut: Dodd	— At the Island of St Johns
6	<i>Lizard</i>	20	160	Capt: Mackenzie	— Supposed to be refitting at Halifax

Eagle off New-York the 18th Day of September 1776. —

Howe

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487. Enclosed in Howe to Stephens, September 18, 1776.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1776

Philadelphia [September 18].

Yesterday arrived the Continental brig, *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Biddle, from a cruize, in which he took six vessels, viz. ship *Molly*, Brigden Goodridge, (late belonging to Mr. Jonathan Hudson, of Maryland) brig *Peggy*, [William] Cook, both prizes of Lord Dunmore's, bound from Virginia for Bermuda; brig *Elizabeth*, Capt. [William Ryson] Johnson, a prize taken by the English, from Cape Fear (North Carolina) for Bermuda; the brig *Lawrence*, Capt. [George] Layburn, from Barbadoes to Newfoundland, and two other brigs in ballast, from Virginia, with Tories, for Bermuda. The two latter, being short of water and, provisions, he let go.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZE SCHOONER *Peter* AND CARGO¹

On Friday next, the 20th instant, will be sold at public vendue, on or near Plumstead's wharff, Rum, Sugar, Coffee, Cotton, and Cocoa, the cargo of the prize Schooner *Peter*, condemned in the Court of Admiralty.

The said Schooner will be sold [at the same] place, as soon as the cargo is disposed of.

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 18, 1776.

SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR. TO JOHN ADAMS¹

Sir

Baltimore 18 Septr 1776

I hope youle excuse the Liberty of this Adress from a Stanger, which I presume to take on the Strength of my Brothers acquaintance with you, And he at present is from home. —

The Bearer John Sterrit Esqr my good Freind & Neighbr is Jointly with myself & some other Freinds Interested in the Privateer *Enterprize* of this Port, Capt [James] Campbel[1], who has sent in a Valuable Prize to Dartmouth in N.E, but as appears from the Prize Masters Letter to One of the Owners which Mr Sterrit will shew you, Capt Campl neglected to put a Copy of his Comn on board, & besides had taken all the Prizes Papers on board his own Vesl — The Reason of this may easily be collected from the Prize Masrs Letter, as Capt Campbel intendd to follow the Prize immediately to the Eastern Shore of this State. — From the Aforementiond Circumstances theres a possibility of some difficulties arising abt the Prize, wh The Owners woud wish to take every rational Means of obviating — For this purpose we have dispatchd an Express after my Bror who yesterday set out for Chincotegue where we have heard of Captn Campbels Arrivl with several other Prizes; to procure the Prizes Papers to be sent after Mr Sterrit who is directed to take a Copy of Captn Campbels Commission from Congs where it was taken out. — Shoud there be any Necessity for your Assistance in getting this done, I hope youle be so obliging as to render it. — But what I woud principally request of you is, the favr of a Line to some of your

Freinds at Boston who can serve Mr Sterrit shoud our Claim be litigated — Of several Correspondents wh My Bror & I had there, I have no Certainty where any of them are save Mr Black who is at Philada —

I have taken the Liberty of writing by Mr Sterrit to yr Freind Mr Saml Adams with whom I had the pleasure of Corresponding some times, but suppose his being there is uncertain.

I cannot introduce to yo a more firm Freind to his Country than Mr Sterrit, who woud gladly have Marchd as a Volunteer to New York, coud he have engaged the whole or the Majority of the Indepent Company of this Place whereof he is Captn to have gone with. His Brother a Youth of 19 Years who is now a Prisoner at Long Isld Commanded the Company whereof he is First Lieutt with remarkable Bravery — He is One of the most hopeful Young men I know. —

Mr Sterrit is accompanied by Capt Nathl Smith [captain of the] First Artillery Company of this State, And Comdr of Fort Whetstone on this River, an excellent Officer, and worthy Man. He told me he was formerly of yr Acquaintance. He is certainly no Dishonor to your Country from whence he came. Pardon this freedom & believe me to be with great Respect for your Person & Character [&c.]

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Wednesday. September 18th 1776

Permit was granted to Josh Hayman Commander of Sloop *Betsy* to go to Caian [Cayenne], or any other foreign Port.

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to Captn James Nicholson five hundred & fourteen Pounds for Pay of *Defence's* Ship's Crew. —

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to Captn Jams Nicholson nine hundred & thirty four Pounds, eight shillings and eight Pence Curry on Acct of *Defence*

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

CERTIFICATE OF CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON¹

I do hereby Certifie that Mr Thomas Walker has served as first Lieutt of Marines onboard the Ship *Defence* myself Commander, and as such, did his Duty as an able Officer, Dureing which Service it appeared Mr Walker had been brought up to the Sea, and as he is desireous of Serving in that department, think him exceeding worthy of promotion —

James Nicholson

Annapolis Sept^r 18th 1776. —

The particular promotion I would Recommend him to, is one of the Arm'd Vessels, or Gundeloes

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 28, HSP.

VICE ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO THE CHEVALIER FRANCIS DE MONTEIL¹

[Copy]

On board His Britanick Majestys Ship the
Antelope in Port Royal Harbor Jamaica

Sir/

September 18th 1776

I have the honor of your Letter by Monsr Desfarge de la Valtiere, your Second Lieutenant concerning a Vessel belonging to His Britanick Majestys Rebellious Colonies in North America which has been Seiz'd by his Ship the *Squirrel*

I beg leave to acquaint you that after the repeatd assurances which have been given from all the Foreign Powers to His Britanick Majesty of not Interfering or affording protection to His Rebellious Subjects, I am greatly surpriz'd at the part of your Letter wherein you say "You flatter yourself, that I shall think it very natural for the Schooner to avail herself of the protection afford'd her by your Court" which is very contrary to the assurances subsisting between the two Crowns

In respect to this Vessel when His Britanick Majestys Ship saw her, she was a considerable distance from the Island of Hispaniola and was chased so near it before she was taken

I have always given particular directions to the Captains of the Kings Ships under my Command never to approach near any French or Spanish Possessions, but in cases of the greatest urgency (and in those Cases it has been Customary for his Most Christian Majestys Ships to come into our Ports, where they have always met with every Assistance required it being my most sanguin wish for the good understanding at present Subsisting between the two Nations to be maintain'd[])

As this Rebel Schooner has been Seiz'd in consequence of His Britanick Majestys directions and sent into an English Port, 'tis not in my Power to deliver her up, and as 'tis a National matter must be settl'd by our respective Ministers, which I shall take the earliest opportunity of laying before mine for my Kings information. I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem [&c.]

Clark Gayton

To The Chevr de Monteil Commander in Chief; of His Most Christian Majestys Ships Station'd at & about the Island of Hispaniola –

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

19 Sept.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Watertown] Thursday Sept 19 1776

On Motion Ordered That William Seaver Esqr Agent for the Southern District be and he hereby is directed to deliver to Thomas Ludlow a prisoner taken in the Sloop *Elizabeth* of which he was Master and Owner such

Articles of Cloathing and Household Furniture as the said Mr Seaver shall judge Necessary for the said Ludlow and his Family he the said Ludlow giving a Receipt to be Accountable for the same when Demanded.

On Motion Ordered That James Bowdoin Esqr William Seaver and Walter Spooner Esqrs be a Committee to determine the Cruize of the two Armed Sloops under the Command of Capt John Foster Williams & Capt John Clouston and Report.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 236, 237-38.

ORDER BY MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL FOR SUPPLIES FOR THE
STATE ARMED VESSELS AT DARTMOUTH¹

In Council [Watertown] Sept 19 1776

Ordered that Benjamin Austin Esqr be and hereby is appointed and Impowered to provide the Vessells of War Commanded by Capt [John Foster] Williams & Capt [John] Clouston² with such stores Cannon & other Articles as may be necessary to Equip them for the Sea and the Commissary General is hereby directed to Supply the said Vessells out of the Public Store with such Things as by said Austin shall be required of him and Wm Watson Esqr of Plimouth who has been appointed Agent to take Care of the Stores belonging to the *Rising Empire* Capt [Richard] Welden late Master is hereby directed to furnish the said Vessells with such Articles out of the Stores of Brig *Rising Empire* as he may be directed to supply by the Said Austin and it is further orderd that Benjamin Austin be & is impowered to order either of the above named Vessells to sail to Plymouth & there take on board & transport such Stores & other [provision] there to the Harbour of Boston

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 243.

2. Williams commanded the Massachusetts state sloop *Republic*, and Clouston, the state sloop *Freedom*.

"INVENTORY OF SUNDRIES FOR CAPT [JOHN] CLOUSTON DLD BY
COMMIS[s]Y GENL SEPT 19TH"¹

Boston 1[9]th September 1776

To Carpenters Stores For the Sloup *Freedom*

To one 100 foot of Oake Planke — two Inches
To 200 foott of Jack pine planke
To 60 foott 4 Inch planke Oake
To 50 Weight of Spickes 6 Jackes Long
To 28 pound of Decke Nails } 1 Iron tiler
To 1000 Drawing Nails }
To 1000 Shingle Nails
To 1000 Clap Board Nails
To 10 pound pump Leather 2000 pump Nails
To jake plaine To one Smuthing plain

To one 100 foott pine Boardes

2 H head Rum

2 Boults Duck

Watersail & Ring [S]aile & Gafe topsaile } Brig at Plimo[uth]
& topmast stering saile }

4 Dubel blocks Iron pins & bras cogs

To sundre hucks & thimbles & Boults for deck & Ring –

1 Yales 17 feet 1 Iron harthe abd the Brig at Plymo

2 Tons Broken Cannon for balust

1 Anchor abt 200 lb. wt for hauser of 6 In.

1 one [Iron] Graplain abd the Brig

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 242.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1776¹

Boston, September 19.

Last Saturday was sent into Cape Ann, by the Schooner *Warren*, Capt. William Coas, a Ship of 400 Tons Burthen, called the *Picary*, commanded by Breckholt Cleaveland, bound from Tobago to London, having on board 325 Hogsheads Sugar, 161 Bales Cotton, 118 Pipes, 29 Hogsheads and 10 Quarter-Casks Madeira Wine, and some Indigo. And,

On Monday Evening last was also sent into Cape Ann, by the *Warren*, a Brig of about 120 Tons, mounting 8 Carriage Guns and 10 Swivels. She was bound from the Coast of Guinea, but last from Tobago, bound for London, with some Elephants Teeth and Gold Dust²

When the above Brig left Capt. Coas, he was in pursuit of a Ship.

Yesterday arrived in this Harbour from Swanzey (where they were lately built) two armed Sloops in the Service of this State, having 12 Carriage Guns, 6 Pounders, 20 Swivels, and 75 Men each.³

Monday last returned to Plymouth, Captain Samson [Simeon Sampson], after a short Cruize, in which he has taken five Prizes, three or four of which are arrived safe in Port.

Yesterday se'nnight arrived at Newburyport the Brig *Georgia Diana*, Peter Rigan, Master, bound from Grenada to London, taken by the *Washington* Privateer, Nathaniel Odiorne, having on board 60 Hogsheads Rum and Sugar, and about 20 chaldrons of Coal, &c. &c.

1. Beginning with this issue the *New-England Chronicle* became the *Independent Chronicle*.

2. Brigantine *Swallow*.

3. The sloops *Freedom* and *Republic*.

SALE OF PRIZE SHIPS AND CARGOES AT BEVERLY, PLYMOUTH AND BEDFORD ¹

New Advertisements.

Sales At Auction.

Of the following Cargoes of Prize Goods, On Wednesday, 25th September, At Ten in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Vendue, at Beverly, opposite Salem.

The Ship *Isaac*, with her Cargo, consisting of 600 Hogsheads and Tierces of Muscavado Sugars, 150 Bales Cotton, 40 Puncheons Rum, and 30 Tons Fustick, four Carriage Guns, with Carriages compleatly equipped.

On Tuesday, the 8th October next, at Ten in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Vendue, at Plymouth,

The Cargo of the Brigantine *Carolina Packet*, viz. 151 Hogsheads, 12 Tierces and 10 Barrels of Sugar, 10 Hogsheads of Rum, and 14 Tons of Lignum Vitae and Fustick.

And, on Friday following, being the 11th of October, at Ten in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Vendue, at Bedford, in Dartmouth,

The Cargoes of the Ship *Charming Sally*, of the *Snow Ann*, and of the Brig *John*, consisting of 634 Hogsheads, 51 Tierces and 61 Barrels of Sugar, 118 Bales of Cotton, 90 Hogsheads and 2 Tierces of Rum, 40 Bags of Ginger, and 25 Tons of Fustick.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, September 19, 1776.

DIARY OF BENJAMIN MARSTON¹

September the 19 was taken by the *Eagle* Privateer Capt Elijah Freeman Paine commr in Lat:41.2 on the eastern part of George's Bank.

The Names of the Officers on board the *Eagle* Privateer as she is call'd

Elijah Freeman Paine Commr

1st Leiutt

Smith 2d Lt

Dodge master & Owner

Isaiah Parker Barnstable Prize master on board the *Earl Percy*²

1. Marston Diary, UNBL.

2. The schooner *Earl Percy*, 30 tons, Nathaniel Atkins, master, was libeled in the Admiralty Court of the Southern District of Massachusetts, October 24, 1776, for trial at Plymouth on November 12, 1776, *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, October 24, 1776.

ACCOUNT OF DANIEL BUCKLIN AGAINST THE PRIZE SHIP *Eagle*¹

Providence Sept 19 1776

Ship *Eagle* To Daniel Bucklin Dr

August

14	To Cash For quarter of Mutton	£0..2..2
15	To Cash for Do	0..1.10
17	To Cash for Do	0..1..9
16	To Cash for Do	0..1..9

Septr

4	To Cash For 500 Nails	0..5..0
	To Cash Paid Thomas Wait for 14	} 1.10..0
	Day Servis on Board down the River	
5	To one Gallon of Rum	0..6..6.

6	To one Gallon of Rum	0..6..6
	To Paid London Hoggers for 1 Day Work	0..6..0
	To Paid Samuel Holland for 1 Day Do	0..6..0
	To Paid Amos Richards for 2 Days Do @ 4/6	0..9..0
	To Paid Richard Lowden for 3 days Do 6/	0.18..0
	To Paid Prince Power for 1 Nights Watdch	0..4..6
7	To Paid Sullivan for 6 Day Work @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Ned Hunt for 6 Do a 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Thomas Pitman for 6 Do @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Jno Wade for 6 Do @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid James Croke for 6 Do @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Isac Sarson for 6 Do @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Henry Rokes for 6 Do @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Wm Lin for 5 Do a 6/	1.10..0
	To Paid James McSoley for 6 Do a 6/	1.16..0
	To Paid Danl Man for 2 Do @ 6/	0.16..0
	To one Weeks Work My Self @ 6/	1.16..0
	To Cash Paid Jose & Wm Russell for Use of His Scales	4..0..0
9	To Paid Cato Rogers for 7 Day Work a 6/	2..2..0
	To Paid Cug Rome for 3 Day Do a 6/	0.18..0
	To Paid James Russell for 4½ Do a 6/	1..7..0
	To Paid Wm Bardine for his Bill for Provisions [illegible] Down the River	0.17..0
	To Paid James Croke for [18] Day attendance on board	2.14..0
	Card over	£ 35..3..0
Ship	<i>Eagels</i> acct Brought over	£ 35..3..0
	To Pade Benoney Pairs for 5 Days waying @ 12/	3..0..0
	To Pade Wm Cozens Bill for mending & maken Ginger Bag	0.16..0
	To Pade John Wade Isaac Pairson & Henrey Rokes 5 Days Worke Each onbending & Drying Sail[s] as Capt Bordens acct @ 4/	2..8..0
	To Pade Henrey Rokes & John Wade for Careying home the Scales & Wates & maken the Ship fast	0..6..0
	To Pade Richard Goseling for 5 Days Work @ 6/	1.10..0
		£ 43..3..0

[Endorsed] Octr 9th 1776 – Recd of Theodore Foster Forty Three Pounds
Three shillings Lawful Money in full for the foregoing Account
£ 43..3..0 Daniel Bucklin ²

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

2. Late commander of Rhode Island privateer sloop *Montgomery*.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹

[Extract]

Ticonderoga September 19th 1776.

. . . I am much pleased with the Disposition you have made with the Fleet confident it is the Best. General Waterbury is indefatigable infitting the Gallies; and if he is not detained for want of proper Rope for Breechings, I see nothing can stop them, more than a Week atmost. This will be deliver'd you by Captain [David] Hawley: General Waterbury thinks you will immidiately appoint him to the Command of the *Royal Savage*; he takes all his Seamen with him; Mr. Avery writes you by this Conveyance and explains the Article relative to Provisions; sufficient of both Fresh and Salt, shall be sent you by the Gallies. . . .

1. Gates Papers, Box 19, NYHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION¹

Die Jovis, 9 HO. A. M.

[Fishkill] Sept. 19th, 1776.

Capt. Samuel Tudor, one of the superintendents for building the Continental ships at Poughkeepsie, attending, delivered in a letter from General Schuyler, dated Albany Sept. 17th, 1776, and directed to Messrs. Van Zandt, Tudor and the other gentlemen to whose care the building of the frigates at Poughkeepsie is committed, wherein the General informs those gentlemen that he received a line by express from General Gates informing him that he is in the greatest distress for the cordage mentioned in a list inclosed in the said letter for the use of the row gallies, which are the greatest strength of our naval force on the lake.

Capt. Tudor requested the opinion and advice of the Convention on this subject.

Resolved, That as a naval strength on Lake Champlain is an object of the utmost importance, and will greatly contribute to the security of America, that the agents for building the ships at Poughkeepsie be directed to supply such and so much cordage as General Schuyler requires, and that this Convention will justify them to the Honourable the Continental Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 633.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[New York] 19th Sept A great number of flat boats were brought up to Greenwich on the North River last night.

The *Rowbuck*² of 44 Guns came down the North River this Evening, and in passing Paulus hook, was fired at from thence — only 3 shot struck her, but she received no material damage. The other ships remain up the River in a line with our advanced post.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 57-58.

2. The *Renown*; not the *Roebuck*.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM ANTHONY HALSTED, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

Jersey, Hospital Ship, off Red Hook near New York.

Sir,

19th September 1776.

You will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, That I arrived with his Majesty's Ship under my command at Halifax the 7th July, in a distressed situation after a tedious and fatiguing passage of nine Weeks.

We parted Company with the Commodore the 28th of May in a heavy Gale of Wind westerly, and we by our account about 330 Leagues to the Westward of the Start. the Ship complaining much in all her Upper works fore and aft, but more particularly forward; was under the necessity of fraping her in four or five different places, two across the Forecastle the others in the Waist. The weakness of the Ship forward encreased and became very alarming so that it was absolutely necessary something should be done to relieve her. On the 29th in the Morning I consulted with my Officers and it was unanimously agreed to cut away the Bower Anchors, and to stave and throw overboard the flat botom'd Boat. after which we experienc'd a most sensible alteration in the Ship for the better, for before, every lee Lurch that she took we had the disagreeable prospect, of seeing the upper Works of the Forecastle carried away with the Anchors, And had the Gale continued twenty four hours longer, I will venture to assert that we should not have had a Mast standing, for both main and fore Channel Bolts work'd out in such a manner, that I myself hauled one of the main ones out by hand. — The 31st we join'd the Commodore, at which time I was much indisposed, but communicated to him by Letter the state and Condition of the Ship, and at the same time enclosed a Copy of the visible defects taken by the Carpenter the Day before agreeable to my Order. — He ordered his Carpenter on board, with his Mate, and with the Carpenter of the *Jersey* to survey the Ship, A Copy of which Survey, with a Copy of that taken by the Carpenter of said Ship 30th May, I have delivered in to Lord Howe. — We parted Company again the 3d of July in a very thick Fogg and a strong Gale, and from the Guns that were fired supposed the Commodore had brought too with his Head to the Eastward, we being at Noon of that Day by our reckoning 30 Leagues to the westward of Cape Sambro, at half past 7 that evening it cleared up and only one Sail in sight. The next Morning I opened my Rendezvous and found it to be for Halifax. I accordingly made the best of my way, and arrived there as before mentioned where I stayed twenty Days to refit If I may be allowed to give it that appellation. — We sailed from thence the 27th and Anchored without the Barr off Sandy Hook the 14th of August in the Evening, and on Saturday forenoon joined Lord Howe off Staten Island. — This is the first opportunity I have had of transmitting to their Lordships any account of the Ship since my leaving England, but do suppose his Lordship may have made some mention of her to the Board of Admiralty by a Pacquet which sailed from Sandy Hook a fortnight since and that so suddenly that she was under way in two Hours

after I received the intelligence and the *Jersey* at that time laying four Leagues distance from her, So that I flatter myself their Lordships will not think me guilty of any omission. – I am with all due respect. Sir [&c.]

W^m Anth^y Halsted.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/1902, 14, 18.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, September 19, 1776

The Board of Treasury reported, that they have examined the vouchers brought into their office by Joseph Hewes, Esqr. one of the Naval Committee, by which it appears, that the Naval Committee have expended the sum of one hundred and thirty four thousand three hundred and thirty three dollars and 27/90 of a dollar in fitting out eight armed vessels.

Resolved, That the same be allowed and passed to the credit of the said committee.

The Naval Committee having laid before Congress an account of sundry outstanding debts, and of sundry goods by them purchased, and put into the hands of different persons who have not yet accounted for the same,

Resolved, That the said account be delivered to the Marine Committee, and that they be directed to take effectual measures to have the said outstanding debts collected and accounts settled.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 782–83.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] September 19th, 1776.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay John Knox £ 19 4 11½, for Rum supplied Workmen on board the Galleys *Congress* & *Franklin*.

Resolved, That Mr. John Coburn be directed to appear before the Board to-morrow morning at 10 O'Clock, to render an Account of all the necessarys he has had in his care for Sinking the Chevaux De Frize & the piers at Fort Island, and also to settle his Account.

Resolved, That James Maul be appointed a Pilot to carry Vessels thro' the Chevaux De Frise, in the room of Daniel Gordon, Deceased.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 722, 723.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Thursday. Sepr 19th 1776

Ordered That commissary of Stores deliver to Captn Cooke two Bolts of Oznabrigs for the Ship *Defence's* Use.

The following List of Effects was delivered to the Board by Colonel Waters, which were taken off the Islands in Somerset County.

- 3 Clincker built Boats
- 2 Casks of Train-Oil
- 200 wt of old Iron, or thereabouts
- 1 Long Boat
- 1 Flatt.
- 1 Large Long Boat
- 1 Yawl
- 2 Hogsheads Rum
- 1 Small Schooner, that will carry about 200 Bushels. —

Ordered That the Flatt and Large Long Boat be sent to Annapolis by the first convenient opportunity. — and that the other Effects in the above list mentioned be sold at public Sale to the highest Bidder under the direction of Colonel Peter Waters after ten day's notice given of such Sale, and that the money be lodged in the hands of the Treasurer of the Eastern shore, subject to the order of Convention. — and Colo Waters is requested to cause any repairs to be made, that may be necessary to the abovementioned Flatt.

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

“A LIST OF THE OFFICERS & MEN ON BOARD THE SHIP *Defence* THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER ANNO DOM. 1776 GEO. COOK COMMANDER”¹

Henry Auchenlick	1st Lieut	John Berryman	Gunner
John Burnell	2d ditto	Henry Rentford	do Mate
James Cordray	Master	William Piercey	Yeoman
John Hall	Chief Mate	James Arne	Qr Gunner
Nathaniel Cooper	2d ditto	Matthew Murray	Armourer
Levin Langle	3d do	George Rowen	Master at Arms
Peter Sharp	Midshipman	William Beauchamp	Carpenter
James Rownds	ditto	William prince	do Mate
Archibald Douglass	ditto	Alexander	
William Carter	ditto	Cummings	Carpentr Crew
Francis Muir	Capt Clerk	William Howard	ditto
James Glashy	quartr Master	Nathan Ross	ditto
disrated Octr the		Joseph Dunbar	Cooper
23d		Joseph Burge	Ship Steward
John Wright	ditto	Francis Jackquelin	Cabin ditto
James Falconer	ditto	James Gaggen	Cook
Charles		James Green	Armrs Mate
Chamberlane	ditto	Francis Hurburt	Able Seaman
Anthony Hanson	Boatswain	Alexander Duffey	ditto
Benjamin Simpson	ditto	Rated Qr Master	
John Barr	ditto	Oct 23d	
James Hawkins	Yeoman	James Hogan	ditto

Joseph Walpole	ditto	Benjamin	
James Gifford	ditto	Thompson	ditto
James Allen	ditto	Jacob Sutton	ditto
William portus	ditto	John Vaughan	ditto
Colin Brown	ditto	Abram Strong	ditto
John Valiant	ditto	Moses Scott	ditto
William Gaggen	ditto	Timothy Kelly	ditto
Dennis Larkins	ditto	John Smyley	ditto
Thomas Howard	ditto	Bazil Smith	ditto
William Hurburt	ditto	Robert McDonald	ditto
Christopher Short	ditto	John Davis	ditto
Alexander		William Adair	ditto
Nicholson	ditto	Thomas Buckley	Cabin boy
David Primrose	ditto	James Brown	ditto
William King	ditto	Nathan Dorsey	Surgeon
John Knight	ditto	Samuel Church	ditto Mate
Henry Carberry	Able Seaman	Francis Muir	purser
William Flemming	ditto	Garret Brown	Capt Marines
John Crapper	ditto	Thomas Walker	1st Lieut
Joseph Jones	Ordinr Seaman	Joseph Smith	2d ditto
Hoshier Cole	ditto	William Morris	3d ditto
Henry Gilbert	ditto	William Radford	Sergeant
Thomas Gilbert	ditto	Vachel Yates	ditto
Robert Fosset	ditto	Michael Craig	ditto
Dennis Folsue	ditto	William DeCoursey	ditto
Richard Sutton	ditto	Thomas Roberts	Drummer
Patrick Cole	ditto	William Matthews	Corporal
Charles Blunt	ditto	Alexander Stanton	ditto
Daniel Nevin	ditto	Ezekiel Disney	Private
Robert Hope	ditto	Robert Conway	ditto
Thomas Green	ditto	Michael Conway	ditto
James Barry	ditto	William Bishop	ditto
John McIntyre	ditto	William Grantham	ditto
Samuel Wolf	ditto	John Schea	ditto
James Bradford	ditto	Charles McNealis	ditto
William Trott	ditto	Simon Trainer	ditto
Joshua Ozier	ditto	William Askins	ditto
Lynn Surmer	ditto	John Squible	ditto
James Collins	ditto	William Judges	ditto
James Green	ditto	John Power	ditto
Thomas Moore	ditto	Benjamin Sutton	ditto
Abel Mason	ditto	John Garvey	ditto
Richard Cockey	ditto	Morgan Murphy	ditto
Samuel Wilson	ditto	James Codey	ditto
Joseph Dennis	ditto	Conrad McGuire	ditto
John McKennie	ditto	John Grant	ditto

Bartholomew		James Armstrong	ditto
Deloray	ditto	John Wilson	ditto
Thomas Crow	ditto	William Huggard	ditto
John Donavin	ditto	James McGill	ditto
Moses Greer	ditto	Phillip Handly	ditto
Robert Wilmott	ditto	Waltely Masters	ditto
Henry Carr	ditto	Barny McManus	ditto
William Porter	ditto	William Davis	ditto
John Lemmon	ditto	James Smith	ditto
Edwd Gibbons	ditto	Clement Tossuir	Loblolly boy
William Sohan	ditto		

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

20 Sept.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN LANGDON AND DANIEL DRINKWATER ¹

Memorandum of Agreement, That I Daniel Drinkwater of North Yarmouth in the County of Cumberland & State of Massachusetts Bay Mariner, do Contract & Agree to & with John Langdon of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham & State of New Hampshire Merchant to deliver or cause to be deliver'd, to the said Langdons order the following Spruce Spars — (vizt) Four of Sixteen Inchs each of Fifty eight feet in Length & Three Ditto of Twelve Inches or upwards & not less than Sixty feet in Length suitable for Booms — as soon as possible, for which said Drinkwater is to be paid Six pence Lawf My P Inch for as many Inches as they measure on the delivery of the same at Portsmouth aforesaid — Witness my hand September 20th 1776 —

NB. The above Contract is for the Continental Use —

Daniel Drinkwater.

1. John & Woodbury Langdon Papers, NHHS. The spars were probably for the Continental ship *Ranger* being built by Langdon.

“A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH
TO THE LATTD OF 33:” ¹

Fryday September the 20 Day A D 1776

Latter Part Fryday Morning Calm the Wind at NE Put
About steering NW. Lattd In By Observation: 37: 9 :
First Part these 24 hours Good Weather the Wind at NE
Saw A Ship Bearing SSW Run for Her One Glass Hald by
the Wind Again the ship fir'd A Gun to Windard A
Jumbling sea A Going Our Mast is sprung Badly Went to
Work & Fish'd Him Got Him stedy Againg the Wind Dies
out oars Went to Rowing

1. RIHS.

PETITION OF OFFICERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SCHOONER
Diligent TO THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

To the Honl Council of the State of the Massachusetts Bay the Petition of
 the Followg Persons

Humbly Sheweth

That We your Petitioners have Serv'd this Colloney in Diff't Depart-
 ments on Board the Schooner *Dilligente* John Lambert Commander since
 the 16th March last which we are sorry to say to little advantage to the
 Publick or Ourselves. We therefore beg that your Hons woud take it into
 your Wise Consideration and Honourably Acquit us, Discounting for the
 time Serv'd or place us in some way wherein we may serve the General
 Cause of America and Ourselves, as we cannot be so happy in any other
 way as in the Defence of the Country But in the Channel we are now in
 we cannot make ourselves Easy Unless we are lost to a Sense of all Honour
 & Justice, as all the Privates have left the Vessl but as to yo[ur] Petition-
 ers we are not willing to leave the Service Unless it meets with the Sanc-
 tion of your Hons Approbation. We therefore beg leave to Enquire the Rea-
 son of the Detainment of our Wages, is the Captures we brot in Unlawfully
 taken or is it for Embezzelments, or are we Accountable for the Captains
 Conduct when our Commissions from your Honours obliges us to Obey his
 Commands If we are Impeach'd with any thing being Conscious of our In-
 nocence we beg to be Brot to an Immediate Tryal by which means we Doubt
 not of being able to Acquit ourselves with Honr and to your Satisfaction as
 we Esteem our Honour Dearer than our Intrest or even our Lives we there-
 fore heave ourselves at the feet of your Honours hopg youll Consider our
 Distress'd Situation in so Expensive a place as this, havg Allready ex-
 pended a great part of our Wages in the Pursuit of them, we therefore pray
 we may no longer be kept in Suspence but have an Immediate Ansr that we
 may not loose our [wages] and time, in Complying with which we shall Es-
 teem ourselves under the greatest Obligations & as in Duty Bound shall
 ever Pray

John Obrien 1st Lieut
 Willm Perkins 2d Lieut

Joshua Wing Master
 Peter Clark Comr Marines

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 20[th] 1776. Read & Ordered
 that Walter Spooner & Saml Holton Esqrs be a Comittee to take the within
 Petition under Consideration & Report

John Avery Depy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 246.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO CAPTAIN JOHN CLOUSTON¹

The Sloop *Freedom* Under your Command being in all respects
 Equiped in Warlike Manner, & being also well & properly Man'd, so as to
 enable you to proceed on a Cruize —

You therefore, are directed to range the Eastern shore of this State laying between the River Piscatqua & Machias, in Order to Clear that Coast of any of the Enemies Cruizers, that may be Infesting the same, & from thence proceed to the Mouth of the River St Lawrence & their Cruise untill the first of November Next, in Order to Intercept any of the Enemies Vessels that may be passing that way, and from thence you must proceed to the Coast of Newfoundland, and there Cruise untill the middle of November aforesaid in Order to Surprise & Seize such Vessels of the Enemy as you may Meet with upon that Coast or in any of the Harbours of the same after which you may proceed upon a Cruise as far to the Southward as Latt 38° North & continue upon said cruise so long as you find it practicable or expedient and then you are to return to the Harbour of Boston, Always using every Necessary Precaution to prevent the Sloop under your Command from falling into the hands of the Enemy — You are to Observe & follow such Orders & directions as you shall from time to time receive from Capt Daniel Souther — provided they are Consistent, with the Instructions now given You —

And Whereas You have Received a Comission, by Force of Arms to Attack seize & take on the high Seas, all Ships & other Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of Great Britain or Others Infesting the Sea Coast of this Continent, you are therefore punctually to follow the Instructions Already Delivered you, for regulating yr Conduct in this Matter & in all things Conduct your self Consistent with the Trust reposed in you —

In Council [Watertown] Sept 20 1776 In the name & by Order of Council

John Avery Dpy Secy²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 251.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 19, 242, on September 21 the Council ordered that similar instructions be issued to Captain Souther of the brig *Massachusetts*.

ISAAC MILES TO CAPTAIN JOHN UPDIKE¹

Sir

Milford Sept 20th 1776

I recd your favr of the 17 Inst and observe the Contents, as to the Sloop of yours she is in our harbour loaded with Coal & I have seen Capt [Charles] Pond² & he informs me he cant do anything about it & says he has applied to Colo [Benjamin] Tupper³ to know what shall be done with her & his answer was to let her lay at present. Sir I should think it best to apply to Congress, or to Nathl Shaw of New London as Agent for Congress, Sir if I can be of any Service at any Time to you shall at all times be ready to serve you — from Sir [&c.]

Isaac Miles

Copy

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

2. Commander of the Continental sloop *Schuyler*.

3. Tupper was in command of the various armed vessels operating under Washington's direction at New York.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Niger*, CAPTAIN GEORGE TALBOT¹

Septr: 1776 Moor'd off Whitestone
 Sunday 15 Mode Breeze & Fair Wr At 10 P M sent all the Boats
 Man'd & Arm'd to join the Army a great Firing about
 Hell Gate
 Monday 16 Fresh Breezes & Fair Wr Firing as Yesterday
 Tuesday 17 at 8 A M the Boats & People Return'd except the Large
 Cutter the Army having Landed on York Island wth Very
 little loss
 Wednesday 18 At 8 A M came onboard two Deserters from the Rebel
 Army sent them to Head Quarters
 Thursday 19 Fresh Breezes & Cloudy Wr
 At 7 P M was hail'd from the N Shore sent a Boat to Do
 which Return'd with a Rebel Officer a Deserter from their
 Army
 Friday 20 A M Anchor'd here the *Halifax* from the Et Wd sent the
 Reble Officer to Head Quarters
 P M sail'd hence the *Halifax* & 2 Tenders to the Et Wd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/637.

CAPTAIN JOSHUA HUNTINGTON TO JABEZ HUNTINGTON¹

[Extract] Camp Near Kings Bridge Sept. 20 [1776].

I Understand that our Family are Concerned in a Privateer from N London.² I told Brother And'w I should be glad to be Concerned £ 100 L. M. Should be Glad to know Wheather he has Engaged any Part for Me or not, as I Expectd if he was Concerned to take a Part with him.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, XX, 44, 45.

2. *Brig Ranger*.

COMMISSIONERS FOR RESTORING PEACE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN¹

My Lord

New York 20th Septr 1776

We are sorry to inform your Lordship that the Infatuation and Perseverance of the People and their Leaders, have hitherto afforded no opportunity for the effectual Operation of the Civil Commission with which His Majesty hath been pleased to charge us:

The Determination of the Congress to discourage amongst the Colonists every Idea of Reconciliation with Great Britain, except upon their lately assumed Ground of Independency and their Assertions, insidiously circulated that the Objects of Our Commission were confined to the declaring of Peace and the granting of Pardons, as specified in the Prohibitory Act, have induced us to publish a Declaration of which the inclosed is a Copy

It is calculated Your Lordship will observe, to apprise the Colonies, that the Effect of the King's most gracious Intentions towards them, is obstructed by those in whose hands they have entrusted their Government, and that therefore it now becomes them to turn Arbitrators of their own Interests and Happiness

As this Declaration is published while the Rebel Army as well as the Province is labouring under Disappointment and many Sufferings, occasioned by the rapid and successful Progress of His Majesty's Forces, we are not without hopes of its producing some Good, although we do not yet perceive any Symptom of that Disposition to Allegiance and Submission to legal Government which would justify us in expecting to see the publick Tranquillity soon restored. We have the honor to be My Lord &c

Howe
W. Howe

Inclosure — Declaration of the Commissioners for Restoring Peace dated 19th of September at New York

[Endorsed] Commissioners for restoring Peace/ (No 2) Rd 3d November

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/229.

JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 20th.

The *Renown* returned back again to the fleet, and though she passed close in with New York shore, yet as there was very little wind, above 40 shot from our battery were fired at her, many of which took effect. She lay all next day upon a careen to repair.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

THOMAS JOHNSON, JR. TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gent.

Phila 20th Sept 1776.

I inclose you a Letter from Mr [Richard] Harrison which came under Cover together with a Bill of Lading for 74 Casks of Gunpowder each 50 wt in the *Nancy* Capt Cirvin, [George Curwen] to Messrs Willing & Morris We have ordered the powder into Mr Hollingsworths Care and requested him to forward it to you — The Bill of Lading is for the Delivery of the Goods on Paymt of 46.5— in Dollars at 7/6 but the Owner of the Vessel alledges on agreemt with Mr Harrison that the customary Freight should be paid nothing of the Kind is mentioned in Mr Harrisons Letter to Willing & Morris will you be pleased to write us whether Mr Harrison had advised you of it and what you would have done — The Claim is 10 PCt on the Powder valued at 5/ p lb which comes to just double the Money mentioned in the Bill of Lading. I am Gent very respectfully [&c.]

1. Red Book, IV, Md. Arch.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN JOHN YOUNG¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] September 20th 1776

The Sloop *Independence* of which you are appointed Commander being now laden, compleatly fitted, armed, victualled and manned, You are to proceed with said Sloop and Cargo for the Island of Martinico putting into Fort Royal or St Piers just as the winds and other circumstances point out for the best. On your arrival at either place you must enquire for Mr William Bingham our resident in that Island, should he be at the place where you put in, deliver to him the sundry dispatches now committed to your care, should he be at any other part of the Island you will send an express to inform him of your arrival, & that you have such dispatches which you are directed to deliver into his own hands. He will then repair to you immediately, and you must comply with his Orders by landing the Cargo wherever he may direct, You must also consult with him and be advised by Mr Bingham in all things that respects the Interest or honor of the united states in the concerns of their sloop under your command. If you put into Fort Royal and Mr Bingham is not there, you must wait on the general and inform him you belong to the United States of America, ask the liberty of the Port and protection during your stay there. If you put into St Piers and dont find Mr Bingham wait on the Governor and Intendant observing the same conduct. If Mr Bingham is present he will direct what you are to do on these points. You are to consider the French and all nations but Great Britain as the Friends of these United States and conduct yourself towards them accordingly and during your stay in any French Ports be particularly attentive to the behaviour and prudent conduct of your people. You are to receive on board the Sloop any arms, ammunition or other goods Mr Bingham may order receive from him also his dispatches and then proceed back for this Port. You are to consider that we are anxious for you to make an expeditious voyage, notwithstanding which as you are well armed and manned and the Sloop sails fast, we do not forbid you chasing such Vessels either going or coming as you think may become your Prizes for this purpose you have a Commission, a book containing the Resolves of Congress respecting Prizes which you must strictly conform to, and a list of the Continental agents to some of whom you must Address any Prize you take. Should Mr Bingham find it necessary to detain you any time, and he and you should think it adviseable to make a short cruize during that Time, we do not forbid it, but take care not to fall into the enemys hands. It is an Object with us that you should pick up and bring home with you as many Seamen as possible, the more the better, and you may enter all you get on the same pay and terms as those you carry out. —

You must sling our dispatches to Mr Bingham, and on your return, his to us, with a weight sufficient to sink them and always keep them ready to be thrown over board should you unfortunately be taken for you must not let these Packets fall into the enemies hands on any Account. You are to afford reliefe or assistance to any of the subjects of the united States that

want it if in your power, unless proof should Appear that they are inimical to their Country and its cause. You are authorized to take, burn, Sink or destroy the Vessels and property of all British Subjects except those residing in Bermuda and New Providence, but we recommend humanity and politeness to be inseperable companions of the officers in the Continental Service. It is necessary you should be careful of the Sloop her materials and Stores, diligent in the discharge of your own duty and careful to make your officers and men perform theirs — Strict in discipline but attentive to render the service agreeable to all concerned in it.

We expect you will be frugal in expences and on your return furnish us with duplicates of your Logbook and Journal giving also a Satisfactory Account of your voyage, and when you approach this Coast, keep a good look out as you may expect many of the enemies Ships will be Cruizing for plunder. If you cannot get in here you may push for any of the Inlets or other place of safety the nearer to this the better. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 20-21, NA.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO WILLIAM BINGHAM ¹

Sir

Philada Septemr. 20th 1776

You will find inclosed herein Invoice and bill of Loading for hhds of Tobacco and Tons barr Iron which we have Shipped on board the Sloop *Independance* John Young Master for Martinico Consigned to your order for Sale on accot. of the United States of America, you will please to have this Cargo sold to the best advantage and Credit the Secret Committee for the Neat proceeds, We hope the Brigt *Cornelia & Molly* Capt Lockhard arrived Safe, and that you will have placed the Neat proceeds of that Cargoe also at our Credit — the two Sloops were very Unfortunate adventures —

You will charge the Cost of the Arms and powder you Sent by the *Reprisal* Capt Wickes to this Committee but if you apply any part of our Consignments to making the Needfull Supplies for the *Reprisal*, *Independance* or any other Continental Vessell, you Must Remit us drafts on the Marine Committee for amount of such and if you make any to private Ships we charter and Send to your address, then Remit us the Captains' drafts on the Owners for such Amount, and if you apply any part to pay your Own expences or other necessary charges Relating to the bussiness of the Committee of Secret Correspondence Send us your drafts on them for Such amount by this means we can keep perfect accots and each department will Answer for its proper disbursments

We inclose you herein a List of Medicines which we are ordered to import for the Continental Service, pray collect any part you can get in the West Indies and send them here Soon as possible, and at the same time send a Copy of the List forward to Mr Thomas Morris and desire him to order the full quantity from Europe to your Care which you'l forward as soon as they arrive, We request you to send us all the good Arms & Gun locks,

W A R R A N T.

