

Naval Documents of The American Revolution

Volume 3

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

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

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

Part 1 of 8

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NAVAL DOCUMENTS
OF
The American Revolution



Commodore Esek Hopkins (seated center rear) in Surinam.

U.S. Naval History Division.

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WILLIAM BELL CLARK, Editor

For and in Collaboration with

The U.S. Navy Department

With a Foreword by

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON

And an Introduction by

REAR ADMIRAL ERNEST McNEILL ELLER, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Director of Naval History

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*. . . I could wish a Distinction to be made between
Prisoners taken on Shore and on Sea, which last Mode
of War will hurt us more effectually than any thing
they can do by Land during our Stay at this Place.*

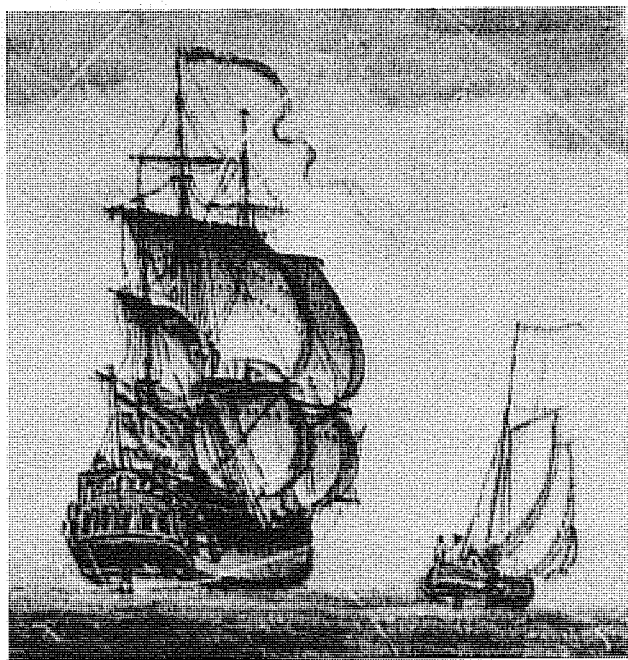
Major General William Howe to Lord Dartmouth

1775

I well know the Glorious Cause I am engaged in.

Captain Nicholas Biddle

1776



This drawing and others of similar nature throughout the Volume are from journals kept on board ships *Lloyd* and *Betsey*, Nicholas Pocock, Master. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1967

FOREWORD

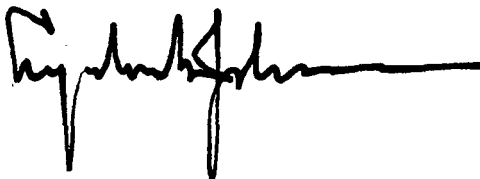
One of the letters in this volume of Naval Documents of the American Revolution reveals the alarm -- and perhaps the surprise -- of a British Naval Officer at the spread of revolution across the colonies. He reports that the people of "Cumberland and its Neighbourhood have formed themselves into a Committee, the same as the other Rebellious Meetings...for what they call the preservation of Liberty."

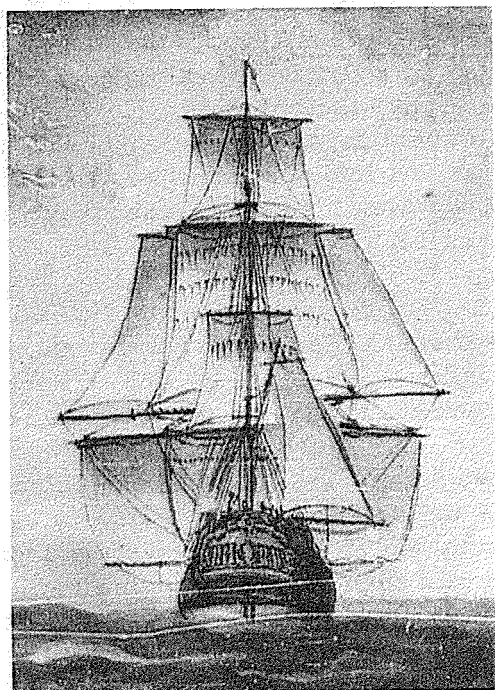
And indeed that is precisely what we did call it then, and what we call it still. For almost two centuries, our National goals have developed around this most fundamental commitment: the preservation of liberty.

In our time we have come to understand clearly the universal and indivisible quality of liberty. But this is only an extension of -- not a departure from -- the concept as it was seen by our Founding Fathers. As George Washington told the people of Bermuda, in a letter published in Volume II: "... Liberty is Confined to no Continent or Climate..."

It was in the American Revolution that our National ideals and institutions took shape. The original documents of that experience are more than treasures of our heritage. They reveal the frame on which our still-evolving history is built.

In the material presented in the third volume of this valuable series, we can trace the steady development of that tiny forerunner of the U.S. Fleets which guard the preservation of liberty around the globe today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lyndon B. Johnson", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



INTRODUCTION

Volume 3 of our series opens at a critical stage in the affairs of America. At Boston General Washington perennially short of munitions besieges the British in a stalemate while his little Navy contributes importantly in slowing British supply by sea—the artery of life for the foe as well as for America.

At Philadelphia the Continental Navy, authorized by Congress in October, prepares for its first operation; appropriately it would become an amphibious landing designed to bring in munitions across the sea highways. Meanwhile, Congress took step after step which led to the fateful 4 July 1776 that would influence the course of the world forever after.

The flow of events hinged in large degree upon seapower. Britain had far too few warships on the American coast. Most were small, and, except for the concentration at Boston, they were thinly spread down the long seaboard to Florida. They afforded little offensive punch to support the strong Tory sentiment in every colony or to suppress the “liberty men.” Had the British government promptly appreciated the true situation and poured in powerful reinforcements afloat and ashore, events in the New World would have taken a different course.

They would have taken a different course, too, in the Old World. England’s ancient rivals—Spain, Holland, France—watched developments overseas with acute interest. While professing neutrality, as documents in this volume show, under the table they fed the fires of revolution—at this stage principally by closing official eyes to the clandestine flow of munitions. It would be too much of a gamble now to support the rebellion openly; but if it should grow, what opportunity that might bring to injure the Mistress of the Seas.

In this volume, therefore, events steadily mount in intensity. Like a rising gale, the sea’s influence pervades all that happens ashore. Hence, the number of documents multiplies and the time span covered within this stout hull shrinks even though we have purposely restricted selections.

From the start, our interpretation of “naval” has included the full scope of events on the sea, and those political, mercantile and military affairs that affected events there. In this framework, we have of necessity had to eliminate certain fringe documents. As the density of our document holdings increases, Volume 3 expands this screening policy.

We have reduced the number of the purely mercantile documents which received adequate coverage in earlier volumes. We have also omitted more of those repetitious naval items that cover the same event in similar words—for example,

the many similar work vouchers for the Maryland Navy's ship *Defence* for which we have enough records to list the Pentagon. We do not heave these naval ones overboard without due process, retaining unique and pertinent extracts, referring to others in notes. Future volumes will adhere to this policy even more closely.

As Mr. Clark mentions hereafter, those interested in reviewing our complete editorial sailing directions for this series will find them in Volume 1 with some slight modifications in Volume 2.

Most of those who made possible the first two ships of the battle line of our growing fleet still serve. Volume 3, like its predecessors, builds on the solid foundation of Mr. William Bell Clark's unique knowledge and tireless application. The end product is the result of the work, scholarship, cooperation, interest, and contributions, large and small, of scores of people in the United States and abroad. Ever helpful staffs in libraries, archives, and historical societies have continually assisted. To each of you we send warm appreciation. Numerous private individuals have given of themselves and, not infrequently, their personal collections without stint. Unpublished Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office, London, is reproduced by permission of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office.