THE MARINE COMMITTEE appointed by Congress,
to equip and fit out the Fleet of the United ^{States} Colonies, having
received such Recommendations as satisfy them, that you

are duly qualified for the

Office of

WE have

therefore appointed you the said

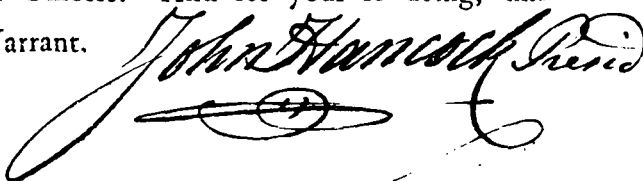
to be

on board the

hereby giving

you full Power to execute the Office aforesaid, agreeable to the Rules
and Regulations of the Sea Service, and such Orders as you may
receive from your superior Officers. And for your so doing, this
shall be your sufficient Warrant.

Dated at



Powder, Gun Flints, Salt petre, Sulphur Sail Cloth, Blankets, or other Wool[e]n goods you can possibly get, by return of the Sloop *Independance* & we Shall keep making you further Remittances to enable your paying for whatever you buy in the Service of these States: — With the best wishes for your health and Success. We remain Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

Josiah Bartlett

Richard Henry Lee

Phil. Livingston

Fra^s Lewis

Copy

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 19, HSP.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE¹

In Marine Committee

[Philadelphia] September 20th 1776

Resolved

That Captain Esehiah [Isaiah] Robinson be appointed Commander of the Brigantine *Andrew Doria* in the Room of Cap Biddle

Extract from the Minutes

By Order of the Committee

John Brown

1. FDRL.

MINUTES OF THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE¹

[Philadelphia, September 20, 1776]²

Resolved That Francis Varrell be Appointed Boatswain of the Frigate *Washington* commanded by Thomas Read Esquire — and the Commander of the *Alfred* is desired to discharge him.

John Hancock by order

1. Harbeck Collection, HUL.

2. The date is approximate. Varrell had been loaned from the *Alfred* to the *Andrew Doria* on August 8, 1776, and the latter had returned to Philadelphia from her cruise on September 17. Esek Hopkins, in a list which probably was sent to the Marine Committee with his letter of June 19, had recommended Varrell as "Boatswain for one of the Ships in Philada." Hopkins Papers, RIHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Sept'r 20th, 1776.

Samuel Mifflin, Esq'r, declined serving as Commodore & Com'r-in-Chief of the Fleet of this State.

Mr. Nesbitt was directed to pay Capt. Jos. Blewer 50s. for scraping the Galley *Convention*.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 724.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentn

Philada 20 Sepr 1776

The Bearer hereof James Maul informs me there is a Vacancy in the Cheveaux de Frize Pilots — I take the liberty therefore of recommending him to your honorable board as a person well qualified for, and deserving of the birth — I have the honor to be Gentn [&c.]

Rob^t Morris

1. NYSL.

CAPTAIN THOMAS FORREST'S PETITION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹[Philadelphia, September 20, 1776]²

The Petition of Thomas Forrest Sheweth.

Your petitioner having the Honour Conferd on him by the honourable Body the late Committe of Safety of an Appointment of Capt of marines on Board the floating Battery Now Riding at anchor at fort Island.

That your petitioner finding by daily experience that Marines on board the floating battery are Quite useless

Begs Leave [() If this Honourable Body Cannott Comply with the Request made by your petitioner for permission to Go to New York) to Offer himself as a Candidate for the Command of the Floating Battery now Building for the defence of this State

And your petitioner as in duty Bound will Exert himself To the good of the Service of this State & to the appointment honour

Thomas Forrest

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 5, Box 27, HSP.

2. The date is approximate. The Council of Safety, on September 21, appointed William Brown commander of the new floating battery. Forrest, on October 5, 1776, was made a captain in Proctor's Battalion of Pennsylvania Artillery.

CUMBERLAND DUGAN TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore 20th September 1776.

Having a large quantity of bread belonging to the publick on hand already bak'd, and a vessel to dispose of, that we think must answer your purpose, thought it most proper to advise you thereof. She is a large schooner that will carry about eleven hundred barrells flour, completely found ready for sea, a good sailer & as tight as a bottle, the price we ask for her is £850 — that if she will any way suite you beg you'll advise me immediately for my government, as if she does not answer you, hope very shortly to dispose of her to some people of this place; dare say the quantity of bread we have baked belonging to you, together with what Mr Spear has baked for you will intirely load this vessel, and if immediately sent out must certainly come to a good market almost any where. I myself am just now returned from Boston where I have been on a visitt to my friends there, where I

found both bread & flour very scarce and high, indeed scarcely any to be got, not one barrle of sweet flour was to be had in the whole town of Boston and bad as it was sold quick at 4 Dollars p cwt: I think this Vessel of ours loaded with a cargo of bread in bulk to go to Boston must answer well with a little flour, and for return could purchase West India goods of any Kind very low, as they are falling still lo[w]er every day from the great quantities of prizes that are constantly comeing in to them. I was myself for several days at there public sales of prize cargoe, where I saw great quantities of sugars, spiritt rum, Coffee, cotton, &c. sell very low indeed or if them articles would not answer it appears to me there might a great deal of money be made on a cargo of salt. I see it sell in Boston at 4/ p bushl by the quantity, and it was thought by most people there it would be lower, as a great many of their vessels were gone after salt, thinking it will be scarce and dear which is thought there will not be the case, that I really believe salt may be bought as low in Boston as any where we can safely send for it, as there is many circumstances in favour of a vessels getting there safe. from there good forts on Nantaskett and other heighths near which no Kings ships will dare to come, and their coast is so much of an iron bound one (so caled) that no ship will dare to lay off there this time of the year. This vessel of ours will carry about four or five thousand bushells of salt, which would be a very handsome back freight, and she is extreemly well adapted for the purpose of carrying salt being a very boyent vessel that will not load too deep. I hope Gent you wo'nt imagine I intend to dictate to you what should be done in these matters, as you undoubtedly do know much better than I Can think or imagine; but several of my friends here advised me to write to this purpose, what I knew of these matters, which I hope you wo'nt take amiss, as so great a quantity of bread being ready and much in our way, want to make more room & a get it out while they bay is clear. Your favouring me with a line on this subject immediately will very much obledge me, and if I can in any wise serve you in loading this vessel shall be extreemly glad of the favour, in which hope I act to your approbation in every respect. Gent your [&c.]

Cumberland Dugan.

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

RICHARD GRAVES' BILL FOR BUILDING THE MARYLAND
PRIVATEER BRIGANTINE *Sturdy Beggar*¹

1776 Dr Messrs Kennady McKeel & Co To Richd Graves

For a Brigg 127 1/3 Tonns of Measuremts a £6	£764. . . . -
Walnutt Transoms Aprons & dead Wood	12. . . . -
24 feet 4 In Oak Plank 8/ - 24 ft 3 In Do 6/ -	} 14. . . .
- for port Sills	
A Beam & Knees for Sparr Deck	1. . . . -
An Extra Breast Hook	15. . . -
- Extra Sparrs Vizt -	

2 Top Gallt Royals [44] ft Long	1.10..-
1 Spare fore Top Mast -33 Do	1.13..-
An Extra Crutch at Midships the Topsail & Fayg	5..-
172 ft 1/2 Oak Plank for ports	1.15.10 1/2
13/4 Lead Ln for Scuppers	4..-
2 Days work of the foreman on port Sills a 10/.	1..-..-
9 Do of a Carpenter - a Do -	} a 7/ 4..5..9
1 1/4 Do of Do Cuttg down the String	
1 Do of D[o]. on Sparr deck	
1 Do of D[o]. fayg an Extra Breast Hook	
14 1/2 D[o] of Joiners plaing Bottom & Sides a 6/6	4.14..3
5 1/2 Do of Labourers - Do do	} a 4/6 5.14..9
15 1/2 do of do Scraping Bottom & Sides	
33/4 do of do paying the Bottom	
1/2 Do of do Boring & driving Bolts	
in the Extra Breast Hook -	
1/4 do of Do Boring & Driving Bolts	
on the Sparr deck	
27 lb Bolts for Extra Breast Hook 28 lb Pump Hooks	
10 lb Bolts for Bowsprit By 3 1/2 lb eye Bolt fo Do	
16 Middle & 16 Toe Links fo Chain Plates Wt 160 1/2 lb	
16 Chain Bolts W 87 lb 14 lb Dead eye Strap	
16 Preventer Plates W 47 lb 16 Do Bolts W. 60 lb	
14 lb Bolts f[or] Cutwater 13/4 Lb Do for Gaft	
5 lb D[o] for Sparr deck 20 1/2 lb pump Gallows	
9 1/2 lb do spear 4 lb Bolts f Boom 16 lb do fo Sheep lethers	
25 1/2 lb Mast Hoops 16 pr port Hinges W 112 lb	
2 1/4 lb Bolts for Mast Checks 3 lb spikes fo Do	
5 lb Bolts fo Mast Step a Stirrup fo D 10 1/2 lb	
8 lb Ring Bolts . 45 Hooks & thimbles W 63 1/4 lb	
17 thimbles Wt 7 3/4 lb 8 1/4 lb Bolts fo Bowsprit	
16 lb Crow Barr	
- Totale Weight 769.1b 8 a	25.12..8
4 Scrapers 16/ - Rivetg & Nailg a Pump Box 1/ -	} 1..5..6
Rings & Rivetg & Bolts in Boom & Triple trees 3/	
2 Pump Bolts 1/ - a Marline spike 3/9	
Rivetg a Pump Box 9 - -	
16 1/4 Gal Rum a 6/ 97/6 allowance 7 1/2 Cr. Waistg 7/6	5..5..-
an Express fr Hartford to Baltimore - -	1..-..-
3 Qua[rter] Lamb 7/3 - 2 Bush Wheat Meal 11/	18..3
Accommodation of Thos Stainbank 19 days	1.13..3
a Jugg 3/6 Maull 5/ - a Pewter disk 4/11	13..5
Liquor at Launch P Kennadys Order	3..-..-
A Cutwater & fixg the Head	15..-..-
	£ 853..9..8
Amount brought over	£ 853..9..8

Errors Excepted Worton 20th Sepr 1776

Errors Excepted P R Graves

[Endorsed] Recd this 24th of September 1776 from John Kennedy & John McKeel Eight Hundred & fifty three Pounds Nine Shillings & Eight pence in full of the within Account for Building the Brigg *Sturdy Begger* -²

P Richard Graves

1. Marine Miscellany, LC.

2. Brigantine *Sturdy Beggar* of 24 guns, crew 100, John McKeel, commander; owned by Lux & Bowly, Baltimore, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, XIV, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Friday. September 20th 1776

Ordered That Captain Vernon Hebb and Mr Timothy Bowes, or either of them dispose of, for the use of this state, such Part of the Captures lately made out of Dunmore's Fleet, that may be deemed perishable or wasting. -

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Friday September 20th 1776.

The Brigantine *Adventure* now lying at York, with Tobacco, designed by order of the Committee of Safety for Dunkirk, being in an unfit condition to proceed on such a Voyage. It is Ordered that she proceed to Portsmouth, there to unload and refit, and after relading, that she proceed to Cape Nichola Mola, instead of Dunkirk, as a more desirable mart in the present circumstances of things. And the Commissioners of the Navy are directed to carry the design of these Orders into Execution.

A Permit was issued to the Schooner *Polly* Captain Earle to go to Martinico, a Manifest of her Cargo being filed, and ordered to be registered.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 168, 169.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Friday 20th September 1776. -

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt William Saunders a Speaking Trumpett, an hour Glass & Twenty Yards of Bunting for the use of the Schooner *Adventure* -

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Ciley Saunders two half hour Glass's, three pounds sewing Twine, one Compass, one speaking Trumpett & one dozen sail Needles [illegible] for the use of the *Lewis Galley*. -

Ordered that the keeper of Public Store deliver unto Capt James Markham two half hour Glass's one Compass, a Speaking Trumpett, one dozen sail Needles and a spie Glass for the use of the *Page Galley*. -

Ordered that Mr Augustine Moore be requested to deliver unto Capt Francis Bright such Anchors as he may want for the use of the Brig *Nohampton* –

Ordered that Capt Francis Bright take from the Capitol Landing Fifty four pound Shott for the use of the Brig *Nohampton* –

1. Navy Board Journal, 59–60, VSL.

ST. GEORGE TUCKER TO JOSIAH YOUNG¹

Sir,

Bermuda, Sepr 20th 1776.

I take the Liberty of requesting your Care of two Hhds of Rum shipt by me on board of the *Dick Cole*, John Seymour Master, and consigned to Mr Matthew Phripp Merchant in Norfolk Virginia – Should Necessity compel you to go to any other part of the Continent you will be so obliging as to dispose of them for my Account, and remit the Proceeds of the same to Mr Matthew Phripp in Norfolk in good inland Bills of exchange, which I apprehend you will find no Difficulty of purchasing at present. I heartily wish you a good Voyage, & am, Sir [&c.]

St George Tucker.²

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.

2. *Ibid.*, in a letter this date, Tucker requested Phripp to use the proceeds from the sale of the rum to pay off some long standing debts in Virginia.

DEPOSITION OF FREDERICK SUND¹

Jamaica ss/

Frederick Sund of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Surry and Island of Jamaica, Mariner late belonging to a certain Sloop call'd the *Morning Star* being duly Sworn maketh Oath and Saith that on the Thirtieth day of April last the said Sloop *Morning Star* was laying at Anchor near the Bar of Black River on the Mosquitto Shore, And this Deponent further saith that two Guarda Costas belonging to His Most Catholick Majesty the *Pacifico* of Fourteen Guns, commanded by Don Juan Castello, and the *Recurso* of twelve Guns command'd by Antonio Yepe under Dutch Colours, bore down upon the said Sloop while at Anchor as aforesaid (she having English Colours hoist'd) whereupon the said Guarda Costas haul'd down the Dutch Colours and the *Pacifico* haild the said Sloop *Morning Star* and ask'd "from whence came ye" and being answer'd "from England & Jamaica" she again askd "Have you any Flour or other Provisions" only for our own use And after so hailing the said Sloop they the said Don Juan Castello, & Antonio Yepe, came onboard the said Sloop & the said Don Juan Castello, askd "who the Vessel belong'd to" he was answer'd "to Messrs Irving & Blair" "what is the Masters Name", and he was answer'd David Millar, who is onshore And this Deponent further saith that as soon as they the said Don Juan Castello, and Antonio Yepe came onboard the Sloop *Morning Star* they order'd the English Colours to be Haul'd down

which was accordingly done & then ask'd if there were any amunition on-board when they were answer'd only some Powder and Musquets for our own use and they also ask'd "Have you sent any Powder onshore" and they were answer'd "Some to the Superintendant at Black River"

And this Deponent further saith that after their said Questions were answer'd the said Don Juan Castello order'd some Arm'd Men to come on-board who by his Command tyed the Sloops crew two by Two (except David Robinson the Boatswain who continued onboard the said Sloop some days after) and put them onboard the *Pacifico*, while the Spaniards took Possession of the said Sloop *Morning Star* & proceeded to Porto Bello and from thence to Carthagená from which last mention'd Place this Deponent made his Escape

Sworn before me

this 20th day of Sepr 1776

J: French Custos &c Kingston

[Endorsed] (A Copy) Clark Gayton

his
Fred X Sund
mark

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Gayton to Stephens, October 8, 1776. See petition of Charles Irving and Alexander Blair, September 21, and Volumes 4 and 5.

21 Sept.

WAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN STEPHEN CLEVELAND AND WILLIAM HERRICK¹

Salem Sept the 21^t 1776

it is this Day agreed Between Stephn Cleveland of the one part in behalf of the Continent By order & Consent of Jno Bradford Esqr Continental agent and William Herrick on the other part for him Self, that I Sd Cleveland in Behalf as Before Sd Doth by these presents agree to Give the Sd Herrick the Sum of four pounds Sixteen Shillings Lawfull money for Each & Every month from this Date till the Brig *Dispatch* Be armed for & in behalf of the Before Sd., then the Sd Herrick to be intituled to the Same wages & prize money agreeable to the Rank of a Lieut or master which we may then agree on, I the Sd Herrick on my part do by these presents in Consideration of the above haveing one months advance now paid me do agree to perform all Reasonable Duty Both Before & after the *Dispatch* be armd that he the Sd Cleveland may from time to time Require of me the Sd Herrick²

this instrument interchangably
Sined & Seald in presents of us }

Isaac Williams

Ann Jeffry

Stephⁿ Cleveland
William Herrick

1. Records of Armed Vessels 1775-76, III, Book 18, BHS.

2. See John Bradford to Robert Morris, October 19, 1776.

POWER OF ATTORNEY GRANTED BY OFFICERS AND SEAMEN OF
WASHINGTON'S SCHOONER *Franklin*¹

Know All Men by these presents that We whose names are hereunto subscribed, Officers & Mariners on board the armed Schoonr *Franklin* John

Skimmer Commr have constituted & appointed & do hereby constitute & appoint John Bradford Of Boston in the County of Suffolk & State of the Massachusetts Bay Esqr Our Lawfull Attorney, for Us and in our stead & for our Use to prosecute for, demand & receive of all & every Person whatsoever, and in all Maritime & other Courts for Us to appear & demand, sue for & Recover our full shares of all prize Vessells, Prize money, Tackle Furniture Goods Merchandi[s]e & every kind of Prise property that may be & shall be taken in the Cruise in said Schooner untill our Return to Boston aforesd hereby satisfying & confirming whatsoever our said Attorney Shall do or cause to be done to all Intents & Purposes, as much as if We his Constituents were present

In Witness whereof We have hereunto Sett our hands & Seals this
21st day of Septembr 1776 —

Signed, sealed & dd.

in Presence of Us

Tho^s Jackson

John Lambert Junr

John Skimmer —

W^m Addiscott.

Edward Ruddock

Nathaniel Chadwick

his

Clement X Severy.

mark

Joseph Souther.

John Lewis

Witness Tho^s Jackson
William Bradford
to John Lewis }

1. C. E. French Collection, MassHS.

ABIGAIL ADAMS TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

[Braintree] Sepbr. 21 1774 [i.e. 1776]

... The Portsmouth Ship has been waiting for Guns these six weeks. Had an unkle of ours and several other merchants I could mention had the care of her I dare say she would have long ago had Guns. Private adventures can get Guns even for large Briggs. — The *Boston* formerly the *Zechary Bailly* which was taken as a prize and bought by private persons has been fitted out, her Guns made and purchased long since the other ought to have saild.²

So it is we dream away opportunities by misplaceing Buisness.

1. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, II, 129–30.

2. The *Zachariah Bayley*, taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Yankee* and condemned in admiralty court July 30, 1776, was purchased by Paul Dudley Sargent and others of Boston. She was renamed the *Boston* and commissioned September 24, under the command of Captain William Brown. She was armed with 22 guns, and had a crew of 210 men. *New-England Chronicle*, July 11, 1776, and Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 100.

POWER OF ATTORNEY GRANTED BY OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE RHODE ISLAND PRIVATEER SLOOP *General Greene*¹

To All People to whom these present shall come John Garzie of East Greenwich in the County of Kent and state of Rhode Island &c. Commander of

the private Sloop of war called the *General Greene* and others Subscribers hereto being officers & privates of and belonging to the same Sloop now Returned from a crusing Voyage against the Enemies of the united States of America send Greeting —

Know ye that we the Subscribers have made ordained authorized Constituted and Appointed & by these presents do make ordain authorize, constitute and appoint William Arnold of East Greenwich aforesd Gentleman our true and Lawfull Agent & Attorney for us & in our Name and to our Use to Ask demand and Receive our Devidend and Devidends part & parts Share & Share Pourtion, & proportion of all prizes. prize Goods wares Merchandizes Effects and things whatsoever that shall be Seized captured & into port come or be sent by the sd Private Sloop of war her Captain Officers and People and in Our Name the same to implead prosecute and pursue either in courts of Law or Equity to final Judgment Confiscation and Condemnation and on receipt thereof Acquittances or other sufficient discharges for us and each of us and in our name & Names to make seal and deliver and to do all lawfull Acts & things whatsoever Concerning the premeses as fully in every respect as we ourselves and each of us for himself might or could do if we and each of us were personally present, and an Attorney or Attornies under him for the purpose aforesaid to make and the same at his pleasure to Revoke and remove And we & Each of us for himself do hereby promise and Covenant to Ratify allow and Confirm all and whatsoever our said Attorney Shall in our Name lawfully do or Cause to be done, in and About the primeses by Virtue of these presents In Witness whereof we have hereunto Set our hand and Seals the Twenty first day of September Annos Dommini 1776.

Sealed and Deliver'd

in presence of

John Garzia
Philip Peirce
Fran^s Bradfeild
James Eldred
Nicholas Mathewson
Benj Brown
William Howard
Levi Pearce
Darrill Jones
William Burlinham Ju
Joseph Hopkins
William Spink
Nathan Millerd
Josiah Hopkins

Spink Tarbox Cooper
his
John X Tayler
Mark
his
Sam^{ul} X Young
mark
his
Tho^s X Rogers
mark
Gideon Tanner
Stephen Briggs
Sam Rogers
Mychel More
Benjamin Capron

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1776.

Providence, September 21.

The Privateer *General Greene*, of East-Greenwich, and the Privateer *Harlequin*, of Baltimore, have taken a Jamaica Ship, of 310 Tons,¹ and sent her into a safe Port: Her Cargo consists of 372 Hogsheads of Sugar, 82 Puncheons of Rum, 36 Pipes and 4 Hogsheads of Madeira Wine, 1800 Pounds Weight of Copper, &c. This Ship we hear sailed in Company with a large Fleet, convoyed by two Men of War, one of which was soon to leave them; the other, said to be a dull Sailer, was to proceed with them to Europe.

1. The *St. James*. Same issue of *Providence Gazette* carries libel filed against this prize.

MAJOR GENERAL JOSHUA BABCOCK TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

[Extract]

Westerly 21st Sepr 1776

Sir We arriv'd at N York 13th current, in Concert with John Collins Esqr waited on General Washington with the other Genl Officers, just after Dinner 3 Frigates & a 40 Gun Ship (as if they meant to attack the City) sail'd up the East River under a gentle Breeze towards Hell-Gate & kept up an incessant Fire, assisted wth the Cannon at Governrs Island: The Batteries from the City return'd the Ships the like Salutation: 3 Men agape, idle Spectators had the Misfortune of being killed by one Cannon Ball, the other Mischief sufferd on our Side was inconsiderable saving the making a few Holes in some of the Buildings; one Shot struck within 6 Foot of Genl Washington, as He was on Horseback riding into the Fort.

At Parting with his Excellency [Washington] Saturday Afternoon 15th Instant [*sic* 14th] He promised us a Letter to yr Excellency. . . But the Trobles gathering fast from the Landing of the Enemy under the Thunder of their Cannon which was on Sunday Morning 16th [*sic* 15th] his Excellency from his closest Attention to his Command then found it impracticable. . . .

. . . on Sunday-Morning 5 more Frigates saild up the East River, anchor'd near the 4 former (which with Wallace, who was there before, augmented their Number to 10) at the same Time 3 Capital Ships went up the North River, causing a most tremendous Firing, assisted with the Cannon on Governor's Island, discharging to no Purpose against our Batteries, tho' they made a few Holes in some of the Buildings, which Firing was return'd on our Side as well as could be from the Scantiness, in & about the City, of heavy Cannon – The Bulk having been carried to a Hill about 4½ Miles South of Kings Bridge, whereat an impregnable Fortress was begun & well nigh perfected, & which could not be annoyed by the Enemies Ships.

1. Letters to the Governor, vol. 8, R. I. Arch. Babcock was an officer in the Rhode Island militia.

LIBEL AGAINST THE BRITISH PRIZE-SCHOONER *Hannah and Elizabeth*¹

State of Connecticut, ss.

New London County

A Libel is filed before Richard Law, Esq; against the Schooner *Hannah & Elizabeth*, Burthen about 45 Tons, lately commanded by Ronald Bruce, said to belong to the Subjects of the King of Great-Britain, and fitted out by the Subjects of the said King of Great-Britain, from the Island of Barbados, in the British West Indies, loaded with Rum and Sugar, and bound to Halifax; which said Schooner, &c. was taken and brought into the Port of New London, by Robert Niles, in the armed Schooner *Spy*, belonging to the State of Connecticut. — The Court erected to try and condemn all such Captures, will be held at Norwich, in the County aforesaid, on the 6th Day of November 1776, at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon, to try the Justice of said Capture; of which this Notice is given pursuant to the Laws of this Colony, that the Owners of said Ship [*sic*], or any Person concerned therein, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the said Schooner and her Tackle Apparel and Furniture, with her Cargo, should not be condemned as lawful Prize.

New London, Sept 21, 1776.

Per Order of the Judge,
Wint Saltonstall, Regst'r.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 4, 1776.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES¹

Dear General

Bay St Amont Sepr 21st 1776

My last was the 18th Inst by Lieut [Benjamin] Whitcomb, the next day at Noon weighed Anchor with the whole Fleet. which Arived here the same Evening, this is a fine bay. & good Anchorage, two Leagues to the No wd of Cumberland Head, on the West shore, the *Liberty* was ordered to Cruise of[f] the Isle a La Motte untill 2 oClock, & then Join the Fleet On her return, opposite to the Isle a La Motte, a Frenchman came down, & desired to be taken on board, the Capt Suspected him, & went near the shore with his Boat Stern in, Swivels pointed & match lited, the Frenchman waded near a rod from the Shore, but when he found he could decoy the Boat No further he made a Signal, to the Enemy when three, or four, hundred, Indians, Canadians & Regulars rose up & fired, on the Boat, they wounded three Men, the Boat returned the Fire with their Swivels, & Small Arms, & the Schooner fired several Broad sides of Grape, before they dispersed tho several were seen to fall — On their way down They Discovered a large Party of Savages on the Western Shore, they imagined Two, or three hundred — they have a large Number of light Burch Canoes, with which they can pass us in the night, & in the day Time Secure them in the Bushes, it will be Dangerous sending down, single Boats, I have Sent up the *Liberty* to Guard the Return Boats & bring down the Medicine, &c the Surgeons can be of no use to us without, Capt [David] Hawl[e]y is appointed to

the *Royal Savage*, I must renew my request For more Seamen, & Gunners, there is a plenty of the former in the Army, provided they have liberty of Inlisting, tho it is a bad prescident, this emergency will Justify the measure—

I am greatly at a loss what could have retarded the Gallies so long, I verily believe If we are Attack'd this fall by the Enemy. it will be in the Course of a week — or Ten days — the want of those Gallies may decide the Contest against Us —

I am surprised our Intelligence from New York is so imperfect, I hope we shall soon hear the particulars — The Tobacco Papers were delivered me I will endeavour to send them soon The Articles I wrote for in my last. I hope will be Sent if possible. — I have sent up Mr Dunn to Collect. the Shot. & other Articles I want, & bring them Down — We had an exceeding hard Gale here the 20th & a prodigious sea. the Gallies Rode it out beyond my expectation, I have sent Two Boats, to sound round the Island Valcouer, who report, that, it is an exceeding fine, Secure harbour I am determined to go there the first fair Wind, as the fleet will be secure. & we can discover the Enemy If. they Attempt to pass us up the East Bay On the Back of Grand Isle — I make no doubt you will approve of this measure, If. not I will return to any of my former Stations, We are as well prepared for the Enemy, as our Circumstances will Allow, they will never have it in their power to Surprise us — the Men are Daily trained to the Exercise of their Guns, & if Powder was plenty I would, wish to have them fire at a Mark with their Great Guns Often — at present we cannot Aford it — I wish the Workmen could all be employed, on One Gally & finish her first, that Something might be Added to the fleet I cannot help thinking that they are hindering each other, their was all the Materials sufficie[nt] for One when I came away, I hope they will Not mount Twelve pounders. if Eighteens, or Twenty fours, can be procured — I am with great respect & esteem [&c.]

B Arnold

P S. The Draughts from the regts at Tionderoga, are a miserable Set, indeed, the Men on board the fleet In General, are not equal to half their Number of good men — B A —

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION¹

Die Sabbati, 9 HO. A.M.

[Fishkill] Sepr. 21st, 1776.

A letter from Genl. Washington was read and follows, vizt:

Head-Quarters,

Heights of Harlem, Sepr. 20th, 1776.

Gentn. — Having reason to believe the enemy will attempt to gall us with their ships of war from the North river as soon as they are ready to open their batteries against the front of our lines, which we expect them to erect with great industry, I beg leave to mention

that I think it may be of immense consequence if your Honourable Body will order down some of your fire ships, which may lay just above the obstructions in the river under cover of the guns of Fort Washington, where they will be ready to act in case the ships should attempt to come up.

Hurried and surrounded with a thousand things, I have only time to add, that

I have the honor to be, with great esteem, Gentn. [&c.]

Go. Washington.

On reading the letter of His Excellency General Washington of the 20th instant, requesting this Convention to order down some of their fire ships to lay just above the obstructions in the Hudson's river.

Resolved, That the two fire ships charged by Captain [John] Hazelwood, be immediately despatched to Fort Washington, or near it, And,

Ordered, That Gilbert Livingston, Esqr. or any other member of the committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river who may now be at Poughkeepsie, do immediately despatch the two fire ships prepared and charged by Captain Hazelwood, with proper persons to navigate them under cover of the guns of said fort, and there deliver them to the care of such person as His Excellency Genl. Washington has or shall appoint to take charge of them.

Ordered, That a copy of the above resolution and order be despatched to his Excellency General Washington, and another copy to Gilbert Livingston, Esqr.

A draft of a letter to His Excellency, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

Sir — The Convention have received your Excellency's letter of Sept. 20th, and have, in consequence, entered into the enclosed resolution, which I am directed to transmit. We are sorry that it is not in our power to send down more than two fire ships, as they have no more charged in such a manner as to be dependend on.

A committee of correspondence has been established by the Convention, for the purpose of communicating to and receiving intelligence from the army. The express will receive orders to call upon your Excellency daily, and any commands or intelligence which your Excellency may think proper to transmit, will be thankfully received and punctually attended to, by

Your Excellency's [&c.]

By order.

To His Excellency Genl. Washington.

Die Sabbati, 4 ho. P.M. Sept. 21st, 1776.

A letter from Thos. Randall, Esqr. one of the marine committee, dated at Elizabeth Town, the 7th Sept. was read and filed.

A letter from Thos. Quigley, mate of the privateer *Putnam*, dated at Cranberry inlet, the fourth instant, was also read and filed.

The petition of the officers and mariners of the said vessel of war, was also read and filed.

It thereby appears that there is a mutiny on board of the said vessel, and the mariners and crew demand their wages and refuse to continue in the said vessels under the command of Capt. Thos. Creiger.

Ordered, That those papers be deferred for consideration.

Resolved, That the secret committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, be empowered and directed to purchase and impress for the service of this State, any number of vessels not exceeding six, which they shall think best calculated for the purpose of completing the obstructions in Hudson's river opposite Mount Washington; that they cause an appraisal of said vessels to be made by persons under oath, in the most equitable and expeditious manner possible, in order that satisfaction may hereafter be made by this Convention to the owners of such vessels; and it is recommended to the said committee to request the services of Capt. Thomas Greenell in ballasting and navigating, and delivering those vessels to Capt. Cook at Fort Washington.

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to send all the oak plank (which they have in their possession) to Mount Washington, with the utmost despatch.

Resolved, That the superintendents for building the Continental frigates be earnestly requested to send as much of their short oak plank as they possibly can spare, to Fort Washington, with the utmost despatch, and this Convention do engage to justify their conduct in this particular to the Honourable the Continental Congress.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 637, 638, 639.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[New York] 20th Sept – [*sic* 21st] A little after 12 o'Clock last night a most dreadful fire broke out in New York, in three different places in the South, and windward part of the town. The Alarm was soon given, but unfortunately there was a brisk wind at South, which spread the flames with such irresistible rapidity, that notwithstanding every assistance was given which the present circumstances admitted, it was impossible to check its Progress 'till about 11 this day, when by preventing it from crossing the Broad-way at the North part of the town, it was stopped from spreading any further that way, and about 12 it was so far got under that there was no danger of it extending beyond those houses which were then on fire. It broke out first near the Exchange, and burnt all the houses on the West side of Broad Street, almost as far as The City Hall, & from thence all those in Beaver Street, and almost every house on the West side of the town between the Broad way and the North River, as far as The College, amounting in the whole to about 600 houses, besides several Churches, particularly Trinity Church, the principal one in town.



New York Fire.

On its first appearance two Regiments of the 5th brigade went into town, and some time after, a great number of Seamen from the Fleet were sent on shore under proper officers by order of Lord Howe, to give assistance. About daybreak the Brigade of Guards came in from Camp, but from the absence of the regular Firemen, the bad state of the Engines, a want of buckets, and a Scarcity of Water, the efforts of the Troops and Seamen, tho' very great, could not prevent the fire from spreading in the manner it did. The first notice I had of it was from the Sentry at Genl [Francis] Smith's quarters at Mr. [Andrew] Elliot's house, who called me up about 10 Clock and said New York was on fire; on going to the window I observed an immense Column of fire & smoke, and went and called Genl Smith, who said he would follow me into town as soon as possible. I dressed myself immediately and ran into town, a distance of two miles, but when I got there the fire had got to such ahead there seemed to be no hopes of stopping it, and those who were present did little more than look on and lament the misfortune. As soon as buckets & Water could be got, the Seamen and the troops, assisted by some of the Inhabitants did what they could to arrest its progress, but the fresh wind, and the combustible nature of the materials of which almost all the houses were built, rendered all their efforts vain.

From a variety of circumstances which occurred it is beyond a doubt that the town was designedly set on fire, either by some of those fellows who concealed themselves in it since the 15th Instant, or by some Villains left behind for the purpose. Some of them were caught by the Soldiers in the very act of setting fire to the inside of empty houses at a distance from the fire; many were detected with matches and combustibles under their Clothes, and combustibles were found in several houses. One Villain who abused and cut a woman who was employed in bringing water to the Engines, and who was found cutting the handles of the fire buckets, was hung up by the heels on the spot by the Seamen. One or two others who were found in houses with fire brands in their hands were put to death by the enraged Soldiery and thrown into the flames. There is no doubt however that the flames were communicated to several houses by means of the burning flakes of the Shingles, which being light, were carried by the wind to some distance and falling on the roofs of houses covered with Shingles, (which is most generally the case at New York,) and whose Inhabitants were either absent or inattentive, kindled the fire anew. The Trinity Church, a very handsome, ancient building, was perceived to be on fire long before the fire reached the adjacent houses, and as it stood at some distance from any house, little doubt remained that it was set on fire wilfully.

During the time the Rebels were in possession of the town, many of them were heard to say they would burn it, sooner than it should become a nest for Tories — and several Inhabitants who were most violently attached to the Rebel cause have been heard to declare they would set fire to their own houses sooner than they should be occupied by The King's Troops.

No assistance could be sent from the Army 'till after daybreak, as the General was apprehensive the Rebels had some design of attacking the Army.

It is almost impossible to conceive a Scene of more horror and distress than the above. The Sick, The Aged, Women, and Children, half naked were seen going they knew not where, and taking refuge in houses which were at a distance from the fire, but from whence they were in several instances driven a second and even a third time by the devouring element, and at last in a state of despair laying themselves down on the Common. The terror was encreased by the horrid noise of the burning and falling houses, the pulling down of such wooden buildings as served to conduct the fire, (in which the Soldiers & Seamen were particularly active and useful) the rattling of above 100 waggons, sent in from the Army, and which were constantly employed in conveying to the Common such goods and effects as could be saved; — The confused voices of so many men, the Shrieks and cries of the Women and children, the seeing the fire break out unexpectedly in places at a distance, which manifested a design of totally destroying the City,² with numberless other circumstances of private misery and distress, made this one of the most tremendous and affecting Scenes I ever beheld.

The appearance of the Trinity Church, when completely in flames was a very grand sight, for the Spire being entirely framed of wood and covered with Shingles, a lofty Pyramid of fire appeared, and as soon as the Shingles were burnt away the frame appeared with every separate piece of timber burning, until the principal timbers were burnt through, when the whole fell with a great noise.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 58–61.

2. Ambrose Serle noted in his journal: "The New England People are maintained to be at the Bottom of this Plot, which they have long since threatened to put into Execution." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 111.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Rose*, CAPTAIN JAMES WALLACE¹

September 1776

Moor'd off the Town of New York.

Saturday 21st

AM at 1 a large fire broke out at the SWt end of the Town, The Adml made Sigl for the Boats to assist at noon the fire near out near 400 Houses Burnt. a Number of People taken up Suppos'd to have [been] concern'd in setting the Town on fire.

Little Winds and Clear Wt Carptrs on Shore making a Main Mast.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/805.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Asia*, CAPTAIN GEORGE VANDEPUT¹

Sept 1776

Moor'd as before in the [North River at New York]

Saturday 21

AM 1½ past one the Town of [New] York was set on Fire in different places, sent a Boat to assist, at 5 parted the small Bower Cable Fresh Gales & Cloudy

PM Moor'd Ship, converted the Sheet Cable to the small Bower & pointed it

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/67.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN, R.N.¹[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*, off Bedloe's Island]

21st [September]. – This morning about one o'clock the officer of the watch called me, and gave information of a house in New York being on fire. I immediately went on deck, observed the fire to spread and catch several houses, and saw the fire break out at different parts of the city. Sent several boats on shore to the assistance of the place. Made the signal for all lieutenants, and ordered boats from each ship for the same purpose. It was evident from many circumstances that the city was maliciously set on fire, by the fires breaking out at different places at the same time; from lath wood, split in small slips, tarred and brimstoned, with tow and all manner of combustibles being placed in different parts of the city. Several people were taken up, against whom the proof seemed very plain. These the sailors, soldiers, and mob immediately put to death; many others, perhaps thirty or forty, were put in jail on strong suspicion. This evening the fire is entirely out; but had the wind come to the westward and blown fresh, as it did when it first broke out, the whole city would have been consumed. The loss is not yet accurately ascertained, but I suppose there may be about one-third or one-sixth of the city burned.

1. *Duncan's Journals*, XX, 129–30.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY¹

September 1776 Remarks [off Red Hook]

Saturday 21 2 AM – perceived a house on Fire at New York which instantly spread to many others, hoisted out our boats & sent an Officer to assist in getting the Merchant Ships from the Wharfs Adml made the Signal for all Lieuts, sent our Carpenters onshore to repair flat boats. served Onions to the Ships Company,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Experiment*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM WILLIAMS¹

Sepr 1776 Moor'd off Gravesend Bay

Saturdy 21 Modte and fair Wr at 7 P M recd Orders fm Vice Adml Lord Viscount Howe to bring the *Experiment* & all the Prison Ships Wth the Rebel Prisoners Onbd Vizt 748 up to New York

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/331.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH¹[On Board the Prison Snow *Mentor*]

Saturd: the 21st: [September] About one oClock in the Morning We Observ'd a Considerable Light up toward the Northward, which we sopo's'd to

be the burning of some Buildings; this Light continued while Day, & some Time in the Morning we were Inform'd that it was in the City of N. York; and that a considerable part of the City was Burnt, but we are yet Scarcely able to believe this Report.

This morning was Wet & Lowery, the Winde was also considerably high, & the water very Rough; several of our People were Seasick; I kept pretty Cloos below Deck most of Forenoon . . . In the Evening I understand that Capt: Davis Recd: order to be in Readiness to move up toward the City Tomorrow.

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*, 47.

JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 21st.

At 2 this morning, we were waked by the guards, who informed us that New York was on fire. As the fire began at the South East end of the city, a little East of the grand battery, it was spread by a strong South wind, first on the East River, and then Northward, across the Broad Way, opposite to the Old English Church (If I mistake not the name) from thence it consumed all before it, between Broad Way and the North River, near to the college, laying about one third part of the city in ashes [() is the opinion of those best acquainted with it]; and had not the wind as it veered to the West, died away, the remainder of that nest of vipers would have been destroyed.

This evening a seaman who said he belonged to Providence, that he was taken and obliged to fight against his countrymen on board the *Roebuck*, made his escape by swimming from New York to this place — he informed that the men on board the *Roebuck* were very sickly, that they had lost 100 since they left the Capes of Virginia. He also gave notice, that preparations had been made to attack this post — that a number of large ships were to come up and endeavour to silence our batteries, while a large body of troops in boats (which we discovered on the opposite shore above us []), and endeavour to cut off our retreat — that it was to have been executed this morning, but the fire prevented.²

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

2. September 20, 1776: "Preparations were made this Evening for the Attack of [i.e., on] Powley's Hook to-morrow — a Post of the Rebels on the North River almost opposite the Town. They have raised several Works, and have Embrazures prepared for many Guns," Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 110.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO THOMAS CUSHING¹

In Marine Committee

Philadelphia Septem 21: 1776.

Sir; In Consequence of a letter from the president of Massachusetts Bay dated the 13 Instant to the President of the Congress which was by Congress referd to this Committee; We have determined to Comply with the wishes of your assembly by Ordering the Frigate Commanded by Capt

[Hector] McNeill and that by Captain [Thomas] Thompson² of newhamshire to be fitted immediately and proceed on a Cruise on your Coasts in hopes of taking the *milford* Frigate or of driving her or any other Enemy away from those Seas —

We therefore Authorize you to accept the Profferd assistance of the said assembly or any Committee they appoint to assist in fitting equipping arming & manning th[is] Frigate you are also to Accept their offer of Twenty four nine Pounders (cannon) and to Cooperate with them in getting this Ship to Sea with the utmost Expedition, and we agree to reimburse the state of Massachusetts Bay for all Just & necessary Expences they incur in Effecting this Bussiness we Shall in due time also cause their Cannon to be returned unless they think proper to make Sale of them for the use of this ship and in that case we would choose to purchase them provided their are Good Guns quite suitabl for the service

You will please to purchase a proper number of swivell Guns, good musketts, Blunderbusses, cutlasses Pikes & other arms & instruments Suitable for this Ship you will apply to your state for powder — Ball, muskett shott other military Stores to be paid or returned by the Congress and in Short as this Ship will instantly go into Danger we hope nothing will be Neglected that ought to be done in fitting & manning her — We are very Sincerely [&c.]

John Hancock

Samuel Huntington

Rob^t Morris

Samuel Chase

Joseph Hewes —

Josiah Bartlett

Richard Henry Lee

P S if Mr [John] Langdon³ applys to you Mr [John] Bradford⁴ or to your state for assistance in fitting out the Frigate under his care we hope it will be granted & we shall re[i]mburse all Just Expences & Charges — the intended Enterprize should Be Kept As secret as possible—
[Endorsed] the above is a True Coppy Thomas Cushing Junr

1. MassHS. Cushing directed building of the Continental frigates in Massachusetts.

2. The Continental frigates *Boston* and *Raleigh*.

3. Continental agent for New Hampshire.

4. Continental agent for Massachusetts.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN BRADFORD¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] September 21st. 1776

In consequence of some overtures from the Assembly of your State [Massachusetts], we have determined to order the Continental Frigate commanded by Hector McNeill Esqr to be immediately armed manned and fitted for the sea and accordingly have this day written what we judged necessary to Mr. Cushing and the Captain on that subject.

The present is to desire you will give them all the aid and assistance in your power in this business. You are to supply them with any Continental Stores you may have in your possession that are wanted or assist in procuring such.

Similar orders are sent to John Langdon Esqr of New Hampshire respecting the Frigate there and should he apply to you for any assistance we pray it may be granted. We are Sir [&c.]

1. Paullin, ed., *Out-Letters of the Continental Marine Committee*, I, 11.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN THOMAS THOMPSON¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] September 21st 1776

The assembly of New Hampshire and Massachusetts having offered their assistance in equipping arming and manning the Frigate under your command² we have accepted their kind offers and hope in consequence thereof, you will soon be ready for sea, we expect the same will be the case with the Frigate commanded by Captain [Hector] McNeill³ of Massachusetts and our design is that you should join Company soon as possible and cruise in consort.

We are informed the *Millford* Frigate now infests the Coast of those States and does much Injury to their commerce. It is our duty to prevent the continuance of this soon as we can, and as the two Frigates mentioned will be an overmatch for the *Millford* or any single Frigate of the enemy, you are to join Captain McNeill and go in search of that or any of the enemies Ships in those seas that you can cope with, and we hope in due Time that you have taken destroyed or drove off the said enemy. The Rank betwixt you and Captain McNeill is not yet established you are therefore to act in concert and consult each other in all things that relate to the good of the service, to the safety and preservation of your ships or to the Interest and honor of the United States of America. — The Continental Agents in any State you put into will supply provisions or any necessaries that may be wanted — to some of them you are to address your Prizes, and you must advise the Committee of your proceedings as opportunities occur. You are also to furnish us in due Time with Copies of your Log Book and Journal, and advise us of any important intelligence that may come to your knowledge. With the best wishes for your success We are sir [&c.]⁴

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 22-23, NA.

2. The *Raleigh*.

3. The *Boston*.

4. *Ibid.*, 23-24, similar orders were sent to Captain McNeill this date.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN LANGDON¹

Sir

[Philadelphia] September 21. 1776. —

The Assembly of Massachusetts Bay having represented the necessity and utility of fitting out with all possible expedition One of the Frigates built in that State and that under your direction, to Cruise on your Coasts, in order to take or drive off the enemy that now infest them, and having offered their Assistance to equipp and man these Ships, and also handed us the Copy of a Vote or resolve of your honorable Assembly to the same pur-

port — We have determined to comply with their wishes, so far as depends on us, and have this day given the necessary orders to Mr Cushing Captain McNeill and Captain Bradford for getting their Ship ready.²

We are therefore to request that you will exert your utmost endeavours to have the frigate under your care compleated immediately.³ You will accept the assistance of your Assembly or the Committee the[y] appoint for that purpose — You may either purchase or borrow suitable Cannon, Swivels, Blunderbusses, Muskets, Pistols Cutlasses, Pikes, Ball, Shott, Powder &c: &c: You May apply to the State of Massachusetts, to the Honble Mr Cushing, or to any of the Continental Agents in the neighbouring States for Materials or other assistance you stand in need of and this Committee on behalf of the United States, will pay all just equitable Charges that you or any of them incur in effecting this business, so that we hope Captain [Thomas] Thompson will soon be able to join Captain McNeill in this enterprize which ought to be kept as secret as possible. We are Sir Your freinds &c &c

1. Marine Committee Letter Book, 24, NA.

2. The frigate *Boston*.

3. The frigate *Raleigh*.

CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN ISAIAH ROBINSON¹

Sir

Philada Sept 21st 1776

This Committee being very desirous of sending the *Andrew Doria* under your command on immediate Service — desire that you forward her Outfit, — take in provisions and Stores for two Months and get ready for Sea with the Utmost expedition—² And All commanders and officers of the Fleet now in this port, as well as all other persons in the Continental employ, are hereby desired to aid and assist you in geting your Ship immediately fitted and Manned. We are Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris, V. P.³

1. FDRL.

2. "Capt. Robinson then got command of the Brig *Andrea Doria* of 14 Guns & I went on board as his Lieut." Manuscript Autobiography of Joshua Barney, DARL.

3. The same orders this date were sent to Captain Lambert Wickes of the brig *Reprisal*. Marine Committee Letter Book, 25, NA.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CONTINENTAL
CONGRESS TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE¹

Sir

Philada. Sepr. 21st. 1776

Your several letters of the 4th. 15th & 26th August to this Committee have been duly received with the several enclosures and the whole have been laid before the Congress. We can therefore communicate that satisfaction which we dare say it must afford you to know that you have so far obtained the approbation of that august Body

It is not necessary that we shou'd enter into minute reply to the Contents of your letters, therefore we shall only Notice such parts as seem to require it

Capt Wickes's behaviour meets the approbation of his Country & Fortune seems to have had an Eye to his Merit when She Conducted his three Prizes safely in, You made a very proper use of his engagement, by your Question to the General and it is extreamly satisfactory that our Prizes may be carried into & Protected in the French Ports, but hitherto the Congress have not thought proper to entrust Blank Commissions beyond Seas, Neither can their Resolve for bringing Prizes into some of these States for Condemnation be dispensed with. These matters are now under Consideration of a Committee & shou'd any alteration take place you shall be informed of it. We are bound to return thanks to His Excellency the General for the information he authorized you to give us, as mentioned in your letter of the 4th. & particularly for his disposition to favour our Commerce in Port & Protect it at Sea and likewise for that Concern he expressed at not having it in his power to assist us with the Arms & Powder we requested You will therefore, signify to His Excellency that this Committee entertain the warmest sentiments of Esteem & respect for his person & Character, and of Gratitude for His Favourable attention to the Concerns of our much Injured Country, that we request the Continuance of His Friendship and hope during your residence at martinico there will be many opportunities of benifiting by His favourable disposition — particularly in Countenancing you in the purchase & Exportation of Arms, Ammunition & Cloathing —

We are not Surprized that admiral Youngs letter should have altered the Generals Sentiments respecting Convoys, but we esteem much his spirited Answer to the admiral which may probably be productive of some altercation. We like well your proposal for a Constant intercourse by Packets and the Sloop *Independence* Capt Jno Young is now Sent on that Service in which we hope she will be successful and Continue. more of the like kind shall follow and probably this may be found the best Method of supporting our intercourse with Europe and as these Vessells are properly Commissioned we cannot see any Impropriety in fitting out Tenders with Copys of their Commissions provided the Commanding officers of those Tenders are really officers belonging to the Vessell whose Commission they bear, but the Prizes must be sent to America for Condemnation (unless the Cargoes are perishable & in such Case if properly Certified we suppose it might be best to make Sale of them —

We thank you for Mr. [Richard] Prices Pamphlet² and wish you would write to Mr Deane & Mr [Thomas] Morris to Contrive you a constant & ample supply of the English, Irish & French News Papers Political Publications &c. We send you by this opportunity The Journals of Congress as farr as Published & the News papers to this time.

We received the Arms & Powder by the *Reprisal* They came Seasonably & we wish there had been more of them. The Secret Committee will supply you with Funds for the payment for these & more Since the arrival of

Ld Howe & General Howe in the neighbour hood of New York with their Forces, they have been rather too strong for our People to Cope with and Consequently have succeeded in their Enterprizes which however have not been of that Importance that they will probably represent to the World, they have been ten tor twelve Weeks with a powerfull fleet & a Numerous Army well provided & appointed with every thing necessary and what have they done,

They have got possession of three small Islands on the Coast of America, these were hardly disputed with them & yet if every Acre of American Territory is to Cost them in the same proportion, the Conquest would ruin all Europe. Our Army are now Collected to a point, and are strongly entrenched on New York Island & at Kingsbridge so that in Fact Mr Howe is Hemmed in as he was at Boston, except that he has more Elbow Room & a powerful Fleet commanding an extensive Inland Navigation. Our Northern Army are strongly Posted at Tyconderoga & expect they will be able to keep Mr Burgoyne from Crossing the Lakes this Campaigne. We are worse off for Woolen Cloathing for our Army than any other matter and you must exert your utmost Industry to buy & send us every thing of that kind you can meet with in Martinico or any of the Neighbouring Islands. We have gone into this detail of our present situation, that you may have a just Idea of it & be able to make proper Representations to the General & Inhabitants of Martinico

We Recommended the French officers that came with Capt Wickes to Congress & the Board of War have provided for them to their satisfaction, on this Subject your remarks have been very proper. officers unacquainted with our Language cannot be useful therefore we do not wish to encourage such to come amongst us, at the same time Men of Merit & abilities will always meet with suitable encouragement. You must therefore pursue the line you set out in, give general discouragement to those that apply & recommend none but such as the General will pledge his word for and you may even intimate to him that if too many come over the Congress will not know what to do with them.

1. Papers CC (Other Reports of Committees of Congress, 1776-88), 37, NA.

2. *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, the Principles of Government, and the Justice and Policy of the War with America* (London, 1776).

COURT MARTIAL OF LIEUTENANT LUKE MATTHEWMAN,
CONTINENTAL BRIG *Lexington*¹

At The Court Martial Held on Board the Brigantine *Andw Doria*
[Philadelphia] Septbr 21t. 1776 Were present —

Nicholas Biddle Esqr President

Capt Lambert Weeks [Wickes]

Capt John Berry [Barry]

Capt Charles Alexander

Capt Thoms Reed [Read]

Capt Esiah [Isaiah] Robinson

Capt Miles Pennington
 Capt Samuel Shaw
 Lieutt William Barn[e]s
 Lieutt John Allen
 Lieutt Benjamin Dunn
 Lieutt. Elijah [Elisha] Warner
 Lieutt. Isa[a]c Craig

Before whome Capt William Hallic [Hallock] Charged Lieutenant Luke Mathriman [Matthewman]

1st of Disobeying of Ordres

2d of Insulting Capt Hallic at his Lodging on the Evening of the 19th of Septembr between 9 & 10 OClock

The Court having heard the Evidences on Both sides do Resolve —

1st That Mr Mathriman has been guilty of breach of Ordres

2d That he has been Guilty of a Breach of the 30th Article in insulting Capt Hallic —

3d That it is the Judgment of this Court, that Lieutt Mathriman for the above Offences: bee Order'd to ask Capt Hallics Pardon before said Court, and that he does not presume in future, to be guilty of the Like Offences, on pain of being Cashiered —

1. Captain Nicholas Biddle Letters, 1771–1778, on deposit at HSP.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Septem'r 21st, 1776.

Order'd, That Capt. John Rice be directed to raise men for the Armed Boat call'd the *Convention*, with all expedition.

Resolved, That Capt. Wm. Brown be appointed Commander of the Floating Battery now Building by Mr. Arthur Donaldson.

Ordered, That Capt. Wm. Brown do raise men for the Floating Battery now building by Mr. Arthur Donaldson.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 725.

MEMORANDUM BOOK OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] September 21st, 1776 — Upon application of the Marine Committee for the Mooring Chains on board the Ship *Montgomery*, for the service of one of the Continental Frigates, an order was given for Mr. Feris to deliver them.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 489.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA GALLEY *Ranger*¹

Deserted from the *Ranger*, armed vessel, the 13th of September, Thomas Ward, a seaman, born in Dublin, about twenty-two years of age,

near five feet seven inches high, fair complexion, fresh coloured, little pitted with the smallpox, is pretty fat, and much given to drink and swearing. He had on when he went away, a red jacket, striped trousers, and a round hat, and was seen two days ago at Chester.

On the 17th inst. Andrew Hancock, country born, about five feet nine inches high, has a sickly look, and black curly hair. He had on when he went away, a thickset waistcoat without sleeves, striped shirt and oznabrug trousers. Whoever secures said deserters and puts them on board any of the armed galleys, or in jail, shall have Four Dollars reward for each.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, September 21, 1776.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO JOHN PRINGLE, PHILADELPHIA MERCHANT¹

[Extract]

Baltimore 21st September 1776

. . . Wm Woolsey is Come to town a few Days Since, has Taken one large Ship in partnership with a Road Island privateer. also on the 7th Inst he took Another Ship him Self but no Accot. yet of there Arrival he fears from the winds we have had that the last is gone to New England, the first was Ordered to Dartmouth the first Ship Was Called the *St James*. Capt Edwards the last Ship was Called the *Caroline*, Capt Denness so Keep a good Look out for them.² we talk of Sending her out again Soon it will not take much to fit her out . . .

- 1: Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

2. The Maryland privateer schooner *Harlequin*, six guns and twenty-one men, William Woolsey, commander, Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, VII, 14, NA. The *St. James* was taken in company with the Rhode Island privateer sloop *General Greene*. The *Caroline* arrived in Chincoteague, Virginia, was condemned and offered for sale through an advertisement dated Williamsburg, October 5, printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 16, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday, 21st September 1776.

Samuel Darrell, Master of the Schooner *Fanny* lately arrived in James River from Bermuda, laden with Salt, Coffee and Claret, appeared in Council and prayed permission to dispose of his Cargo, and trade for the same with the Inhabitants of this State. Resolved that he be permitted so to do to the amount of his Cargo.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 170, 171.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday 21st September 1776. —

Ordered that the keeper of the public Magazine deliver unto Capt Celey Saunders half Rheam of Cartridge Paper and thirty pounds of Lead or Ball for the use of the *Lewis Galley*. —

Ordered that the Keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt Celey Saunders four Lanthorns for the use of the *Lewis* Galley. — ²

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver unto Capt George Muter a speaking Trumpett and that the said Muter take from the Capitol Landing ten double Leaded Chain eighteen pound Shot for the use of the *Hero* Galley —

1. Navy Board Journal, 61, VSL.

2. *Ibid.*, the Navy Board ordered similar stores for the galley *Page* on this date.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Saturday the 21st Day of September: 1776

Message from the President by the Clerk of the Legislative Council.
Mr Speaker and Gentlemen,

On considering Captain Lamprieres Letter herewith sent and other Representations respecting the Ship *Prosper* it was thought expedient at the Time of the late Invasion to apply her Guns to the use of some of the Batteries and put her out of the way of Danger.

In my Opinion it will be most for the Public Advantage to sell her or employ her in Trade, but I think my self not authorized to do so you will therefore Judge in what manner it will be best to dispose of her

The appointing Commissioners to superintend the naval affairs of this State would I hope place them upon a better Footing than the present—I therefore recommend it as a matter worthy of your attention

John Rutledge

21 September. 1776

Read Captain Lamprieres Letter which accompanied the message dated the 28th May last—which Letter is preserved among the Papers of the present sessions

The House being informed That Captain Josèph Turpin Commander of the armed Brigantine *Comet* belonging to this State is absent and gone to Georgia without leave

Ordered That Captain Turpins Letter of the 16th Instant addressed to this House laid before them on the 17th Instant and then ordered to lie on the Table be now read

And the same being read accordingly is as followeth

Honourable Gentlemen

Having had the Honour to serve in your navy with some Reputation—think it my Duty to acquaint you before I quit that Service with my Reasons for so doing —

The Navy of England have ever been invincible from no other Cause than the great Encouragement they give their Officers and

People and the wise and honourable Footing they are set on.

All Prizes taken from their Enemies are divided into Eights in the following manner.

Three Eights to the Captain

One to the Lieutenants master and Officers of Marines, if a Captain

One to the warranted Officers

One to the Petty Officers

And Two to the men before the mast

One of these Two Eights George the Second gave to the Seamen in the year Forty, as an Encouragement

All Ships of War either King's Ships or Privateers taken from the Enemy or destroyed the King allows Ten Pounds for each man and Ten Pounds for each Gun the Enemy had on Board

Captains of the Navy serving under an Admiral gives up one of his Three Eights to that Officer no other Deductions are made whatever

As to Rank—all Post-Captains rank with Colonels of Horse or Foot in the Land Service Commanders who have not taken Post with Majors and the Lieutenants of the Fleet with Captains of the Army

To conclude—I humbly offer this Plan for your Perusal and on those Terms shall be ready and proud of the Honour to serve you And am Honourable Gentlemen [&c.]

Joseph Turpin

Charles Town South Carolina

16th September, 1776

Resolved That this House will on Monday next ballot for another Commander of the Brigantine *Comet*
upon motion

Resolved That the armed Ship *Prosper* belonging to this State be sold and that the monies to arise from such sale be deposited in the Public Treasury

Ordered That a Copy of the above Resolve be sent to the Legislative Council for their Concurrence

Ordered That the Honourable Mr Justice [John] Matthews and Mr [Arthur] Middleton do carry the Resolve to the Legislative Council

Ordered That a message be sent to the President requesting that His Excellency will be pleased to give directions for the sale of the ship *Prosper* her apparel and Furniture

Message to the President

May please your Excellency

This House having resolved That the armed ship *Prosper* belonging to this State with her apparel and Furniture be sold and the money arising by such Sale lodged in the Treasury request that

your Excellency will be pleased to give Directions accordingly

Ordered That the message be ingrossed and that Mr Speaker do sign the same

Ordered That the Honourable Mr [John] Edwards and Mr [Philotheos] Chiffelle do wait on His Excellency with the said message

Ordered That Leave be given to bring in a Bill for appointing Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval Affairs of this State And that the Honourable Mr Edwards Captain Roger Smith Mr [Thomas] Corbett Mr [John] Neufville and Mr [Thomas] Ward be a Committee to prepare and bring in the same

1. A. S. Salley, Jr., ed., *Journal of the General Assembly of South Carolina September 17, 1776 -October 20, 1776* (Columbia, S.C., 1909), 33, 36, 37-38, 39. Hereafter cited as Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*.

JOURNAL OF THE COUNCIL OF WEST FLORIDA¹

At a Council held at Pensacola the 21st September 1776.

His Excellency laid before the Board the following Letter which he had received from Captain Thomas Davey of His Majesty's Sloop of War the *Diligence* wch being read is in these words

Sir

{ *Diligence* Pensacola Harbour
19th September 1776.

Lieut [Charles] Cobb having informed me that he has in Consequence of your Excellencys Application detained in this Harbour His Majesty's Armed Sloop *West-Florida* — I am to request your Excellency will do me the Honor to let me know if you and the Council still think it necessary to detain her here. If you do not, I propose to Order her into the Lakes agreeable to the Orders I have received from Vice Admiral Gayton. I have the honor to be &c

His Excy Governor Chester.

Tho^s Davey

Upon which the Board were of Opinion that as the *Diligence* is Arrived it is not Necessary to detain the said Armed Sloop *West Florida* any longer — And that Capt Davey be requested to follow the Orders respecting her that he had received from Vice Admiral Gayton —

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/634, Part II, 396, LC Photocopy.

PETITION OF CHARLES IRVING AND ALEXANDER BLAIR¹

To Clark Gayton Esquire, Vice Admiral of the White & Commander in Chief of all His Majestys Ships & Vessels Employ'd and to be Employ'd at & about Jamaica and in the Gulf of Mexico from the River Mississippi to Cape Florida

The Humble Petition of Charles Irving and Alexr Blair both of the Town of Kingston in the said Island Officers in his Brittanic Majestys Service.

Sheweth/

That your Petitioners being the Owners & proprietors of a certain Sloop or Vessel call'd the *Morning Star* whereof David Millar late was Master did in or about the Month of April last past send the said Sloop or Vessel on a Voyage to the Mosquitto Shore, loaden with the following Commodities, Three thousand two hundred pounds weight of fine fowling Powder at Five Shillings p pound, of the value of Eight hundd pounds, Five large Copper Boilers for making Pot Ash of the value of One thousand pounds, Four Iron Potts for the same purpose weighing Three Tons of the value of Sixty pounds, Iron hardware in various Tools of husbandry to the value of two hundr'd and fifty pounds, Iron Potts small Anchors and small Lead Shot & Sheet Lead of the value of One hundred pounds, Twenty six Fuses & Musquets of the value of Fifty two pounds, a quantity of Osnaburghs & Cheeqs & Linen of the value of One hundred & fifty pounds, Eighty Guineas in Cash, and sundry Pieces of Plate, & wearing apparel of the value of Sixty pounds, which together with the said Sloop or Vessel which was then worth One thousand pounds amount together in the whole to the sum of Three thousand, seven Hundred & twenty two pounds Current Money of Jamaica

That on the Thirtieth day of the said Month of April the said Sloop *Morning Star* was lying at Anchor near the Bar of Black River on the Mosquitto Shore, and then and there boardd and taken by Two Guarda Costas belonging to his most Catholic Majesty the *Pacifico*, of Fourteen Guns commanded by Don Juan Castello, and the *Recur[so]* of Twelve Guns commanded by Antonio Yepe, and carried into Porto Bello, and from thence to Carthagena as in and by the Affidavit hereun[der] annex'd will more fully appear²

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray you to take their Case into consideration and to obtain Restitution to them of their said Sloop and Cargoe or the Value thereof

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c

(Sign'd) Charles Irving

Personally appear'd before me Charles Irving one [of] the Petitioners above nam'd and being sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth & saith that the several Allegations in the said Petition contain'd are true

(Signed) Charles Irving

Kingston Sworn before me September 21st 1776

(Signed) J. French Custos &c Kingston

[Endorsed] (A Copy) Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Enclosed in Gayton to Stephens, October 8, 1776.

2. See Deposition of Frederick Sund, September 20. See also Volumes 4 and 5.

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA LETTER OF MARQUE BRIGANTINE
Venus AT ST. EUSTATIUS ¹

The Owners of the Briganteen *Venus* for Disbursements
 To Joseph Leland & Theo: Barrell

Dr

1776

Sept 7. To Cash paid for two Carriage Guns	55..--.-	
ditto taking up two Anchors & 1 Cable	22..--.-	
ditto Canoe hire with a Cable and Anchor on Board	1..3..-	
ditto Cleaning & repairing Arms	2..7..-	
ditto Mr Hills Account repairing the Yawl	8..2..-	
ditto Mr. Lewis's Account	11..7..3	
ditto a piece of Hardwood for Carriage trucks	2..--..3	
ditto Francis Savages Accot makeing ditto	6..--.-	
ditto Herman Gosslings Account	6..6..-	
ditto a Caulker caulking a Canoe	1..3..-	117..5..-
ditto John Low Sailmakers Account	35..--..5	
ditto Joseph Hoveys Account for a Canoe &c	46..7..-	
ditto John Wedgs Account for Musquet Ball	23..3..3	
ditto Reuben Reilys Accot for Water	9..--.-	
ditto Thomas Wallaces Accot for Sail Cloth	79..7..-	
ditto Joseph Lelands Account for Colours &c	48..--.-	
ditto James Muckels Accot for Hand Cuffs &c	6..2..-	
ditto Milner Burch & Haynes's Accot	338..3..5	
ditto Theodore Barrells Account	74..6..4	
ditto paid Capt. Raddon by Order the owners ²	88..--.-	749..6..5
ditto Advanced Capt Raddon to Ship Men &c	321..7..-	
ditto Amount Messrs Teniers Accot. for a Launch lost by the People, Borrow'd to Weigh Anchors &c	55..--.-	
ditto Powder, Match, & Anchorage, to Fort Orrange.	27..5..-	
Charges of Protest	9..6..-	
ditto Connell & Richard Smiths Account	29..4..-	
ditto to Capt Raddon 2d time	29..2..-	
Milner Burch & Haynes's 2d Accot	13..6..4	486..6..4

Freight of Guns to & from St Martins &c	20..3..-
	Ps 1374..5..3
Commissions on 1374..5..3 a 5 PCent	68..5..5
Errors Excepted	Ps 1443..3..2

Joseph Leland Theo: Barrell

St Eustatius 21st Sepr 1776

Copy

1. Stephen Collins Accounts, vol. 13 (January 1 – December 31, 1776), LC.
2. The Brigantine *Venus* had been commissioned at Philadelphia, July 13, 1776. She carried six guns and had a crew of twenty-five. Her owners were Daniel Roberdeau and Thomas Pryor.

GOVERNOR CRAISTER GREATHEAD TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG¹

(Copy)

St Christophers 21st September 1776.

Sir I have received your Letter of the 19th Instant and am extremely sorry to acquaint you, that the Accounts you have had of the dreadful Disasters which have happened in this Island are too true, for on the 5th Instant about one or two in the Morning a Fire broke out in the Town of Basseterre and from the fury and continuance of its Progress consumed all the Store-houses except one or two, and most valuable Buildings therewith the Provisions and Lumber contained in them and their adjoining yards, being nearly the whole that were for Sale in this Island, and in the Night of the next Day great Mischief was done by Inundations from excessive Rain and a Storm of Wind that blew at the same Time has injured the Canes and Ground Provisions tho' no Buildings were thrown down.

These Calamities which gave great Occasion to apprehend a Famine, induced me to grant my Licence dated the 9th. Instant, for two Vessels named therein, to bring Provisions and Lumber from St Eustatius, but limited the Continuance of such Licence to fourteen Days from the Date. I heartily wish the immediate Wants of the Inhabitants may be supplied by this Means.

Your Attention to them under their great Distresses merits their grateful Acknowledgements, and should they point out to me any Method whereby you may be serviceable I will most readily communicate the same to you.

The Apprehensions of many that an Insurrection was intended from some Fires happening in two or three Estates at the Time the Town was in Flames, occasioned me to write to you the same Day by a hired Vessel to desire, if his Majesty's Service wou'd admit it, you wou'd be so good to Order one of His Majesty's Vessels, to repair with all convenient Dispatch to our Assistance, but as we have heard Nothing of the hired Vessel since I must suppose she was lost in the Storm on her passage to Antigua. I have the honour to be Sir [&c.]

Craister Greatheed

1. PRO, Admiralty I/309. Greathead was governor of St. Christopher.

ST. EUSTATIUS MERCHANTS' ACCOUNT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA LETTER OF MARQUE BRIGANTINE VENUS¹

Dr	The Owners of the Briga <i>Venus</i> in a/c Curr't with Joseph Leland and Theo Barrell	Cr
1776		1776
Sepr 21	To Amount of Invoice of goods on Board the Briga <i>Venus</i> } 4559..2..3 herewith ²	Sepr 21 By Neat Proceeds of a Cargoe of flour and Bread rece'd by the Brige <i>Venus</i> P Sales here- } 6002..2..4 with ³
	To amount of Disbursements on the Briga <i>Venus</i> herewith (P Acct) 1443..3..2	Ballance due Joseph Leland & T. Barrell 3..1
	Ps 6002..5..5	Ps 6002..5..5

St Eustatius 21st Septemr 1776

Errors Excepted

Joseph Leland Theo. Barrell

Copy

1. Mss. Papers & Letters re Wars in America, 1759-1782, LC.

2. *Ibid.*:

Invoice of Forty Six Hogsheads Rum, Four Hundred and Seventy three Bushells Salt and Sundry Packages of dry Goods, Shipped by Joseph Leland and Theo Barrell on Board the Briganteen *Venus*, William Raddon Master for Philadelphia on Account & Risque of the Owners of said Briga.

3. *Ibid.*:

Sales of four hundred and Sixty Nine Barrels Superfine and thirty Barrels Common flour. Eighty Nine Barrels Ship Bread. Eighty Kegs Water Biskit, and forty seven shook Rum Hogsheads, Received by the Briga *Venus*. William Raddon Master from Philadelphia, on Account of the Owners of said Briga.

22 Sept. (Sunday)

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

Sept 1776

Cape Codd No 86Wt 34 Lgs

Saturday 21

at 5 AM gave chase to two sail at 6 came up with a Ship which the Rebels had taken, took the Rebels onbd sent a petty Officer & 8 Men to take charge of her;² made sail after a Brig Prize in Co

First part fresh Breezes and cloudy, middle strong Gales, latter fresh breezes and fair, fir'd several shot and brot too the Chace, found she was a Brig taken by the Rebels, took the Rebels on bd & sent an Officer to take charge of her, at 3 made sail, at 4 shortned & reefed all the sails,

Sunday 22

at 5 AM fir'd a gun for the Prizes, at 7 Do ½ past 9 Do — made more sail, gave chase to a Brig, Prizes in Co

First part fresh Breezes and fair. middle light Breezes with Rain, latter light airs and hazey, brot too, sent a Boat onbd the Chace, found she had been taken by the Rebels; took the Rebels onboard, and sent an Officer to take charge of her Sent a Cask of Beef onboard the Ship, hoisted the Boat in & made sail.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/548.

2. The ship *Hester*, David Crombie, master. Vice Admiralty Register, vol. 5, N. S. Arch.

3. The brigs retaken on September 21 and September 22 are not further identified.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL, LEBANON¹

Sir

Providence Septembr 22nd 1776

When I left you, I went to New London and see your Ship and came from there here, and I am of Opinion that the two Frigates here will be ready for the Sea by the time your Ship will be ready, if it is possible to Mann them — ² If I receive no Orders to the Contrary from the Marine Committee by my Brother,³ who I expect every hour Shall be ready to follow any Orders or Advice you may think best to give me respecting their Operation — I am with great Respect Sir [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. The ship at New London was the *Oliver Cromwell*, and the two Continental frigates at Providence were the *Providence* and *Warren*.

3. Stephen Hopkins.

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE¹

Gentlemen

Providence Sept 22nd 1776.

Since my last I have been to See Governor Trumbull on the business of his Letter to me, a Copy of which you have Inclosed — from there I went to

New London which place I left the 19th instant – Captn Hacker is there with the *Hampden*, he has Graved her and she will be Ready for Sea in a few days but not full mann'd – have Order'd her round to Newport there to join the *Alfred* who I expect will be Clean'd and ready for the Sea in a Week – The two Frigates here will be ready for Sea in a week or 10 days, but it will be very difficult to mann any of them without you will make the Chance of Prize Money as good as they get in the Privateers, which is one half and large Sums advanc'd to the People before they go to Sea –

I expect Governor Hopkins every day, hope he will bring with him the Commissions for the Officers of the New Ships – The *Alfred* and *Hampden* Shall send as soon as possible on the Station you Order'd, and if Governor Hopkins brings no other Orders for the New Frigates I think it will be the best Use they can be put too to attempt to clear the Sound with them as Governor Trumbull advises – as that if effected will give great ease to Supplying our Army near New York –

Since I wrote you there has arrived here seven or eight valuable Prizes Sent in by the Privateers out of this place – and a Brig Captn Biddle's Prize was taken by the *Cerberus*, a few days ago the people got onshore in their Boat, and are Sett out for Philadelphia – ² There is a Report that a Prize Brig taken by the *Columbus* was Spoke with a few days ago –

Inclosed you have a List of the Privateers out of this Place, them that are call'd Letters of Marque expected to get mann'd in the French Islands – You likewise have a List of the Prizes brought in here – I am with great Respect Gentlemn [&c.]

E. H.

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.

2. Prize brig *Peggy*, Philip Brown, prize master, ran close in to Block Island where the prize crew made its escape on September 11. Clark, *Captain Dauntless*, 147–48.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM WILLIAMS ¹

[Extract]

Lebanon 22nd Sepr 1776

. . . The People with their Effects Stock &c are comg fast from Long Island, few Troops are sent from hence to the Island. I have Letters from the Northward just received – the Army in that Quarter appears to be in good Circumstances growg more healthy and Effective – The Fleet is very respectable, gone down the Lake and will soon be joined with 2 or three Row Gallies, carrying down General Waterbury, who is second in Command upon the Lake –

1. Trumbull Papers, YUL.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Sunday, 22d. September. Through some unaccountable Conduct, the *Renown* of 50 Guns, wch was to have led the Attack upon Powley's Hook, was prevented in her Operations, for which Reason the Expedition was deferred to another Day.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 112.

DIARY OF LIEUTENANT JABEZ FITCH¹

[On board the Prison Snow *Mentor*] Sund: the 22nd [September] This is the 4th: Sund: of our Imprisonment. In the Morning the Seamen turn'd out at 4 oClock to bend the Sails, & make the other Preparation for geting under way, they were very Industrious most of the Morning, in making those preparations.

At about 8 oClock we had a Comfortable Breakfast of warm Chocolet, which was very agreeable, in our present Cituation.

About Noon all the Ships, who had Prisoners on board with the *Experiment* and the *Resolution*, Men of War, got under way, in Order to go up toward the City, the Wind being unfair, the Ships were Obligated to beat up, & at 4 oClock came too off[f] between Red hook & Gibbit Island,² in midst of a very great Number of Ships, among whome is the *Eagle*, the Admyral, or Lord Howes Ship, which lay Just ahead of us, & the *Rainbow* (another large Man of War)³ is near us on the other hand, & besides those, a number of Frigates, & other Ships of War; Here at Night we again turned in, & I Rested on my narrow plank again as well as Usual.

1. Sabine, ed., *Fitch's Diary*, 48, 49.

2. Ellis Island.

3. Fitch was mistaken. *Rainbow* was at Halifax.

JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 22d.

As no reinforcement could be sent us, we received orders this morning to remove our artillery, stores and baggage, and hold ourselves in readiness to retreat, and before night most of them were removed.

About 9 A.M. we saw the enemy troops embarking in flat bottom'd boats, about two miles above us, who appeared in large numbers on the shore, after their boats, (about 30) were full. Four ships at the same time came to sail below, and stood up towards us, but they soon came to anchor again, and the boats which had pushed off, returned back. Had they come at this time, we must either have retired and left them large quantities of artillery stores; or fought their army and navy at the same time, with our small detachment, and that under every disadvantage; but they saw fit to retire to get more strength, as appeared afterwards, tho' they could not be ignorant of our weakness, as our men were paraded every day in full view of them.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

CAESAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY¹

[Extract]

Philada Sepr 22d 1776

I am glad you are Sending the Sloop up to Sell, and hope you'l not delay doing it least some of the men of War now at New York Should be thought no longer necessary there, and be sent to our Capes, A Circumstance of

this Sort would inevitably knock up the Sale of all kinds of Veshells, for it is the Trade they are now pushing that keeps up the demand for them, and the men of War Comeing to the Cape would put an Emd [*sic end*] to that Trade . . . I should have no objection to Your Sending the Schooner also — But am Doubtfull Shee is too Flat and therefore would not answer the purpose of foreign trade and of Course not sell well — If the Sloop is not Come away before you Get this Letter, would advise you to get John Bell to Come in her. He has been dealing in that way and would be of Great [use] to me in Selling her here — But if Shee is Come away and You Should Conclude to Send the Schooner pray Get him to Come in her — I had some Convention [*sic conversation*] with Bell while in Town, and he promised to Call on You Concerning the Sale of them . . .

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 125.

THOMAS RODNEY TO CAESAR RODNEY¹

[Extract]

Dover Sept 22d 1776 —

N.B. I expect the sloop from Egg-Harbour every day & shall send her up immediately — I wrote in my last to sell the schooner too if you choose & can git a good price — Brown has no Objection; & he has not pd any thing towards her yet — If it will be any advantage you may purchase his part before you sell

1. Ryden, ed., *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney*, 126, 127.

23 Sept.

CAPTAIN CHARLES DOUGLAS, R.N., TO CAPTAIN PHILEMON POWNOLL, R.N.¹

Dear Sir

Having received yours of the 19th I have the pleasure of assuring you that the *Inflexible*, the prowess of which will give us the dominion of Lake Champlain beyond a doubt; will be ready to sail with the Expedition: the dispatch which is making with her is really amazing! Some dozens of Carpenters work at her as Carpenters. The Gondolo cuts a very good appearance and is to carry Six Nines and (in the Bow) an Army 24 pounder — The Radeau would be more formidable did she carry her Six Battering 24 pounders below a little higher — I find by Mr [James Richard] Dacres that in the event of absolute necessity obliging you to winter in Canada you'd prefer one of the Three Rivers for the *Blonde* but from the Report of Captain [Joseph] Nunn's Survey there of which I send you I fear there will not be water sufficient for her — Tho' to prevent mistakes at all events I send you the *St Peter* Brig and *Chabotes* Sloop I cannot procure a state of the Provisions for the Army from Sorel to this place however it must do

good to send up more be that as it may. Hoping to call upon you some Eight or Ten days hence I ever remain with the most sincere esteem and perfect confidence Dear Sir [&c.]

Ch^s Douglas

St Johns Septr the 23d 1776

1. Sir Henry Clinton Papers, CL.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOSIAH BARTLETT¹

[Extract]

Portsmouth, 23 Sept., 1776

A transport was sent in here yesterday, by a small Privateer, belonging to Newbury. She was bound to St. Vincent, in the West Indies, with seven others, for Soldiers. She has on board 20 Chaldron coals & 6 months Provision for 100 men.² . . .

I this moment hear that a Vessel is off this Harbour, bound to Newbury, 29 days from Martinique. She sail'd from thence in company with the *Reprisal*.

1. *The Historical Magazine*, VI, 74.

2. She was taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Washington*. See next entry.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1776

Watertown, September 23.

Yesterday Se'nnight arrived at Newbury Port the Brig. *Georgia Diana*, Peter Rigan Master, bound from Grenada to London, taken by the *Washington* Privateer, Nathaniel Odiorne, having on board 250 hogsheads rum and sugar, and about 20 chaldron of coal, &c. &c.

Monday last return'd Captain Samson [Sampson], after a short cruize, in which he has taken 5 Prizes, three or 4 of which are arriv'd safe into Port.

On Monday evening last, was sent into Cape Ann, by Capt. [William] Coas of the *Warren* privateer, a brig of about 120 tons, mounting 8 carriage guns and 10 swivels; she was from the Coast of Guinea, but last from Tobago, with some Elephant's teeth and gold dust.¹ When she left Capt. Coas, he was in chase of a ship.

The ship which the *Warren* sent in last Saturday, was from Tobago bound to London, called the *Picary*, Capt. Breckholt Cleveland commander, having on board 325 hogsheads of sugar, 50 hogsheads of rum, 161 bales of cotton, 118 pipes, 29 hogsheads and 10 quarter-casks of Madeira wine and some indigo.

1. Brigantine *Swallow*, Benjamin Griffith, master.

JAMES BOWDOIN TO JOHN HANCOCK¹

Sir

Boston, Septr. 23. 1776

I have the honour to transmit to Congress the enclosed Resolve of the General Court passed the 18th. Instant, relative to the fitting for the Sea, the Continental Frigate *Hancock* of 32 Guns, now at Newbury Port. If this Frigate with the other at the same Port could be expeditiously fitted out, it is very probable several of the Enemy's Cruizers, which have much infested our Coast, would be soon brought in, and made a valuable addition to the naval strength of the united States..

You will please to lay the said Resolve before the hon'ble Congress, whose Speedy determination, corresponding with the Resolve, may be attended with many happy Consequences. In the mean time every aid in our power will be given to the Continental Agent, for getting the said Frigates in readiness with the utmost Expedition. — In the name of the Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay I am with great Respect [&c.]

James Bowdoin

1. Papers CC (Massachusetts State Papers, 1775-87), 65, I, 113-14, NA. Bowdoin was president of the Massachusetts Council.

JOHN BRADFORD TO ROBERT MORRIS¹

Dear sir —

Boston the 23 Sept 1776

I took my leave of Mr Merkle² Saturday Morning, at Beverly only waiting for a fair wind, it proved favourable Yesterday, I make no doubt they Sail'd, I think their prospect of getting Clear is fair, as I have hired a pilot to carry them so farr as the Bay of fundy if need be. the Capt.³ has his particular instructions relative to Mr Andrew Lemoines Letter,⁴ The *Dispatch's* Accounts I shall forward by next weeks post

I have been in pursuit of a Suitable vessell for your purpose, have agreed for her Conditionally, but have not yet been able to procure the Salt, none being to be purchased in this Government, excepting a Cargo belonging to Capt [Richard] Derby which has been in the marine Court and its fate will be known to day, whither its condemned or not, I shall procure a quantity if it's to be done within the Price limitted, I have made inquiry both at Salem and here in regard to insurance to virginia, and find they wont at present take the Risque at any rate

I shall write you at large by next mondays post In the Interim I am with due respect yours &c.