The great burden of this effort, including both bookmaking and infinite labors to make the series as accurate and useful as possible, falls upon the shoulders of Dr. William James Morgan and his section—Lieutenant (junior-grade) Patrick A. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Scheffenacker, Mr. Robert Campbell, Mrs. Eleanor Roll, Chief Yeoman Frederick S. Coward, and Yeomen Second Class Thomas E. Culbert and Joseph V. Eckert. Mr. W. Bart Greenwood, Navy Department Librarian, and Miss Mary Pickens, together with Commander V. James Robison, Assistant Navy Department Curator, and Lieutenant (junior-grade) J. D. Bogart of his office, have rendered skillful aid and guidance with charts and illustrations. Mr. Marko Zlatich prepared the index.

Rear Admiral F. Kent Loomis continues to play a wise and knowledgeable role in this as in all other of the Division projects. Chief Yeoman Morris Randolph has handled those American Revolution matters that have come his way amongst much other work with skill and dispatch.

Fortunately, as noted, we have been able to call upon most of those who made their talents available for the first two volumes, including the distinguished members of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History and the Special Consultants who are listed on a fore page. We likewise welcome several new spare time members to the "team." Professor Kendall E. Lappin of the U.S. Naval Academy, Mr. William H. Beach, Colonel G. Edward Borst, and Commander Canio J. Di Cairano have provided able translations of documents from European archives. In London, Commander W. B. Rowbotham, Royal Navy (Retired), is doing essential research of great importance. Whenever needed, U.S. naval commands in the United States and overseas have responded to our requests for assistance with traditional "can do" results.

We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to all, old hands and new alike. Without you, an undertaking of this magnitude would be impossible.

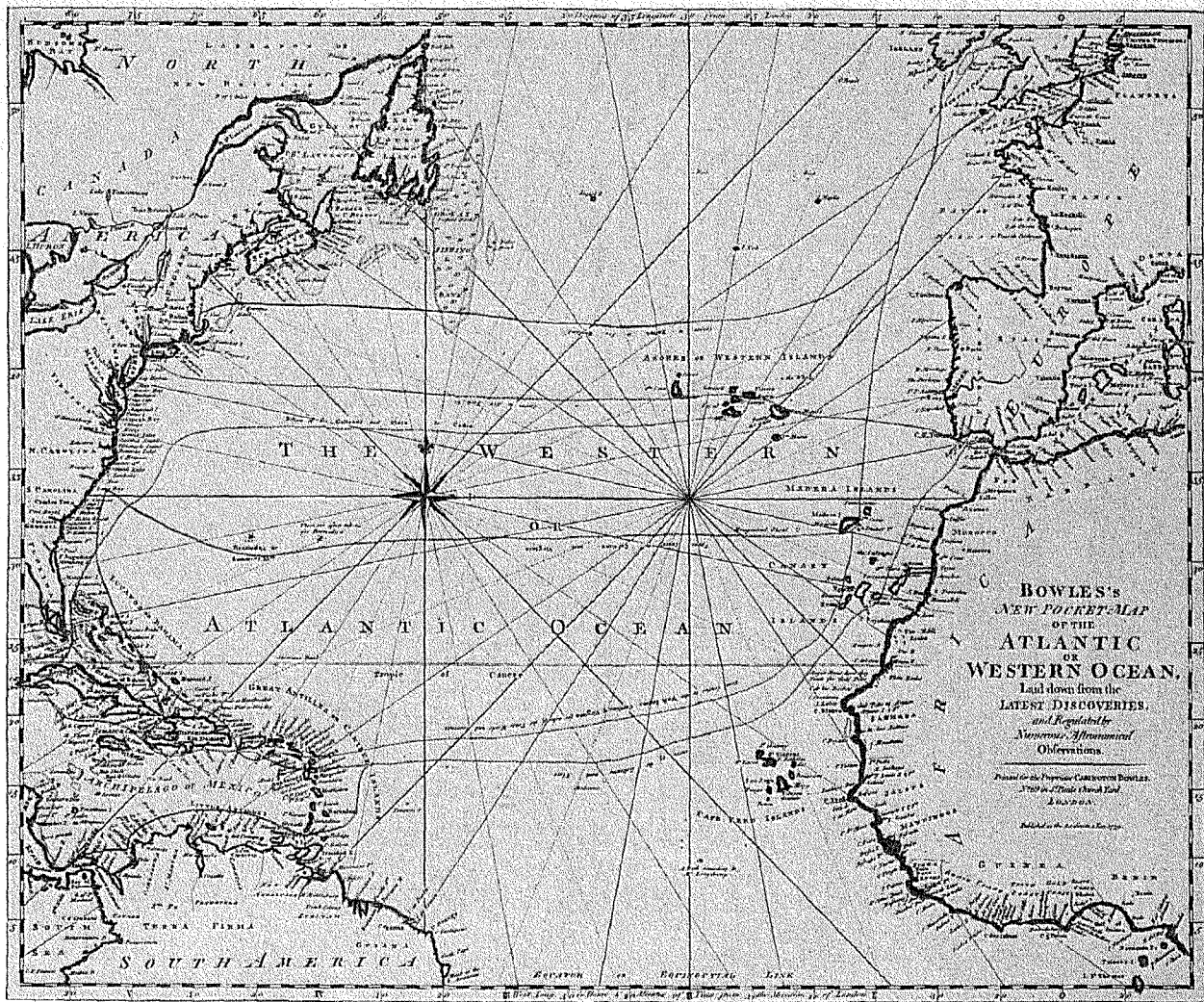
Volume 1 Introduction gave special note to the excellent work of Lieutenant David Patterson of the Naval History Division. Upon returning to civilian life, he continued the study of history as a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University. An automobile accident on February 18, 1967 took Lieutenant Patterson's life. We mourn the loss of a fine colleague and scholar of high promise.

Americans, being people, have difficulty learning from the past, justifying the statement that "history repeats itself because people won't listen the first time." A special difficulty has been learning the lessons of the fundamental importance of the sea to our destiny.

We can understand this difficulty since most of us know thoroughly only what we see, feel, and experience. Living on land, we can understand the meaning of land power and today of air power in planes that we see taking off and flying overhead. Seapower still remains a mystery as its ships disappear beyond the horizon into the unknown.

We can understand the difficulty but history does not forgive it. This failure to understand the importance of necessary power on the sea has brought us many sorrows and encouraged aggression by tyrants like today's communists, who do not comprehend that this is defective vision, not decadence.

Our failure to understand reaches back to the American Revolution, a vast maritime war that developed into the fourth world war of the eighteenth century. It extends today into Southeast Asia where the United States can project its total strength in the defense of man's freedom only by control of and power on the sea. May you who use these documents see this truth that George Washington in the end saw so clearly. May you come to realize with him that in the American Revolution, seapower was "the pivot upon which everything turned"—a truth as gravely true today as ever in the past.



EDITOR'S PREFACE

This, the third volume of *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*, contains that which has been preserved in letter and document of the outfitting of the first Continental fleet, and the groundwork for the building of thirteen frigates, which were to be the backbone of the American Navy. Surprisingly enough, the new material unearthed, added to what little had been previously known and printed, provides a remarkably clear picture of these momentous events, and refutes certain hitherto accepted errors. The volume concludes with the sailing from the Delaware Capes in February 1776 of "The first American fleet that ever swelled their sails on the Western Ocean," in the words of Christopher Gadsden.

The magnitude of the naval effort at this time by George Washington in New England, by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, and by the Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and South Carolina colonies unfolds in this volume as the closing days of 1775 merge into the new year. Considering the general unpreparedness for war, the sparsity of material and the limitations of finance and credit, these pages provide an amazing description of the resourcefulness of the Revolutionary leaders.

Neither was there idleness in maritime endeavors other than naval within the thirteen United Colonies. Letters tell of merchants, either by contract with the Secret Committee of Congress or upon their own initiative, widely engaged in exporting to Europe and the foreign West Indies. The products of their respective provinces were there to be exchanged for arms, ammunition and gunpowder, or saltpetre and sulphur for the manufacture of the latter. That this was indeed a hazardous undertaking is amply demonstrated in the extracts from journals and logs of English cruisers recounting the capture of some of these venturesome skippers and their vessels. Despite these prizes, the replacement of one British admiral by another did not solve the problem of stifling American trade. Letters from Samuel Graves are succeeded by letters from Molyneux Shulldham pleading for more ships, and dwelling upon the insufficiency of the squadron on the American coast. In the Leeward Islands and Jamaica the dispatches of other British admirals contain similar complaints of inadequate forces.

Within the pages of this volume are the details of the disaster which overtook the amphibious invasion of Canada—the death of Richard Montgomery before the walls of Quebec. Even so, here is unfolded a remarkable picture of the maintenance of the siege by a few hundred half-starved Americans under Benedict Ar-

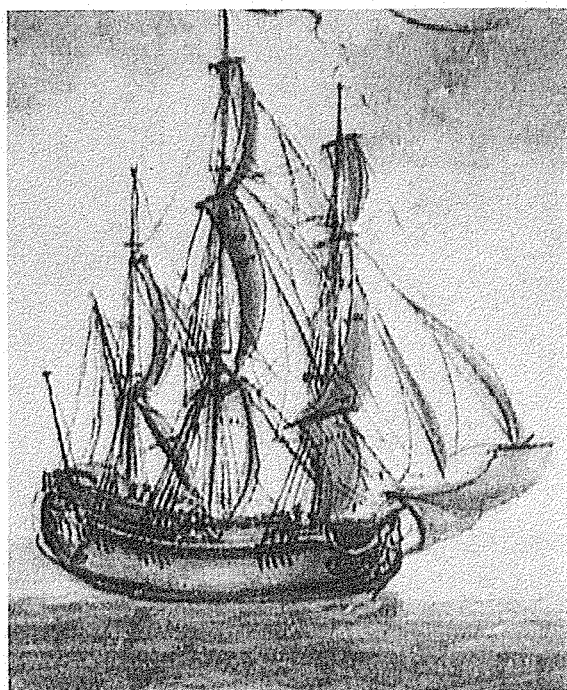
nold. More successful were the Virginians, whose letters relate how they routed Lord Dunmore's little army at the Great Bridge over the Elizabeth River, forced his Lordship out of Norfolk, and then witnessed the destruction of that town by the guns of British warships and the flaming torches in the hands of his Majesty's Marines and sailors. Further south, other letters tell how South Carolina and Georgia contemplated an invasion of East Florida, which, while never materializing, sent anguished cries from the British Governor in St. Augustine for naval support.

In Great Britain, in this period, Lord George Germain became Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, as these pages disclose, his appointment was not the happiest for the success of British arms in America. In England also, as documents and letters reveal, a subservient Parliament voted an unprecedented number of seamen and Marines to man the King's navy, and learned that more than seventy ships of war eventually would comprise the fleet on the American station. Fully described are the debates in opposition to the Prohibitory Act with its very apparent intent to subdue the rebellious colonists at all costs. Many of the letters and orders in the European Theatre concentrate upon the difficulties of assembling and dispatching Sir Peter Parker's fleet, convoying 4,000 men under Lord Cornwallis to the Southern colonies to cooperate with a detachment sent from Boston under Sir Henry Clinton. *Précis*, for the benefit of the King, recount the progress of this expedition in its planned invasion of North Carolina; an invasion envisaged by Royal Governor Martin as occasioning a simultaneous uprising of the Scots and others.

Across the English Channel, as told in numerous letters between Louis XVI's foreign minister and his ambassador in London, the French, wary of too great an affront to the British Ministry, showed no intention of desisting from clandestine aid to the American rebels, even though refusing them permission to trade in French ports. Such courtesy to the English, wrote Vergennes, "must not turn to the detriment of our own trade." With such trade in mind, there is interesting correspondence with Beaumarchais, including the latter's ambitious project to set up the mythical house of Roderique Hortalez et Cie with a capital of three million livres, all to be expended in behalf of the embattled Americans and some profit for Beaumarchais himself.

The editorial policy and the format for Volume 3 follow those for the previous two volumes. Because of the time lapse in the days when the sailing ship was the sole means of oceanic communication, the material continues to be divided into the American and European theatres. It will be recalled that ships' journals and logs are adjusted from sea time to standard time to reconcile them with letters covering the same event or period. For a full description of the editorial policy governing this series, reference should be had to the editor's preface for Volume 1.

To the many individuals and depositories set forth in Volumes 1 and 2, the editor again wishes to express his deep appreciation, and to two more who have more recently been of great help, namely: Mrs. Norbert S. Lacy, Manuscript Custodian, New Hampshire Historical Society, and Miss Stella J. Scheckter, Head of Reference and Loan Division, New Hampshire State Library.



DEPOSITORY LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS¹

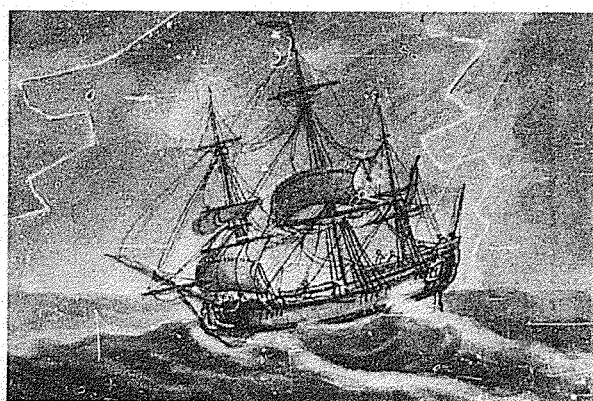
AAS	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts
AMAE	Archives Du Ministère Des Affaires Étrangères, Paris
APL	Service historique de la Marine Archives du Port de Lorient, Lorient, France
APS	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia
Bda. Arch.	Bermuda Archives, Hamilton, Bermuda
BHS	Beverly Historical Society, Beverly, Massachusetts
BM	British Museum, London
BPL	Boston Public Library, Boston
ChHS	Chicago Historical Society, Chicago
CL	William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
ConnHS	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
ConnSL	Connecticut State Library, Hartford
CUL	Columbia University Library, New York
CW	Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia
DAC	Dominion (Public) Archives of Canada, Ottawa
DARL	Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washing- ton
DCL	Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire
DLAR	David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania
DUL	Duke University Library, Durham, North Carolina
EI	Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York
HCL	Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pennsylvania
HH	Hempstead House, New London, Connecticut
HL	Hayes Library, Edenton, North Carolina
HSD	Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington
HSP	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
HU	Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts
HUL	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
JCBL	John Carter Brown Library, Providence, Rhode Island
LC	Library of Congress, Washington

1. The list includes depositories from which manuscripts have been used in this and previous volumes. Our collection includes materials from a number of other depositories which will appear in later volumes. The Descriptive List of Illustrations includes additional sources from which only graphic material has been used in Volume 3.