1. John Bradford Letter Book, LC.

2. Johann Philip Merkle, a Dutch adventurer whom John Jay introduced to Congress, and who was engaged to import goods for the Secret Committee.

3. Stephen Cleveland of the brig *Dispatch*.

4. Andrew Limozen, American agent at Le Havre, France.

JAMES WARREN TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH OTIS¹

Sir

Plymo 23 Septem: 1776

In Pursuance of Orders Receivd from the Major part of the Honble Council, You are hereby Requird In Conjunction with Brigadier [Joseph] Cushing² to Cause the Men drafted from your Several Brigades In Consequence of the Resolves of the General Assembly of this State of the 12th And 13 Instant, Or As Many of them As Are Necessary to take Charge of 60 Whale Boats to be Provided By a Committe of the Genrl Assembly aforesd to march to Falmouth Or Buzzards Bay In the County of Barnstable Or Dartmouth In the County of Bristol Or to all said Places According As said Boats May Be Provided with their Arms And Baggage And In said Boats with All Possible Dispatch to proceed to Rhode Island And them to Deliver to the Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr Governor of sd State thereof fail Not And make Return of your Doings to Me as Soon as May Be. I am [&c.]

J Warren -

1. Special Ms. Collection, CUL.

2. Otis and Cushing were Massachusetts militia officers.

WILLIAM SEVER TO JAMES BOWDOIN¹

Sr

Kingston 23d Septem 1776

Capt. Samson waits upon the Council to make report, & receive further orders.

As some small repairs are wanting on the Brigantine he commands - ² and if the Honble Council should order him out Again, some provisions &c will be necessary I imagine it will be thought needful, that some person should be appointed for these purposes, as I do not know that any provision has been made in these respects

Capt Samson thinks that it might have been advantageous to the State, as well as to the Ships crew if he had not been so restricted by his orders in his last cruise - I presume your Honors will give him such Instructions as shall be thought most conducive to the good of the State - I am Sr [&c.]

W Sever

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 284.

2. The Massachusetts state brigantine *Independence*.JOURNAL OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO BUILD TWO CONTINENTAL FRIGATES IN RHODE ISLAND¹

[Providence] Sepr 23. 1776

Me[e]ting Convened. Present the Honble Stephen Hopkins and several of the Comtee.

Voted That The Ships be Equipped with all Expedition and Fitted for the Sea by the 10th of October at furthest, for the Effecting of which it is

Voted that Daniel Tillinghast Esqr be sole director of the Business that the officers apply to him for all necessities they may stand in need of and all the Members belonging to the Comttee present (being nine in Number) to engage to supply or procure the Articles wanted according to the Memorandams that shall be given out to them by Col' Tillinghast from time to Time.

1. Journal R. I. Frigates, RIHS.

ASSIGNMENT OF ONE-SIXTEENTH OF A PRIZE SHARE IN THE
RHODE ISLAND PRIVATEER SLOOP *Yankee Ranger*¹

North Providence September, 23th [sic] 1776

This Witnesseth that I Joseph Bagley of North Providence in the County of Providence for and in Consideration of Two Pounds Five Shillings to me in hand well and Truly Paid by George Jenks of North Providence in the County aforesaid have Sold unto him the Said George Jenks one Sixteenth part of one Share of all Prizes which Shall bee Taken by the Sloop *Yankey Ranger* Samuel Trip Master Now bound on a Cruise agnst the Enemies of the united Colonies in wittness whereof I have here unto Set my hand in the Second year of the American Congress the Date above

Witnesses present

Joseph Bagley

Jona Jenks Junr

Stephen Jenks Junr

1. Miscellaneous Collection, RIHS.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sir

Bristol Septemr 23d 1776

Having seen in the publick Papers that your Excelly and the British Admiral have agreed upon an Exchange of Prisoners in the naval Department I beg Leave to apply to you in Behalf of a Mate of a Vessel, and Four Seamen, all belonging to Warwick in this State, some of whom are connected with very reputable Families. They were all taken in the Merchant's Service, and are Prisoners on board One of the Ships of War now in the Sound. — We have a Mate of a Merchant Ship, and Four Seamen who were taken in a Transport with Part of One of the Highland Regiments, to give for them. I request your Excellency's Directions as soon as may be whether we shall send the Prisoners directly to you or how I shall proceed to procure the Exchange, which will very much oblige many worthy People here I am with great Esteem and Respect [&c.]

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

Newport Mercury, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1776

Newport, September 23.

Last Monday a ship and a brig taken by the *Montgomery*, went up the east passage;¹ on Wednesday a large ship taken by the *General Greene* and

a Baltimore schooner,² and a brig taken by the *Revenge*,³ got safe into a neighbouring port; on Friday another ship, taken by Capt. [James] Munro, went up the bay;⁴ and the same night another brig, taken by the *Revenge*, passed the east passage. All the above are valuable prizes;

1. The prizes of the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Montgomery* were the ship *Betsey*, 210 tons, James Ramsey, master, and the brigantine *Tryton*, 140 tons, Thomas Martindale, master.
2. The brig *St. James*, taken by the Rhode Island privateer sloop *General Greene*, John Garzia, commander, and the Maryland privateer schooner *Harlequin*, William Woolsey, commander. See *Providence Gazette*, September 21, 1776.
3. The Brigantine *Ann*, 120 tons, Diederick Wise, master, was taken by the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Revenge*, Samuel Dunn, commander.
4. Ship *Blaze Castle*, taken by the Rhode Island sloop *Sally*.

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

The Continental Brig <i>Hampton</i>		Hoysted Hacker Commander	Dr
1776	To Cash as p Rect	60..0..0	
Sepr	To Sundry Slops as p Rect	47.13..6	107.13..6
	To Spy Glass	2..0..0	
	To Tea kettle 8/ 2 Brushes 4/	0.12..0	
	To 137 feet Oars	1.14..3	
	To Rheem Writing paper	0.15..0	
	To Lanthorn 3/, Speking Trumpet 5/	0..8..0	
	To 2 Canvas Chairs 2/6	0..5..0	5.14..3
	To 327 lb Cordage /10	13.12..6	
	To 1 Cable wt 7..0..22 lb 50/,	17.19..4	
	To 3 pr Blocks Straps Hooks & Thimbles	7..6	
	To 5 lb Cooper Nails 1/6	7..6	
	To 45½ lb 20d do @ 1/2, 13½ lb 6d do 1/6	3.13..4	36..0..2
	To 93½ lb Tallow @ /8	3..2..4	
	To Use fall Blocks Stage Kettles &c	1.14..0	
	To Stewards Bill Warfage	1.10..0	
	To pd Carpenters & Labourers	8.16..6	
	To pd Jas Harris 1 Days work	0..4..0	
	To pr Timber Chocks for the Boat	0..7..6	
	To 394 feet pine boards 1d	1.12.10	
	To pd Daniel Colver the Joiner	1.16..0	
	To pd N Hempsteds Bill for 43 lb Bolt Rope @ /10d	1.15.10	20.19..0
	To James Tilleys Bill	29.14..9	
	To Joshua Starrs Bill	2.16..8	
	To George Colefax's do	3..3..8	
	To 80 yd Oznabrigs 2/6	10..0..0	
	To 54 yd Duck 3/6	9..9..0	
	To Black Smiths Bill	6..4..6	
	To Clark Elliotts Bill	0.11.10	

To John Wards ditto	0.18.10	
To 10 Iron Bound Water Cask	7.10..0	
To pd Smith for onions & potatoes	1..2..2	
To 328 bunches onions @ 2½	3..8..4	
To 30 bus potatoes @ 2/,	3..0..0	77: 19..9
Carried over		<u>£ 248..6..8</u>

1776	The Brig <i>Hampden</i>		Dr
Sepr	To Sum brot over		248..6..8
	To pd Jona Douglass Bill Storage		2..0..0
	To 2 Nine pound Cannon for Ballace		
	37.2.10 lb @ £ 8 p ton	15..0..10	
	To Cartage of ditto	0..1..6	
	To 54 four pound Shott 1..3..20	2..8..3	
	To 382 Swivel ditto	3..3..8	
	To 1 pr Carriages for Fore pounders	4.10..0	25..4..3
	To 8 lb powder @ 5/4	2..2..8	
	To 2 lb Brimston /8	0..1..4	
	To 3 lb Salt Petre 5/	0.15..-	
	To 1 Qt Spirits turpentine	3..6	
	To 4 Qr Cartrage paper	16..0	3.18..6
	To pd John Potter 4 days Work		16..0
	To pd Wm Brooks the Butchers Bill		11.12..3¾
	To pd Danll Latham piloting the Brig to Newport		3..0..0
	To 36 lb Tallow from Ship <i>Oliver Cromwell</i>		0.18..0
	To pd Nathan Bales Bill		6.11..7
	To pd Henry Bates for frt Riging from New Haven		0..6..-
			<u>302.13..3¾</u>
	Commissions 5 PCt		15..2..7¼
			<u>317.15.11</u>

By 2 bar powder 300 lb

I. Shaw Collection, Book 39, 17, 18, YUL. A rough draft of this account is in Ledger 9, *ibid.*
The rough draft supplies dates for entries, running from September 9 to September 23,
1776.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.'S ACCOUNT AGAINST THE CONNECTICUT STATE
BRIG *Defence*¹

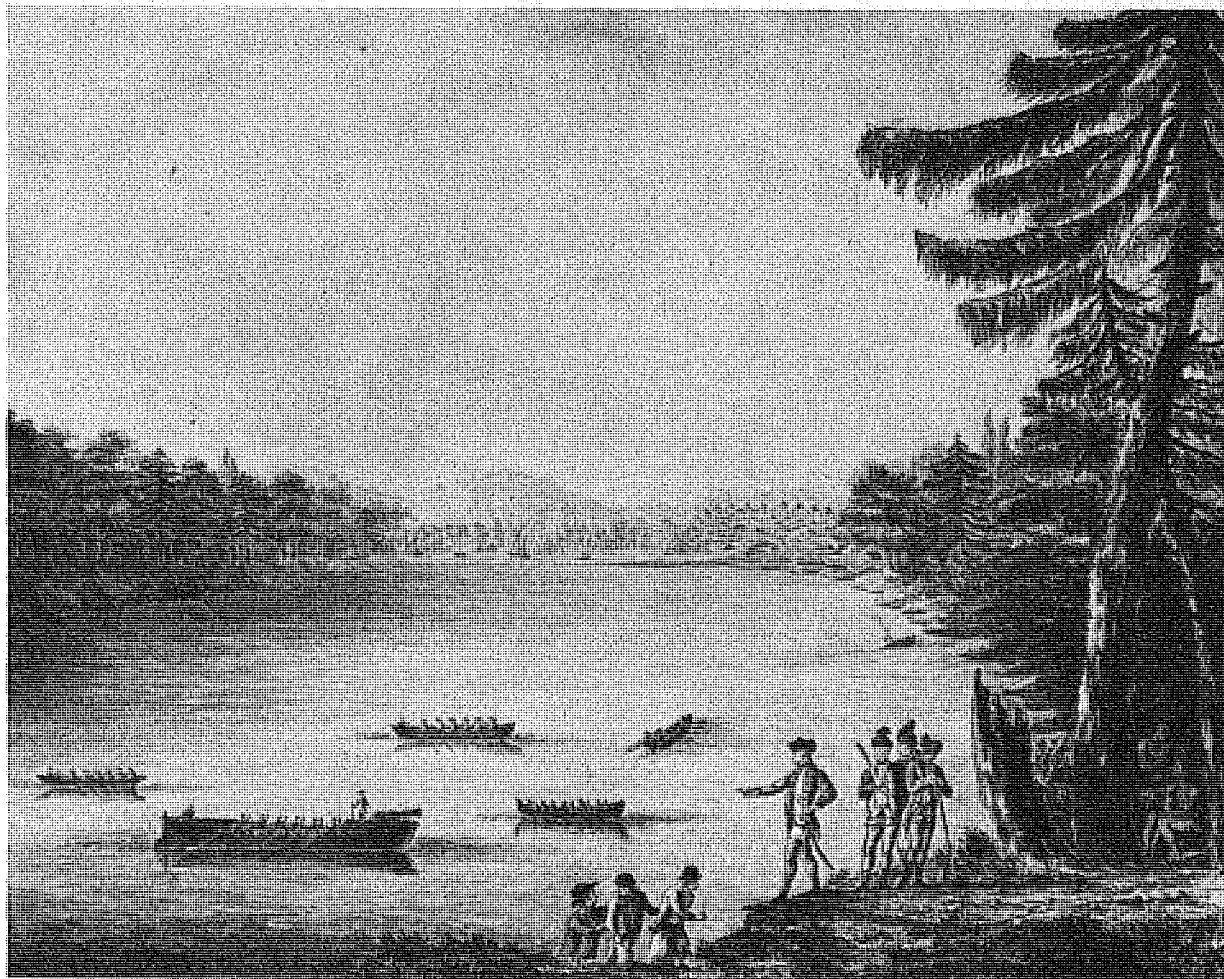
1776	To Brig <i>Defence</i>		Dr
May 30	To Cash p Rect	100..4..	
July 17	To Cash	£ 50..-..-	
	18 To ditto	30..-..-	
	26 To ditto	21..-..-	
Augt 4	To ditto	21..-..-	
	8 To ditto	22.19..6	
	11 To ditto	50..0..-	

1776 The Brig *Defence*

Dr

14	To ditto	100..--..	
21	To ditto	100.0..6	
22	To ditto	100..--..	
24	To ditto	30	
		<u>625..4..0</u>	
	By his order on Govr & Council for	<u>625..4..-</u>	625..4..0
17	To 2 bottles Claret 1 do 1 do	0.16..0	
Augt 8	To 3 bottles do 12/, 3 ditto 12/	<u>1..4..0</u>	2..0..0
22	To 2 Cases Claret @ 90/		9..0..0
July 23	To 54 Gal Rum	} 437 Gal @ 5/	109..5..0
Augt 2	To 52 Gal ditto		
	To 6 Gal Brandy		
	To 56 Gal Rum		
20	To 57 Gal ditto		
21	To 166 Gal ditto		
22	To 46 Gal ditto		
	To 114 Gal Jamico ditto @ 6/4		36..2..0
	To 8 Iron Bound Qr Cask a 15/		6..0..0
Augt 3	To 1 Keg Brandy		3..0..0
22	To 2 ditto 60/		6..0..0
July 23	To 1 bar Sugar 3..0..20	} 5..2..20 a 60/	17..2..0
Augt 22	To 1 bar ditto 2..2..0		
July 23	To 5¼ Gal Melasses	} 41 3/4 Gal @ 3/,	6..5..3
	To 6 Gal ditto		
Augt 22	To 30½ Gal ditto -		
	To 20 bunches Onions a /4		0..6..8
	To 2 Firkens Butter		
	174 lb @ 10d		7..5..0
	To pd [Seth] Hardings	} 3.13..0	3.13..0
	order to Moses Peirce		
	for a firken butter		
	To 56 lb Coffee		2.16..0
	To pd Archa Robeson for		
	Candles	1.16..3	1.16..3
			£ 844..2..8
	To the Sum Brot over		£ 844..2..8
July 23	To 1 bar Tallow 215 lb		
29	To 1 bar ditto 222 437 lb @ 8d		14.11..4
July 23	To 4¾ Gal Oile	} 19½ Gal @ 7/6	7..6..3
24	To 2¾ Gal do		
Augt 20	To 6 G do 6 G do		

July 29	To 1 bar Tarr	1..4..0	
	To 1 bar Pitch	1.10..0	
	To 1 bar Turpentine	1.10..0	4..4..0
	To 53 lb Old Junk		1..6..6
Augt 8	To 208 feet pine plank	a /6	1.14..8
	To 30 lb Nails @ 1/	a /2	1.10..0
	To 10 lb 4d ditto @ 1/4		0.13..4
	To pd Jona Brooks for Nails	6..6	
	To pd ditto for Varnish	18..0	
	To pd Guy Richards for Nails	17..6	
	To pd ditto for Nails & Locks	1.0..8	
	To pd ditto for Locks	3..6	
	To pd Owen for Lamp black	8..0	
	To pd Deneman for Locks	4..6	
	To pd Silas Church for Hinges	2..2	
	To pd Davd Gardner for do.	2..8	
	To pd Wm Stewart for 6 lb twine	18..0	
	To pd Jona Bales Bill the Joiner	1.10..0	6.11..6
	To pd Thos Hutchinsons Bill for paint &c		0.12..0
	To pd Thos Mumfords Bill for boards &c		10..0..0
	To 2 bottles Oile for the Armorer @ 3/6		0..7..0
	To Eb Goddards Bill Carpenter		44..4..3
	To Samel Latimers Bill Smith		48.19..4
	To Alex Merrels Bill Block maker		11.14..5
	To ditto after Bill		1..5..8
	To pd Robt Ushers Bill for Doctering		2.15...—
	To pd Mrs. Skiner boarding Jas Wailing		0.10...—
	To pd Ros Saltonstall Bill for plank		3..5...—
	To 4 bar Lampblack from Owen		0..8..0
	To 6 bar ditto from ditto		0.12..0
	To pd David Gardiner's Bill for Nails &c		1..4.10
	To James Tilleys Bill		8.14..4
	To 10 bus Corn	a 3/0	1.18..0
	To 14 barrels Beef	a 50/	35..0..0
	To 25 bar Pork	a 80/	100..0..0
	p Bill from Squier frt of do —		
	To 5 Cask Bread from C £ 5..1..21	a 20/	5..8..9
	To do from Capt Kenedy 17. 3..17	a 20/	17.18..0
	To pd Jas Peneman for Loaf Sugar & Chocolat		8..4..4½
	To 30 Double headed 4 lb Shott		3..0..0
	To 2 barrels Powder Contg 220	a 5/4	58.13..4
	To Iron Cabbuse from the Jno & Eliza Prize		12..0..0
	To ½ bus Lime		0..2..0
	To pd Sam Cheeny the Mason		
	To pd Jona Douglass Bill		4..9..—
			1016.12..1



View of Ticonderoga.

The Brig <i>Defence</i>		£ Brot Over	1016.12..1
	To 17 Iron Bound Cask for Water	a 15/	12.15..0
	To 1 Cable 75 fathom 14..0..7 lb	@ 110/	77..7..0
	To 1 Spy Glass		3..0..0
	To 4 Cord Wood	a 12/	2..8..0
	To paid William Brooks the Butchers Bill		42..3.11
Sept 11	To Cash pa Cornelias Dunham a Wounded	}	2..0..0
	Seaman on accot his board as p Rect		
	To pd Jona Starr Junr Bill		1.12..-
15	To Cash advanced Thos Greystock a Sick man	}	0.18..-
	Left at N[ew] L[ondon] -		
23	To pd Cornealias Dunham a wounded Sea-	}	2..5..-
	man on Accot his board as pr Rect		
	To Cash advanced Thos Greystock		0.12..-
	To pd Doc Coits Bill for ditto		
	To pd Charles Walker Bill		26.18..-
	To pd Nicholas Starr		1.11..6
	To pd Davd Lewis Bill boarding Thos Gray-	}	5.15..-
	stock & Geo Gee & Samuel Hamond		
	To pd Benja Malleson for boarding Cornelias		
	Duning as p Rect		
	To pd William Skinner boarding Thos		
	Graystock		7.16..0
	To pd James Robinson for boarding p Bill		3.10..0
			<hr/> 254.16.11½

1. Nathaniel & Thomas Shaw Collection, YUL.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER ¹

Dear General

Ticonderoga September 23d 1776

Inclosed, I send you General Arnold's Letter of the 18th together with the Examination of Sergeant [Eli] Stiles. The General makes no Doubt the Enemy will soon pay him a Visit: I hope not before we get the Row Gallies to his Assistance: — then succeed or fail, we have done our best. It is a lamentable Case that our Gallies must wait for Cordage and for Gun Carriages to be completed. So long ago as the Middle of July I acquainted the Congress, that we were necessitated to make all the Carriages upon the Spot. Surely, a Supply might have been sent us before this Day, to provide against the worst. It will be proper to send all the Troops that are below to Lake George and Skenesborough and direct the Militia to be every where in Readiness to march to us upon the first Alarm. The powder Lead and Flints, I wrote for so long ago is not yet, even in part arrived. Pray hurry it up. The Moments are precious, and not one of them should be lost. I have said

much to Major [Henry Brockholst] Livingston,² but my Hands are too full to write more. I am Dear General [&c.]

Horatio Gates

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, II, 390-91, NA.

2. Schuyler's aide-de-camp who was returning to Albany.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹

[Extract]

Tyonderoga 23d September 1776.

. . . I also wrote to the General [Schuyler], pressing him in the most Earnest manner, to forward us every necessary Succour, both of Men & Materials. Believe me, dear Sir, no man Alive could be more Anxious for the Welfare of you & Your Fleet, than General Waterbury, & myself; we are, Early & Late, labouring to get the Gallies to your Assistance; one will Sail Thursday at farthest, & the Two Others, we hope, on Saturday. It is the Blacksmiths Work that has delay'd us somuch, notwithstanding we have got more Forges, and altho, with different Gangs of Men, they are Work'd Night & Day . . .

1. Gates Papers, Box 19, NYHS.

CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK TO SERGEANT DAVID ENSIGN¹

Sir

Head Qrs Albany Sepr 23d 1776

You will immediately embark on Board of a large Batteau and proceed from this place to poghkepsie, where you will deliver the Letter for Capt: Samuel Tudor (herewith delivered you) & receive from him two Cables, with which you will return to this place with all possible Dispatch. By order of the General

Rich^d Varick Secy

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

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH¹

[Harlem, September] 22d. - [to September] 23d. - Two seamen, belonging to *La Brune*, a British ship of war, which lay near Montresor's Island, deserted, and came to our General's quarters; and informed him, upon examination, that the British had then but a few men on the island, stating the number; that the piece of cannon, which had been put on the island, was taken back again, on board *La Brune*; that there were a number of officers at the house, in which there was a considerable quantity of baggage deposited, &c. Our General supposed that these troops might be easily taken; and, having called the General Officers of his division together, took their opinion, who all coincided with him in sentiment. He then communicated his intention to the Commander in Chief, who gave it his approbation. Two hundred and forty men were destined for this enterprise: the command was given to Lieut. Col. Michael Jackson, of the Massachusetts line, with Majors

[Samuel] Logan and —, whose name cannot be recollected, of the New-York troops. They were to embark on board three flat-boats, covered by a fourth with a detachment of artillery, with a light three-pounder, in case it should be found necessary in retreating from the island. The mode of attack was settled, and every circumstance secured, to promise success. They were to fall down Haarlem Creek with the ebb. The time was so calculated, that the young flood was to be so much made, at the break of day, as to cover the flats at the island, sufficiently for the boats to float. Matters being thus settled, our General ordered the two sailors to be brought in: he then told them that in consequence of their information, an enterprise against the British troops on Montresor's Island was to take place that night; that he had ordered them to be kept in safe custody until the next morning, when, if their declarations respecting the state of the British on the island proved to be true, he would give them a passport to the back country, whither they wished to go; but, in case their information was false, he would order them hanged immediately, as spies; that he gave them the opportunity, if they had made a wrong statement to him, then to correct it. They both answered, with perfect composure, that they would cheerfully submit to the condition. Major Thomas Henly was now one of our General's Aids-de-camp. He importuned that he might go with the detachment. He was refused, and told that he had no business there; that he could exercise no command. He grew quite impatient, returned again to the General's room, and addressed him: "Pray, Sir, consent to my going with the party — let me have the pleasure of introducing the prisoners to you tomorrow." All his friends present advised him not to go. The General finally consented. The troops, at the hour assigned, embarked. Our General informed them, that he, with others, would be spectators of the scene, from a certain point near Haarlem Creek. [23d] Notice had been given to the guards and pickets on the York Island side, not to hail the party as they went down. Unfortunately, the lower centinel had not been so instructed. He was nearly opposite to the point where our General was to be; and just at the instant when he arrived, had challenged the boats, and ordered them to come to the shore. From the boats they answered, "Low! we are friends." The challenge was repeated. The answer was, "We tell you we are friends — hold your tongue." A bounce into the water was heard; and instantly Maj. [Thomas] Henly came wading to the shore, stepped up to our General, caught him by the hand, and said, "Sir, will it do?" Our General, holding him by the hand, replied, "I see nothing to the contrary;" to which Henly concluded by saying, "Then it shall do." He waded back to his boat, and got in. The centinel called again: "If you don't come to the shore, I tell you I'll fire." A voice from some one in the boats, was, "Pull away!" The boats went on and the centinel fired his piece. The boats reached the island almost at the moment intended, just as the glimmer of dawn was discoverable. The three field-officers were in the first boat. Their intention, on the moment of landing, was, for the two seconds in command to spring, the one to the right, and the other to the left, and lead on the troops from the other two boats, which were to land on each side of

the first boat. The field-officers landed, and the men from their boat. The enemy's guard charged them, but were instantly driven back. The men in the other two boats, instead of landing, lay upon their oars. The British, seeing this, returned warmly to the charge. The Americans, finding themselves thus deserted, returned to their boat; but not until Lieut. Col. [Michael] Jackson received a musket-ball in his leg, and Maj. Henly, as he was getting into the boat, one through his heart, which put an instant end to his life. The boat joined the others, and they all returned, having, in the whole, about 14 killed, wounded and missing; Maj. Henly deeply regretted. Had only one of the other boats landed her men, the success would have been very probable; but the two would have insured an execution of the whole plan, in the opinion of all concerned. The delinquents in the other boats were arrested, and tried by court-martial, and one of the Captains cashiered.

On the night of the 23d, the British got possession of the works of Paulus Hook. The Americans had previously taken off all the cannon and stores.

1. Abbatt, ed., *Heath Memoirs*, 55-58.

DIARY OF FREDERICK MACKENZIE¹

[New York] 23d Sept – At 1 o'Clock this day, the 3rd Battalion of Light Infantry, and 2nd and 6th Brigades, marched to Greenwich in order to embark for the attack of Paulus hook. Three Ships of War came up at the same time, and anchored off the principal Battery, at which they fired a few shot, but none of the Rebels appearing, the 57th Regiment only received orders to embark; which they did and soon after landed without any opposition. They immediately took possession of the Peninsula, and all the Rebel works thereon, in which they found 2 32 prs, and forty Casks of biscuit. The possession of this post secures the principal anchorage in the North River, and renders the communication with the North part of the town, by water, safe.

1. *Mackenzie's Diary*, I, 62.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Emerald*, CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CALDWELL¹

September 1776

Off Bedlow's Island.

Monday 23d

At 12 Lord Howe Vissited the Ship; at 1 Got under Sail, with the *Roebuck* & *Tartar*, at 2 Anchd off Powles Hook, began to fire at the Redoubts, at 3 Weighed & went above the Hook, & fired several Shot at the Redoubts; at 4 Made the Signal that the Rebels had left their Works, at 5 our Troops landend & took possession thereof

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/311.

MASTER'S LOG OF H.M.S. *Roebuck*¹

Sept 1776

Long Isld SE

Monday 23d A M, at 5 Unmoor'd & Barrocaded the ship at noon weigh'd and made sail with the *Tartar*, *Emerald* & *Carcass* Bomb – First and latter parts Modt & fair at 2. P M. Anchor'd of[f] Paulus hook in $\frac{1}{4}$ less 4 with the Stern Anchor and vore away, & let go the small Br & begun to fire on the Enemy's Works on Paulus Hook & Continued about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, Do sent Assistance to Warp the *Carcass* in, about 6 the Troops from New York side came over in the flat Boats & Landed, & the *Carcass* got underway and join'd the fleet

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1965.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Tartar*, CAPTAIN CORNTHWAITE OMMANNEY¹

Sept 1776

Monday 23rd

At Single Anchor Bedlows Isld Red Hook Et Light airs and clear Wr at 1 P M hove up and made Sail in Co with his Majestys Ships *Roebuck* and *Emmerald* the Enemy began to Fire on us, one Shott went through the Foresail and Main Staysail at $\frac{1}{2}$ pt 2 brought to Head and Stern abreast of Paulus Hook in $3\frac{1}{2}$ fm two Cables length off shore at 3 we began to Fire on the Battery and continued till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 when our Troops landed with some Artillery and took possession of the Works

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN SAMUEL UPPLEBY¹

September [1776]

[Off Red Hook]

Monday 23

AM Admiral made the signal for an Officer the *Roebuck* weighed sent boats to tow her, the *Emerald* *Tartar* & *Carcass* bomb weighed ran up & Anchored off Paulers hook the Rebels fired several shot at them from thence whilst running up & then deserted the hook at 2 the Ships began to fire at the hook to scour it and to see if any of the Rebels was left there in ambush at 4 the 57 Regt with some Artillery landed and took possession of it, rowed guard on the Jersey shore.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

JOURNAL OF AMBROSE SERLE¹

[On board H.M.S. *Eagle*] Monday, 23d. Sept. The *Roebuck*, the *Tartar*, the *Emerald*, & the *Carcass* Bomb, went up to Powley's Hook, and took it

without Molestation. The Rebels have raised considerable Works there also, and have as meanly deserted them. They fired 3 Random Shot only, and retired long before our headmost Ship could come near them. I was at New York at the time; and it was a pleasant Scene to view the Ships and the De-barkation; and the more pleasing to me, as no Blood was shed on the Occasion.

1. Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, 112.

JOURNAL OF BENJAMIN BOARDMAN¹

[Paulus Hook, September] 23d.

At 1 o'clock P.M. having removed every thing of value, we were ordered to retreat from the Hook. As soon as we began our march, four ships came up and anchored near the shore around the Hook; at the same time a number of boats, and floating batteries, came down from just above New York; the latter run up into the cove, opposite the causeway, that leads to Bergen. After taking a considerable time to *see that there was no body to hurt them*, they began a most furious cannonade on our empty works, which continued till they had wearied themselves. In a word, they *dared* to come much nearer, and displayed the *boasted British valor in much brighter colours*; than ever they had while there remained a single man to oppose them. Mean while our little battalion retreated with drums beating, and colours flying, to Bergen; and before night the *brave Britons* ventured on shore, and took possession of our evacuated works; where they have taken every precaution to prevent our formidable detachment from returning and driving them from a post which with so great a *display of heroism*, they have got possession of.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 18, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, September 23, 1776

Resolved . . . That two companies of the marines lately raised, and now in Philadelphia, be also ordered to march immediately to fort Montgomery [New York]:

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 809, 811.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Sept. 23rd, 1776.

Resolved, That Capt. [Joseph] Blewer, Capt. [Francis] Gurney, Mr. Sam'l Cad. Morris, be appointed to form a regular Muster Role for the Navy of this State, & produce the same to this Board.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Capt. Jno. Hazlewood fifty Pounds on acco't of the Fire Rafts, to be charged to his acco't.

Mr. Nesbitt to pay Mr. Thos. Davis, £ 250, on acco't of Peers Built by him, to be sunk in the River Delaware, near Fort Island, to be charged to his acco't.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Williams & Clinton, one Hundred Pounds on acco't of the Armed Boat *Delaware*, building by them, to be charged to their acco't.

An order was drawn on Mr. Nesbitt, in favour of Robins, Dun & Hails, £ 60, on acco't of the Armed Boat *Convention*, Built by them, to be charged to their acco't.

Resolved, That the Officers recruiting for the Naval Armament of this State, be allowed 20s p Man in lieu of all Expences for Enlisting, & that each man be allowed One Month's pay advance at their enlistment, to be continued in service untill discharged by this or a future Council of Safety.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 726, 727.

CONTINENTAL BOND FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA LETTER OF MARQUE
BRIGANTINE *Three Friends*¹

1776 . *Three Friends*, brigantine.² Guns: 8. Men: 20

Sept: 23 . Commander: Daniel Jackson

Bond: Continental, \$5,000.

Bonders: John Donaldson, Jacob Sheafe, Jr., and Daniel Jackson, all of Philadelphia.

Owners: Moore, Donaldson & Mercer, Philadelphia.

Witnesses: Daniel Evans, William Trepethen.

1. Papers CC (Ships' Bonds Required for Letters of Marque and Reprisal), 196, XV, 30, NA. An abstract from the bond.
2. The *Three Friends* was the brigantine taken and brought into Philadelphia, a prize of the Continental sloop *Sachem*, Captain Isaiah Robinson. She had been libeled against on September 11, for trial September 27. Thus she was given an American commission four days before official condemnation.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD BOGER, R.N., TO ROBERT MORRIS¹

Sir . York Town Jail Septr [23] 1776²

I received your letter, am sorry to find you cou'd not comply with my request. You say the Congress never tenderd a Parole to any Officer that was inconsistant with his Duty and Circumstances to sign. The Parole tendered to Mr [George] Ball and my self came from the Committee of Safety, a Copy of which I wou'd have sent you, but the officer took it back with him, but belive me Sir no officer cou'd sign it with propriety. Mr Ball and my self will esteem it a Singular favour if Mr Morris will interced and send us a Parole that we can sign as officers in His Majestys Navy. We offer'd to sign the Parole given by the officers now Prisoners at York but was refus'd it. I

thought it very hard as we was to reside with them, A Copy of which I beg leave to inclose to you; likewise a letter for Lord Howe I hope you will send it to him. I apply'd to this Committee for leave to walk on the Common now and then to repair my health having had a touch of the Gout — but was refus'd that small favour. I am Sir [&c.]

R^d Boger³

To Robt Morris Esqr in Congress

1. FDRL.

2. The date is approximated. On September 25, 1776, Congress resolved that lieutenants Boger and Ball be released from prison upon signing "the like parole as the other officers, prisoners in York Town in Pennsylvania." Copy of this parole was enclosed in Boger's letter.

3. See Volume 4 for capture of Lieutenants Boger and Ball.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Sirs/

I understand your Going to Strip the Schooner *Resolution* I Dont Pretend to Direct you But think shee had Best Bee Loded With Bread Which you Now have Redy and Sent to Sum Market Where it Mout Be Sold to Advantage, and Loded home With Salt Perhaps shee May have a Second Sute of Sales that May answer, this Shall Leave to yore Beter Gugment from your Humbl Servant

Jesse Hollingsworth

[Baltimore] September 23 – 1776

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen

Patomock Ship *Defence* Sept 23d 1776

I have thought it Necessary to send the Tender up as her Mainmast head is sprung, and is under the Necessity of keeping Mr [Gilbert] Middleton as a pilot to carrey the ship down the bay, I have endeavoured to get one at Smith's Creek but could not, I am informed by Commadore [John Thomas] Boucher that he was chased by the *Fowey* off our Capes, I shall use every proper method in my power for the safety of our Ship; – I have the Pleasure of informing you that the greatest Harmony Subsists amongst the whole Ships Crew, and all in high Spirits and good health; I shall inform you fully of our State by the return of Mr Middleton. I have the Honor to be Gentlemen [&c.]

George Cook

NB Commadore Boucher was chased the 14th of this Instt

G. C.

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ¹

[Charleston] Monday the 23d Day of September. 1776

Ordered That the Order of the Day to ballot for another Commander of the Brigantine *Comet* be discharged

Ordered That a Committee be appointed to receive the Names of Persons desirous or proper to be appointed to the Command of the Brigantine *Comet* that they do sit forthwith for that Purpose and give Public notice thereof

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 39, 40.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH
TO THE LATTD OF 33:" ¹

Munday September the 24 [*sic* 23] Day 1776

Latter Part Munday Morning the Wind starts to the NW.
Heads NNE. Five A Clock Put About stood to the West-
ward Heads W. the Wind Dies Saw Whales to Windard
A school of them In A Fine Humour Hove out the Yall
Rowd for Fird two Guns at them Latd In 40:4

First Part these 24 hours small Brease to the NNE steering
NW. Twelve A Clock A squall struck Us Topsails & Top
Gallant Out Handed them settled the Mainsal took I[n]
two Reafs Han[d]ed the Jib the wind starts to the Nothard
And Westward

1. RIHS.

24 Sept.

CAPTAIN MAXIMILIAN JACOBS, R.N., TO PHILIP STEPHENS¹

[Extract]

Copy. *Amazon* at Quebec Sepr 24th 1776.

Sir, Please to inform their Lordships that I arrived here with His Majts Ship *Amazon* under my Command the 16th Inst, but the *Garland* & the remaining part of my Convoy did not come in till the 19th . . . I found riding here His Majts Ship *Isis* & *Triton*; Capt Douglas who commanded the former being at St Johns to forward the equipment of all the Vessels who are to act on Lake Champlain, it is hoped, very early in next Month — I have enclosed a Copy of the return he has sent me of the Vessels to be employed in that Service. . .

Maxⁿ Jacobs.

[P. S.] In consequence of Genl Carleton's request communicated by Capt Douglas & just now received, I have been under a necessity of directing

Capt [Richard] Pearson of His Majesty's Ship *Garland* to send up 30 Seamen to reinforce the Squadron on Lake Champlain & shall agreeable to the Generals desire direct Capt Pearson to remain during the Winter at Quebec in order to assist in forwarding the Spring Operations, which I hope their Lordships will not disapprove of.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/125, 69b.

CONDEMNATION IN HALIFAX VICE ADMIRALTY COURT OF THE
AMERICAN PRIZE SLOOP *Baltimore*¹

Cause.

Henry Mowat Commander of the——Sloop *Albany* VS the
Sloop *Baltimore* one William Clesby Master –

4th Sept 1776 } Libel file'd & entred Order made thereon as on file

George Sybels Commander of the Arm'd Sloop *Gage* being Duly sworn Deposeth that he seiz'd & Detain'd the Sloop *Baltimore* William Clesby Master on the 18th of August last about fourteen Leagues to the Westward of the Seal Islands Bound from the East Passage near Cape Sable to a Race call'd Narrow Guerres near Mechias had on Board one Hogshead Melasses & about £100 lb of Coffee that she had no Register or any other Paper on Board except a few letters the Deponant got out of a Passengers Chest –

George Sibbles

24th Sept 1776 } Court opend by makeing Proclamation as usual
Proclamation for all Claimers none appear'd
Decree Pronounc'd as on file whereby the Sloop *Baltimore* was
Condemn'd as lawfull Prize to the Captors thereof
Court Adjourn'd without Day in this Cause.

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

RECEIPT FOR STORES SUPPLIED THE BRIGANTINE *Dispatch*¹

		Portsmo	Sepr 24 1776	
John Langdon Esqr	to	Geo Gains		Dr
To two Brass Blunderbusses @	£4. 16			9. 12. .0
To 4 lb Powder @ 7/				1. .8. .–
To 10 lb musquet ball @ 7¼				6. .–
To 1 Doz flints				1. .6
To 1 Iron bound Cagg @ 5/				5. .–
				£ 11. 12. .6

NB The above were Deld to Capt [Stephen Cleveland] of the Brig *Dispatch* in Continental Service

[Endorsed] Rec'd the Contents in full Geo Gains

1. John Langdon Papers, HSP.

BOND OF TIMOTHY PARSONS AS PRIZE AGENT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS¹

Know all Men by these Presents that We Timothy Persons of Pownalborough in the County of Lincoln, and State of Massachusetts Bay Gentleman, and stand firmly bound and obliged to Henry Gardiner Esqr Treasurer of the State aforesaid, in the sum of Ten Thousand pounds to be paid the said Treasurer or his Successors in said Office; to the which payment well & truly to be made, We bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors and Administrators Jointly and severally and firmly by these presents. In Testimony whereof we have hereunto sett our Hands & Seals, this Twentysfourth Day of September Anno Domini 1776.

The Condition of the foregoing Obligation is such that whereas the said Timothy Persons Esqr is appointed Agent for the Eastern District for all Captures made by any Vessel or otherways in which this State is anyway interested or concerned whose Authority as Agent shall be limited to and Confined within the Limits of the aforesaid District for holding the Court of Captures as set forth by an Act of this State for the trying & Condemning of all Vessels as aforesaid – If therefore the said Timothy Persons shall in all things observe and conduct himself according to the Orders & Directions given him respecting his Office as Agent as aforesaid, and shall duly Account when thereto legally required for all Moneys and Effects by him received in Virtue of his appointment as aforesaid, Then the above obligation to be Void, otherways to abide & remain in full force & Virtue.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 272.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR WILLIAM BROWN TO COMMAND THE
MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SHIP *Boston*¹

To the Honb The Council of the State of the
Massachusetts Bay

The Petition of Capt William Brown

Sheweth

That your Petitioner is appointed by Messrs Paul Dudley Sargeant, James Swan, Mungo Mackay & Thomas Adams, to the Command of the Privateer, frigate Ship named the *Boston*, of which they are proprietors, which is almost ready to Sail upon a Six Months cruize against the Enemies of America. She carries twenty two Guns – ten, nine pounders; Six, six pounders, and Six, four pounders; – With two hundred & ten hands, including officer, & Marines; – Is burthen'd about four hundred Tons; and has on-board 90 bls of Pork; 90 bls of Beef, with small Stores. – The first Lts name is Hemar Doan, the 2d Lts name John Snoddin, Capt of Marines Gawen Brown jr, the Lt of Marines Willm Nichols

Your Petitioner therefore Prays Your Honors wou'd Commission him Commander of said frigate; and give him the necessary papers & instructions: And as in duty bound Shall ever pray. —

William Brown

[Endorsed] In Council Sept 24th 1776 Read & Ordered that the Prayer of the Above Petition be granted and that a Commission be issued out to the Above Commander he complying with the Resolves of Congress

John Avery Dpy Secy²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 271.