MarbHS	Marblehead Historical Society, Marblehead, Massachusetts
Mass. Arch.	Massachusetts Archives, Boston
MassHS	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
MCL	Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio
Md. Arch.	Maryland Archives (Hall of Records), Annapolis
MdHS	Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
MeHS	Maine Historical Society, Portland
MHA	Marine Historical Association, Mystic, Connecticut
MNHP	Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, New Jersey
Mor. Arch.	Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
NA	National Archives, Washington
NCDAH	North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh
NHA	Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
NHCHS	New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Connecticut
NHHS	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
NHS	Newport Historical Society, Newport, Rhode Island
NLCHS	New London County Historical Society, New London, Connecticut
NMM	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England
N.S. Arch.	Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax
NYHS	New-York Historical Society, New York
NYPL	New York Public Library, New York
NYSL	New York State Library, Albany
Pa. Arch.	Pennsylvania Archives, Harrisburg
PM	Peabody Museum, Salem, Massachusetts
PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
PRO	Public Record Office, London
PS	Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Massachusetts
PUL	Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey
R.I. Arch.	Rhode Island Archives, Providence
RIHS	Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence
SCHS	South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston
UNCL	University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
USNAM	US Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland
UVL	University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville
VHS	Virginia Historical Society, Richmond
VSL	Virginia State Library, Richmond
WPL	Public Library, Whitehaven, England
WSL	William Salt Library, Stafford, England
YUL	Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut

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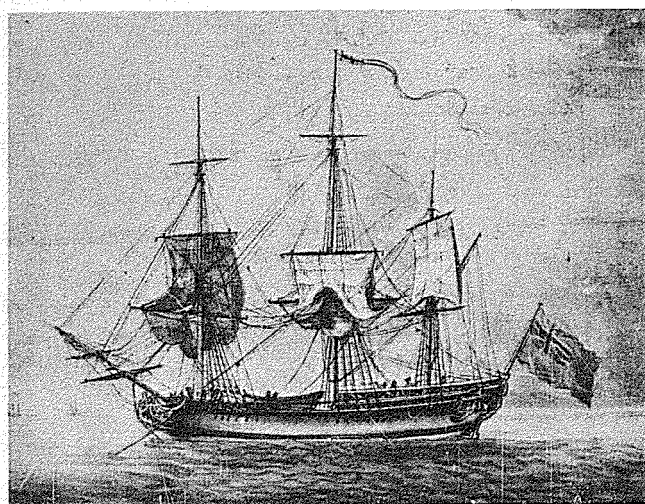
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AMERICAN THEATRE

From December 8, 1775, to December 31, 1775



AMERICAN THEATRE

From December 8, 1775, to December 31, 1775

SUMMARY

In the closing weeks of the year 1775, the Continental Congress committed the revolting colonies irrevocably to a definite and extensive establishment of an American navy. The fleet, which had been created earlier, and which, during the first week of December, had seen John Paul Jones raise the Grand Union flag on board *Alfred*, had been one of expediency—adroitly engineered by those members who appreciated the importance of sea power, but who knew the impossibility of committing a reluctant Congress to so drastic a step. But sentiment had changed as British aggression mounted, and the long tabled Rhode Island resolution of the previous August (recommending a strong fleet be built) was reintroduced. Within a week, Congress agreed to build thirteen frigates, of from 24 to 32 guns, and appointed a Marine Committee with a member from each Colony. But policy, a sop to those who still strove for reconciliation, restricted the offensive to attacks against English war vessels or merchant ships and transports carrying supplies or troops to the British fleet and army in America. Congress, or some of its members, fatuously still thought of good King George III, and blamed the war on a corrupt ministry.

In New England waters, one of Washington's small cruisers intercepted a British tender carrying dispatches from Virginia to Boston. These documents, revealing the measures being taken by the Colonial governors to suppress the rebellion in the South, were laid before Congress late in December. As a result of this intelligence, the Hopkins Fleet was left to the direction of the original Naval Committee, with fond desires that it would destroy Lord Dunmore's force in Virginia. December thus witnessed the assignment of the Continental naval officers to their respective vessels and the establishment of their rank which the Congress, almost a year later, would completely upset.

All these measures and many others were observed and recorded by an astute semiofficial French agent whose report, written almost at year's end, would influence the French Court's decisions in support of the American cause.

The British were penned tightly in Boston, and Dunmore was forced out of Norfolk by defeat at the Great Bridge. Cherished hopes of driving the enemy from Canada, however, had ended, along with the year 1775, in the death of Richard Montgomery and the defeat of the American army before Quebec.

8 Dec.

ROBERT STEWART TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

Island of St John Charlotte Town

8th Decr 1775

My Lord,

I am sorry to inform your Lordship that on the 17th Ultmo two armed Schooners from New England came to this Harbour, the Crews of which plundered Govr Patterson's House of everything Valuable in it as well as his publick and private Papers,² seiz'd the Persons of Phillips Callbeck Esqr the Commander in Chief & Mr [Thomas] Wright the Surveyor General and carried them off Prisoners with all the effects of the former Amounting to a considerable Value, They have since seiz'd a Vessel from London with Messs [John Russell] Spence & Higgins whom they have likewise robbed to a great amount and carried the latter with them Prisoner.³

As we have no force of any kind here I have wrote to the Commander in Chief at Boston begging for Assistance, at same time least little regard should be paid to that, I hope Your Lordship will be pleased to interpose in our Behalf and cause such Force to be sent as will Screen us from the Invasion of the Rebels who seem to be particularly bent on our Destruction on Account of our Loyalty to our King & Country.

If no assistance is sent us early in Spring this Colony from being in a very promising way will certainly be totally ruined.

I beg Leave to Submitt the whole of our Distresses to Your Lordship and I am with due Respect My Lord [&c.]

Robert Stewart D. Govr

Whitehall

[Endorsed] Rd 8th July 1776

1. DAC, copy from PRO, Colonial Office, 226/6. Stewart was Deputy Governor of the island of St. John. Dartmouth was Secretary of State for the Colonies until November 1775 when he was appointed Lord Privy Seal.
2. Governor Patterson sailed for London with "his Lady and Family," on August 2, 1775, in the ship *Two Friends*, Captain Lemmon. *Nova-Scotia Gazette: and the Weekly Chronicle*, August 22, 1775.
3. The schooner *Lively*, seized at Canso.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ¹

At a Council aHolden at Halifax on the 8th December 1775

The Governor proposed to the Council, that a Proclamation be published requiring all Persons not Settled Inhabitants, who since the last of September have or shall come into this Town to give Notice, to two Magistrates who shall be Appointed for that purpose on pain of being treated as Spies; Also requiring Inn keepers, and publick House keepers to give notice of the Arrival of any Strangers under the like penalty in case of Neglect; And Also forbidding all Vessells to enter the North West Arm, without special Licence for so doing -

On Application from Captain Hamond of His Majesty's Ship *Roebuck* – Resolved that 3000 Acres of land be granted him in the Bay of Chaleur, in consideration of his Services in the late War as a Lieutenant in the Navy –

1. Minutes of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, January 2, 1775 to October 6, 1783. · Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N. S. Hereafter cited as Council Minutes, N. S. Arch.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Friday, Dec. 8th, — Capt. John Cobb, in the schooner *Property*, arrives from Cape Nichola Mole, with some molasses, etc. He had about six weeks' passage, fell to the eastward, has been in at Prospect. Brings news from there that two armed vessels, a ship of 24 guns, and a schooner of 12 guns, were at Canso, and had taken about 22 prizes, which were all lying in Canso Harbour. Which news comes from Halifax, and was brought there by a schooner belonging to Messrs [Thomas, James & William] Cochrans, that was taken and released again,² and also that Messrs. Cochrans had lost their small brig, going to Margarets Bay.³

1. Harold A. Innis, ed., *The Diary of Simeon Perkins 1766–1780* (Toronto, 1948), 109. Hereafter cited as Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*.
 2. This is a rather garbled account of the activities of Broughton and Selman in Washington's armed schooners *Hancock* and *Franklin*.
 3. Margaret's Bay is the first large inlet west of Halifax, and Prospect is a town on its northeast coast near the bay entrance.

INHABITANTS OF YARMOUTH TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE ¹

Yarmouth December 8th 1775.

May it Please your Excellency

We the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Town of Yarmouth, beg leave at this critical and alarming time to address ourselves to your Excellency, We want to Express to you the opinion we have of our Situation at present: and hope to be inform'd in what manner we may live and enjoy our Possessions. We do all of us profess to be true Friends & Loyal Subjects to George our King, We were almost all of us born in New England, we have Fathers, Brothers & Sisters in that Country, divided betwixt natural affection to our nearest relations, and good Faith and Friendship to our King and Country, we want to know, if we may be permitted at this time to live in a peaceable State, as we look on that to be the only situation in which we with our Wives and Children, can be in any tolerable degree safe, your Excellency cannot be unacquainted how easy a thing it is for those people, if they once suppose us their Enemies, to burn and destroy all before them in this Quarter: We are in no Capac[it]y to defend ourselves. Few in number, and those few Scatterd up and down the Woods. Arms we are but poorly Accoutred with, Ammunition we have none, an alarming instance of our Weakness happend last Week. two Arm'd Vessels Mounting eight Guns each, and one hundred & twenty Men, came into our Harbour about Ten OClock in the Morning, having been inform'd before they came here, that it was the day our light Infantry Company was to be Muster'd, they repair'd on Shore, went to the house where the Officers were, took them all off, they offer'd no abuse to any

one else, and say they will offer none provided we do nothing against them, but in Case we take up Arms against them, threaten us highly;² As our situation is thus unhappy, we must beg of your Excellency not to be call'd to Action in this matter. if that cannot be granted we have nothing to do, but retire from our habitations either to Halifax or to New England. We beg of your Excellency not to conclude, as we desire to be Neuter, that we are in any measure disaffected to our King or his Government, For we do assure your Excellency we never have done, neither have we any disposition to do any thing whatever, by way of Aiding or Assisting the Americans in their Opposition to Great Britain. It is self preservation and that only, which drives us at this time to make our Request.

(Copy) [Endorsed] (Signd) by eighty two Inhabitants

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 217/52. Enclosed in Legge to Dartmouth, December 20, 1775. Legge was Governor of Nova Scotia.
2. See Citizens of Yarmouth to Legge, December 5, 1775, Volume 2, 1281-82.

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Senegal*, CAPTAIN WILLIAM DUDDINGSTON¹

Decemr 1775 Cape Sable W17S 13 Leags

Friday 8 AM fresh gales & rain, Empld occasionally - Light airs & Cloudy ½ past one PM fired a Gun & md Sigl to weigh Do weighed & made sail [from Halifax] with 3 Ships, a Brigg & Sloop under Convoy,

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

THOMAS JONES AND OTHERS TO BENJAMIN GREENLEAF¹

Sir: Newburyport, December 8, 1775.

The needful of this is to beg the favour you will assist the bearer, Captain Offin Boardman, in getting a commission for the schooner *Washington*,² as we have fitted her for a privateer. In case you would be bondsman for Captain Boardman, we will, at all events, indemnify you. Your compliance with this request will lay us under the strongest obligations to you. We are, with respect, [&c.]

Thomas Jones, Nathan Blodget,
John Stickney, Abner Greenleaf,
Joseph Marguand.

1. Peter Force, comp., *American Archives*, Fourth Series (Washington, 1837-43), IV, 1229. Hereafter cited as Force, comp., *American Archives*.
2. *Ibid.*, endorsed in council, December 11.

JONATHAN TITCOMB AND OTHERS TO BENJAMIN GREENLEAF¹

Honoured Sir: Newburyport, December 8, 1775.

We are engaged in fixing out Captain Peter Roberts, the bearer, in a small sloop, for a privateer, and have to ask the favour of you to assist him in procuring a commission for that purpose, as we are all pretty much engaged in privateers, powder vessels, recruits, &c., and cannot, with any convenience, come down. If you will stand in with Captain Roberts, as a bondsman, we

hereby engage to stand between you and harm, as though our names were down instead of yours, in the bond.² We are, Sir, [&c.]

Jonathan Titcomb, Moses Little,
Tristram Dalton, Stephen & Ralph Cross.
Jackson, Tracy, & Tracy.

P.S. The sloop *Game Cock*, burden about twenty tons.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 1229-30.

2. *Ibid.*, endorsed in council, December 11.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO WILLIAM RAMSAY¹

[Extract]

Cambridge, December [8] 1775.²

I am sorry to find by your favour of the 14th. Ulto. that there is so little prospect of stopping the Navigation of the Potomack, by sinking of Vessels, or Cheveaux de Frieze; the Channel being not only deep but wide in those places which you judged most likely to admit of these obstructions. What ever plan you adopt, if executed at the expence of Individuals, should be as extensive as possible in its operation; for you will not be able to get Men to contribute to a Work of defence, from which they derive no advantage, immediate or remote; this is my objection to Colo. [George William] Fairfax's, otherwise I do not know a more advantageous Situation, as a Battery up on the Hill, in Front of the House,³ could never be hurt by any Ship in the World and would sink any Ship before she could pass it, having the full rake of a Vessel from the time it comes within reach of its Guns, till it had got out of shot above.

I am not acquainted with the Situation of the Ground, or bearings of the River at the Indian highlands,⁴ so that I can give no opinion of that particular spot; but think the Method you propose of fitting out two Privateers under the Conduct of those Gentlemen you have named aided by a couple of Row-Gallies (upon the Philadelphia plan) not a bad one; but then, I would have these again supported by Land Batteries in some advantageous spot, where the whole might co-operate against any considerable Force, if need be; this stand of defence I would have as low down the River as a convenient Situation could be found on account of the number of Inhabitants it will cover, and the benefits that will result from it; for I have no expectation that the Committee of Safety will take this matter up, upon a contracted Plan; if they give in to it at all, it must be upon a larger Scale.

If you could get Guns, the cost of such a defence as is above describd could not be much; Men's wages and Provisions would be the chief, the Vessels might, I should presume (Insuring them) be hired cheap, and the building of the Batteries, in a manner nothing, as a few Men would throw them up in a day or two, the Row Gallies would be the principal cost, and perhaps another Privateer might answer the Purpose of them. . . .

Finding we had no great prospect of coming to close Quarters with the Ministerial Troops in Boston, I fitted out at the Continental Expence, several Privateers; chiefly with design to Intercept their Fresh Provision Vessels from Nova Scotia and Canada, in which we have succeeded [and within] this few days, have taken a Store

Ship from London with a fine brass Mortar, 2000 stand of Arms, Shot, Shells etc. to the Amount, it is supposed, of £16,000 Stg. but no Powder; ⁵ also a Ship of Dry Goods [shipped by] a Compy. in Greenoch, Scotland [to a] Tory in Boston, worth £3,600 Stg., what [the] Congress will do with the latter I know not [the] matter is now before them. . . . ⁶

1. John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington* (Washington, 1931-44), IV, 200-02. Hereafter cited as Fitzpatrick, ed., *Writings of Washington*. Ramsay, a resident of Alexandria, was a close friend of Washington.
2. Date of the letter is based upon the fact that but two prizes are mentioned. Had it been written a day later, there would have been two more important captures for Washington to record.
3. Belvoir, the Fairfax home, just below Mount Vernon.
4. Now known as Indian Head, on the Maryland shore of the Potomac, about four miles below Mount Vernon.
5. The brig *Nancy*, sent into Gloucester on November 29, 1775. The bracketed words in this paragraph are logical ones but are not printed in Fitzpatrick, the manuscript being mutilated.
6. The ship *Concord*, James Lowrie, master, owned by Crawford, Anderson & Co., and consigned to part owner, James Anderson, a Boston Tory.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO COLONEL JOHN GLOVER ¹

Sir

Cambridge 8th Decr 1775 -

I am Commanded by his Excellcy to desire you will put Mr Richard Darby Junr in the proper road, to get his Brig *Kingston packett* & her Cargo into his possession, ² Whether she is to proceed on her intended voyage to the West Indies or not, the General Cannot himself determine, that is the business of Committees of Safety — the General is determined to have no further trouble with this vessel, you will therefore Sir, Manage the matter, so as Head Quarters may hear no more of her — I beg you will be attentive to Mr Callbeck's goods, Let him have every thing that he has been so cruelly pillaged of ³ the potatoes on board the Scotch Vessel should be sold — I am [&c.]