2. *Ibid.*, 261, 262, commissions were also issued this date to Ebenezer Pierce to command the privateer schooner *Liberty*, and to Joseph Cunningham, sloop *Phoenix*.

RICHARD DERBY, JR. TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE¹

Sir

Watertown Sept 24, 1776

The General Court of this State have come to a Resolution to Equip the Two Continental Ships Built in this State, in order that they may be immediately sent to Cruise, and clear the Coast of the Enemys Ships of War, The smallest Ship is already furnished with suitable Cannon, and Twenty six twelve pounders are now waiting [*sic* wanting] for the Largest Ship. Six only can be procured here, and as I am informed your Honor has it in your Power to procure from the Works in the Government over which you preside the Guns now wanted.

I pray leave to Inform you that I am directed to procure them if to be found, and to pay ready money for them, and as I have been Informed the Guns provided for the Continental Ships at Providence are not immediately wanted, & should this be the Case and I can have Twenty of them I will immediately Contract with your Honor and oblige myself on the part of this State to furnish the Guns again as soon as they can be procured from the Works at Providence. I shall be ready to enter into such Obligation as your Honor shall think reasonable, and as this is a Matter of public Importance, I may not doubt but you will use your kind offices in this affair and favour me with your Answer proposing the Terms on which I can have them, and when, as soon as may be I have the Honor to be with great Regard [&c.]

Richard Derby Junr

Please to direct to Me at Salem — for any other Particulars Please to be Referred to Genl Lincoln the Bearer —

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

COMMODORE ESEK HOPKINS TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Providence Sept 24th 1776

A Ship arrived here yesterday of 8 Iron & 8 wooden Guns, of 360 Tons, taken by Captn [James] Munro in Lattd 33 — Longd 55² The Prize Master informs that a day or two after he left the Privateer he saw a Brig and a Sloop both Armed he is certain the Brig was Captn Harding³ — they

both stood for the Ship, till he knew the Brig when he hawl'd up his Courses & hove too — when they spoke with each other and stood off — the Reason he does not know. I am Sir [&c.]

E. H

1. Hopkins Letter Book, RIHS.
2. The prize was the *Blaze Castle* taken by the Rhode Island privateer *Sally*.
3. Seth Harding commanded the Connecticut state brig *Defence*.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Fishkill] Tuesday Afternoon, Sept. 24th, 1776.

Thomas Creiger, commander of the schooner *General Putnam*, a vessel of war fitted out by, and belonging to this State, waited upon the Committee, and informed them that the said schooner is very much out of repair, and as the winter is approaching, submitted to the Committee whether it would be proper to keep the said schooner longer in service.

The Committee were of opinion that this matter be referred to the consideration of the Convention.

Capt. Cregier was called in, and directed to wait the meeting of the Convention.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 642.

CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, R.N., TO HANS STANLEY¹

[Extract]

RoeBuck, at New York, 24th Sepr 1776

As soon as I heard from Sir Peter Parker & General Clinton of their being unsuccessful in South Carolina, and that instead of joining us at Virginia as I had all along been taught to expect They had sailed for New York, and being myself most heartily tired of carrying on a sort of Piratical War, that tended in no degree to benefit his Majestys service, I consulted with Lord Dunmore, and found his Lordship equally desirous of quitting a situation that was every day growing more & more distressing; we therefore disposed of our Floating Town in the best manner we could, by sending them to places of security, and with the few Troops we had left, set sail for New York, & arrived just as the operations against the place were beginning.

I need not tell you My Dear Sir, the pleasure I recieved in finding My Friend Lord Howe entrusted with the conduct of the American business (the most important perhaps that Great Britain ever was concerned in) because I know his abilitys for carrying on a war are not to be excelled; and am perfectly convinced, that nothing but success in the war, and reducing the Americans to the utmost extremity, will ever bring about a Peace or reconciliation, in terms the least honorable for Great Britain. It has long been too late for Negotiation . . .

. . . after the Enemy abandoned Long Island they imediately saw the Town of New York was not tenable. They therefore lost no time in clearing

it of all the stores valuable effects & most of the Artillery; but still kept possession of it, as well as a very considerable work, called Bunkers Hill, immediately at the back of it, and had a very large Body of Men in the Neighbourhood. Our Army took their Post opposite to Hell Gate, and Batterys were erected and feints were made to shew the Enemy that we intended landing there. However nothing was done untill the 15 Instant, when General Howe landed with about twelve thousand five hundred men at Keps's bay, a place about 3 Miles above the Town in the East River, under cover of the Fire of several of the Ships of war; without the least opposition. Notwithstanding a deep entrenchment had been made by the Enemy on every accessible part of the coast of the Island of New York, which they manned at the place, opposite to where our Troops were in Motion, The Ships no sooner began to fire than they immediately deserted their lines and took to their heels. This seemed to be a signal for those quartered in the Town & the Neighbourhood; as they all did the same, and never stoped untill they got into their works at Kingsbridge: where they at present remain. we have also taken possession of Paulus Hook, which is the point on the West Side of Hudsons River which the Enemy had very strongly fortified, where they kept a large Garrison, and where they behaved exactly as they had done at every other place where the ships had been carried to.

From what I have said, you will concieve that we shall have no difficulty in driving the Enemy from the Sea Coast, which indeed they dont scruple to say that they will give up to you, knowing that the more possessions you have the weaker you will be in the feild: and they seem to place their entire dependance on their being able to hold out longer than we can: their Emissarys in England having assured them that the present armament is the utmost efforts of Great Britain for one year, and cannot possibly be continued a second which gives them great confidence.

It is most certain that a war was never carried on upon more unequal terms; whilst we are treating them with openness & generosity, they are daily practising every kind of Art treachery & cruelty to destroy us. They gave us up the Town quietly, and as soon as they imagined, the People that had been driven out of it by them had again got settled in their Houses, and that a number of our Stores were got on Shore, They took the opportunity of a windy dark night, and set the Town on fire in many different places, by people that they had concealed in certain Houses for that purpose, with all kinds of combustibles prepared. . . .

We are at present perfectly quiet, and as we are making a Line of works from River to River a cross the Island about 6 or 7 miles beyond the Town, which can not be finished in less than 10 days or a fortnight, it is natural to conclude no attack will be made on the Rebel Army untill the Arrival of the last division of the Hessians, which we hourly expect to see. The Enemy has taught us how to deal with them; which is to get behind them, and shew them that their retreat is in danger; and they never will make any stand: I hope we shall never attack them any other way, unless we should, by accident get them into the open feild.

The Fleet & Army are in great spirits and tolerable good health, and for the present live exceedingly well: but the Ships are ill mann'd & very short. You can have no Idea of the Number of Men it takes to attend upon such an Army as this is; with the Ships we have here (which is two thirds of those employed in America) when all the Flat Boats, Gallies, Gondalas, [illegible] stages &c &c &c are mann'd, there is scarce Men enough left on board many of the Ships to move them. So that we really want Six or Eight Line of Battle Ships; not so much perhaps for the use of the Ships, as for their large Complements of Men for the purposes before mention'd. I have allways been of opinion that the principal means of putting an end to the war was to put an entire stop to the trade of America, which was only to be done by having a great Number of cruizers, and a constant succession of clean ships. Unfortunately this expedition against New York has necessarily required the attention of so many ships, that all the Southern Ports are now left open, and there is no doubt but they will embrace this opportunity to send away their Tobacco and Grain. The Merchants in the French & dutch west India Islands tell the Merchts at Philadelphia (many of which letters I have intercepted) that if they will send them very small fast sailing Pilot boats, they can supply them amply with Powder Arms & Cloathing at very little risk, but as they have no money to send in return, and these Vessels will not convey the bulky commodities of America, they can not devise any mode for remittances to be made, and unless that can be done the trade must drop of course. Therefore the necessity of shutting up the Ports is obvious, and the small inlets is not of so much consequence as one at first would imagine.

Dont be too sanguine my Dr Friend about the extent of the present campaign. If we can drive the Enemy from Kings bridge, Secure this Port as an establishment, and take possession of Rhode Island, for a winter Harbour for our Ships, it will perhaps be as much as will be done: and by taking the Field early next Spring, and joining the army in Canada we shall be strong enough to pursue vigorously any plan that may be adopted. I have taken the liberty to mention my Friends in the lower Counties of the Delaware and eastern shore of Maryland, as people worth cultivating, but have been told all that must be a future Consideration. However I am still of opinion that Philadelphia is an object of the first consequence to us. . . .

1. Hamond Papers, UVL.

PETITION OF BENJAMIN MARSHALL & BROTHERS TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Philada Septemb 24th 1776

In January 1775 the Subscribers by Orders from London exported a Cargo of Flour, Wax, Staves &c. to Terceira one of the Western Islands. The Vessel in which they were shipp'd belonging to us, was purchas'd at the Island aforesaid & Payment made in Bills of Excha on London, One of

which to the Value of about £800 Currency was return'd Protested for non payment in March last Since which have had no Oppertunity to send it for Recovery therefore are under the Necessity, as the only probable Means of Saving it, to purchase a small Vessell, but lest any thing should prevent our Recovering it, the Expences of the Voyage would be Considerable And as Pipe Staves are an Article in demand there & small value here & less detrimental to the State of the Colonies than Flour Should She be unhappily taken by our Enemy, induces us to request the Hble Continental Congress to Grant us Liberty to Export Pipe Staves any Quty not Exceeding Twenty Thousand which Indulgence will be Esteem'd as a Favour Confer'd on Your Frds

Benjamin Marshall & Brothers

1. Papers CC (Letters addressed to Congress), 78, XV, 97, NA. The petition was referred the same day to the Marine Committee whose report on October 16, 1776 was "postponed to Wednesday the 23d instant," and thereafter disappears from the journals of Congress. Ford, ed., *JCC*, VI, 882.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO WILLIAM BINGHAM¹

Sir

Philada Septer 24th 1776

We have shipped 1000 bbls flour onboard the Ship *Betsey* — Capt Wm Stevens for your address on Account & Risque of the United States of America agreeable to the enclosed Invoice & bill of Loading The Captn has liberty either to go into St Lucia or Martinico just as winds or other Circumstances may serve. You will therefore receive this flour at either place and cause it to be sold to the best advantage, pay the freight as p bill of Loading & place the Nt pceeds to the Credit of this Committee. We hope the Brigt *Cornelia & Molly* Capt Lockhart arrived safe & delivered her Cargo in good order if so you will no doubt have paid for the Muskets & Powder you remitted by Capt Wickes, out of that Cargo, but if it did not arrive you will have to pay for them out of the present one, or from that of the Sloop *Independence* also sent to your address.

You must dispatch this Ship back as expeditiously as possible and if the Sloop *Independence* does not arrive whilst she is there you may remit us back in her the value of £1500 to £2000, in Good blankets and other Woolen Goods suitable for Soldiers, with some more Muskets, Powder, Gun Flints, Salt Petre, Sulphur &c just as you can obtain them to the best advantage observing that we now want Cloathing for our Troops beyond any other Articles. Shou'd the Sloop *Independence* arrive safe, you may then remit the less Value in the Ship because we deem the Sloop a safer conveyance but still we wou'd have some Goods by each The Value proportioned to the Effects you have in hand unless you can obtain Credit & then you may encrease it one half. We are Sir [&c.]

Rob^t Morris
Josiah Bartlett
Phil. Livingston

Joseph Hewes
Tho^s M: Kean
Richard Henry Lee

1. Simon Gratz Autograph Collection, Case 1, Box 9, HSP.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE¹

Sir

Philadelphia Septr. 24, 1776

We have wrote you very fully by Capt. [John] Young which are hopeful may reach you soon as this in that letter you were advised the safe Arrival of the *Reprisal* Capt. Wickes who delivered us safely the sundry Goods you shipped by him of wh before long we shall render you a pleasing Account Sale and in order that you may be able to pay for them in due time we now ship you by this Ship *Betty* Capt. William Stephens 44 hhd's of Tobacco agreeable to the enclosed Invoice & Bill of Loading for one half the Amount whereof we charge you in Account Current and hope it will get safe to Market in which case we shall make a pleasing Expedition all round, most of this Tobo is very good but it is not of equal Quality and you had best sell the worst first unless you can sell it altogether at a good price which is most likely as we don't think much has been yet sent your way and it is got very high in France, the freight is high but we thot it better to give that and run no risque of the Ship than to have it fixed lower & become Insurers of a proportionable Value of the Ship — We Chartered the Ship from Mess. Geo: Meade & Co and have assured them of your best Services to their Interest not doubting but you will chearfully make good our promises and we shall embrace the earliest Opperty of sending forward more Consignments.

We do not write you on any other Matters as Capt. Young in the Sloop *Independence* sails in a day or two being a fast Sailer well Armed & Manned We think it best to trust to her & are [&c.]

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentn,

Philad'a, Sept. 24th, 1776.

The ship *Betsey*, Cap. Stevens, being in the Service of the Continent, We request you will grant permission for a good Pilot to carry her down the Bay & due care will be taken that he does not fall into the hands of the Enemy.

By order of the Secret Committee.
Robt. Morris.

To the Honorable, The Council of Safety.

1. *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st series, V, 28.

Pennsylvania Packet, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1776

Philadelphia, September 24.

Tuesday last arrived the Continental brig of war *Andrew Doria*, Capt. Biddle, from a cruize, in which he took 6 vessels, viz. ship *Molly*, Brigden [*sic* Bridger] Goodrich, (last belonging to Mr. [Jonathan] Hudson of Mary-

land), brig [*Peggy*], [William] Cook, both prizes of Lord Dunmore's, bound from Virginia for Bermuda; brig *Elizabeth* [William Ryson] Johnson, a prize taken by the English, from North Carolina for Bermuda; brig *Lawrence*, [George] Layburn, from Barbados for Newfoundland; also two brigs in ballast from Virginia, with tories for Bermuda, both of which being short of provisions, &c. he let go.¹

1. The *Maria*, John Marshall, master, and the *Betsey*, John Bynoe, master.

DANIEL JOY TO ROBERT TREAT PAINE¹

Sir/

Warwick-Furnace Sept the 24th 1776 -

Since my arrivel here I have been at Mr Birds Furnace to know how they were like to Succeed in casting their contract of cannon, and find Mr Bird hath Sold one of his Teams of horses & Ordered the Manneger to cast the few Moulds they had made & no more, and put the furnace out of Blast, and then bore the remainder of the guns. They have cast in all 60 - 12 pounders 19 - 9 pounders & 17 - 4 pounders, That is

13-12 lbs	proved	7-12	proved	38-12 lb		2-12 lbs	To
8-9 Do	& sent	2-9	& not	8-9 Do	not	1-9 Do	cast
	to		yet sent		bored		&
7-4 Do	Philada	4-4	down	5-4 Do		1-4 Do	Bore

By which you'll see he will fall vastly Short of the compt he was to cast. I do not know the Number of Nine Pdrs the Frigate is to carry but Suppose you'll not have enough by 5 or 7. If you want a few 12 & 9 cast Messrs Rutter & Potts have don with their contract with the council of Safty and are at lesure to do it if you can agree with them. Mr Samuel Potts will be in Philada in a day or two - As they intend to put their Furnace out of Blast in 10 or 15 day they will not cast them without you give them enough Shot to keep the Furnace going that is to use all the Metal She make - They have cast some prity nice 9 pdrs about two Inches longer than Birds one of which you may See on Capt Andrew Caldwell's warff. If you cannot agree with them You may prevail with the council of Safty to let Mr Old cast what few 12, 9, & 4 pounders you may want I am almost sure he will do it, he has cast some very neat 3 & 4 Pd[r]s for Mr Nathl Tyson of virginia Some of which will be in Town this week I shall go to Mr Grubbs to morrow & as soon as I have used what powder they have there shall return to these Furnaces & If you have sott either of them to worke shall prepare Draughts for them &c. In the Interim I remain [&c.]

Daniel Joy

1. Robert Treat Paine Papers, MassHS.

"STEPHEN STEWARD'S ACCT OF TACKLE, STORES &C TAKEN FROM
SCHOONER *Resolution*"¹.

[West River] Sept 24th 1776

Mr Stephen Steward Recd of Roger Horace Pratt of the Schooner
*Resolution*²—

- 12 Guns with Carraiges Britchens Tackel Compleate
- 1 Swivel & 350 Piggs of Iron Ballast 206 round Shott
- 90 Double Headed Shott. 106 Swivel Shott
- 6 Buckets of Landgrade, 9 Crow Barrs 11 Nets with Wads
- 8 Releiveing Tackels. 16 Gunner's Handspikes
- 18 Carraige Truck's 10 Rammers & Spunge Rope
- 10 Rammers & Spunges Wood 2 four pound Ladles & Worms
- 8 3 pound Ladles & Worm's 1 Swivel Ladle & 2 Rammers
- 13 Match Staves & Formers & spear Tompions
- 35 Gun Tacle Blocks. 16 Hooks & Thimbles
- 10 Copper Lanthorns 8 Copper Hoops 4 Copper Measure's
- 2 Funnels 1 Scoope & pr Gunners Sheers
- 2 Gagezine Lights. 6 Bouck Barrels 21 Qur Cattrich Paper
- 25 Cattrich Boxes 4 Tinder Boxes 1 Serving Mallet 1 fid
- 2 Waste 4 Quarter & 1 Stern Cloth 11 Lances. & 33 Tommy Hauks
- 8 Stools 19 Cans 17 Mess Tubs & a Coper Funnel
- 5 Barrls 10 Hhd & 2 Butts Iron bound & 1 Hhd Wood Hoops
- 2 Bladders putty the Quarter & Waste Netting's
- 25 Bags of Oakham 4 half ports
- Square Sail Water Sail Ma[in] Topmast Staysail
- Topmast Steering Sail Spritsail Topsail
- 2 Pump Can's 3 Match Tubs Iron bound
- c qr lb
- 9. . 1. . 12 Old Iron — which Gallaway & Steward is Charged with —

1. Executive Papers, Box 2, Folder 72, Md. Arch.

2. The Maryland Council of Safety ordered on September 17 that Steward take possession of all the military stores, guns and rigging of the schooner *Resolution* which had been serving as a tender for the Maryland state ship *Defence*, Council of Safety Journal, 29 August 1775 to 20 March 1777, Md. Arch.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Ship *Defence*] Off Point Look Out September 24th 1776

Gentlemen, I Honoured myself by writing you by the *Amelia* Tender. At that time was in hopes of having a fine Night and good run down the Bay. — At 10 P M the wind came round to the Eastward, the night had all the appearance of a gale insueing. I thought it Prudent to have the ship brought at anchor under point look out and this morning early when hove Short the small bower cable parted near the Anchor, We got the Pilot boat to the B[uo]y rope when a strain hove on it parted the bouy rope at the Crown of

the Anchor, the wind blowing a fresh Gale at N W puts it out of our power to get the Anchor at this time We have left a watch bouy at the Place and sett Several places for finding it some other time. Mr [Gilbert] Middleton will have the Marks and knows the Place where the Anchor lies –

At 10 A m I purpose going down to Gwyns Island, as I'm informed by some Gentlemen on board of Sundry Anchors being there & purpose getting one I have the honor to be Gentlemen [&c.]

George Cook²

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, Cook again wrote the Council later the same day that weather prevented him from making Gwynn Island, and that he hoped "to be at Sea by 10 oClock at Night."

CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK TO COMMODORE JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER¹

Sir/

Ship *Defence* Septemr 24th 1776 –

Unluckily this morning our small Bower Cable parted near the Anchor. I Endeavoured to weigh it by the Bouy Rope, that also parted at the Crown of the Anchor. I have left a watch Buoy near the Place – I'm afraid it will intrude on you too far to ask your kindness, should it be calm whilst you're hear, to suffer some of your Boats to endeavour to get the Anchor for the good of the service – It will so far suffice that on seeing the Buoy, that is to shew where our Anchor lies I am Sir with Esteem [&c.]

George Cook

Commodore Boucher of the *Congress*
or Capt [Walter] Brook[e] of the *Liberty*²

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch.

2. The armed ship *Congress* and the schooner *Liberty* were vessels of the Virginia Navy.

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

Sept'r 1776

Island Bermuda So 31.00[W] 93 Leagues

Tuesday 24th Strong Gales and Squally wth much rain at 2 P M fired a Shot and brot too the *Favorite* Brigg from Antigua,² taken by the *Providence* Privateer of 14 Guns belonging to Philadelphia³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.

2. *Favourite*, John Davis, master, from Antigua for Liverpool, with sugar. Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, *ibid.*, 1/487.

3. The Continental sloop *Providence*, John Paul Jones, commander.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SCHOONER *Porcupine*, LIEUTENANT JAMES COTES¹

Septem: 1776

The East end of Hineago NNW 3 or 4 Miles

Tuesday 24

AM at day break Saw a Sail in the N Wt Quarter, Gave Chase, found her to be a Sloop from Virginia bound to the Mole, sent a Quarter Master & two Men on board her, The Master

and one of the Passengers we took out of the Schooner, & sent her down to Port Royal.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.
2. Sloop *Charlotte*, John Williams, master, with a cargo of tobacco and flour; see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

25 Sept.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Triton*, CAPTAIN SKEFFINGTON LUTWIDGE¹

Septemr 1776 Moor'd in the Bason of Quebec
 Wednesdy 25t A M, a part of the foreign Troops disembark'd² – heard from Captn Charles Douglass that Lieut Hervey had seen the Rebel Fleet (consisting of 12 Sail) retiring on the Lake, and kill'd 7 or 8 in a Boat belonging to the Sternmost, a Schooner of 8 guns.³

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1013.
2. *Ibid.*, the second division of Hessian troops which had arrived under convoy of H. M. S. *Garland* on September 18.
3. The schooner *Liberty*. See Arnold to Gates, September 21.

ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL FOR CANNON FOR THE
 CONTINENTAL FRIGATE *Boston*¹

In Council [Watertown] Sept 25 1776

Whereas by a Resolve of the General Court passed Sept 16, 1776 the Committee for fortifying the Harbour of Boston were directed to send forthwith by Water so many Cannon nine pounders with Carriages & other Apparatus from those in and about Boston as shall be sufficient to Arm the Continental ship called the *Boston* to the Town of Newbury Port, & whereas a sufficient number of nine pound Cannon Cannot be procured out of those in and about the Town of Boston for the purpose Abovementioned Therefore Ordered That the Committee for fortifying the Harbour of Boston be & hereby are directed to send to Newbury Port for the Purpose aforesaid forthwith by Water four Twelve pound Cannon with their [illegible] & other [apparatus] from those in and about Boston in leiu of the Nine pound Cannon that are wanting & they were directed to send to the place before mentioned & also to Supply the Said Ship with Two Six pounders & four four pounders if to be procured

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 274, 274a.

DEPOSITION OF ELISHA COLE¹

I Elisha Cole, master of the schooner *Triton*, bound from Kennebec to Cape Francois, testify and declare, that on the twentieth day of July last, I was taken by the *Milford* man of war, John Burr commander, who took from me my bed, bedding, sea cloaths, and every thing else, except what I

had in my chest; when I got on board Capt. Burr he asked me, after taking my papers, where my money was, I answered that I had not any, then he ordered his Clerk to search me, and I was searched accordingly: He then took away my watch but returned it. Next morning the Captain called for me and demanded the key of my chest, and when opened, took every thing out of it to search for money, finding none, they gave me the chest, and ordered me to carry it to my birth. — On the twenty fifth of July we discovered a ship, which he took near Newbury-Barr. — Capt. Burr then ordered me to the fourth gun, and the opposite forward, and compelled me to go, which I was obliged to do after a long dispute, and my mate and all my men were put on the ship's books and compelled to do duty, and obliged to fight against their American brethren, as are all the prisoners they take, which I often heard the officers of the *Milford* declare. I left Halifax the eleventh day of August, leaving my mate and men all on board the *Milford*. — I told Capt. Burr our people gave the masters, mates, &c. their adventures, and it was very hard to have my all taken from me. He replied he could not do it, his people would not allow it, and swore by God he would not give me any thing. — The *Yankey Hero's* men, by the information of the steward and others belonging to the *Milford*, had but three quarters of the common allowance of provisions to seamen for their support, and no allowance of cloathing.

Elisha Cole

Suffolk, ss. Elisha Cole made oath to the truth of the above deposition, by him subscribed before me.

Joseph Greenleaf, J. P.

Boston, Sept. 25, 1776

1. *Pennsylvania Journal*, October 9, 1776.

"A JOURNIEL KEPT BY EPHRAIM BRIGGS ON BOARD OF THE GOOD
SLOOP *Warren* A BOLD PRIVATEER FROM DARTMOUTH
TO THE LATTD OF 33:"¹

[Wednesday, September 25, 1776]

Latter Part Wednesday Morning Blows Quick Lattd in 40:12²

1. RIHS.

2. The journal ends at this point. Latitude indicates the *Warren* was approaching her home port, Dartmouth.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY BEEKMAN LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT R.
LIVINGSTON¹

Dear Brother

[New Haven, September 25, 1776]²

Since my Last I have been to Long Island with My Detatc[h]ment and Part of Colonel [William] Richmonds Regiment of Rhode Island Troops in all amounting to 250 Men the Rest of Colonel Richmonds Regiment with their Colonel and Lt Colnel not careing to arrive time enough we had pro-

digious Rough weather of it were on the Water from two OClock in the Afternoon untill 2 at Night many of the Men Chilled Almost to death (On their Arrival in Setalket Harbour) with wet and Cold in Order to Remedy this inconvenience after we had wiped our Guns Dry I ordered them to March to the two Houses Captain Smiths Company (of Oliver Delancies Brogade) were Quartered at, we found them up and in Arms expecting us, they began the Fire and killed one of the Rhode Island men and wounded Another we in Return killed 7 wounded 2 and took 23 with their Captain Prisoners I should at this time have broke up Master Olivers Brigade but was Oposed by the Rhode Island Officers who declared they would not Continue in so dangerous a Situation any longer this Obliged me to Quit and retreat to New Haven I have brought of[f] with me two New Vessels Loaded with Wood intended for New York Markets have entered a Libel against them and am in a fair way of having them Condemned they will be worth and Sell for £800 New York Currency we have also brought off the Arms and Military Stores of Said Smiths Company³ I have also sent Over for a Shooner an exceeding Fine Vessell lately Possessed by sd Smiths Company, And Mr John Broom is to fit her out as a Privateer for the Halves if She is Condemned I expect in a Day or two to be Ordered to Head Quarters I Remain Your Most Affte Brother

Henry B. Livingston

Pray Excuse Haste –

I have just received an Aprobation of My Conduct in Genteel Terms from Govenor Trumbull and an Order to Proceed for Head Quarters –

Robert R: Livingston Esqr in Convention Fish Kills –

1. NYHS.

2. The date is approximated.

3. For account of arms taken by Livingston, see Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, III, 1144.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. to GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

Sir

New London Sepr 25th 1776

Inclos'd is a Certificate from the Committe of this Town to shew the Importation of Warlike Stores into this Port by Capt Merry Young in the Sloop *Bountifull*, which Sloop I Purchas'd & Gave thirty Six hundred pounds York currency for with Twelve Cannon and Twelve Swivels the Remainder of the Stores were Sold as p the Inclos'd Invoice, and he wants a Certificate or Permission to Export any kind of Goods for the Amount Agreeable to the Resolution of Congress which I beg you will procure and Incl[ose] to me, I think the Sloop may with Propriety Come in as she was fitted out as a Warlike Vessell – and you'l Oblige [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

P S she will not want to Carry much Provissons or Goods that are Prohibited.– N S –

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 311, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

Sir

New London, Sepr 25 1776

This Serves Just to let you know that the Ship *Oliver Cromwell* will be Ready to Sail as Soon as we Can git our People, Muskitts, Pistils & Cutlasses. the Row Galleys have a Sufficiency, & if your Honour Sends for them, I Suppose it will be done Imediately — The Brigg *Defence* is fitting as fast as Can be Expected, and it would forward the Affair much to have the Officers who are to Command her to be on the Spott — I hinted this in a letter I wrote to your Honour before, I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, X, 314, ConnSL.

“PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN DAVID HAWLEY’S COMPANY OF SEAMEN RAISED IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE NAVAL SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN STATES IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT, COMMENCING ON THE DAY OF THEIR INLISTMENT & ENDING THE 25 SEPTEMR 1776 AGREEABLE TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF FIRST MO ADVANCE WAGES — . . .”¹

[Extract]

Officers & Seamens Names	when enter’d the Service	No Days from inlisting to Sept 5 Inclusive	Wages per mo	Total Amot of wages
David Hawley Capt	Augt 9	48	192/	£ 15..7..2
John Fairweather Lieut	19	38	120/	7.12..—
Ephraim Hawley Do		38		7.12..—
Michael Jennings Sea.		38	48/	3..0..9
Samuel Hawley do		38		3..0..9
Andrew Patterson	24	33		2.12..9
Jesse Burr		33		2.12..9
Joseph Mather		33		2.12..9
William Brothwell		33		2.12..9
Mel Waklee		33		2.12..9
Samuel Hendricks		33		2.12..9
Enoch Lacey		33		2.12..9
Daniel Winifred		33		2.12..9
John Hays		33		2.12..9
William Duncomb		33		2.12..9
Abner Hendricks		33		2.12..9
John Lyon		33		2.12..9
Samuel Daniels	25	32		2.11..2
Samuel French		32		2.11..2
Peter Butler		32		2.11..2
Levy Goodrick		32		2.11..2

Saml Treedswell	32	2.11..2
Edmund Pulford	32	2.11..2
George Leemon	32	2.11..2
Darius Fisher	32	2.11..2
Squire Breadsley	32	2.11..2
		<hr/> £ 91..6..2 ²

[Endorsed] Register Office Philadelphia 6 Janu 1784 Copy from the
Original Pay Roll in this Office — Jos. Nourse Reg

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, VI, 116, ConnSL.

2. Columns showing allowances for blankets, bounty for entering, etc. have been omitted from this extracted entry. The total bill was £275..6..0.

“PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN FREDERICK CHAPELS COMPANY OF SEAMEN, RAISED IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, FOR THE NAVAL SERVICE ON THE LAKES IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT COMMENCING ON THE DAY OF THEIR INLISTMENT & ENDING THE 25 DAY OF SEPTR INCLUSIVE . . .”¹

[Extract]

Officers & Seamens Names	when enter'd the Service	No Days from time of In- listing to Sept 25	Wages per month	Amount of Wages
Fredrick Chapel Capt	Augt 9	48	192/	£ 57..7..2
Ephraim Goldsmith Lt	18	39	120/	7.16..—
Stephen G. Thatcher do	“	39		7.16..—
Samuel Little Seaman		39	48/	3..2..5
John Miller “		39		3..2..5
James Benham “		39		3..2..5
John Martin “		39		3..2..5
Joseph Hosmer “	25	32		2.11..2
Stephen Willson “		32		2.11..2
John Wilson “		32		2.11..2
Reuben Hadlock “		32		2.11..2
Frederick Standley “		32		2.11..2
Benjamin Almstead “		32		2.11..2
Benjamin Kenny “		32		2.11..2
John Wilcott “		32		2.11..2
Joseph Wise “		32		2.11..2
Benjamin Osborn “		32		2.11..2
Thomas Mix “		32		2.11..2
Amos Potter “		32		2.11..2
William Ives “		32		2.11..2
Benjamin Cook “		32		2.11..2
Abraham Sugdon “		32		2.11..2

Officers & Seamen's Names	when enter'd the Service	No Days from time of In- listing to Sept 25	Wages per month	Amount of Wages
Ebenezer Alling	"	32		2.11..2
Ephraim Hotchkiss	" 26	31		2..9..7
Robert Hotchkiss	"	31		2..9..7
Joseph Cooper	"	31		2..9..7
Nathaniel Stacey	"	31		2..9..7
Samuel Tharp	"	31		2..9..7
Clement Tuttle	"	31		2..9..7
Eliada Parker	"	31		2..9..7
Eliakim Parker	"	31		2..9..7
Joshua Parker	"	31		2..9..7
Levi Parker	"	31		2..9..7
Ebenezer Merry	"	31		2..9..7
Reuben Judd	"	31		2..9..7
Samuel Holmes	"	31		2..9..7
Abraham Hays	"	31		2..9..7
Nehemiah Knap	"	31		2..9..7
Samuel Morwin	" 23	34		2.14..5
John Gardner	" 26	31		2..9..7
James Taylor	"	31		2..9..7
Edward Neile	"	31		2..9..7
John Kelly	"	31		2..9..7
William Briggs	"	31		2..9..7
John Knap	"	31		2..9..7
				£ 182..3..2 ²

[Endorsed] (Copy from the Original), Register Office 6th January 1784
(signed) Jos. Nourse Reg.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, VI, 23a, ConnSL.

2. Columns showing bounty for entering, allowance for blankets, etc. have been omitted from this extracted item. The total bill was £ 498..8..8.

CAPTAIN RICHARD VARICK TO CAPTAIN JOHN HUNN¹:

Sir

Albany Sept^r 25th 1776

You will immediately embark on Board of three Batteaus and proceed with all possible Dispatch by Night and Day from this place to poghkepsie — where you will deliver the Letter directed to Messrs [Augustin] Lawrence and Tudor [Samuel Tudor] herewith delivered you and take on Board such Cables and Cordage as shall be delivered you by them — You will the[n] reimbarc for this place without the least Delay. By order of the General

Rich^d Varick Secy.

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

COMMITTEE FOR OBSTRUCTING THE HUDSON RIVER TO PETER B. LIVINGSTON¹

Poughkeepsie, Wednesday, 25th September, 1776.

Sir: We've obtained two sloops, two brigs, and two large ships, for the purpose of obstructing the channel at Fort Washington. One of the sloops, the *Clinton*, heretofore purchased by the Committee, we found here; the other we've ordered from Fort Montgomery. The two brigs are here also, one of which belongs to Malcom, Kip & Lott; the other is a New-England vessel, about one hundred and twenty tons burthen, loaded with wheat, staves, and a considerable quantity of inch boards. The wheat and staves we've ordered to be stored; but sent down the boards for publick use. The ships are in Esopus Creek; owners, Messrs. Franklin. They are two very fine vessels, in the building of which much extraordinary pains have been taken, both as to timber and workmanship. On our going there, we ordered them to be hauled out, and expect they will proceed to Fort Washington this day. The two sloops, the *Clinton* and that from Fort Montgomery, we think are almost arrived by this time, as the *Clinton* sailed yesterday, with a fair wind, and the other must have proceeded from the fort shortly after the *Clinton's* arrival there; and as to the brigs, we shall be able to despatch them to-day also. The *Cambden*, Captain Castle, with near two thousand feet plank, and Captain Donaldson, with upwards of six thousand ditto, sailed yesterday also. The ships and brigs aforesaid we are to have appraised by the time they are ready to set off from here, and we imagine the ships will run very high.

Our stock of money is very low, and our contracts far exceeding the sum we were furnished with. The demands on this Committee are frequent and urgent. Upon these considerations, we hope the Convention will, by some means or other, furnish us with a further supply. We are, sir [&c.]

Robt. Yates, Chairman.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 5th, III, 204. Livingston was President of the New York Convention.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

Wednesday Morning, [Fishkill] Sept. 25th, 1776.

A letter from Messrs. Clark and Nightingale, dated Providence, September the 16th, relative to two prizes, to wit: The brig *Temple*, from a whaling voyage, and a Bermudian sloop, both taken on the south side of Long island by the armed Continental sloops *Schuyler* and *Mifflin*, and the armed sloop *Montgomerie*, fitted out by the State of New-York. A state of the case of the brig, drawn up by a lawyer, was also enclosed, were respectively read and filed.

Ordered, That the said letter be referred to the Convention on their first meeting.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 642.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Eagle*, CAPTAIN HENRY DUNCAN¹

Sepr 1776

At Single Anchor off Do [Bedloe's Island]

Wednesdy 25th

At 9 AM unmoor'd Ship took up the Best Bower & hove into $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cable on the Small Bower At Noon Punished William Lacey and Dougal M'Kenzie Seamen with a Dozen lashes each for Drunkeness

The first part Light Breezes & Clear, Middle & latter Modr & Clear, At 4 PM Weighed & Run up near the Town, At 6 Anchor'd with the Bt Br in 11 fm water Veered away & Moored Ship a Cable each way when Moored the Flagstaff on the Fort at New York EbN $\frac{1}{4}$ N Bedlows Island SWbW Bargan Church NW $\frac{1}{4}$ W² at 12 Anchor'd here the *Tartar*

1. NMM, Admiralty L/E/11.

2. "In the afternoon, the *Eagle* moved up near, to the Fort & Town; The Admiral [Howe] having taken a House, designing to make up his Winter-Quarters in New York." Tatum, ed., *Serle's Journal*, September 25, 1776, 113.

AMBROSE SERLE TO LORD DARTMOUTH¹

My Lord,

I had the Honor in my last Letter of the 5th of Sepr. to acquaint Your Lordship with the Success of His Majesty's Arms upon Long Island: I now beg leave to congratulate You on the entire Possession of New York City, and almost all the Island on which it stands; which, together with Long and Staten Islands, now reduced, form the principal and most important Parts of the Colony, and on which eventually all the others do and must depend.

On the 7th of September and the five or six following Days, the Fleet was busily employed in fitting, manning and carrying up their flat-bottomed Boats to the Place of Embarkation, which was at or near Bushwyck Creek upon the East River, or rather Branch of the Sound which divides New York Island from Long Island & the Continent towards the East.

The Engineers opened a Battery, on the 12th against a strong Post of the Rebels on the opposite Shore, near the intended Place of Debarkation, and a warm Cannonade was maintained on both Sides for two or three Hours. What Damage was done to the Rebels, beside beating their Battery into Ruins, we know not, but we suffered no Loss on our Part, except one Sailor, who was killed by a Cannon Ball as he lay sleeping on the Grass. — Capt. [Thomas] Wilkinson arrived on this Day from Quebec in the *Pearl*, and brought agreeable News from the North and about 500 Prisoners, with whom, as well as with those taken before; the Commanders of the Fleet and Army scarce know what to do. To keep them is expensive; to dismiss them dangerous.

The next Morning, after another Cannonade, the Troops took Possession of two Islands in the East River very near the Rebel Fortifications.

In the Afternoon, the *Phoenix* and *Roebuck* of 44 Guns each, the *Orpheus* of 32, and the *Carysfort* of 28 Guns, sailed up the East River to Bushwyck Creek. The Rebels fired a few Guns from the Fort and their Batteries along the Shore, as the Ships went up; but they passed on in silent Contempt without returning their Fire, and with the Loss of only one Man. Our Batteries, in the meantime, played upon the Enemy from Governor's Island and from the Heights of Brookland opposite the Eastern Shore of the Town. These Batteries were originally constructed by the Rebels with such immense Labor and Art, that they seem almost impregnable. Next to the Works themselves, nothing astonishes our People more than their sudden and uncontested Abandonment.

Many Deserters from the Rebels have daily come over. They all concur in representing the Jealousy, Discontent and Fears, which prevail among them, and the cruel and compulsive Methods they have taken to keep up their Army. Though their Leaders endeavour to conceal or exaggerate their Numbers, 'tis not found, that they make or have made at any time more than 30,000 Men, notwithstanding their vaunted Ability of bringing 80 or 100,000 into the Field. That this is an empty Bravado, calculated to amuse, it is sufficient to mention, that though they have draughted, at two several Times into their Army, every fourth Man in this Colony, capable of bearing Arms; they were obliged to impress them by Force, and to keep them by the strictest Compulsion. From almost all the Provinces they have dragged them (as it were) to the Camp; nor have they many real Volunteers but from the New England Colonies. They have fed their Troops tolerably well, but their Pay has been very irregular and is much in Arrear, and their Clothing wretched.

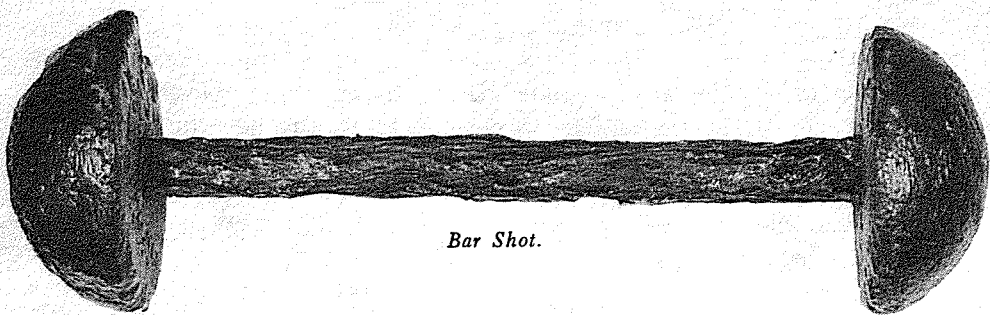
In the Morning of the 15th the *Renown* of 50 Guns, and the *Repulse* and *Pearl* of 32 each, with a Schooner, sailed up the North River to invest the Town, and to draw off the Attention of the Rebels on that Side, while the Debarkation under five other Ships of War was effecting on the other. The Morning was clear, the Tide served, and there was a fresh Breeze. The Rebels all-alarmed, began a Cannonade as furiously as they could, but with very little Effect, as their Guns were but indifferently served. As these were the grand Batteries of the Enemy, of which they had boasted that no Vessel could possibly come near them, the Ships returned a most heavy Fire of round and grape Shot, and passed to their Station with the Loss of one Man killed and three or four wounded. Removing from one's Thoughts the melancholy Seriousness of the Business, the Hills, Woods, Town, River, Ships, and Pillars of Smoke, illuminated by a brilliant Morning, formed the finest Landscape that the Imagination can conceive. Soon afterwards, a most tremendous Discharge of Cannon was made by the Men of War on the opposite Shore in the East River, under Cover of which the Troops were landed with great Ease and Dispatch, and without the least Opposition. A Feint was made, at the same Time, about 3 or 4 Miles higher up; so that the Rebels were distracted to know, which to oppose or which way to run. They retired towards the Northern Part of the Island with great Precipitation, where, as

their last Resource, they had constructed the strongest of their Works upon very advantageous Ground; though, indeed, the Island itself is covered and intersected with Fortifications from one End to the other. In the Afternoon, His Majesty's Colors were hoisted upon the Fort, instead of the Rebel Standard, which some Women had previously taken down and torn in Pieces.