S.M.

1. Washington Papers, LC. Moylan was Washington's secretary pro tem.
2. The brig *Kingston Packet* had been carried into Winter Harbor, south of Falmouth, by Captains Broughton and Selman.
3. For Broughton's and Selman's lists of the goods they took from Callbeck and others, see under dates November 13 and December 3, 1775, Volume 2, 1008, 1245.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JOHN PICKERING, JR. ¹

Gentlemen, What is abreach of the Association, or what is not, the General has not time nor indeed does he think himself a Competent judge, to decide upon, that surely comes under the Cognizance of Committees of Safety —

The General thinks the Officers on board the Armed Vessels, have deviated from the line of their Instructions, tho' perhaps not from the Spirit of them by taking this Brig from this principle which his Excellcy is of Opinion, is a just one, he delivers up to the Owner his Vessel & Cargo. ² I have the honor to be [&c.]

S. M. — P.T.S

Cambridge 8th Decr 1775 -

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. The brig *Kingston Packet*.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT,
HALIFAX ¹

Sir

Preston Boston Decr 8, 1775 ²

By the *Fowey*, who arrived with the *Francis* Transport the 26 Ulto, I received your Letter Novr 8 with a Copy inclosed of a Minute of the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia, appointing an Address to be presented to Governr Legge, and a Memorial to you from the Merchants at Halifax concerned in Navigation; and desiring to know how far I would have the Craft and Vessels belonging to the Province favoured from an Impress. It is far from my intention to distress the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, but it is my Duty and the Duty of every Officer under my Command to endeavour to man the Squadron on this Station, now upon a Service of the utmost consequence to the whole Empire, and which Service cannot be performed unless the low Complements allowed the Ships be kept compleat. The necessity to take only Britons if possible is obvious, and such I must and will have taken wherever they can be had, without totally Stopping the Trade of his Majs loyal Subjects. – The Province of Nova Scotia, I hope, contains Natives sufficient for its own Commerce, these I am content to exempt from being impressed, but I insist upon every old Countryman being taken under the above restrictions.

It may be necessary to inform you that with a view to man this Fleet the Clause of the Act of the 6th of Queen Anne which forbid the impressing Seamen in America was repealed in the last Session of Parliament, and that as their Lordships have been pleased to send out Press Warrants, the Captains of the Ships are to let no Opportunity slip of getting Seamen. I desire also to acquaint you that the whole Squadron are very short of their Comple[ment] Seamen must be procured at all Events, and that I expect you will encourage pressing such men for the Fleet as are not Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and even these if there shall be a necessity for them; The fears of our Supplies being cut off is only a pretence; the Crews of Vessels so employed have been constantly protected.

The Transport with Volunteers is arrived; we have been obliged to make Match in Boston, otherwise some of the Ships must have been without it. I am sorry to find such a want of small Ordnance Stores at Halifax. I approve of the Directions given for the Security of the Yard, and of the Signals to prevent Surprise from the Enemy; And I am satisfied you will do every thing in your power for the general Good of his Majesty's Service. I am &c.

Sam^l Graves

1. The Conduct of Vice Admiral Samuel Graves in North America in 1774, 1775 and January 1776, British Museum, Mss. 14038 and 14039; Appendix, 108–09. Hereafter cited as Graves's Conduct, BM. An extract containing the first two paragraphs only is in PRO, Admiralty 1/485.
2. The letter was sent to Arbuthnot the same day. The entry for December 8 in the Narrative of Admiral Graves reads: "The *Hinchinbrook* sailed on a Cruize. And the *Cerberus* was ordered to take the *Whitby* Transport under her Convoy to Halifax, by which Conveyance the Admiral wrote to Mr. Arbuthnot in Answer to his first Letters . . ." Graves's Conduct, II, 15, BM.



JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Preston*, CAPTAIN JOHN ROBINSON ¹

December [1775]

Remarks Boston Harbour.

Friday 8

Arrived here his Majs Ship *Fowey* with an armed Brig belonging to the Rebels which she took ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/720.

2. Washington's armed brig *Washington*, Captain Sion Martindale.VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES'S ORDER FOR SURVEY OF THE ARMED BRIG
Washington ¹

(Copy)

You are hereby required and directed to take your Carpenters with you and forthwith repair on board the *Washington* Brig and having carefully Examined into the Condition of her Hull, Masts, Yards and Stores, report to me under your hands the exact State the whole is now in, And as there is the greatest necessity for her proceeding to Sea immediately as an Armed Vessel,² You are to report if she is fit to go in her present Condition or what repairs and Stores she absolutely requires for that purpose.

Given under by hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston*
at Boston the 8th of December 1775.

Sam^l Graves

To Captains Symons, Robinson and Linzee
of His Majesty's Ships *Cerberus*, *Preston* and *Falcon*
By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

2. "The *Washington* Privateer being taken the Admiral thought that by putting a good Crew into her from the Kings Ships and sending her to Sea directly we should lay hold of her Comrade or some other of the Rebel Cruizers. Whereupon Lieut: [George] Dawson received Orders to command her, and 70 men were drafted, but upon Examination of the Vessel, she was found in want of so many Articles that Lieut. Dawson thought it highly dangerous to venture so many Lives in her. The Admiral vexed at this Disappointment, and almost Doubting the truth of the many verbal Reports made to him of her Disability, ordered three Captains to take their Carpenters with them and report her Condition under their Hands." Graves's Conduct, II, 14, BM.

SURVEY OF THE ARMED BRIG *Washington* ¹

(Copy)

Cerberus, Boston 8th Decr 1775

Sir, Inclosed is the Carpenters Report of the State of the Hull, Mast and Yards of the Brig *Washington*.

The Cannon and Carriages totally Unserviceable, The Small Arms many of them broke, and all out of repair

And we are of Opinion that she is unfit for War. Given under our hands on board the said Brig at Boston 8th Decr 1775

John Symons J. Robinson John Linzee ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

2. Graves's Narrative under date December 6: "They [the captains] accordingly examined the Vessel and reported her absolutely unfit for Service. The Admiral was afterwards himself an Eye witness of her Defects." Graves's Conduct, II, 14, BM.

CARPENTERS' SURVEY OF THE ARMED BRIG *Washington* ¹

Pursuant to an Order from Samuel Graves Esqr Vice Admiral of the White &ca

We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed have been on board the *Washington* Brig and there taken a strict and careful Survey of her Hull, Masts and Yards and find as follows, Vizt

The whole of the Timbers under the Deck – Rotten and totally decayed.

The Main Beam and foremost Beam decayed.

The Ceiling forward very bad.

The Main Deck totally decayed.

The Bowsprit sprung in two places.

The Main Boom sprung in two places.

And we are of Opinion that the Hull in the present State is not fit for Sea.

Given under our hands on board the said Brig at Boston 8 Decr 1775

Robert Dick Robt Punton

The Carpenter of the *Preston* absent on Duty.