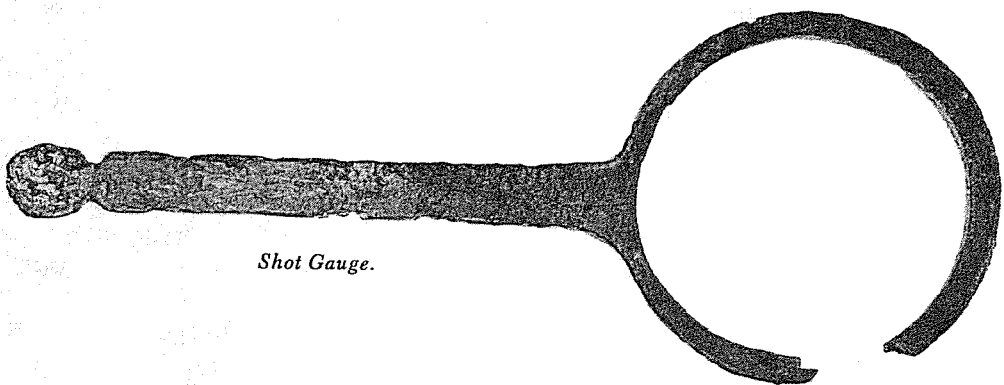
Nothing could exceed the extravagant Joy of the People left in New York, on their Release from the Tyranny of the Rebels. They chaired some of the King's Officers up and down the Streets, amidst Shouts and Acclamations. They could not demonstrate their Satisfaction by ringing the Bells; for these the New England Rebels, among other things, had plundered away. I believe His Majesty's Name was scarce ever so loudly or so affectionately shouted, as it was in this and the ensuing Day in the Streets of New York.

The Rebels made a Stand behind the Redoubts of their great Work towards Kingsbridge, as there was nothing behind them wch threatened to cut off their Retreat. Two or three Companies of our Light Infantry, in the Heightt of that Ardor and Impetuosity, which sometimes forgets even Discipline itself, pressed upon the Rebels to the very Cover of their Lines, suffered a little, and would have suffered more but for the Magnanimity & Heroism of the Grenadiers and Highlanders, who ran (it is said) about two Miles in 15 Minutes to their Relief. The Rebels, seeing the Smallness of their Number, came out of their Works by Thousands in order to cut them off. The little Party, with the greatest Bravery, kept their Ground till the Relief came up; They then retreated and the Rebels advanced, till two Field-Pieces, with the Grenadiers and Highlanders, which the General concealed till they were within 30 Yards Distance took them full in Flank, when they immediately ran with the utmost Confusion to their Works, leaving many dead behind them. We had 9 Men killed and about 80 wounded in this Affair. The Officers hope, that this will be an Instruction to the Soldiers in future not to go beyond or faster than their Command; an Error, which partly from Contempt of the Rebels, and partly from the Heat of Resentment, they have been too apt to fall into. The Confidence of the Fleet and Army in their two great Commanders seems equally affectionate and unbounded. I speak the Sentiments of every Body here, when I say, that the Choice of them was the wisest and the happiest for Great Britain that could have been devised.

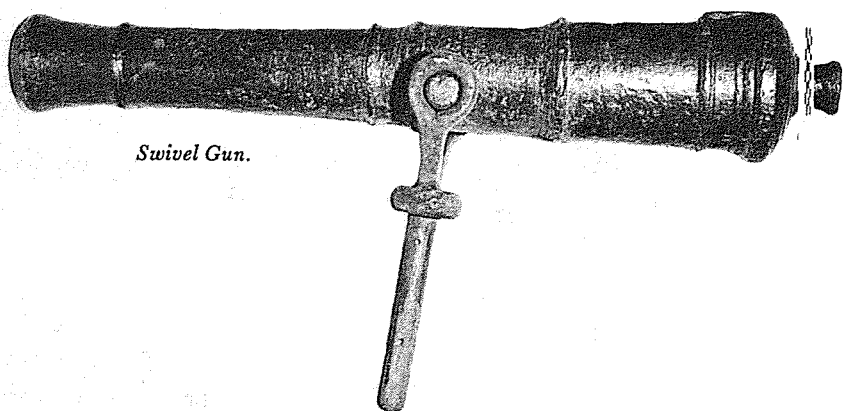
Great Numbers of Emigrants, particularly Irish, are in the Rebel Army, some by Choice and many for mere Subsistence. They have also many transported Felons, who have exchanged Ignominy and Servitude, for a Sort of Honor and Ease, by entering among them. This is a further Argument against the Transportation of such People from England in future. Confinement to hard Labor at Home might answer some valuable Purpose there, and would be a real Punishment to the Convicts: Here, they do Great Britain much Injury, by bringing over Numbers and Trades, and so adding Strength, already too great, to the Force of America against her.



Bar Shot.



Shot Gauge.



Swivel Gun.

We hope for General Burgoyne and his powerful Army in a short Time; as, by the last Advices, he was passing, and now must have passed, the Lakes above Albany. It is understood, through the Rebels themselves, that their late Affair in Canada, has not cost them, through the Sword and Disease, much fewer than 5000 Men.

I will say nothing about the Attempts to effectuate the Civil Commission, as Your Lordship will, I presume, with more Propriety and Precision, receive due Information through the official Channel.

On the 23d of September, three Frigates and a Bomb were sent against Powley's Hook, which lies opposite the Town on the North River. They covered a Debarkation of about 450 Men, who took this Post, fortified strongly as all the others have been, without a Blow; the Rebels, in two large Bodies, running away upon the first Motion to approach them.

I am happy to inform Your Lordship, that the Fleet and Army are comfortably supplied with fresh Provisions and Vegetables from the recovered Territories, and that there is no Probability at present of exhausting our Resources of that kind: This will be a great Saving to Government, as well as Benefit to the Troops. It may be hoped, that, in another Year, we shall want but little Provisions from Home.

We wish exceedingly for the second Embarkation of the Hessians; but, as we learned by Capt. [Thomas] Jordan of the *Galatea*, who left Plymouth on the 10th of July, that they were not then sailed from England, there is no reason to expect them here soon enough for Service in this Campaign: The *Galatea*, though a very fast Sailer, was full 9 Weeks in her Passage.

Some Villains, who had concealed themselves for the purpose, set the Town on Fire in several Places in the Night of the 20th instant. The Flames spread with great Rapidity, the Wind being high, and the Houses chiefly covered with Shingles. 'Tis supposed, about a fifth Part of the Town is consumed. Every possible Precaution is taken to prevent the like in future.

The Rebels have left many Cannon, some say above 60 in all, chiefly old Pieces, behind them in their several Retreats, a Magazine of 5000 Barrels of Flour [*sic* powder], and great Quantities of Shot with some Ammunition. Upon the whole, the King's Forces have obtained with Ease and Advantage, and in a short Time, what, from a Review of the Works and Preparations of the Rebels, it might have been thought, would have cost them at least a whole Campaign. I have the Honor to be, with the warmest Gratitude and Respect, My Lord, [&c.]

Ambrose Serle.

New York, 25th Sept. 1776.

1. Stevens, ed., *Facsimiles*, No. 2043.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, September 25, 1776

The committee appointed to hear and determine upon the appeal against the sentence of condemnation passed upon the schooner *Thistle*, having reversed the decree,

Resolved, That a passport and safe conduct be granted to Charles Roberts, master of the schooner *Thistle*, for himself and the said schooner, for the space of 60 days.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 818, 827.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1776

Philadelphia [September 25].

Extract of a letter from Ticonderoga.

A letter from General Gates, enclosing one from Gen: Arnold, is just received, which acquaints us, that our fleet is safe, and that a party of our sailors, who had imprudently trusted themselves on shore, were attacked by a number of savages, at Wind Mill Point, about 90 miles from Crown Point — In the skirmish three of our men were killed and five wounded. — The Indians afterwards coming near the shore of the lake, several cannon were discharged at them, which dispersed them, and must have been the firing heard by Colonel [Thomas] Hartley. — Gen. Arnold imagines the enemy will double man all their batteaus and attempt to board the gundalos, and has begged an addition to the fleet. More row-gallies and gundalous are building, and will shortly be fit for action. As a further addition several double manned batteaus are to be sent him, with a swivel on each side, to fight under cover of the larger metal; by this means our fleet on Lake Champlain will soon make a very respectable appearance, and give Carleton, with his Hessians, Westphalians, Waldeckers, and other mercenaries, more trouble in crossing the Lakes to Ticonderoga than they at first expected; indeed several hundred of the enemy were advanced as far on their journey as the Isle aux Fate, but precipitately fled at the approach of our Navy.

Maryland Journal, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1776

Baltimore [September 25].

One of the Prize Ships, taken by the *Harlequin*, Capt. [William] Woolsey, of this Port, is arrived at Chinquetague and most of her Cargo safely landed.¹

1. The ship *Caroline*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

No 193

Gentn Your favor of the 13th we only received the 23rd inst; the delay was occasioned by y[ou]r letters being delivered to a member of our Board, who resides on the Eastern Shore, which through hurry of business for Some time escaped his memory. —

We have ordered our Commissary of Stores at Baltimore Town to deliver one Ton of Powder to Messrs Lux, Proviance & Stewart for proving the Cannon intended for the Frigate,² & the further quantity that you desire for the use of her, shall be supplied, when she is ready, — should it not in the mean Time be convenient for you to send it from Philadelphia. — It is true, that we have a considerable quantity of Powder at Baltimore Town; but as we have and are equipping 16 armed vessels of one Sort or other, we shall in all probability have use for all the Powder we have by us, and indeed more. —

Upon all occasions we have furnished the Honble Congress & our neighbours with whatever has been requested of us, and we wish the same measure had been dealt out to us; if it had, we should not have been deny'd 14 p[iece]s of Canvass, which we were in the greatest want of, to compleat the Sails for Some armed vessels that we were fitting out, and for want of it, we have been obliged to substitute Ozns — had we christened our own Child first. — We could not have let Congress & our Friends of Virga have had 240 ps Sail Duck, nor yet the Canon, Musqts &c, which we Supply'd for the *Hornet* and *Wasp*.³

You will be pleased to excuse our reminding yr Board of these things, for we are exceedingly hurt by it's refusing us so trifling a Quantity of Canvass, at a Time, when we were informed, that not less than 2,000 Bolts were imported to Phila by Congress in one vessel. We are &c:

[Annapolis] 25th Sepr 1776

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

2. Continental frigate *Virginia*.

3. The Continental sloop *Hornet* and schooner *Wasp* outfitted in Baltimore.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON¹

No 189.

Sir, We wish to avoid being thought troublesome, but conceiving it to be indispensibly our duty to have all Accts with this Board adjusted as Speedily as possible, are obliged again to repeat our Request, that you will immediately render us a compleat Acct of all pecuniary Matters, which you have had the transaction of, relative to the ship *Defence*, Since you took the Command of her — The Sooner this Matter is brought to a Conclusion, the better, as our Convention, as well as this Board are anxious to have these Accts adjusted, and yr Attention to the Frigate² may render it more inconvenient to you some time hence. We are &c:

[Annapolis] Sepr 25th 1776.

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

2. Continental frigate *Virginia*.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, 25th September 1776.

William Lux Esquire of Baltimore having informed the Board that Captain Lilly being in want of Sail Cloth for the Brigg *Revenge* he had supplied him with eleven Pieces of Duck and desiring to have it immediately returned him; it is ordered that the Commissary of Stores send the same by Captain Eleazer Callendor, which was signified by Letter to Mr. Lux.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 174.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday 25th Sepr 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Thomas Hughes for Two hundred and eight pounds five shillings for the use of Alexander, Sinclair for Hemp furnished Capt Charles Thomas for the use of the Rope-Walk.

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Moses Hunter for the use of Thadeus Bowland for Eighty three Pounds three shillings and one penny for Spirits furnished John Rogers for the use of the Workmen at Portsmouth —

Ordered that Mr Joseph Hawkins deliver unto Capt [Alexander], Guthrie two Barrells of Pork and that Joel Childers deliver unto the said Guthrie one Barrell of Bread, for the use of the Schooner Flat *Peace & Plenty*.

1. Navy Board Journal, 62–63, VSL.

VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD TO CAPTAIN ELEAZER CALLENDER OF THE *Defiance*¹

Sir,

Williamsburg 25th Sepr 1776 —

You are immediately to proceed with your Vessel to Portsmouth then to wait on the Commanding Officer at that place and inform him that you are ready to assist in carrying the Troops up the Bay, after you have deliver'd the Troops you are to proceed to Baltimore and there to deliver unto Messrs Lux and Bowley eleven pieces of Duck which you will receive from Lieut. Bowling of the Schooner Flat, *Peace and plenty* and from thence you are to return to York Town, and upon your arrival there give us immediate Notice.

(Signd) Thom^s Whiting

NB. You are to leave your Marines
at york Town untill you return }

1. Navy Board Letter Book, VSL.

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY¹

[Charleston] Wednesday the 25th of September. 1776

The Order of the Day being read. . .

A Petition of John Berwick Esquire was presented to the House and read in the words following

That on or about the night of the 16th of July last while your Petitioner was called from the Care of his private Concerns and bearing Arms in Charles Town in Defence of this State against the cruel Invaders of its just Rights and Priviledges an armed Vessel supposed to be that commanded by Captain Osborn commissioned by the Province of East Florida to cruize against the United States of America landed his men and carried off by violence Eight of his most valuable Slaves compelling the Overseers Wife to conduct them to those Houses where the best of his negroes were known to reside to the great Injury of the Estate of your Petitioner said Slaves together with a Loss sustained in his Crop being in the Opinion of your Petitioner to the value of Seven Thousand Pounds Currency at a moderate Computation

Your Petitioner also begs Leave to represent to the House that he is well informed that John Moultrie Esquire Lieutenant Governor of East-Florida from whence the said piratical cruizer was commissioned and John Stuart Esquire late Superintendent of Indian Affairs are possessed of certain Estates or other Property within this State and the said John Moultrie and John Stuart Esquires having taken an active Part with our Enemies against these United States

Your Petitioner therefore encouraged by some recent Precedents in which Individuals have been permitted to make Reprisals and to indemnify themselves for their Losses by seizing upon the Property of the Enemy within this State prays that the House would take the Premises into Consideration and enable your Petitioner to attach and convert to his own use so much of the Property or Effects of the said John Moultrie or John Stuart Esquires or any other known Enemy of this State and of the Liberties of America in general found within this State as shall fully indemnify him for his great Losses or that the House would be pleased to grant your Petitioner such other mode of Redress as to their wisdom may seem more fit and proper

Ordered That the Petition be referred to a Committee

Ordered That the Honourable Mr [John] Edwards and Captain Joiner do wait on the President to acquaint him that this House and the Honourable the Legislative Council have jointly by Ballot duly elected James Dogharty Esquire Captain and Commander of the armed Brigantine *Comet* belonging to this State and to request that His Excellency will be pleased to cause him to be sent for Express and to commissionate him accordingly

1. Salley, ed., *South Carolina General Assembly Journals*, 47, 48, 51.

JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Maidstone*, CAPTAIN ALAN GARDNER¹

[September 1776]
Wednesday. 25

Running thro' the Turks Island Passage. –
AM 1 Saw a Sail in the SE. Gave Chace – 2 and 3
TKd Ship. Fired a Gun and brot too a Sloop from Cape
Francois to – under Dutch Colours said to be Bound
for St Eustatia with Molasses and Rum, mann'd with
Americans; no Dutchmen, and no Papers only an old
Dutch Register, & Seized her, took out the Master and
Men, Sent a Mate and 4 Men to take Charge of her.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/572.

2. Sloop *Dolphin*, see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

26 Sept.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Watertown] Thursday Septemr 26, 1776

On Motion Ordered Thomas Cushing Esqr be directed to make some Alterations in the Orders agreed upon by the Board last Saturday to Capt John Clouston Commander of the Armed Sloop *Freedom* and that similar Orders be given to Capt [Simeon] Sampson Commander of the Brig *Independence* as Also similar Orders be given to Capt John Foster Williams Commander of the Sloop [*Republic*].²

On Motion Ordered That the Secretary be directed to apply to Mr Edes Printer and get printed forwith 1000 Copies of General Instructions agreed upon in Congress April 3d last to the Commanders of private Ships or Vessels of War authorizing them to make Captures of British Vessels and Car-goes.

Simeon Sampson's Muster Roll of Officers and Men on board the Brig *Independence* to the 22d September last Read and Ordered that a Warrant be drawn on the Treasury for £ 670 – in part of Wages due on said Roll a Warrant was drawn accordingly and Signed by 15 of the Council.

Letter from the Honorable William Seaver Esqr relative to some Re-pairs wanting to the Brig *Independence* as Also some Provisions Read and Ordered That the Honorable Mr Seaver be appointed Agent and he hereby is directed to supply the said Brig with such Stores and other Articles as may be necessary to equip said Brig for the Sea. Ordered the Secretary draft an Order for this Purpose which was read and Accepted.

Bonds being given by Walter Hatch Simeon Sampson and Samuel Nutting a Commision was issued out to the said Walter Hatch as Commander of the Schooner *Hope*.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 247, 248, 249.

2. See Council to Captain Clouston, September 20.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL APPOINTING WILLIAM SEVER
AGENT FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BRIG *Independence*¹

In Council [Watertown] Sept 26th 1776

Ordered — That the Hon'ble William Seaver Esq. be appointed to provide the armed Vessel commanded by Simeon Sampson with Such Stores and other Articles as may be necessary to equip Said Vessel for the Sea and the Commissary is hereby directed to supply said Vessel out of the Public Store with Such things as by said Mr Seaver shall be required of him.

John Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 285.

PETITION FOR COMMISSION FOR WALTER HATCH TO COMMAND THE
MASSACHUSETTS PRIVATEER SCHOONER *Hope*¹

State of Massachusetts Bay —

To the Honble the Council of Massachusetts Bay —

The Petition of Watson and Spooner, Saml Jackson & Jno Grey in the Town of Plymouth, In behalf of themselves & Others Owners of the Schooner *Hope*, Burthen'd About forty Seven Tons, Armed with Five three Pounders and Ten Swivels — Three hundred wt Powder, One hundred 3 lb & 20 double head'd Shott, 300 Swivel Shott 40 2½ lb do 800 Grape Shott — Provisions, 25 Bbls Pork & Beef and 2000 Bread, Navigated By 45 Men, Walter Hatch Commander, is designed to Cruise Against the Enemies of the United States of America

Your Petitioners Would therefore humbly request Your honors, to Commission the said Vessel & Capt for the purpose Aforesaid, and Your Petitioners as in duty Bound shall ever pray —

N B John Churchill firs Leut
Solomon Whitton 2 Leut
Sibeline White Master

Watson & Spooner
Sam^l Jackson
John Gr[a]y

[Endorsed] In Council [Watertown] Sept 26th 1776 Read & Ordered that a Commission be issued out to the above named Walter Hatch, he complying with the Resolves of Congress

Jn^o Avery Dpy Secy

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 286.

ORDER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE BOSTON COMMITTEE
OF SAFETY REGARDING THE SHIP *William*¹

In Council [Watertown] Sepr 26, 1776 —

Ordered That the Committee of Safety Inspection &c of the Town of Boston, be, & they hereby are Directed to Deliver to Mr William Ross owner of the ship *William* (Lately the *Creighton*) the sails, or any other Articles

now in their Possession belonging to said ship, And the said Committee are further Directed, Carefully to Inspect the said ship, & to take Care that no one Person takes Passage in the said ship but such as have a Certificate in Writing under the hand of the Secretary of this State or his Deputy Certifying that Liberty has been Granted them for that Purpose.² And the said Committee are also Directed to see that no other[s] but such as Produce a Certificate as aforesaid take passage in said Vessell, And the Committee are Directed to Permitt Mr Ross to take onboard as Provision for the Voyage Such Articles named in a Bill of Stores this Day Deliver'd Mr Ross signed by the Secretary, which has been alo[w]ed by this Board — & the Committee are also Directed to Return a List of the names of the Persons who shall actually Sail in the said ship to this Board as soon as may be.³

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 278.

2. See following entries.

3. To sail for England.

LIST OF PERSONS PERMITTED TO SAIL IN THE SHIP *William* FOR ENGLAND ¹

[September 26]

Willm Ross & Wife	} 3 Children & 3 Servts	
Nathl Morgan dead		
Paxton Hatch		
Hugh Munro & Servts & Black Woman & Boy	} 21 Augt	
George Campbell & a Black Boy		
John Barslet & White Boy & Girl		
John Grant & White Serv[t]		
William Jones		inquire relative
Wm Pringle		to Kennedy
James Dillon		
Willm Le[s]ly Wife & 2 Children		
Joseph Dowse		
Thos Cragg & Servt		
Walter Logan Wife & Son		
Ann-[illegible]		
George Keys		
Mainsweet Walrond & Servt		
Philip Hicks & Servt		
Charles Grant & Servt		
Eliz[a] Fenton w[th] her 3 Children & one Servt		
Willm Williams a free Negro		
Patrick Power		
Willm Barret a free Negro		
Capt Lionel Bradstreet		
George Ashburne		
John Frazier		
Willm Jenkins w[th] his Servt Boy		

Robert Browne
 John Moon
 John Stalker
 Peter Gourlay
 Adam High
 Thos Lemon
 Wm Pascall
 John Brown
 John Emmes
 J. B. Barnard
 Danl Donovan & Servt
 Mark Sedden & Servt
 George Bates
 Hugh Walker
 Arc[h] Bog
 Robt Park
 Charles Reid
 Alexr Tough
 Thos Mahoney²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 111.

2. *Ibid.*, 282-83, 288, 297, additional names were added to the passenger list this date: James Hodges, William Emle, James McGill, Alexander Lidell and Thomas Cromarty. And, on September 27, Jonathan Dudfield and "a Young Son with him about six Years old & a Black Boy" were granted premission to leave.

STORES PERMITTED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ON
 BOARD-THE SHIP *William*¹

In Councill [Watertown] Sept 26, 1776 —

Ordered that Mr Ross be Permitted to take onboard the ship *William* the Articles hereafter named as Provisions for the Voyage.

4 Tr[ce]s & 4 bls Salt Beeff

2 bls Pork & 1 bl Pease

1 bl Herrings & 1 do Meal

2000 lb Bread 3 firkins of Butter & 2 boxes Candles

20 Sheep 30 young Sho[a]ts, 12 dozn fowls, 3 dozn Geese & 100 lb fish

100 lb Coffee 6 lb Tea 200 lb Sugar 12 Cheeses & 12 Hams

1 hhd Mådeira & 1 hhd Porter in bottles, 40 Galls Rum 6 Casks Cyder

2 Cases Gin — 100 lb Spare rope

A few Vegetables of difft kinds

50,000 Galls water

Hay & Corn for the live Stock

1 Chaldron Coals & fire wood —

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 110.

Independent Chronicle, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1776

[Boston, September 26]

Last Tuesday the *Washington* Privateer sent into Newbury-Port a Prize Bark, one of the Enemy's Transports, bound from the British Fleet at New-York, to St. Vincents. Her Cargo consists of Provisions and some other Stores.¹

Last Sunday was sent into Providence, by Capt. Munroe, the prize ship *Blaze Castle*, from Barbados, bound for London, having on board 100 Pipes Madeira Wine, 120 Hogsheads Sugar, 18000 Weight Whale-Bone, 120 Barrels Oil, &c.²

Last Thunday Afternoon arrived in this Harbour the prize ship *Venus*, from Honduras, about 200 tons burthen, taken by Elijah Freeman Paine, in the schooner *Eagle*, from Providence, on the 23d August at Night, in Lat. 35, Long. 57, W. Her Cargo consists of 100 Tons of chip Logwood, 400 Logs of Mahogany, and 150 Weight of Turtle-Shell. The next Day Capt. Paine discovered a Brigantine, gave Chase, and took her: she was from Virginia, bound to Hamburgh, laden with Tobacco, belonging to one Smith of that Place; but by the Papers and Letters found on board, it appeared she was destined for London.³

Last Monday was also sent into this Harbour by the *Eagle*, Capt. Paine, a Ship of 160 Tons, from Grenada, bound for London, having on board 150 Puncheons of Rum, 109 Hogsheads of Sugar, some Cotton, &c.⁴

A Letter from Providence, of 23d Instant, says, "The *Columbus* Vessel of War, has sent a prize Brig into Newport, loaded with Lumber, bound for Europe."⁵

Yesterday morning a Sloop, laden with dry Fish, was carried into Salem, by Capt. [Samuel] Waters, in the schooner *Dolphin*, mounting only six Swivels.⁶

1. The ship *Georgia Diana* taken by the Massachusetts privateer schooner *Washington*, Captain Nathaniel Odiorne.
2. Captain James Munro of the Rhode Island privateer sloop *Sally*.
3. The brig *Fanny*, Captain William Tokely, loaded on account of the Secret Committee, sailed from Virginia in July. On August 24 Payne took her and carried her into Plymouth, but did not libel against her. There was much subsequent dispute regarding this brig.
4. The ship *Caledonia*.
5. The brig was not a prize of the *Columbus*.
6. The schooner *Prosperity*.

Continental Journal, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1776

Boston, September 26.

On the 31st of August last was taken by the Schooner *Hannah and Molly*, and the *Dolphin* privateers, and carried into Frenchman's Bay, the Brigantine *Royal George*, commanded by Dennis Doyle, having on board the following articles, viz. 200 tierces of Pork, 231 barrels of Beef, 270 firkins of Butter, 169 barrels of Oatmeal, 11 tierces of Beef, 1 crock of Butter, 25

sacks split Peas, 25 boxes Candles, 30 boxes of Soap, 20 barrels Pork: she was bound from Waterford in Ireland to Hallifax, out 10 weeks, brings no news, excepting that they had an account in Ireland, that the British troops had taken possession of the greatest part of Philadelphia, and had taken the Continental Congress prisoners.

Yesterday Capt. [Nathaniel] Odiorne, in the *Washington* privateer, carried into Newbury-Port, a bark from New York, bound to St. Vincent's, with provisions for 120 men for 6 months. — She sailed in company with 5 or 6 transports, under convoy of the *Solebay* frigate, in order to fetch troops from thence.

A French schooner which sailed from Newbury-Port, about a month ago, was taken by one of the ministerial pirates, re-taken by the *Washington* privateer, from thence, and is now safe arrived there.

LIBELS FILED AGAINST VARIOUS PRIZES IN THE MASSACHUSETTS
ADMIRALTY COURT ¹

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

Notice is hereby given, That Libels are filed before me, against the following Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances; to wit: — in Behalf of the Officers, Marines and Mariners of the armed Sloop called the *Rover*, and the Owners thereof, against the Sloop *James*, of about sixty Tons burthen, laden with Tobacco and Turpentine, and commanded by one Thomas Barker, an Officer of the *Ranger* Sloop of War, by which the said Sloop *James* had been before taken from some of the Inhabitants of the United States of America: — In Behalf of Captain Sampson and his Company of the armed Brigantine *Independence*, in the Service of the State of the Massachusetts-Bay, against the Brigantine called the *Nabby*, burthened about 150 Tons, Jonathan Mason, late Master: — In behalf of William Cows [*sic* Coas] and Company of the armed Schooner *Warren*, and the Owners thereof, against the ship *Picary*, burthened about 300 Tons, Breholt Cleveland, late Master; and against the Brigantine *Swallow*, burthened about seventy Tons, Benjamin Griffiths, late Master: — In Behalf of the Officers, Marines, Mariners and Owners of the Privateer Schooner *Washington* against the ship *Georgia Diana*, Peter Regan, late Master: — In behalf of Capt. Nathaniel Perley and his Company, and the Owners of the armed Schooner *Success* against the Sloop *Hero*, of about seventy Tons, Jabez Perkins, late Master; and against the Sloop *Lord Howe*, burthened about 60 Tons, Elisha Coffin late Master: — In behalf of Capt. John Fisk and his Company, in the armed Sloop *Tyrannicide*, in the Service of this State, against the Snow *Anna*, of about 90 Tons Burthen, Jonathan Dudfield, late Master: — In Behalf of Capt. Daniel Waters and his Company, in the Continental armed Schooner *Lee*, against the Sloop *Betsey*, of about 60 Tons burthen, which has been before taken by the *Milford* Man of War from

some of the Inhabitants of the American States. All which Vessels, their Cargoes and Appurtenances, so libelled, are said to have been taken and brought into the Middle-District aforesaid.

And for the Trial of the Justice of these Captures, the Maritime Court for the said Middle-District, will be held at Salem, in the County of Essex on *Tuesday*, the *Fifteenth* Day of October, 1776, at the Hour of Ten in the Forenoon; when and where the Owners of said Captures, and any Persons concerned, may appear and shew Cause, if any they have, why the same, or any of them, should not be condemned.

Timothy Pickering, jun. Judge of said Court.

[Boston, September 26]

1. *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, September 26, 1776. Same issue contained libels against brigantine *Henrietta* and brig *William and Mary* taken by Massachusetts privateer sloop *Revenge*.

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF PRIZE SHIPS AND CARGOES¹

On Tuesday, the 1st October, at Ten in the Morning, Will be Sold by Public Vendue, At Newbury-Port, The Ship *Nancy*, and her Cargo, consisting of 360 Hogsheads of Sugar and 40 Puncheons of Rum.

J. Russell, Auctioneer

On Wednesday, October 2d, At Ten in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Auction, At the Wharf of Richard Derby, Esq; in Salem, The Ship *Anna Maria*, and her Cargo, consisting of 250 Hogsheads of the best clayed Sugar, 50 Hogsheads of best white ditto, and 150 Hogsheads of brown ditto; likewise, 30 Bales of Cotton 280 Bags of Ginger, 160 Goards of Aloes, 2 Hogsheads of Barbados Tar, 10 Hogsheads of Barbados Rum, and 48 Pipes and 6 half Pipes of Sterling Madeira wine.

N. B. The ship is 300 tons burthen, a fine vessel, River built and well found; she will be put up precisely at 12 o'Clock.

Walter P. Bartlett, Auctioneer

On Thursday, October 3d. At Ten in the Morning, Will also be sold at Public Auction, At the Place above-mentioned, The Cargo of the Ship *Polly*, consisting of 350 Hogsheads of the best Muscavado sugars.

Walter P. Bartlett, Auctioneer.

On Thursday, the 3d of October next, at Eleven in the Morning, Will be sold by Public Vendue, at Capt. William Fleet's store, On the Long Wharf, The Ship *Queen of England*, and her Appurtenances, together with her Cargo, consisting of 800 Barrels of Pork, and 270 Firkins Butter.

J. Russell, Auctioneer.

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

PETITION OF SAMUEL LIGHTBOURN AND OTHERS TO RETURN TO BERMUDA¹

Port of Providence. September [26], 1776.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke Esquire Governor and Commander in Chief of and over the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

The Petition of Samuel Lightbourn, late Master of the Brigantine *Fanny*, Elizabeth Key, Hannah Keele for herself and Charlotte her infant Daughter, John Noble Taylor for himself and John Hollingsworth his Servant, and Edward Brickwood Passengers on board said Brigg and all Inhabitants of the Island of Bermuda humbly Sheweth, That they were bound in said Brigg from Antigua to London, and on their Passage were taken by the *Independence* a private Vessel of War Commanded by Capt Jabez Whipple and brought into Providence in the State aforesaid, and that their Affairs make it absolutely necessary for them to return as soon as possible to Bermuda. They therefore, as no Opportunity offers, nor will probably soon Offer, of their procuring a Passage to said Island humbly pray your honor to permit them to purchase a small Vessel to transport them thither, with their Chests, Apparel &c. and also to take onboard some Corn and Flour for the Use of the Inhabitants of said Island who are suffering for want of Provisions. — And as in Duty bound will ever pray &c.

Samuel Lightbourn E: Key
Hannah Keele for self and Daughter Charlotte
John Noble Taylor for self and John Hollingsworth
Edward Brickwood²

1. Account of Permissions granted by his Honor the Governor, R. I. Arch.

2. *Ibid.*, permission was granted this date, and Lightbourn was allowed to take on board "a Lading of Corn and Flour for the Use of the Inhabitants of that Island."

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] September 26, 1776.

Voted, That Messrs John Hudson & Co.² from Long Island be encouraged to depend on purchasing four four-pounder cannon and four swivels from this State as soon as they can be cast and finished. And the overseers of the furnace at Salisbury are hereby directed to deliver the same to them accordingly, they paying the customary price therefor.

Voted, That Messrs. Lyon & Co. at East Haddam be encouraged to depend on purchasing two six-pounders and eight four-pounders of cannon from this State as soon as they can be cast, for their privateer.³ And the overseers of the furnace are directed to deliver them accordingly at the price given by others for cannon of the same sizes.

Voted, That Capt. Jabez Perkins be encouraged to depend on purchasing two four-pounders of cannon from this State as soon as they can be cast, for the use of his privateer⁴ or letter of marque. And the overseers of

the furnace are directed to deliver the same accordingly, at the customary price.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 524-25.
2. Owners of the privateer sloop *Revenge*, commissioned October 23, 1776, Joseph Conkling, commander.
3. Privateer sloop *Lyon*, commissioned November 27, 1776, Timothy Shaler, commander.
4. Privateer sloop *Nancy*, commissioned October 5, 1776, William Wattles, commander.

RICHARD LAW TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE¹

Draw on the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut in favour of William Coit Esqr Commander of Ship *Oliver Cromwell* for the Sum of Six hundred pounds LMy for the Use of this State to be in Account with said Ship – £ 600 LMy

Draw on the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut in favour of Capt Ephraim Bill for the Sum of three hundred pounds LMy to be on Acct of the Ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

Sign'd pr order
Rich^d Law Clerk

Lebanon Sept 26. 1776

1. Conn.Arch., 1st Series, IX, 123a, 123c, ConnSL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

Sir

New London Sepr 26th 1776

The barer Daniel Deshon is a Person who has Sailed in my Employ Several Years last Past & has behav'd himself well as a Seaman, and last April was taken by the *Scarborough* Man of Warr in a Schooner that I Imported Powder in for the Continent. —²

I think he is Qualified for a Second Lieutenants birth in the Brigg *Defence*, & if your Honour has no objection should be Glad he may have an Appointmt to that office — I am Sir [&c.]

Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

1. Conn.Arch., 1st Series, IX, 315, ConnSL.
2. The *John and Joseph*. See Volume 4.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO BARNABAS DEANE, WETHERSFIELD¹

New London Sepr 26 1776

I Recd yours 23d Inst. this moment & observe what you say about Iron, am sorry I cannot have it as my Vessell will be delay'd unless I can procure it. Note your wanting many articles for the Ship as stores of every kind are Scar[c]e I think you had better git as many of the articles you shall want in the River before the Ship comes round, and we will then endeavour to make up the Remainder here. the anchor you mention may be had, also two of a less Size that will answer if you want. I know not how we shall git the Cables unless sum of our Crusing Vessells should bring in some large Ships, in that case we can Strip them & take their Stores —² If you'l

Send me the Receipts for the Continental Goods at Providence I will send a Boat to bring them Round – As to underwriting I confess I am too much of a Coward to Venture – I have orders to purchase all the Cloth that is Suitable for Tents that is to be bought, can you let me know if there is any to be had with you & what number of yards I would purchase tow Cloth if I can get nothing better I am Sir [&c.]

1. Shaw Collection, Letter Book, YUL.

2. Stores were wanted for the Continental frigate *Trumbull* at Chatham.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTER FROM THE CONNECTICUT SHIP
*Oliver Cromwell*¹

Deserted, last Friday, from the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, lying in the Harbour of New-London, an Indian named Oliver Blossom, who said he was born at Montauk, is tall and strait limb'd, pitted with the Small-pox, pretty Talkative, says he ran away from a Man of War, and has a Pass from Gen. Washington's Aid de Camp: Had on a green short Jacket, striped Trowsers, a small round felt Hat, and a check'd woollen Shirt. Whoever will return him to said Ship shall have a handsome Reward, and all necessary Charges paid by

William Coit

New-London, Sept. 26, 1776.

1. *Connecticut Gazette*, October 4, 1776.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. BRIG *Halifax*¹

Sept. 1776

Remarks off City Island Long Island Sound.

Thursdy 26

AM at 6 weighd and Came to sail *Kitty & Swift* Tenders In Company at 10 saw two Sail to the Nt Made the Tenders signl to Chace at 11 perceived the two Vessels to be Sloops the[y] bore away for Norwalk Made the signal to leave off Chace at Noon Jiney cook point – South 2 Miles Fresh Breezes and Cloudy P M at 1 Came too in Huntington Bay: Edens point NE – the Entrance of the Harbr SSW. Sent the Tenders & Boats in to the Harbour to search for two Rebel Vessels Reported to be there at 10 they came back having found an empty Brigg & Sloop in the Harbr

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1775.

MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD¹

Dear General

[Ticonderoga] 26th September 1776

Yesterday I received Your Letter of the 21st Instant I hope your little Schooner had ample satisfaction for the Injury her people suffered in the Batteau –

This will be deliver'd you by Captain [Seth] Warner of the *Trumbull* Row Galley. She carries you a fine reinforcement of Seamen, & besides is

herself a considerable Addition to your Squadron. The Schooner, & the Two Other Gallies will follow Sunday, or Monday at Farthest; but the Cordage is not yet Arrived; and General Waterbury assures me, that if your Estimate was as large as you Mention it to have been, not more than a Third of it can have been sent; as, more than Twenty Coils of Rigging are now Wanted for the Gallies already built. — The powder wrote for so long ago is not even in part received at Tyonderogā; Oconomy is the Word — You cannot be more Anxious to have all the Gallies with you, than we are to send them. Be satisfied; more cannot be done than is done to Dispatch them —

Col [Jonathan] Trumbull [Jr.] writes you an Account, or rather, rumour of an Action, that happen'd last Sunday, near Turtle Bay. When any thing to be depended upon, Arrives, I will send it you without Delay — Inclosed is Dr [Jonathan] Potts's Letter to me, which I received last Night. My Affectionate Compliments to Col: [Edward] Wigglesworth. I am [&c.]

1. Gates Papers, Box 19, NYHS.

CAPTAIN THOMAS CREGIER TO THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen —

Fishkill, September 26, 1776

I have done myself the honour of waiting upon your Honourable House, in order to lay before you the state and condition of the schooner *General Putnam*, under my command, and finding there can be no Convention by reason that some of the members are absent, and it being uncertain when those gentlemen will return, I, to avoid the expenses which myself and horse are at, think it prudent to return to my house at the King's Bridge, where I shall remain at my own expense until I do receive farther instructions from your Honourable House.

Gentlemen, I must in the first place acquaint you, that my provisions being expended, having not more on board than will support the company about fifteen days; in the next place, my vessel being very small and low in the water, my largest ordnance being twelve swivel guns, the shrouds very old and not trustworthy, my best bower cable but very poor, the vessel very weak and leaky, which weakness proceeded from her lying on a bar and a heavy surf breaking over her when I was run on shore by a man of war, the people much exposed when under sail or even in hard rains, the water pouring into their cabins which prevents them from lying in their beds. Diligent search has been made in order to stop the leaks, but all to no purpose, daily complaints being made by my people in regard to the vessel's condition, and the season of the year advancing toward cold and stormy weather — this, gentlemen, is certainly the condition of the vessel. The people almost naked, having no shoes nor stockings, and the most part of them not the second shirt to their backs; no money has been advanced to them but from my own private purse; no fresh meat allowed, although I have applied for it; no rum allowed them, which has occasioned much disturbance on board; they have demanded an allowance of a half pint of rum per day, which is allowed

the men in the Continental fleet, and insist upon it that the Provincial Congress gives that allowance: A riot was made just before I left the vessel in regard to their allowance of rum, in which affair I was obliged to make use of my authority amongst some of the principal ringleaders, upon which some of them have undertaken to complain of my conduct to your Honours by letters. I never heard that the conduct of a commander was to be taken notice of from a report made by a common boatswain, carpenter, or gunner, &c., men who sacrifice every thing that is dear to them for a single can of grog; men whom I have picked up and put in office on purpose to have the vessel manned, and as the vessel is but very small I was glad to pick up any trash. I am very clear you will not find any of my principal officers' names in that complaint; they are men of good families and characters, hearty in the cause of liberty; if such men were to complain of my conduct, I confess I ought to stand corrected. Perhaps the names of my chief officers you would be glad to know; my chief lieutenant is Thomas Quig[1]y, David Walker is my second lieutenant, Eliakim Little is the master, and Cornelius French is my mate; and upon the whole, I would recommend it to your Honourable House to give directions to lay the vessel up as unfit for any farther service this season, as I look upon keeping her any longer in commission will only be a great expense without the gleam of any profit or service. As for my part, I am determined not to enjoy a commission unless I can be of service to my country, for I should, on that part of the coast where the vessel is, only be picking the public's pocket, as nothing is to be met with there but frigates, sloops of war, and large tenders, which we are not able to engage. I am determined to serve in the present cause, and will spend my last moments in serving my country, and fix myself at the seat of war, and whenever I am called on will cheerfully join heart and hand with my staunch countrymen. The accounts of the vessel should be settled and the people paid off, which matters I leave to be determined by your Honours, and shall wait your command with due respect, and am [&c.]

Thomas Cregier.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, II, 217-18.

MAJOR CHARLES STUART TO HIS FATHER, THE EARL OF BUTE¹

[Extract].

Blomindel Heights Camp, Sept. 26, 1776

On the 16th of this month we marched from Newtown Camp, and the Corps de Reserve, consisting of three Battalions of Lt. Infantry, the German Jagers, my Battalion of Highland Grenadiers, and 42nd and 32nd Regts., embarked on board flat-bottomed boats in Newtown Creek, from whence we proceeded on our way to land upon New York Island. A 50 gun ship and two Frigates were drawn up to cover the landing.

Upon the enemy perceiving our boats, they sent several columns of men to line sunk breast-works that they had previously made to prevent a landing. We steered to the right and landed about three miles above the town under an incessant fire from the shipping.

A more glorious scene I never beheld; the thunder of the ships, the appearance of the enemy, the ardor of our troops, the whole army drawn up on Long Island ready to support us, surpassed everything of magnificance. So well did the army do their business that the enemy evacuated their lines, and we landed without opposition.

We immediately rush'd for wood [*sic* forward], and took possession of a Hill about a mile from the spot where we landed. In our way we had some skirmishes in which our Brigadier Gen. [John] Vaughan was wounded, and some few men of the Hessians; when the whole army was landed we proceeded on the Harlem road to these Heights. The enemy made a show of giving us battle several times as they retreated; we lay on our arms that night . . .

The day we landed, great numbers of the enemy escaped by the North River, which gave people room to conjecture that had our army crossed quite to the River we should have shut up near 6,000 of them in the town.

Some days after two Brigades took possession of New York, which they found almost entirely evacuated, but the houses in tolerable order.

I went a Volunteer upon an expedition against Paulus Hook on the 20th of this month with Ld. [Hugh] Percy, who with 3,000 men had orders to reduce it, as it annoyed our shipping as they entered the North River. It is a small peninsular on the west side of the River. We expected much opposition, but the rebels, after firing a few cannon shot, ran away. There are no fewer than five works there, and during the winter they might have made it very disagreeable in the town.

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.), 10, 11.

MINUTES OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] 26th Sepr 1776

Ordered, That Mr Morris employ a proper Person to go to New England to charter Vessels to proceed from thence to Chesapeak Bay, there to load with Tobacco, now purchasing for account of the Continent.

1. Henry Laurens Collection, SCHS.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In Council of Safety,

[Philadelphia] Septem'r 26th, 1776.

Resolved, That Thomas Seymour, Esq'r, be appointed Commodore & Commander-in-Chief of all the Naval Armaments in the service of this State.

Resolved, That the members of this Board, or as many as Conveniently can, go down to Fort Island to-morrow morning to accompany Commodore

Seymour to the Fleet; That Instructions be drawn up to deliver the Commodore with his Commission.

The following are the Instructions deliver'd to the Commodore, vizt:
In Council of Safety, Septem'r 26th, 1776.

The Council having thought proper to appoint you Commodore & Commander-in-Chief of all the Naval Armaments of this State in the River Delaware, which you are to notify to the Officers of the Fleet by publishing to them your Commission, It becomes necessary to give you some Instructions to regulate your Conduct in some points of this Important Trust.

And First: You are, by all Possible means, to establish such a proper sense of Subordination in the Fleet, that all the Orders you think necessary to Issue be punctually and implicitly obeyed, a loose and relaxed discipline utterly enfeebling every Military Establishment, however respectable it may otherwise be in the Circumstance of number & force.

Secondly. As it is the duty and Inclination of this Council to Maintain the Fleet in a Constant preperation to receive the enemy, you must Immediately take an exact survey of its present Condition, and whatever may be wanting in its equipments to make report to Capt. Wm. Richards, who is appointed and directed to supply all its deficiencies.

Thirdly. An attack from the Enemy being highly Probable, tho' the time uncertain, it is necessary that every part of the Fleet should have its proper Station assigned, in such way as to afford Mutual Support, and that the whole may act to the best effect.

Fourthly. You must particularly attend not only to the situation of the Fleet, but take great care that the Officers and Men are not absent from their respective Vessels any length of time and at any great distance, but as it is probable that some of the Officers of the Boats may be desirous of coming up to this City, you may give leave of absence to them in such number and for so long a time as the service may admit, so that not more than one-third be absent at any one time or longer than Forty eight Hours, from their respective Vessels.

Lastly. Should any accident or Circumstance happen in the Fleet that has the least tendency to effect the service, you are to give the earliest Information of it to the Council of Safety, that they, if they have the Means of Remedy, may apply such as the nature of the Case may require.

These being the Principal Matters that have occurred to the Council, they earnestly recommend to you however, that you endeavour to promote the Utmost Harmony between you and the Officers of the Fleet, and between one another, on which depends so much the success of every undertaking where men are to act in concert, and Mutual assistance required.

Resolved, That the Officers of the Fleet belonging to this State be allowed the same pay that the Officers in the Continental Service have, from the first of October next.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 730, 731-32.

MEMOIR OF RICHARD DALE¹

[On board the Continental brig *Lexington*,
July 27 to September 26, 1776]²

. . . upon his return from Bermuda — whither he had gone with William Gutteridge [*sic* Goodrich] — he was captured by captain John Barry, commander of the United States' brig *Lexington*, and on the same day entered as a midshipman on board said brig. This occurred in July, 1776. Not long afterwards, the brig, whilst cruising, was struck with lightning: Dale, with many others, were prostrated, senseless, upon the deck. They were all, however, providentially restored in a few minutes.

Soon after this the brig arrived at Philadelphia. . . .

1. *The Port Folio*, III, No. VI, June, 1814.

2. The *Lexington* returned to Philadelphia on September 26. Clark, *Gallant John Barry*, 101.

TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION OF THE BRITISH PRIZE SLOOP *Betsey* IN THE PENNSYLVANIA ADMIRALTY COURT¹

And now to wit the twenty sixth Day of September aforesaid [1776] at a Court of Admiralty held at the State house in the City of Philadelphia aforesaid Before his Honor the Judge the Register certifieth that in Obedience to his Honor's Order he had caused due and publick Notice to be given of the Time place and Cause of holding this Court by causing to be published in the *Pennsylvania Packet* and *Evening post* two of the publick News papers printed at Philadelphia the following Advertisement to wit
[Here is inserted the text of the libel of September 9]

And thereupon cometh the Marshall of the said Court namely Matthew Clarkson Esquire and returneth the Warrant aforesaid and certifieth unto the Judge by Way of Indorsement thereon that he hath summoned the twenty four Jurors in the Pannel to the said Warrant annexed named so that they should be and appear at the Day and place in the said Warrant specified as therein he was commanded —

And hereupon the Bill aforesaid being read Proclamation was publickly made That if any Persons had aught to say why the said Sloop with her Tackle Apparel Furniture and Cargo and the Negro Slaves mentioned in the said Bill should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said Bill they should come forth and be heard when no person appearing to claim or defend The Jurors in the Panel aforesaid named were severally called and William Adcock John Ashmead Woolman Sutton Joseph Wetherill Thomas Nevil Benjamin Worrell Evan Evans Daniel Dolby Benjamin Jones Robert Fitzgerrald Robert McKnight and Jedediah Snowden being

the first twelve of the said Jurors who appeared were severally and respectively sworn and affirmed to try the Truth of the Facts alledged in the said Bill and to return a true Verdict thereon according to their Evidence —

And thereupon the Advocate for the Libellants with Leave of the said Judge read unto the Jurors aforesaid the Bill aforesaid as the same is above set forth and following Exhibits produced in this Cause on the part of the Libellants to wit —

I do hereby certify that John Barry was duly commissioned and appointed to command the Brigantine of War called the *Lexington* fitted out at the Continental Charge and employed in the Service of the United States of America Witness my Hand this 26th Sept 1776 — John Hancock Presidt

In Congress — The Delegates of the United Colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New Castle Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Know Ye — That we have granted and by these presents do grant Licence and Authority to James Robertson Mariner Commander of the Sloop called the *Chance* of the Burthen of thirty Tons or thereabouts belonging to James Craig and William Erskine & Co of Philadelphia in the Colony of Pennsylvania mounting six Carriage Guns and navigated by thirty four Men to fit out and set forth the said Sloop in a warlike manner and by and with the said Schooner and the Crew thereof by Force of Arms to attack seize and take the Ships and other Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of Great Britain or any of them with their Tackle Apparel Furniture and Ladings on the high Seas or between high Water and low Water Marks and to bring the same to some convenient Ports in the said Colonies in order that the Courts which are or shall be there appointed to hear and determine Causes civil and maritime may proceed in due Form to condemn the said Captures if they be adjudged lawful Prize The said Craig Erskine and Co having given Bond with sufficient Sureties that nothing be done by the said Robertson or any of the Officers Mariners or Company thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the Usages and Customs of Nations and the Instructions a Copy of which is herewith delivered to him And we will and require all our Officers whatsoever to give Succour and Assistance to the said James Robertson in the premisses — This Commission shall continue in Force until the Congress shall issue Orders to the contrary — By Order of the Congress Dated at Philada 2nd July 1776 — John Hancock President

By his Excellency John Earl of Dunmore his Majestie's Lieut Governor of the Collony of Virga &c &c &c And Andrew Snape Hammond Esqr Commanding Officer of his Majesties Ships on

that Station — Being fully satisfied that great Inconvenience arises to his Majesties Service from the Detention of the many Vessels containing the Families and Effects of his Majesties well affected Subjects who have from Time to Time put themselves under the Protection of this Fleet And in Consideration of the Losses they have already sustained and are likely to sustain from a further Detention We do hereby take into his Majesties Service the Sloop *Betsey* Samuel Kerr Master Sqr sterned Burthen about forty Tons navigated with seven Men for the purpose of transporting said Samuel Kerr his Family and Effects to a place of Safety And we do hereby require sd Saml Kerr to proceed with sd Sloop *Betsey* in his Majesties Service to the Port of St Augustine in E Florida laden with seventeen Hhds Molasses one Hhd and four barl Coffee eight Hhds Rum two quarter Casks Wine twenty five barl Sugar thirty barl Flour & one Cask Tobo (with a Variety of Household Goods) for the Use of his Majestie or for the Use of the Inhabitants of any Town or Place garrisoned and possessed by his Majesties Troops and no others And this We do on Condition that sd Sloop *Betsey* shall not be any Expence to Government for the above Service further than his Majestie shall be pleased to allow on a future Application This Licence to continue three Months and no longer —

Given under our Hands and Seals in the River
Potowmack this thirty first Day of July 1776
Dunmore A: S: Hamond

Samuel Kerr a Witness produced sworn and examined on the part of the Libellants in this Cause To the first Interrogatory deposeth and saith That he doth know the Brig called the *Lexington* abovementioned and did sail in her as Prisoner after the Capture of the Sloop *Betsey* that the said Brig was fitted for War commanded by John Barry and employed in the Service of the American States as he hath been informed and believes — To the second that he doth know the Sloop called the *Betsey* abovementioned and did sail in her that about the twenty fourth Day of August last the said Sloop was taken at Sea by the Brig *Lexington* and that the private Sloop of War called the *Chance* commanded by James Robertson was in Sight at the Time of the said Capture that the said Sloop was then commanded by one Monroe but this Deponent doth not know of what place the said Commander was an Inhabitant —

To the third that the said Sloop was not fitted for War that the said Sloop at the Time of the said Capture had on board a Cargo of several Kinds of Merchandize and other Effects That the said Sloop and chief part of the Cargo at the Time of the said Capture was the property of this Deponent and George Kerr and part of the Residue of the Cargo was the property of Robert Shaddon of Portsmouth in Virginia and the Residue thereof to wit four Barrels of Coffee the property of Henry and Thomas Brown of Portsmouth aforesaid which had been taken on board in the Absence of the Own-

ers to prevent it being burned in Case the Town should have been fired that he knows the said Owners are Friends to the American Cause that the said George Kerr is an Inhabitant of Cabbins point in Virginia and this Deponent an Inhabitant of Edenton in North Carolina That the last port or place the said Sloop sailed from next before the Time of her Capture was Potowmack River in Virginia aforesaid and was then bound for St Augustine That the Cargo on board the said Sloop was intended for Sale except the Articles of Household Furniture which were intended for the private and particular Use of him the Deponent That there were on board the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture the following Negro Slaves to wit Harry and James (who were put on board by Mackam Herbert of Virginia to be delivered him at St Augustine aforesaid) Chloe and Sam her Child (to be disposed of at St Augustine aforesaid for the Benefit of James McCaw late of Virginia) Phillis (the Property of Mrs Bruff of Hampton in Virginia who had run away from her Mistress and had been taken on board for the purpose of redelivering her to her said Misstress) and Peter the property of this Deponent

To the fourth that there were no papers or Writings thrown overboard or destroyed on board the said Sloop to this Deponent's Knowledge except some in the presence and by the permission of Captain Barry afterwardsaid and not at all relating to the said Vessel or her Cargo –

Sworn September 26th 1776 In open Court Geo: Ross

And hereupon Proclamation was again made as is above set forth when Samuel Kerr the Deponent abovenamed appeared personally in Court and with his Honor's Leave addressed himself to the Jurors and advocated a Defence as well on the part of himself as of Henry and Thomas Brown and Mrs Bruff in the above Deposition named –

Whereupon the Jurors aforesaid having heard the Proof Exhibits and Allegations and taken Time to consider thereof upon their Oath and Affirmation aforesaid respectively do say That they find all the Facts alledged and set forth in the Bill aforesaid are true And hereupon Proclamation being again made in manner above set forth and no person appearing to claim defend or object The said Judge proceeded to the publication of his definitive Sentence or Decree in the Words following to wit –

It appearing to me from the Verdict of the Jury impannelled sworn and affirmed in this Cause upon the Evidence produced to them That all the Facts alledged and set forth in the Bill are true I do thereupon adjudge and decree that the Sloop or Vessel called the *Betsey*, with her Tackle Apparel and Furniture and the Goods Wares and Merchandizes found on board the said Sloop at the Time of her Capture and the Negro Slaves in the said Bill named and 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 the Costs and Charges of the Tryal Condemnation and Sale thereof together with the Wages due to the several Seamen and Mariners belonging to the said Sloop out of the Monies arising from the said Sale to pay forty one one hundred and thirty fifth parts of the Residue of the said Monies

unto the said James Robertson his Agent or Attorney for the Use of himself his Officers Mariners Seamen and all others belonging to or concerned in the said Sloop *Chance* And to pay the remaining ninety four, one hundred and thirty fifth parts of the said Residue unto the said John Barry his Agent or Attorney Two third parts thereof for the Use of the thirteen United States of North America and the other third part thereof for the Use of himself the Officers Mariners and Seamen belonging to the said Brigantine *Lexington* And I do order the said Marshall to pay the said Wages to the several Seamen and Mariners entitled to receive the same And to pay the said Costs and Charges into the Hands of Michael Hillegas Esquire Treasurer of this State according to the Resolutions of the honorable Continental Congress and of the honorable House of Representatives of this State.

September 26th 1776

Geo: Ross²

1. Revolutionary War Prize Cases, No. 4, Court of Appeals, 1776-1787, NA.

2. *Ibid.*, the condemnation was appealed on September 28, and the verdict upheld on November 23, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Thursday. 26th September 1776

Copy of Letter No 189 was sent to Captn James Nicholson.

Ordered That Commissary of Stores deliver to Messrs [William] Lux, [Samuel] Purviance [Jr.] & Steuart [David Stewart] one Ton of Gun Powder for the Continental Frigate at Balt: Town.²

Ordered That the commissary of Stores deliver to Mr William Patterson twenty Bolts of Canvass.

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

2. *The Virginia*.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESERTERS FROM THE VIRGINIA STATE BRIGANTINE *Liberty*¹

Deserted, from the brigantine *Liberty*, lying at Baltimore, the following seamen, viz. On the 10th inst. William Puckingham, a native of New-England, about five feet six inches high, has light coloured hair and yellow at the top: had on when he went away, a drab coloured jacket with a blue cape; when in liquor is subject to fits. On the 17th, two lads, Thomas Cane and Jesse Clarkson; Cane is a native of Ireland: had on a red jacket and osnabrig trousers, is lame by reason of an imposthume rising in one of his thighs. Clarkson is a native of Maryland, about fourteen or fifteen years of age, has light hair, a mild countenance, and engaging address. On the 20th, Samuel Mercer, Andrew Baxter and Thomas Tivy; Mercer is of low stature, a native of Ireland, apparently about forty years of age, halts in walking. Baxter is about five feet seven or eight inches high: had on a red jacket, and is remarkably fond of liquor. Tivy is a native of Ireland, about the size

of Baxter, has a bad sore on one of his great toes, is fond of liquor, and when drunk very noisy. Any person who secures them, so that I get them again, shall be paid three pounds reward for each, by

Thomas Lilly

1. *Maryland Gazette*, September 26, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday September 26th 1776

Ordered That Captain Charles Harrison of the Artillery be empowered to take possession of and apply to the use of his Company in transporting the same or any ordnance Stores, a Boat now lying at Porto Bello lately the property of Lord Dunmore, first having the same appraised & returning the appraisment to the Governor and Council.

A permit was issued to Captain Osburn of the Sloop *Packet* to go to Hispaniola or other port allowed of by Congress, with her laden as per manifest filed; the said Osburn having executed Bond with security which is ordered to be recorded.

1. McIlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 175, 176.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday 26th September 1776. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to John Hawkins for nineteen pounds four shillings for Whiskey furnished Capt George Muter for the use of the *Hero* Galley — Also for nine pounds twelve shillings for Whiskey furnished Capt Celey Saunders for the use of the *Lewis* Galley. And also for Thirteen pounds for Whiskey furnished Capt James Markham for the use of the *Page* Galley. —

Ordered that a Warrant Issue to David Low for the use of James Gray for Three pounds fifteen shillings for Freight of Rigging from Warwick to the College Landing, for the Brig *Nohampton*.

Ordered that a Warrent Issue to Edward Champion Travis for One pound Twelve shillings & one penny half penny for Beef furnished Capt Markham for the use of the *Page* Galley — Also for One pound twelve shillings and one penny half Penny for Beef furnished Capt Celey Saunders for the use of the *Lewis* Galley. —

Robert Gayle, Peter Whitehurst, Joshua Foster, Christopher C[u]lley, Albion Robins, Edward Anderson, Malachi[a] Oldner, Peter Smith, Houlder Hudgins and Henry Knight appeared before the Board and undertook to Build for the use of this Commonwealth large flat Bottom Boats for the purpose of Transporting Troops, that is to say, the same Robert Gayle, Peter Whitehurst & Houlder Hudgins two Boats each and the said, Joshua Foster, Christopher Cully, Albion Robins, Edward Anderson, Malachi Oldner, Peter Smith and Henry Knight one Boat each of the following Dimen-

sions, Vizt, Forty foot Keel, fourteen Feet Beam, three feet four Inches Deep to the Top of the Gunnall, eight Inches Wash Board, and to be Ceiled in the same manner as the Boat lately Built by Mr Herbert, to be Built with good white Oak Plank one Inch and a half thick, the Ceiling to be of Pine Plank clear of Sap three Quarters of an Inch thick, to Row with Twenty Oars fixed upon Iron Swivels, to be fitted with Proper Stern Sheets, every other Thwart Bound and to be Built after the manner of the Boat lately Built by Mr He[r]ber except the Gun Carriages, to be properly Tar'd and finished in a Workman like manner and delivered to the Board, with proper Oars for each Boat on or before the fifteenth day of December next, for which they are to be allowed, for each Boat, the sum of One hundred and seventy Pounds. The said Robt Gayle, Peter Whitehurst, Houlder Hudgins, Joshua Foster, Christopher Cully, Albion Robins, Edward Anderson, Malachi Oldner, Peter Smith and Henry Knight having respectively entered into and acknowledged Bond for their duly Performing the above Contract. – Ordered that a Warrant Issue to Robert Gayle & Peter Whitehurst for the Sum of Thirty pounds each, upon Account, for the purpose of Purchasing Necessaries for Building Boats for the Transportation of Troops –

Ordered that Warrant Issue to Joshua Foster, Christopher Cully, Albion Robins, Edward Anderson, Malachi[a] Oldner, Peter Smith Houlder Hudgins & Henry Knight for fifteen Pounds each, upon Account, for the Purpose of Purchasing Materials for Building of Boats for the Transportation of Troops –

Ordered that George Hope be empowered to employ Workmen and superintend the Building of six Flat Bottom'd Boats for this Commonwealth for the Purpose of Transporting of Troops which said Boats are to be of the following Dimensions, to wit, Forty feet Keel, fourteen Feet Beam, three feet four Inches Deep to the Top of the Gunnell, eight Inches Wash Board, and to be Ceiled in the same manner as the Boat lately Built by Mr Herbert to be Built with good white Oak Plank one Inch and a half thick the Ceiling to be of Pine Plank clear of Sap three Quarters of an Inch thick, to Row with Twenty Oars fixed upon Iron swivels, to be fitted with proper Stern Sheets, every other Thwart Bound and to be Built after the manner of the Boat lately Built by Mr Herbert except the Gun Carriages to be properly Tar'd and furnished in a Workman like manner and delivered to the Board with proper Oars for each Boat on or before the fifteenth day of December next –

Adjourned till tomorrow morning nine of the Clock.

Signed,

Thomas Whiting 1st Comsr. –

27 Sept.

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

Sept 1776

The SE part of the Isle Madame North dist. 3 or 4 miles

Friday 27th

AM at 5 Saw 2 Sail to the Eastwd wore & made Sail Fired a gun & made the Private Signal which was answered, one prov'd to be the *Hope* the other a Brig from Halifax for Spanish River, at 8 Cape Canso N 2 or 3 Leags at 10 Stood in for Canso Harbour, Saw a Schooner make sail from thence, the *Hope* made our Sigl to chace her, wore & made sail; at Noon In Chace, In Compy. the *Hope*

First part modt breezes & fair, Middle & latter fresh breezes & Squaly. PM at 1 the *Hope* made our Sigl to leave off Chace, wore & work'd up to her; the chace ran into the Harbour of Petit De Grat followed her with the *Hope*, the chase ran ashore & the People forsook her, the *Hope's* boat boarded her & got her off; at 2 Anchd with the Bt Br in 9 fm blue clay bottom. the chace proved to be a Schooner privateer of 4 Carriage & 8 Swivel guns, belonging to Salem. At 7 Shipped & endeavoured to work out of the Harbour but could not, So Anchd with the Sl Br & Steddy'd with the Kedge

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Perseus*, CAPTAIN GEORGE KEITH ELPHINSTONE¹

September 1776

Latde in 41:13 No Longde mde 52:29 Wt

Thursday 26th

At 5 (A M) 11 Sail in sight much scattered — shorten'd Sail for the Convoy to join us;² the *Grand Duke* and *John* missing — at 10 found a Schooner, among the Convoy, bore down and found her to be an Armed Rebel Vessel; gave Chace — made and repeated the Signal for the Convoy to come under our Stern. At Noon the Convoy in sight.

Fresh breezes and Clear (P M) Continued the Chace; got one of the Nine Poundrs on the Forecastle — gaining very fast on the Chace with every Sail out possible — At 4 began firing at the Schooner which continues rowing and Sailing. At 5 the Convoy in sight — continuing to fire Shot at the Chace from the Gun on the Forecastle — damaged the Spreetsail and Yard accidentally by the Shot — At 8 fir'd many great Guns Swivels and Small Arms at the Chace which struck and proved to be the *Viper* Sloop of War by Commission from the Congress of America, 9 Days from Boston.³ Brot too and fired Guns

Friday 27th

every hour for the Convoy, also hoisted lights — brot the Prisoners on board — Sent the Gunner with a Petty Officer and 6 Men to take charge of the Prize.

At 7 A M made Sail — Wore. At Noon the Prize in Company.

Fresh breezes and Clear. At 5 (P M) Saw a Sail to the WSW standing a cross us — at 7 do bore SSW, gave Chace, at 9 finding the Chace to be a Rebel, began to fire — At 10 she struck and proved to be the *Betsey* Schooner, from Boston to Bordeaux,⁴ sent 2 Petty Officers and proper People to take charge of her with Pistols, Shot, &c for her defence.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/688.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Perseus* had sailed from Spithead on July 28, convoying "17 Sail of Victuallers and Transports."

3. The Massachusetts privateer schooner *Viper*, Captain Benjamin Wormell, of six guns, eight swivels and a crew of fifty men, was commissioned September 9, 1776, Mass. Arch., vol. 7, 276.

4. Schooner *Betsey*, Alexander Wilson, master, John Pain, owner, with a cargo of dye wood, potash, etc., Howe's Prize List, March 31, 1777, PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

Essex Journal, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1776

Newbury-Port, September 27.

Last Monday arrived here, the Brig *Stork*. Philip Aubin master, from Port Royal, in Martinico, which place he left the 24th of August, in company with Captains Clowin and Derry, bound to Philadelphia.

Last Tuesday was brought in here by the *Washington* Privateer, a Bark bound to the West-Indies, to fetch soldiers for the enemy; she had on board a quantity of provisions, and a few pieces of cannon.¹

Yesterday was brought into this harbour, taken by a privateer belonging to Salem; a ship from Grenada, bound to London, having on board 290 hogsheads of Sugar, 40 of rum, and 2 of coffee.²

The same day was carried into Portsmouth, a ship of between 2 and 300 tons, laden with about 230 hogsheads of sugar, 50 of rum, and some wine. We also hear that a Schooner of about 90 tons, laden with salt, linen and Household Furniture, was carried into Ipswich, about two days ago.

1. The *Millham*, 200 tons burden, John Johnson, master.

2. The *Batchelor*, a prize of the privateer *Sturdy Beggar*.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL¹

[Watertown] Friday Septemr 27th 1776

Letter from Capt Alexander Coffin representing he was taken & Robbed by a Continental Privateer in his Passage from London being intrusted by the Friends of America there with important Intelligence Read and Ordered That Thomas Cushing Esqr be directed to take the same under

Consideration and draft a Letter to the President of Congress inclosing a Copy of said Letter and Report who reported a draft which was Read and Accepted.

Petition of James Kennedy late Master of the Ship *Peggy* setting forth that he has before made not his situation known and still continues in a bad State of Health and a Family depending upon him for support and praying that Permission may be granted him to depart this State in the Ship *William* purchased by William Ross with a servant Man and Girl named Sophia Kennedy.

In Council Read and Ordered that the Prayer of the Petitioner be so far granted that he have Liberty to depart this State with his Servant Girl named Sophia Kennedy (but his Servant Man not permitted to go) in the Ship *William* Commanded by Benjamin Moore lately purchased by Mr Ross for the purpose of transporting himself and others to Great Britain provided the said Ross permit him to go in said Vessel.²

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 19, 249, 251.

2. *Ibid.*, vol. 165, 290-91, others granted permission on this date to depart on board the *William* included: James Fulton, Richard Pyne, and John Denniston.

GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

[Extract]

Lebanon Septemr 27th 1776

Can your Excellency spare our Row Gallies from further Continental Service? The men and their arms may be used to great advantage on board our Ship and Brigantine. The enterprize formerly mentioned to you; in which I have the promise of Admiral Hopkins concurrence. Your advice on this head is wanted as we are not so well acquainted what alteration your present situation makes in regard. An early answer will be necessary, if they can be spared, and the intended naval expedition is yet pendent and practicable.

1. Trumbull Papers, XXIX, Letter Book IV, 350, ConnSL.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMITTEE OF THE PAY TABLE¹

Lebanon Sepr 27th 1776

Draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum of thirty Pounds in Favour of Capt John Skinner to Enable him to Escort the Governors Brown [Montfort Browne] & Skeen [Philip Skene] to Genl Washington to Exchange them for other Prisoners and to Render his Acct

By Order the Govr & Council of Safety
Benj Huntington Clerk P.T.

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, VI, 390a, ConnSL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Lebanon] September 27th, 1776.

Voted, That the overseers of the furnace at Salisbury be and they are hereby directed to deliver to the agents for building the continental ship at Chatham² twenty-four twelve-pounders and six six or four-pounders of cannon: they receiving the same at said furnace and paying at the rate of £ 3 10 0 per hundred weight for the twelve pounders, and £4 0 0 per weight for the smaller cannon. *Order delivered to Mr. Dean* [Barnabas Deane] *Sept 27th 1776.*

Voted, That Dr. Joshua Elderkin of Windham be impowered and directed to provide a sufficient quantity of tow cloth for one [73] hundred and forty hammocks for the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and that he forward what tow cloth he has on hand and purchase a further quantity, if to be had soon, for said use, to the amount of four hundred yards in the whole, and forward the same to Capt. [Ephraim] Bill for said purpose.

1. Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*, XV, 526-27.

2. The frigate *Trumbull*.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL¹

Sir

New London, Sepr 27th 1776

The barer Capt [Charles] Walker² has had an Oppertunity to see one of his Friends who Just now Came from New Providence with a Load of Salt, and as that Island is so Situated for Trade Capt Walker is very Certain it will be of great Advantage to the American States to have Supplys from that Quarter, and att Present the Person who is Principal in the Custom House their makes all the Difficulty in his Power in Clearing out the Ves-sells for Halifax &c — This Person is Acting as Deputy to Mr [James] Babbage who is a Prisoner att Middletown & was brot into this State by Comadore Hopkins,³ and Capt Walker is of Opinion that if Babbage Could be Releas'd or Sufferd to Return on his Parole he would be of Infinite Service to the trade of that Island in persuing the trade to these States, for the Particulars must refer you to him — I have att all times when Babbages Name was Mentioned heard Comodr Hopkins give him a Good Character as doing Every thing in his Power to Serve the Peoplé in trade I am Sir [&c.]

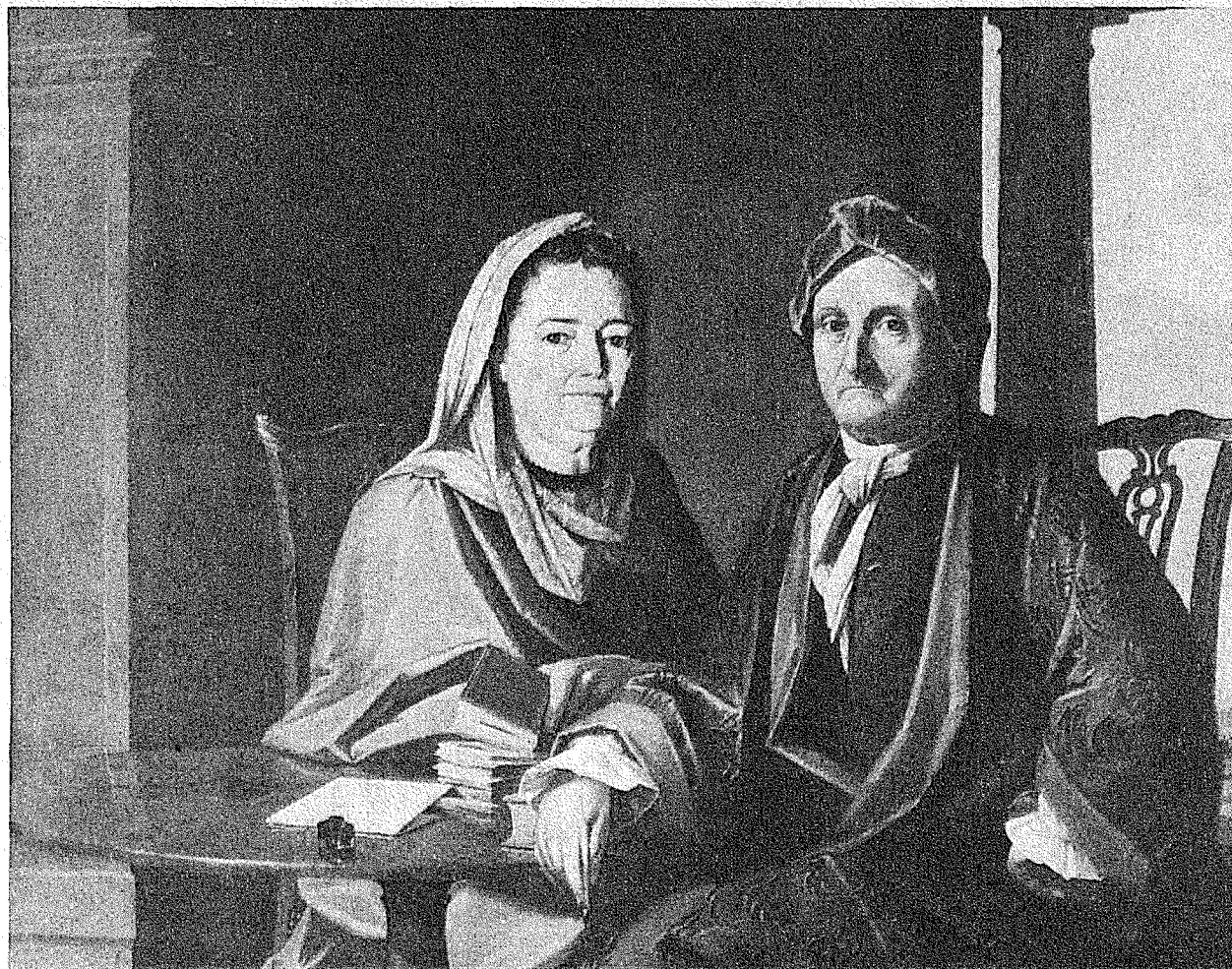
Nath^l Shaw Jun^r

[Endorsed] Re Mr Babbidge recd p Capt Walker 28th inst

1. Conn. Arch., 1st Series, IX, 316, ConnSL.

2. Walker was owner of the sloop *Endeavour*, engaged by Hopkins to carry the cannon taken from New Providence. See Volume 5.

3. See Volume 4. Babbidge was granted his parole on September 28, Trumbull Papers, V, 349, ConnSL.



Governor Jonathan Trumbull and His Wife Faith Robinson Trumbull.

JOURNAL OF LIEUTENANT WILLIAM DIGBY¹

[Isle aux Noix]

27 [September]. Had the pleasure of seeing two of our schooners, the *Maria* and *Carlton* come up to us from St Johns. Captain Pringle was appointed Commodore of the Lake-Champlain, and to command on board the *Maria*, so called after lady Maria Carlton.

1. Digby's Journal, BM.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON TO EDWARD RUTLEDGE¹

[Extract]

Fish kill 27th Sepr 1776

. . . with respect to [Esek] Hopkins — you have but one way left, appoint an Admiral — but dont flatter yourself that even that will bring about a resignation. A sense of honour must exist where in dignity produces a sacrifice of interest — If you have not the courage or interest to carry this as the next wise step sell your ships to private adventurers² . . .

. . . Our affairs to the Norward are pretty favourable tho' we had an alarm last week in consequence [of] which all the militia of the northern counties marched but are since returned — had you built some vessels on Lake Ontario as p orders we shd have been perfectly safe on that quarter, upon which alone in my opinion we are accessible —³

1. Robert R. Livingston Papers 1765–1776, LC.
2. Referring to congressional censure of Esek Hopkins. Ford, ed., *JCC*, V, 660–62.
3. *Ibid.*, 539, 542, Schuyler was given a recommendation by Congress on July 11, 1776 to “take proper steps for erecting a fort at Oswego and building gallies on Lake Ontario.”

CERTIFICATE OF COLONEL STEPHEN MOYLAN IN FAVOR OF
BENJAMIN EYRE¹

Harlem heights 27th September 1776

I do hereby Certify that Captain Benjn Eyre, built & completely finished two Gondolas or Row Gallies, one other, is finished all but the smiths work, and one was Left on the Stocks at Newyork entirely Timberd & Rigged

that he was actively employed about the Water frize, Sunck in the North River & has been allso employed to appraise sixteen vessells taken up to sink in the North and the east River, that he has gone up to Albany to engage & hurry down plank and boards for the use of the Army, all which he has to my Certain Knowledge faithfully executed.

Stephen Moylan

[Endorsed] I certify as above

Thomas Mifflin

1. Papers CC (Memorials addressed to Congress), 41, III, 11, NA.

JOURNAL OF H. M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN ROGER CURTIS¹

Sepr [17]76 Moor'd with the Stream Anchr In Amboy Channel off
 Red head.

Friday 27th AM Employ'd on Sundrys — Sent the Boat Watering
 Moderate & Clear
 at 3 P M two of the Long Boat Men run away with the Long
 boat Loaded with Water from the Waterrg Place, Man'd
 and Arm'd the Pinnacle and sent after her, but her getting on
 Shore brot down a party of Rebels could not get her off for
 the fire from them —

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Philadelphia Friday, September 27, 1776

Resolved, That the Marine Committee be empowered to pursue such measures, as they judge proper and effectual, to import as much salt as possible.

The Marine Committee, to whom was referred the petition of Francis Guillot, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

Resolved, That Francis Guillot be permitted to fit out and arm a privateer, under the colours of the United States, and that he be permitted to equip and arm the said vessel in such place as he thinks he can do it at the smallest expence; he giving the usual securities in such cases directed by Congress.

1. Ford, ed., JCC, V, 830–32.

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO JOHN ROSS¹

Mr John Ross²
 Sir

Philada Sepr 27th 1776

As Several of the Vessells by which we have heretofore ordered out blankets & cloathing for the use of the Publick, have unfortunately been taken We think it prudent to give fresh orders in hopes the Goods may yet reach America in time to be Very Serviceable, We therefore request of you to purchase on the very best terms in your power immediately on the receipt of this letter

Ten Thousand Striped blankets
 Thirty Thousand Yards of 6/4 broad cloth brown
 & blue Colours from 3/ to 6/ Stg p Yd
 Three Thousand Yards different Colrs for
 Facings at about 4/ Stg P Yd
 One Thousand pieces of Duffields or some such
 Cloth at about 90/ —

We will immediately set about making you remittances to pay for these Goods, therefore You may either employ any money already in your hands on Publick Acct in this purchase or pledge your Credit for speedy Payment as we are making large purchases of Rice Indico Tobacco &c for immediate Exportation and the approaching Season will give us fair opportunity's of getting these Goods to Market whereas we have been much hampered during the Summer by the Cruizers on our Coast. You will buy these Goods where ever You can soonest get them, Great Britain & Ireland excepted, and you may send them out by any good Vessell belonging to America but if none such offers immediately, You may Charter a Foreign Vessell to take them & proceed for this Coast immediately with orders to get into the first place of Safety She possibly can in these united States of America, whatever terms you fix shall be Complied with, depending that you will have them as moderate as possible and we will load the Vessell back to Europe immediately. If any difficulty Occurs about getting these Goods out to America direct, you may then Ship them out, to Wm Bingham Esqr at Martinico, to Mr Cornelius Stevenson at St Eustatia Mr Isaac Gouverneur at Curracoa or to Mr Stephen Ceronio at Cape François with orders for them to forward them to us with all possible dispatch by different Conveyances. We beg your utmost attention & dilligence in the execution of this order the Goods are extreamly Wanted & you must not loose one Moment of time. You may rest assured of soon being enabled to pay for them & We remain Sir [&c.]

B Franklin

Fra^s LewisRob^t Morris

Phil. Livingston

Richard Henry Lee

1. Signers of Declaration of Independence, vols. 1-2, PML.

2. Ross was a Philadelphia merchant who had gone to Europe in February 1776 to contract for supplies.

WILLIAM HOOPER TO SAMUEL JOHNSTON¹

[Extract]

Our privateers have been successfull – I will not say any of our Continental Ships lest I should infringe upon Hews' department² I fear that the Want of Men & Cannon will prove an insuperable Obstacle to their Movements.