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany 8 Decr 1775

Sir In the last letter which I had the honor to Address You I took the liberty to recommend to Congress to send three thousand men to this [P]lace, that they might seize the first opportunity of marching into Canada such a measure then appeared to me to be prudent, unfortunately for us it seems now to be indispensibly necessary as the inclosed letters from General Montgomery and Colo Arnold will Evince, For we ought not to depend too much on the Canadians, should [Cong]ress be in sentiment with me on this Matter I could wish for the most early advice whether I am to issue as many more warrants for raising men as to complete a Regiment [w]ith the four Companies now levying and which were intended for the Garrisons of Fort George and Tyonderoga; If so as Colo: [Goose] V[an] Schaick, Lt Colo [Peter] Yates and Major [Peter] Gansevoort wish to remain in the service whether I may give them Assurances that they will be continued

The Barracks in this place are out of repair I propose to employ Carpenters to mend them and have requested the opinion of the Gentlemen of the Committee on this intention which they approve of as they also do of appointing a Barrack Master and Conductor of the Artille[ry] both of which will save thrice their pay in Six months –

Lt [Jeremiah] Halsey of the troops raised in Connecticut and of whom General Montgomery complains has been excessively trouble some during the whole Campaign and deserved to have been dismissed the Service soon after my coming to the Command, the time for which he engag[ed] to serve is expired, he can therefore only be punished by Stopping h[is] pay unless he will Submit to be tryed by a Court Martial –

Of upwards of one hundred Batteaus which we built, I am Confident 25 or 30 will be lost, as they have been left by the Lake side althway between Onion River and Skeensborough, by Soldiers that took that rout homewards –

Colo Knox is now at Tyonderoga, I have arranged Matters in such a manner as that I hope all the Artillery he wants will be at Fort George in a very few Days, from whence it will be carryed to Boston as soon as the roads will permit –

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 358–60, NA.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 8th

Capt. Thomas Proctor & Lieut. Francis Proctor, this day attended the Board, and agreeable to a Resolve of the 6th ins't, were dismissed the Service of this Board.

By order of Congress, Robert Morris, Esq'r, made application to this Board to secure three Prisoners that are on Board Capt. Whipple, In consequence of which the following Commitment was Issued:

Receive into your Custody the Bodys of William Stuart,
William Kane and John Reynolds, & them safely keep 'til you
have further orders of this Board.

Sign'd Jno. Nixon, Chairman.

To Thomas Dewees, Gaoler of the City & County of Philad'a.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records* (Philadelphia and Harrisburg, 1851–52), X, 424. Hereafter cited as *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*.

JOHN HANCOCK TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

Philada Decr 8th 1775.

Sir, Your letter of the 28th of Novr by Capt: [Joseph] Blewer being received, was immediately laid before Congress.

By my Letter of the 2d Inst., which I hope you will, in due Time receive, you will perceive, the Congress have in a great Measure prevented ² your Wishes having written to New York, and given Orders to Genl Schuyler to supply You with, and to forward with all possible Expedition what Cannon can be spared. They have also directed Genl Schuyler to make dilligent Search for Lead, and retaining so much as may be wanted there, to send the Remainder to your Camp. However, it is hoped, the Gentleman you have sent, will expedite that Business. By order of Congress, I forward a Come for Mr Knox, who is appointed Col: of the Regiment of Artillery. The Congress also have relieved your Difficulties with Respect to the two Battalions of Marines, having ordered that the raising them out of the Army be suspended. It is the Desire of Congress that such a Body of Forces may be raised; but their Meaning is, that it be in Addition to the Army voted: And they expect you will think of proper Persons to command that Corps, and give Orders for enlisting them wherever they may be found . . . ³

By Letters recd yesterday we learn, that Col: Arnold after a fatiguing March had reached Canada, where he was well recd by the Inhabitants; that on the 14th of Novr he had reached Point Levy, and was preparing to pass the River

that Night, that notwithstanding his being deserted by Col: [Roger] Enos, he had great Hopes of gaining Possession of Quebec, as both the English and Canadian Inhabitants were well affected to our Cause, that Carlton, with the Ships under his Command, was stopped in his Passage down the River by a Fort in our Possession at the Mouth of Sorel, and some Row-Gallies, and that Genl Montgomery was preparing to attack him from Montreal; but of these Matters you will doubtless be more fully informed by an Express, which we understand was dispatched to you from Ticonderoga. I have the Honr &c.

J H. Prest

1. Papers CC (Letter Books of the President of Congress), No. 12A, IV, 23-24, NA.
2. An archaic use of the word "prevented," as meaning anticipated.
3. The Journals of Congress for December 6, 7 and 8, after receipt of Washington's letter on December 6, contain no such resolution or order. /but see Nov 30, JCC

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO GEORGE SALMON, DUBLIN¹

[Baltimore] the 8th Decr 1775

I wrote you the 28 Octr Since then have recd your favrs of the 4th & 29th Augt and note the Contents. this I intend for a brig that is going from New York, if it gets there in time I still think your letters Will Come safe by Packett if you avoid Politicks therefore would Advise you to write by them if No other opportunity offers I have Long Since ordred Mr [Stephen] Skinner of Amboy to Send you the Disbursements with proper affidavits Concerning the Schooner & and shall write him this post to the Same purpose I am sorry you did not get my letters time enough to turn green out² I am well Satisfied with What you have done with her but had you Sent her out with women only. (if the[y] ware spinners) they Would have answerd however I would advise you if possible to Sell her, and if that cannot be done & She Shoul[d] be with you early in the Spring and if you Could get forty women that can Spin I think the[y] will answer well. I also wish to see your selfe here, and I am off opinion you cannot Come out While you have her on hands. Besides I think She would not be Stopped with women on bord as no Doubt you Would have her Registered in Dublin as you can pass for a member of That City. I often think, if you was here & had all matters on your side Finished (as you must in the Spring) that we Could by some method or other do some thing here of Course you may see we are not so fearful as You are for us. if She Should Come out let the master have orders to Shew the men of war that Orders him to Sommerset County on the Eastern Shore Say to Skinner Ennels as that is a tory County, & at the Same Time his private orders to Come here and he must Carefully hide all his letters Save a few that you are sure Cannot hurt him after All I have said Should matters Seem probable to take another turn I Think it would be prudent to have her with you to have her one of the first out with Servants but all these affairs must rest in your own breast . . .

A good dale of the Schooners Servant money yet out, & that & other matters keep me low in cash & in Debt however I have opened a Retail Store on the County Wharfe for Wet goods by Which I hope to maintain The House the Business is Dull . . . We are in general in high Spirits here tho the ministry threatens us hard and are making Every Necessary preparation to Support our

Selves. there is & will be a good army in New England Superior to What government will have there in the Spring, besides there is a small one in Canada that has taken St Johns montreal & the places adjacent, into our possession So that government has only Quebec in their possession of all that province and we have an army now before that place, and are in hopes it is in our possession yre this, & if not now have no Doubt of getting it this winter as the[y] Can Send no Succors to it, and governor Carleton has not 200 regulars to Defend it as he had 600 taken prisoners at St Johns & Chanbelee, beside the Congress are raising troops in Every province. one Batalion is going to be raised in this Immediately by orders of the Congress & its thought our Convention (that are now sitting) will raise three more in Pensylvania & the Jerseys the[y] are raising men and the[y] have about two or three Thousand in pay this same time in Virginia Where they are knocking away by this time with Lord Dunmore there Governor Who is become very troublesome upon the Whole if you Ware Clear of the Schooner (Even at a loss) and out here, I think we might yet do some Sorte of business to Advantage we are in hopes of having This Town Fortified this Winter So as to Defend it from any Ships that can Come up this river if that is Done I have not the least Doubt but we Shall still have some little trade here & perhaps a chance may happen to make something handsome — Wheat has been 3/ to 4/ at the latter price a large Quantity might be got flour has been 10/6 to 12/ not much has been purchaced Ex[change] 66 2/3 a 67½ up to 72/ in Philada Your Son is well as all the family All your old friends is well, and wish to see you (save the Meathodists) but none more so than

1. Mercantile Letter Book of Woolsey & Salmon, Baltimore merchants, LC. Hereafter cited as Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.
2. Schooner *Industry*, 35 tons, James Green, master, cleared from Baltimore, May 8, 1775, with 128 barrels of flour, 20,000 staves and headings, 20 half barrels of flour and 620 oak planks. See Woolsey & Salmon to Stephen Skinner, June 8, 1775, Volume 1, 634.