Philadelphia Sept 27 1776

1. Samuel Johnston Papers, NCDAH.

2. Hewes, who carried this letter, was on his way home to Edenton, his health having been much impaired from "the large share of naval & mercantile business which has been allotted to his attention by Congress," North Carolina Delegates to the Council of Safety, September 26, 1776, Continental Congress Delegates Letters, NCDAH.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO WILLIAM BINGHAM, MARTINIQUE¹

[Extract]

Philada Sept 27th 1776

We have wrote fully to our Mr Thos Morris respecting Insurances & desired if he can effect Insurance on Ships & Goods from the West India Islands to this Continent & Vice Versa, to inform you of it immediately. We have wrote him & several of our Friends to send us letters News papers, Goods & Merchandize, Via Martinico under your care & we beg your particular care of them. You will know the Events of War are most uncertain, our American affairs have not at this time so pleasing an aspect as we cou'd wish & shou'd they grow much worse, it may not be a desirable thing to bring property hither, therefore we are determined to give you early information of such material Changes as may happen, at present we Continue in oppinion that Mr Bealle shou'd ship all his Goods back in this Sloop *Independance* as the Captain has orders to Receive onboard whatever you desire, or if there are other Good Conveyances you may divide them sending part to the care of Messrs Hewes & Smith at Edenton No Carolina, part to Mr J. H Norton at Wmsburg Virginia & the rest by Capt [John] Young, the whole however to be forwarded to Mr. Norton in Virginia agreeable to Contract. We also Continue of opinion that you shou'd ship back by the *Independance* the Value of Two Thousand pounds in dry Goods taking care to buy in this parcell as many Woolens of every kind as possible, for Woolens are exceedingly wanted any Number of Blankets the more the better, Rugs, Cloths, &c &c next to these Sail Cloth, Coarse Linens, Warm Coarse Stockings and inshort any thing fit for Winter Wear. . . . We sold the Goods by Capt Wickes for 100 PCt adva[nce] on the Invoice & intended to send You Actt Sales by this Conveyance but cannot the purchaser complains that many things were laid in very dear at Martinico. If you think proper you may write to our T M [Thomas Morris] under Cover to Messrs Delap advising him the Value of the Goods you ship back by this or any other Vessell & desire him to procure Insurance if he can Effect it against British Cruizers at about 10 to 12½ pCt on such Vessells as the *Independance*, or for 20 to 25 PCt on unarmed Vessels, & if Mr Bealle & you judge it most prudent you can do the same with respect to his Goods, but we are really of opinion there is not much danger of this Sloop which is well Armed & Sails very fast We think you shou'd give her the utmost dispatch in your power & as its probable that another will soon follow you can prepare more Goods if any fit for Winter can be got. We mentioned above that it is possible our affairs may go so wrong that the property will be safer with you than with us, We hope this will not be the case nor is there any present danger of it, but its well to be guarded at all points & if such event is like to happen we will Contrive you the earliest Notice of it, to prevent your Shipping Goods either on your or our Account at any time when they might be likely to come into the Jaws of the Enemy. It may be well therefore that You make some strickt Friendship with a Man of known Integrity & honor into whose Trust You can safely Commit any property that may be in your hands

shou'd such unhappy News come to you This Friend shoud recive & Cover it as his own untill You order otherways, for if America proves unfortunate in this Contest, We doubt much if the French Govermt. will protect her Agents, or if they do it may not be Safe to have much property in their power, but all this is meer apprehension you'l keep it closely to yourself & only take the previous measures for such a Cover without imparting Your Design to any person living. . . .

1. Papers of Robert Morris, Accession 1805, LC.

LIBEL IN PENNSYLVANIA ADMIRALTY COURT AGAINST SLAVES
TAKEN IN THE BRITISH ARMED SLOOP *Edward*¹

Port of Philadelphia, }
Pennsylvania, ss. } To All whom it may concern.

Notice is hereby given, that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the State-house, in the city of Philadelphia, on Tuesday the fifteenth day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of John Barre, commander of the brigantine of war called the *Lexington* (who as well, &c.) against James and Joshua, Negro Slaves, lately taken on board the prize sloop called the *Edward*, commanded by Richard Boger. To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said slaves, or of either of them, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the same should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge,
Andrew Robeson, Register.

[Philadelphia] Sept. 27, 1776.

1. *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, September 28, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Annapolis] Friday. Sepr 27th 1776

Warrant issued to William Patterson to enlist twenty five men for the marine service. —

Ordered That Western shore Treasurer pay to Captain Wm Patterson seventy five Pounds for enlisting men, as above.

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

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LUX & BOWLY¹

No 194

Gentn,

We are told by Mr Stephen Steward, that you heretofore engaged to furnish him with Some Cordage for our armed vessels by this time, but that you have not got any ready for him; — we are in very great want of, that

Article, and desire to be immediately informed, when you can supply him, that if it cannot be done within a reasonable Time at yr Yard, we may endeavour to provide it some where else – disappointments of this Nature especially ought to be avoided, as the Consequences may prove very injurious. We are &c:

[Annapolis] Sept 27th 1776.

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

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

[Williamsburg] Friday September 27th 1776

Ordered that a permit issue to James Darrel, Master of the Brig *Anne* from Bermuda laden with Salt, to proceed up James River and dispose of his Cargo.

1. McLlwaine, ed., *Journals of the Virginia Council*, I, 177.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, SUPPLEMENT, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1776

Williamsburg, Sept. 27.

Since our last two vessels have arrived at Hampton, one with 800 bushels of salt, the other with 300; and one is just come up to Jamestown with 2500 bushels, and some fruit.

A small Baltimore privateer carried into Chingoteague, upon the Eastern Shore, the beginning of last week, a brig from Jamaica laden with 400 hogsheads of sugar and 140 hogsheads of rum.¹

1. The *Caroline*, taken by the Maryland privateer schooner *Harlequin*, Captain William Woolsey.

CAPTAIN FRANCIS PARRY, R.N., TO CAPTAIN ANTHONY HUNT, R.N. ¹

Copy

Sir,

I received your Letter of this Day's date, wherein, in Consequence of an Order from the Viscount Howe, I am ordered to give in Writing the State & Condition of His Majesty's Sloop *Cruizer* under my Command, and if she is found as represented by former Examinations & Surveys; without a Moment's Loss of Time, to cause all the Furniture, Stores and Ammunition, with the Officers and Men to be sent on board such Ships as You shall order to receive them, and then to destroy the Sloop; I am to inform You that the *Cruizer* is much worse than when surveyed, and that I expect she will sink at Anchor, as We are continually pumping; so that I have given the Orders for the Stores to be ready for Removal when ordered, and shall then destroy the Sloop. I am, Sir [&c.]

Fran^s Parry.

Cape Fear Harbour, Sept 27th 1776.

Capt Hunt of His Majesty's Ship *Active* & Senior Officer in Cape Fear Harbour

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/487.

Sept^r 1776 Bermuda So 16.23 W 305 Miles
 Friday 27th at 11 AM Saw 7 Sail in SW Quarter suppos'd to be the *Pallace*
 [*Pallas*] and her Convoy.
 Modt and Clear Wr at 8 P M Saw a Sail, do gave
 Chace at 12 brot too a Brig² from Dominica bound to Liver-
 pool who was taken by the *Joseph* Privateer of 12 Six
 pounders.³ do took Possession of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/380.
2. Identified in a journal entry of October 20, as the "*Alice Brigg*."
3. The *Joseph*, a Rhode Island privateer, John Field, commander, commissioned in August 1776.

Septemr 1776 Monte Christa SWBS abt 3 Lea[gue]
Friday 27 Light Breezes & Cloudy at 5 P M Saw a Sail made Sail
spoke a french Ship from Nantz bound to Portau
prince at 7 fird a Shott Brought too & [examined] a
Sloop from Nantucket for Hispaniola Loaden with pro-
visions & Lumber² took possession of her Brot her men
onboard & sent a Petty Officer with 4 Men to take charge
of her.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/125.
2. Schooner *Adventure*, see Gayton's Prize List under October 8.

Septem: 1776 Saw the land [Haiti] bearing SbE 13 or 14 Lgs
Friday 27 A M at 4 Saw a Sail in the NW Qutr Gave Chace, hoisted the
Boat out & sent her Manned & Armed, Spoke the Chace,
proved to be a Schooner from Cape Francois to Philadelphia²
Sent the Mate & 4 hands to Conduct her down to Jamaica,
bore up in Co with the Schooner

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/702.
2. According to Gayton's prize list, the vessel was the sloop (not schooner) *Hannah*, Silvester Gray, master, with a cargo of molasses and sugar.

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

Sept 1776 In Petit De Grat Harbour Island of Madame.
 Saturdy 28th AM at 7 Sent the Marines ashore with the *Hope's* People
 in pursuit of the Men belonging to the Privateer, came on
 board a Pilot, at 10 weigh'd the Kedge & hove Short on the
 Sl Br it blowing Strong we could not get out, veer'd away
 again

First part Squaly with hail & rain, Middle & latter light breezes & Cloudy P M at 2 got on Bd the End of the Bt Br Cable & weigh'd the Sl Br Anchor at 5 our Marines & the *Hope's* return'd, having taken 33 Men belonging to the Privateer; recd 16 of the Prisoners; at 8 weigh'd made Sail & turn'd out of the Harbour & Stood over for Canso.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.

MASTER'S LOG OF H. M. SLOOP *Hope*¹

Remark's &c on Fridy the 27th Sepr 1776

4 [A.M.]

Fresh Breezes and Hazy

6

the *Diligant* Joind Compy White Point NBE 5 Leagues Saw a Sale in the NE Qr out all Reefs and made Sail & Chaced fired 2 four Pounders Shoted at her to Bring her too found hir to be a Brig from Halifax bound to Spanish River, at 9 standing in to Canso, Discovered a Rebel Privateer at Anchr who Imeadly got under Sail md the Signl to the *Diligant* to Chace to the NE work thro Canso Harbr & ran threw the Sl Gut & Chaced the Privater

12 [M.]

Remark's &c in Petet De grat Harbour

First Party Light Breezes and Hazy Wr Midl fresh Gales and Squaly Latr Stronge Gales and Hard Squals P M at 2 the Rebels ran the Privateer on shore and left her & Set hir on fire Fired 3 Foure Pounders Shoted at the Rebels on Shore, sent the Boats mand & armd to tacke Posesion of hir at 1½ Past 2 P M Anchored in Pitit De Grat Harbour with the Sl Br in 4½ fms and Vrd to ⅓ of a Cable the Privater prov'd a Schooner from Salem Caled the *General Gates* of 4 Guns and 40 Men² took 2 men English Prisoners out of her one belonging to the *Renown* & the Other to the *Dispatch* Schooner Sent the Kedge Anchor out with a Hawsor to Warp the Sloop in to the Road, at 6 they got the Prize off and Anchor'ed her in the Road, Warped up to the Kedge Anchor and made fast a Hawsor to the *Diligants* Cable who Soon after Slipt and Saild, Warpt up to her Anchor and took the Cable in at 8 the *Diligant* Anchored again,

Saturdy 28th

at 10 AM Landed a party of men with the Capt & Lutenant in Persute of the Rebels, at Noon Slipt the *Diligants* Cable and Anchored with the Sl Br in 6 fms & Vr'd to ½ a Cable Wt Pt WSW Et Pt SBE the Island NE Lost a Lead and Line First Part Fresh Gales and Squaly Midl and Latr Light Airs and fair Wr at 8 P M the Officers with the Party Returned with 34 Rebel Prisoners belonging to the Rebel Pri-

vater, sent 17 of them onbd the *Diligant* at 12 She Sail'd hence.

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1794.
2. Commissioned August 8, 1776, William Carleton as commander, owned by John Gardner, Jr. and partners of Salem. Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 322.

The Freeman's Journal, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1776

Portsmouth [September 28].

On Thursday last arrived here the Prize-ship *Royal Exchange*, Lawrence Bowden, late master, she was taken by the Continental ship *Columbus*, Abraham Whipple Esq; commander, on the 29th ult. on her passage from Grenada to London, having on board a valuable cargo, consisting of two hundred and eighty four hogsheads and 2 tierces of Sugar, fifty-five hogsheads of Rum, 14 hhds Coffee, 2 bales of Cotton and some Madeira Wine. The Prize Master (Mr. Onely [Joseph Olney]) informs of two other prizes being taken by the *Columbus*, just before this, on their passage to Europe from the West Indies, and in his passage hither spoke with the *Providence* Brigantine belonging to the United States, who informed him of her taking two valuable prizes, and sent in to Providence.¹

1. The Continental sloop *Providence*, Captain John Paul Jones.

JOHN LANGDON TO JOSIAH BARTLETT¹

[Extract]

[Portsmouth, September 28, 1776]

and his Mate Mr Hopley Yeaton were Americans, and high Liberty men, and the Ship Sailed from London, before the Ninth of September 1775 in the same Voyage ours did from the Continent yet the Jury, who are supposed, nearby connected, with the Owners, of the Privateer, contrary to the most upright charge given by the Judge, condemn'd her, not even allowing the adventure, or any thing else, this I and many others look upon as absolute Piracy, and hope a redress, [Tobias] Lear² demanded an Appeal to Congress, but the Act of Massachusetts, would not allow it, therefore was Oblig'd to appeal to their Superiour Court, but hope the Congress, will support their Resolutions and grant an appeal to Congress, as this matter is between Colony and Colony, or rather the Subjects of State, with those of another, and therefore the appeal, should lay to Congress or some body appointed by them, otherwise they will be Judges, in their own Cause. This is a matter I should be glad to know whether, an appeal does not lay to Congress, in all cases whatever, as to Marantime affairs. — Your Friend [&c.]

John Langdon

1. John Langdon Letter Book, Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. First part of letter torn off. Date established from position in Langdon letter book.
2. The ship *Polly*, of seventy tons burden, with a cargo of 350 hogsheads of best muscovado sugar, owned by Tobias Lear, and Hopley Yeaton, mate, was taken by the Massachusetts privateer sloop *Revenge*, Captain Joseph White, and condemned in the Massachusetts Middle District Admiralty Court on September 17. See *Independent Chronicle*, Boston, September 26, 1776, for notice of sale of *Polly's* cargo.

CAPTAIN JOHN CLOUSTON'S RECEIPT FOR MONEY RECEIVED FOR
ENLISTING SEAMEN FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE
SLOOP *Freedom*¹

Boston 28[th] September 1776. Received of Benjamin Austin Esqr Fourteen pounds being So much he paid me for One Months Advance Wages to Seven men Enlisted on board the Sloop *Freedom* belonging to this State £ 14. 0. 0

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 165, 313½.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1776

Providence, September 28.

Major Crane, of this Town, was wounded in the Foot by a Shot from the Ship *Rose*, commanded by the infamous Wallace, when he was attacked and so roughly used in the East River, a short Time since.

Captain James Munro, in the Privateer *Sally*, of this Place, has taken a large Frigate-built Ship, laden with Sugar, Rum, Cotton, Madeira Wine, Whale Oil, &c. bound from Barbados to England, and sent her into a safe Port.¹

1. The *Blaze Castle*. This issue of the newspaper contains Captain Munro's libel against the prize.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD TO MAJOR GENERAL HORATIO GATES¹

[Extract]

Isle Valcouer Sepr 28th 1776 —

Dear General My last was from the Bay St Amont the 22d Inst by Capt [Isaac Budd] Dunn, which make no doubt you have received. — the next day the Fleet arived safe at this place, (which is an excellent harbour) we are moored in a small Bay, on the West side the Island, as near together as possible. & in such a form that few Vessells can attack us at the same Time, & then will be exposed to the fire of the whole fleet

The 25th I dispatched into Canada a German who. was Mate of the *Revenge*. & a New England Man, who speaks French well, both are Sensible Fellows, & may be depended on, they are extremely well acquainted with the Country, go in Character of Deserters, & have proper Instructions & Credentials. (Sixteen of each sort.) sewed up between the Soals of their shoes. — As they run a great Risque, I have promised them (In Case they succeed) Five hundred Dollars, between them; As soon as they know the Success of their Embassy. they are to return — One of them was a Ranger with [Robert] Rogers all last Warr, has since lived in Canada & Knows the Woods perfectly. — Two Men are stationed on the Isle A La Motte to watch the motions of the Enemy —

Early yesterday morning Serjt Strickland with Twelve Men in a provision Batteau passed this place, & went as farr as Point Au fere, but not finding the fleet returned. the *revenge* (on a Cruise) picked them up at 6

oClock last night, the Serjt. Took the Schooner for an Enemy, & stupidly, destroy'd All his Letters & papers, when she was at a distance from him, which was very mortifying to me as I am deprived the pleasure of your Letter, & have a long time Anxiously waited for the particulars of the Affair at New York — This Fellow can give me no manner of Intelligence respecting the Gallies, or any thing else. — I expect them every minute, as the Time is elapsed in which you wrote they would be ready —

Colonel [Thomas] Hartley writes me tha[t] One Gally was expected at C[rown] Point the 26th & that. t[he] Others would be there the 27th, there is a fine wind for the Enemy to come down, If. they appear too Strong For us, I will retire untill I meet the Gallies

1. Gates Papers, Box 4, NYHS.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK CONVENTION¹

Saturday Morning,

[Fishkill] September 28th, 1776.

Captain Rogers being called in and examined, as to the condition of the sloop *Montgomery*, says, that the vessel is in good repair; that she wants nothing but provisions and a little gunpowder; that one of the prizes which he formerly took, to wit, a small Bermuda sloop, is at Rhode Island, as he hopes, by this time, condemned; that she had also on board some sails and rigging, taken from the other vessels of which he made captures; that he brought off a few things in a boat from Huntington, at the time he took Isaac Ketcham and Samuel Skidmore; that the latter was a person who had taken possession of a farm of a brother of Capt. Zeph. Platt; that he came to the Convention to request their directions how to dispose of the vessel, the *Montgomery*.

Resolved, That the vessel of war, the *Montgomery*, be continued in the service of this State.

That Mr. Harper, Mr. Bancker and Mr. Zeph Platt, be a committee to give such instruction to Capt. Rogers, as they shall think proper, to enable him to proceed on a cruise with all possible expedition; and also that the said committee give such directions to Capt. Rogers relative to any prizes or prize goods, remaining on Nassau island, as they shall think proper.

A letter from Robert Yates, Esqr. chairman of the secret committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, was received and read, and is as follows, to wit:

Poughkeepsie, Wedy. 25th Sepr. 1776.

Sir — We have obtained 2 sloops, 2 brigs, and 2 large ships, for the purpose of obstructing the channel of Fort Washington; one of the sloops, the *Clinton*, heretofore purchased by the committee, we found here, the other we have ordered from Fort Montgomery; the two brigs are here also, one of which belongs to Malcom, Kip and Lott, the other is a New-England vessel, about 120 tons burthen,

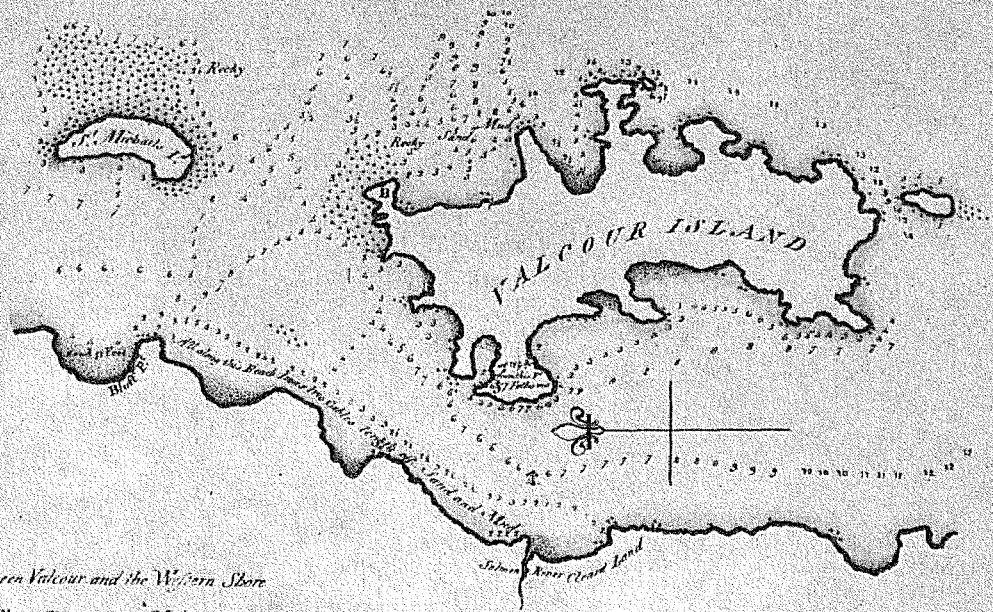
loaded with wheat, staves, and a considerable quantity of inch boards; the wheat and staves we have ordered to be stored, but send down the boards for public use. The ships are in Esopus creek, owners Messrs. Franklin; they are two very fine vessels, in the building of which much extraordinary pains have been taken, both as to timber and workmanship. On our going there, we ordered them to be hauled out, and expect they will proceed to Fort Washington this day. The two sloops, the *Clinton* and that from Fort Montgomery, we think are almost arrived by this time, as the *Clinton* sailed yesterday with a fair wind, and the other must have proceeded from the fort shortly after the *Clinton's* arrival there; and as to the brigs, we shall be able to despatch them to-day also. The *Camden*, Capt. Castle, with near 2,000 feet plank, and Capt. Donaldson with upwards of 6,000 do. sailed yesterday also. The ships and brigs aforesaid, we are to have appraised by the time they are ready to set off from here, and we imagine the ships will run very high. Our stock of money is very low, and our contracts far exceeding the sum we were furnished with; the demands on this committee are frequent and urgent. Upon these considerations we hope the Convention will, by some means or other, furnish us with a further supply. We are, sir [&c.]

By order of the committee,
Robt. Yates, Chairm.

A letter from Mr. Samuel Tudor, one of the agents superintending the building of the Continental frigates at Poughkeepsie, was read, and is as follows, vizt:

Gentlemen — Enclosed I send you General Schuyler's two letters of the 23d and 25th inst. with an order for more cordage; I am, on my own part, extremely anxious to serve, to the best of my abilities, each department, wherein the defence of our country is aimed at; but having this day received a letter from Mr. Van Zandt, (one of the commissioners for building the ships,) wherein he expresses his disapprobation of my sparing any of the materials belonging to the ships, without an express order from Congress or the commissioners. If I have hitherto erred, it is in judgment only, and with the advice of your Honourable House. This second demand from Genl. Schuyler coming to hand unexpectedly, and immediately after the receipt of Mr. Van Zandt's letter, has put me to a stand. An indemnification, or letter of approbation, from Congress, for our former proceedings, which you promised to procure for us, I believe is the reason of the commissioners disapproving our going further, (as that has not yet appeared either to them or us); if you have procured it, pray send it, as also your most candid advice to me in the premises. I am, gentlemen [&c.]

Saml. Tudor.



*The Soundings between Valcour and the Western Shore
taken by Captain William Chambers in May 1779.*



Scale of 1000 Miles

Poughkeepsie, 27th Sept. 1776.

Convention of the State of New-York.

Two letters from General Schuyler, signed by _____ the one bearing date on the 23d, and other on the 25th instant, directed respectively to the superintendents of the Continental ships now building at Poughkeepsie, were read.

The General thereby applies to the superintendents for rigging out of the Continental stores at Poughkeepsie, to fit out some row gallies on Lake Champlain.

A list of the stores wanted for the said row gallies, was also enclosed in the said letters, which was likewise read.

A letter from Robert Yates and Gilbert Livingston, Esqrs. two of the committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, was received and read, and hereafter follows, vizt:

Poughkeepsie, Sept. 27th, 1776.

Sir — The bearer hereof, Capt. John Hun, is come down with three batteaux from Genl. Schuyler, for cordage; Capt. Tudor, to whom he is directed, informs us that he cannot spare the quantity the General requires.

Out of one of the new ships belonging to Franklin, we have taken all the new cordage and stored it with Capt. Schenk. We acquaint you with this circumstance, that in case the Convention should judge it necessary, they may give directions to complete the remainder of the General's orders out of this store. We are, sir, [&c.].

Robt. Yates,

Gilbert Livingston.

Capt Schenk has the charge of the cordage, and if any orders are given they ought to be directed to him.

Ordered, That the said letters from Genl. Schuyler, and inventory of rigging wanted, the said letter of Capt. Samuel Tudor received this day, and the letter from Messrs. Yates and Livingston of the 27th instant, be committed to Mr. Gansevoort, Mr. Duane, and Mr. Cuyler,

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 649, 650.

GOVERNOR JOSIAH MARTIN TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN ¹

Duplicate No. 4.

My Lord

Long Island near New York

September 28th 1776

I have the honor to offer Your Lordship my sincerest congratulations on the successes of His Majesty's Arms, that have already Secured at least the important point of good Winter Quarters for the troops by the possession of the City of New York, and this Island, which although very greatly exhausted by the depredations of the Rebels, will yet contribute much to the support and comfort of the Fleet and Army, if the parts of the coast, most

exposed, are timely protected against the New England People, who have crossed the Sound, and made Several descents on the North side of this Island, for the purpose of driving off Cattle, and seizing persons well affected to Government, since the troops took possession of the Western part of it.

It being manifest My Lord that my return to North Carolina, to lie on board Ship can answer no sort of purpose, and Lord Howe having seen it expedient to call away His Majesty's Ships that are stationed at Cape Fear River rendering it impossible for me to resume that very irksome situation, I remain here in readiness to take any part that may be assigned me, until further operations, shall open a way to my wishes, and my particular duty to promote his Majesty's Service in that Province.

Since my arrival at this place I have received My Lord, but I have not been able to find out through what Channel, the original and duplicate of The Earl of Dartmouth's letter of the 8th of November last, signifying The King's Pleasure that I should inform His Majesty's Officers within the Government of North Carolina, that they were not expected by His Majesty to remain in their present stations at the hazard of their lives and properties, and that they were therefore at liberty to withdraw themselves from the Colony whenever their personal safety should make it necessary so to do. – I should have been happy My Lord to have received this letter while it was possible for me to communicate it: for I am persuaded the assurance it gives of attention to the unfortunate circumstances of the Servants of the Crown is a grace that would mitigate the sufferings of every other individual in the proportion it does my own.

The Transport Ship on board which I left at Cape Fear the loyal refugees from the shore of North Carolina I expect My Lord will come here with The King's Ships which are ordered from that Port, when I shall discharge her, and I presume, most of the Refugees, who for their good behaviour, and encouragement, I had formed into Companies, and entitled to pay pursuant to the powers vested in me to levy Provincial troops, will be ready to serve The King in such Corps, as The Commander in Chief shall please to consign them to

I have had the happiness to find my Family in safety, which, all circumstances considered, is better Fortune than I could reasonably expect. I have the honor to be [&c.]

Jo: Martin

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/318.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, September 28, 1776

The committee appointed to prepare letters of credence, &c, brought in their report which being taken into consideration, the letters of credence being read and amended were agreed to.

The delegates of the United States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, to all who shall see these presents, send greeting.

Whereas a trade upon equal terms between the subjects of his most christian majesty the king of France, and the people of these states, will be beneficial to both nations — Know ye therefore, that we, confiding in the prudence and integrity of [Here were inserted the names of Franklin, Deane and Lee] have appointed and deputed, and by these presents do appoint and depute them the said [names] our commissioners, giving and granting to them the said [names] or any two of them, and in case of the death, absence, or disability of any two, to any one of them, full power to communicate, treat, agree and conclude with his most christian majesty, the king of France, or with such person or persons as shall by him be for that purpose authorized, of and upon a true and sincere friendship, and a firm, inviolable, and universal peace, for the defence, protection and safety of the navigation and mutual commerce of the subjects of his most christian majesty and the people of the United States; and to do all other things, which may conduce to those desirable ends; and promising in good faith to ratify whatsoever our said commissioners shall transact in the premises. Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventh six. In testimony whereof, the President, by order of the said Congress, hath hereunto subscribed his name, and affixed his seal.

Resolved, That the Commissioners should live in such stile and manner at the court of France, as they may find suitable and necessary to support the dignity of their public character, keeping an account of their expences, which shall be reimbursed by the Congress of the United States of America.

That besides the actual expences of the commissioners, a handsome allowance be made to each of them as a compensation for their time, trouble, risque and services.

That the Secretary of the Embassy be allowed a Salary of one thousand pounds sterling per annum, with the expences of his passage out and home.

That the Secret Committee be directed to export produce, or remit bills, until they make an effectual lodgment in France of 10,000 sterling, subject to the orders of the said commissioners for their present support, and report to Congress when it is effected, in order that Congress may then consider what farther remittances to order for this purpose.

CAPTAIN JAMES NICHOLSON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

Gentlemen.

Baltimore Sept 28th 1776.

I received yours desiring my attendance to adjust the *Defence's* accounts. I was under the necessity immediately upon my return here of sending the Clerk and Purser down to the Eastern Shore after men of the Frigate² and expect their return in five or six days, when I certainly will attend with them for that purpose, let my business with the Frigate be ever so pressing. I am Gentn [&c.]

James Nicholson

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

2. The Continental frigate *Virginia*.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COLONEL JOHN HATTON READ¹

No 195. Colo John Hatton Read of St Mary's County

Sir We do not address this letter to Colo [Richard] Barnes, because we expect he will be at the Convention. — We request you would assist Mr [Gilbert] Middleton in getting a nine Pounder on board his boat — and also in getting up a Small anchor lost by the *Defence*.
[Annapolis] 28th Sepr 1776

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

JOHN HALL TO MATTHEW TILGHMAN¹

Sir since my appointment of Judge of the Admiralty I have had the honour of being chosen one of the Delegates for Annarundel County — I have receiv'd no Commission nor acted in any manner under the appointment. — and am determined to decline acting in that Department of Judge Admiral. — be pleased to signify this to the Honble Convention with my thanks for their favour in appointing me. — I am [&c.]
[Annapolis?] 28. Sepr 1776 —

J Hall

1. Red Book, XII, Md. Arch. Tilghman was president of the Maryland Convention.

CARTER BRAXTON TO ISAAC GOVERNEUR, CURAÇAO MERCHANT¹

Copy

Virginia September 28th 1777 [*sic* 1776]

Sir Altho' an entire Stranger permit me to address you in behalf of Messrs Willing & Morris Merchants in Philadelphia & myself & to unfold a Scheme of Trade we have Entered into with Mr John Philip Merckle Merchant in Amsterdam & to inform You that through you this our Scheme is to be executed, and that we Esteem you as Umpire between Us. — Your General Character and not any Personal Acquaintance hath entitled you to this Confidence, & we rest Assured Your Utmost Endeavours will be Exerted for Our Interest. While I had the Honor to Attend the Continental Congress at Philadelphia as a Member from Virginia, Mr Merckle was In-

troduced from New York to that Body as a Gentleman of Family Fortune, & Integrity, & one in whom we might confide to Negotiate a Supply of Necessary's for America. This Gentlemans good Behaviour and Attention to Business while at Philadelphia induced us to conclude he merited the Character given of him, In consequence of which Mr Morris & myself Set on foot with him a Private Mercantile Adventure, which we propose to Conduct in the following manner, We made a Contract with Mr Merckle for Ten Thousand Pounds Sterling worth of Goods Six Thousand of which he is to send us to America on his Own Account and the other Four are to be sent to Curaçoa to be delivered to you & Shipt as Mr Merckle shall direct for Us — For these Four Thousand Pounds sterling Cargo, We are to lodge with you as much Tobacco as will pay for it allowing Thirty Shillings P Hundred as pr Contract. We propose to send to your Care three Hundred Thousand Weight which will cominand a larger Sum & which you will retain for the Use of Mr Merckle but not to be delivered to him until you have a Certainty that the Goods amounting to Four Thousand Pounds Sterling have been sent us agreeable to the Contract which I inclose you for your Guide, the Quantity of 42,283 being Part of this Three Hundred Thousand now Comes to you by Captn Meredith, Commander of the Sloop *Content* and for which you will be pleased to pay Your receipt to the Captain. The Tobacco to be retained by you for the Use of Mr Merckle, he paying all Costs and Charges attending it after delivery. The other part of the Cargo agreeable to a seperate Bill of lading comes also consigned to You and which You are to dispose of for and on Account of Messrs Willing & Morris & myself and to send the return in as much salt as the Vessel can bring 40 or 50 doz'n Cotten & Wool Cards, 30 or 40 Barrels of Limes of such as the Capt'n approves, some Hhds of Brown Sugar, & some single & double refined some rum of best and middling Qualities, a few Hhds of Molasses, Salt being a necessary not to be dispenced with by our People, and they being now much Pinched by the want of it, I must earnestly request You, at all events, to procure as much of it as will nearly load this Vessel, & to procure a Sufficient Quantity for the Vessels that are to follow with the remainder of Our Tobacco all of whom I cou'd wish to load back in a great Measure with salt, If it is not to be had in Your Island at present, I wish you to import a large Quantity for our Vessels that are to go to you & who I hope will be with you in 3 or 4 Weeks after this.

As much depends on our Secresy in this Adventure you will keep the Purport of this Contract within your Own Bosom Mr Merckle sail'd from Boston about the 15th of Augst for Holland & I hope will get safe; as he is a stranger to Us in Point of General & Certain Character, will you do us the favour to say what you know of him & his Connexions —

If a Dutch Bottom cou'd be taken out for the Sloop to gain her protection to our Cape it wou'd do us a favour, & if any Dutch Seamen were to come to Colour the Design, they shou'd meet with proper Encouragement, besides the Bounty that is given of 40/ to each Man. — You will address the Vessel & Cargo to me & be so obliging as to give Us at large your Opinion

of the West India Trade at present, the danger attending it, the Articles brought to you for market, & what Prices the Commodities of America will bear, & the Demand for them as well as the General appearance of things in the Political Hemisphere & the part that Holland is about to take. Is there any Insurance Office with you, and how are the Premiums. You will give this Vessel all the Dispatch in your Power. Cou'd you procure me a large Jack Ass Stallion. I wou'd give a good Price for such a One — As you will probably retail in small Parcels the Articles Shipped on our Accounts to you for sale, I shou'd be glad You will attend to Our two Hhds No 1 & 2 mark'd RWE, remarked WMB. If I am not mistaken, the scent of it will prove a nosegay, & recommend it to great Price. I shall be much obliged by your sending about 400 Bushels of White English salt, if to be had in sack Bags containing about four Bushels. If no such salt is to be had put as much of the Bay Salt in the sack Bags, you will Oblige me in forwarding the Inclosed Letter to Dunkirk.

The Vessel deceived us greatly in loading and did not carry so much as we Expected by several Hhds of Tobacco, & many of flour, however Mr Merckles Quantity of Tobacco that we intended by her is sent & we hope the Ballance will load her with salt if not, you will supply it & be paid out of the next Cargo. I am Sir &ca

Carter Braxton

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/126, 243-46. An intercepted letter.

JOHN PAGE TO ST. GEORGE TUCKER¹

[Extract]

Wm'sburg Sept the 28th 1776 —

. . . I wish you would seriously consider the Scheme of Trade, Vessels loaded with Salt & Fruit, consigned to you in Virginia, to be loaded with Flour &c for Bermuda, or with Flour & Tobo for Martinique, the Mole &c &c to return to Carolina, Virginia, or Maryland as may best suit with Rum Sugar &c Arms, Powder & Medicines, would put you into a way of making a very considerable Fortune. Several People in Maryland & the Northern States have made such already — Now I have mentioned the States it will not be amiss to say something of them — I suppose you have long since been informed of the Glorious Revolution which has taken Place in the 13 united Colonies as they were at first called — Our Constitutions I suppose too you are acquainted with — I believe ours is the most perfect in the World — It hath pleased the Almighty Ruler of the Universe to produce Good out of Evil — The insulting insolent Pride & Tyranny of the british King & Parliament have been the Means of freeing Millions from Bondage, & of erecting one of the noblest Republics the World ever saw — & have given Opportunities for such Display of true Patriotism Fortitude & Valour as are unparalleled in History — America now justly claims the Attention of the whole World, & well deserves the Pen of a Livy or Polybius —

Consider the Situation of a Country destitute of Ships Guns, Powder, & even of Clothes & Salt for the Inhabitants, On their Frontiers fierce, perfidious, & Savage Nations ever ready to attack the Defenceless, in almost every Part, Multitudes of Slaves encouraged, by the Hopes of gaining that Liberty their Masters were contending for, to strike the deadly Blow whenever they could be certain of doing it with Impunity, consider A Country in this Situation, engaging in a War with a Nation which has held the World in Awe, & which is at this Time possessed of the most Powerful Fleets & the bravest Troops upon Earth, rather than wallow in Peace & Luxury, if they must be deprived of the Privileges of free Men to obtain that Happiness. But I have neither Time nor Abilities to describe the true public Spirit, & glorious Struggle of America. I could produce many Instances of the Gallantry of the Troops of every State from Boston to Georgia as are scarcely to be found in th[e An]nals of any Country . . .

1. Tucker-Coleman Papers, Earl Gregg Swem Library, CWM.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA NAVY BOARD¹

[Williamsburg] Saturday 28th September 1776. –

Present The same Members as Yesterday. –

Joseph Selden appeared before the Board and undertook to furnish George Hope, who is employed to Build six Boats at Hampton for the use of this Commonwealth, with whatever Iron he may be in want of for the purpose of Building the said Boats which said Iron is to be Worked up by the said Selden in such manner as may best suit Mr Hopes Purpose for which the said Selden is to be allowed, for the Nett Iron, eight pence pr Pound. –

1. Navy Board Journal, VSL.

JOHN GREEN TO CORNELIUS HARTNETT¹

[Extract]

New Bern September 28th 1776.

. . . The Letter of Marque Schooner *Johnston*, the *Lilly* (now the *Caswell*) and the Schooner *Polly* all belonging to Several of us at this port are safe arrived in the West Indies, One of which (the *Caswell*) is Just returned the Neat proceeds of the Two first is Chiefly laid out in powder Oznabrigs Rum and shipped on Board the *Johnston*, which may be shortly expected, She Sail'd with the *Caswell* as a feint and Intends waiting in the passage for a Brigg Laden with Sugar & Rum &c. which was to sail soon after he left St Croix bound for Europe. – If the Public shou'd have Occasion for the Powder & Oznabrigs on her Arrival here I shou'd be glad to have timely Notice. . . .

John Green

1. Secretary of State Papers (Council of Safety, 1775–1776), NCDAH.. Hartnett was chairman of the North Carolina Council of Safety.

DEPOSITION OF ROBERT SPENCE, MASTER OF THE BRITISH
SCHOONER *Peggy*¹

Jamaica ss/

This Deponent Robert Spence, Master of the Schooner *Peggy*, belonging to St Augustine in the Province of East Florida, Voluntarily maketh Oath that on or about the fifth day of August last past, He left St Augustine with a Cargo of Rice bound to Jamaica That on or about the Sixth or Seventh of September in his Passage to this Island, he fell in with His Majestys Ship *Squirrel* and her Tender, the Latter of which order'd him to Hoist his Boat out and come onboard of him, But this Deponent told him that his Boat leak'd very much, but if he would bring too, he would run alongside of him, which this Deponent did, and the Officer Commanding the Tender order'd him to Bear away for the *Squirrel*.

And this Deponent further saith that he saw a French Frigate Cruizing to Windward & on his Bearing away for the *Squirrel* Bore down upon him & sent her Boat onboard with an Officer, who Demand'd from whence he came, where bound, and what he imagin'd the English Frigate want'd with him. He told him he came from St Augustine, was bound to Jamaica, and suppos'd she wanted to see his Papers. He then told this Deponent that if he had come from any part of North America, bound to Hispaniola, the French Frigate would have protect'd him from the English one if he requir'd it. He then left this Deponent, and went onboard, when the French Frigate; bore down under the *Squirrels* Stern & sent a Boat onboard.

And this Deponent further saith that to the best of his Recollection & Beleif Cape Nichola Mole, bore about NEbE, Ten or Eleven Leagues, when the Boat, belonging to the French Frigate Board'd this Deponents Vessel, & offer'd him Protection, further this Deponent saith not

Sworn before me

at Kingston 28th Sepr 1776

(Sign'd) Richard Foyster

(A Copy)

Clark Gayton

Sign'd Rob^t Spence

[Endorsed] In Vice Admiral Gaytons Letter 8 October 1776.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240.

JOURNAL OF H. M. S. *Solebay*, CAPTAIN THOMAS SYMONDS¹

Sept 1776

Barbadoes Wt Soly Dist. 62 Leagues

Tuesday 24th

At 5 AM bore away & set studg Sls at 11 Bent Bt Br Cable
Fresh Breezes & Cloudy bent the small Br Cable at 12
PM fired 3 Gs & made the Sigl for the Convoy to bring
too on the other Tack Wore ship & brt too on the other
Tack

Wednesday 25th

at Sunrise Barbadoes Needham's Point NWBW, the End
of the Isld NNW off shore 5 or 6 Lgs at 10 AM fired a

- Gun a Sigl for the Convoy to Anchor at Noon Anchd in Carlisle Bay in 30 fs & veer'd to 2/3 of a Cable
Mod: & Cloudy at 4 PM fired a Gun & made the Sigl for all Merchantmen
- Thursday 26th Empd staying the Foremast & setting up the Rigging –
Mod: breezes & Cloudy at 7 PM fired a Gun a Sigl for the Convoy to Weigh at 9 Weighd and came to sail 5 Sail in Co
- Friday 27th At 11 AM NE End of St Vincents WNW 5 or 6 Lgs
Mod: & Cloudy TKd Occasionally
- Saturday 28th 1/2 pt 3 AM Wore Ship at 9 Empd turning up the Bay,
at 10 Came too an Anchr in Kingston Bay in 30 fs Water
Veer'd to 1/3 of a Cable
at Single Anchr in Kingston Bay in the Island of St. Vincent
at 5 PM warp'd the Ship farther in & Moor'd Ship²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/909.

2. *Ibid.*, the *Solebay* and transports had come to embark the 6th Regiment of Foot. The convoy sailed for New York on October 11.

29 Sept. (Sunday)

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

- Sept 1776 In Canso Harbour
- Sundy 29th at Noon Anchd with the Bt Br in 4 1/2 fm Muddy bottom, Veer'd to 1/3 of Cable found lying here 2 Brigs which were taken by the Rebels, took from them 5 Men belonging to the Privateer

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1669.

METCALF BOWLER TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Newport Sept 29th 1776 –

Agreeable to Coll. Chrstr Lippits request, have taken up Capt [Nicholas] Websters Sloop [*John Wilkes*] into the Service of This State, to transport the Tents, and other necessarys, for the use of his Regiment, which are now on their march to New York. – and desires. I would send them to your care at New London, to be forwarded immediately to Coll. Lippit agreeable thereto – inclos'd you have Capt Nicholas Websters receipt for 90 Tents. 15 Marquee Tents. 80 wooden Canteens 40 Knapsacks. 9 dozen Cod lines & 30 Tent Poles, all which youll please to receive & forward. – if you should judge it necessary, for Capt Webster to proceed to New Haven, he will do it, and deliver the Goods, agreeable to your Orders. – I remain With esteem and regard [&c.]

M Bowler. Commt Safety

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