WOOLSEY & SALMON TO STEPHEN SKINNER, PERTH AMBOY ¹

Baltimore the 8th December 1775

We lately received a letter from our George Salmon Who is now in Dublin Requesting the Disbursements of the Schooner *Industry* Should be forwarded to him properly attested to Enable him to Recover of the Insurance We therefore request (if you have not allready done it []) to comply with his request Which Very much [appreciate?] Direct him at Mr Charles Jurgans North Strand Dublin

1. Woolsey & Salmon Letter Book, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Richmond] Friday, December 8, 1775.

A proclamation issued by lord Dunmore the 7th of November last, declaring martial law to be enforced throughout this colony, and requiring every person capable of bearing arms to resort to his majesty's standard by him erected in the town of Norfolk, or be considered as traitors to his majesty's crown and government, and farther declaring all negroes and indented servants capable of bearing

arms, and appertaining to rebels, free; also a certificate of an oath taken by several of the inhabitants of the counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne, in consequence thereof; were presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, That the said proclamation and certificate be referred to Mr. Treasurer, Mr.[Carter] Braxton, Mr.[Robert] Rutherford, Mr.[Walter] Jones, Mr.[John] Banister, Mr.[Josiah] Parker, Mr.[Archibald] Cary, Mr.[Meriwether] Smith, the Rev. Mr.[Peter] Muhlenburg, and Mr.[Mann] Page; and they are to draw up a declaration in answer thereto, and make report.

Ordered, That the said committee do also select for publication such of the letters laid before this Convention as they shall think proper.

1. *The Proceedings of the Convention of Delegates Held At The Town Of Richmond, in the Colony of Virginia, on Friday, the 1st of December, 1775. And afterwards by adjournment in the City Of Williamsburg (Richmond, 1816), 61. Hereafter cited as Virginia Convention.*

South-Carolina and American General Gazette, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1775

Charlestown, December 8.

On Wednesday, last week, [November 29] arrived here from Cape Fear, his Majesty's Sloop *Scorpion*, commanded by the Hon. Capt. Tollemache, with a large Transport Ship. These Vessels have likewise been at Bermuda, and we hear, that at both Places, they dismantled some Forts. His Excellency Governour Martin, of North-Carolina, is on board the *Scorpion*.

On Wednesday last, the *Scorpions* Long Boat took off this Bar, the sloop *Thomas and Stafford*, Solomon Gibbes, Master, the Property of Elias Young, of Bermuda, bound in here, in Ballast, from St. Christopher, and the Sloop *Hetty*, Jacob Milligan, Master, the Property of Messrs. Crouch and Gray, and James and Neilson, of this Town, bound in here from Jamaica, with about sixty Hogs-heads of Rum. Both vessels were regularly cleared.

They are, at present, in the Road, the *Tamer*, Capt. Thornbrough, of 20 Guns, the *Scorpion*, Capt. Tollemache, of 14, the *Cherokee*, Capt. Ferguson, of 8, a transport ship, the two Sloops above mentioned, and two Schooners, one of which has some Swivels.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety, Charles-Town, Dec. 8th, 1775.

Mr. President acquainted the Council, that Mathew Floyd had last night been landed from the *Cherokee*, an armed ship; that he was immediately seized, and placed under the care of the militia guard; and that he had produced to him, a certificate of his detention on board said ship two days and two nights, signed by John Ferguson, commander of said ship, and dated on board, in Rebellion-Road, 7th December, 1775.

And the said certificate being read,

Ordered, That the said Floyd be brought before the Council immediately.

And being brought accordingly, he confirmed the report that had been made by Mr. [Benjamin L.] Marchant – then proceeded to relate what he called the conversation that had passed between him and Lord William Campbell. Among other things, he declared that Lord William had directed him to “tell people in the back country to do every thing they can for the best advantage; that he did not desire any effusion of blood; but whatever they should do would meet with his consent.” Being asked, what upon the whole he understood his Lordship, he answered: “To say the truth, he believed Lord William meant, that if they (his party) could obtain a good and beneficial peace, they should do so; if not, that they should make war.” He added, upon being questioned, that he saw and conversed with Governor Martin of North-Carolina twice, who, upon being informed by him, that the insurgents in this colony were apprehensive that the inhabitants of Rowan and Mecklenburg Counties would come against them, told him, the said Floyd, there was no reason to fear them, for that they would soon find employment enough at home.

Ordered, That the said Matthew Floyd be re-delivered to the guard, and continue in their custody until further orders; that Major [Andrew] Williamson be wrote to, and made acquainted with every circumstance relative to said Floyd; and that the said Floyd be permitted to write by the same conveyance, submitting what he should write to the inspection of Mr. President.

Mr. William Price, contractor for victualling the king’s ships, represented the great inconveniences and expenses he should be subject to, by supplying them with provisions in the manner prescribed by the late general committee; and prayed, that he might be permitted to furnish such provisions weekly instead of daily.

But after due consideration, it was

Resolved, That no permits be granted for supplying the kings ships of war with provisions, otherwise than from day to day, and in quantities sufficient for daily consumption. And that the contractor or contractors be desired to acquaint the captains of such ships, that if they continue to receive and detain slaves, the property of the inhabitants of this colony, even the supplies now permitted to be sent would be ordered to be discontinued.

Ordered, That the Secretary do notify the above resolve to the contractors.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 65–67.

GOVERNOR PATRICK TONYN TO LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAVES, R.N.¹

Copy

Cow-Ford St John River 8th Decembr 75

Sir The Accounts sent by Sir James Wright made us come to the immediate determination, that the *St Lawrence* should proceed without delay to St Augustine to refit, in order to repair with all speed to the Assistance of Lord William Campbell and His Majesty’s Ships in the Harbour of Charlestown. In a few hours after the receipt of Sir James Wrights Accounts I had intelligence from St Mary that a rebel Cruiser was off this Bar, which was coroborated by several Circumstances from St Augustine, of a Vessel having appeared in sight from the Look Out,

for sundry Days always making off from the Coast when the Pilot boat went out – These appearances have made it a General received Opinion that this rebel Vessel is cruising to intercept His Majesty's Schooner *St Lawrence*, and other Vessels employed in the Service at this time for the purpose of meeting with the Creek Indians.

Upon the last Intelligence, it became requisite to detain His Majesty's Schooner to protect the meeting with the Creek Indians. Which must have been defeated, had any Rebel armed Vessel entered the River in her absence. It also became our duty to give you Sir in His Majesty's Schooner such Assistance as was in our power, and as you think it may be of real Benefit to His Majesty's Service to embark on board the *St Lawrence* under your Command a part of the Detachment of His Majesty's 14 Regiment on the Indian Service, and the remainder on board the Provincial Vessel in order to attend you and render such Service as may be within her power, I have therefore directed the Detachment to be embarked accordingly with which Assistance I flatter myself from your knowledge of His Majestys Navy, and your Experience in it that the best Effects may arise. I cannot put an end to this Letter without my Acknowledgements of Thanks for the great Service His Majesty's Schooner under your Command has been of to this Meeting with the Creek Indians² and shall be glad of an opportunity to testify that I am &ca

(Signed) Pat. Tonym

[Endorsed] East Florida Copy To Captain Graves of His Majestys Schooner *Saint Lawrence* 8 Decr 75 In Govr Tonym's (No 37) of 14 Jany 1776 (1)

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/556, 197–200, LC Photocopy. Tonym was Governor of East Florida.
2. *Ibid.*, 141, Tonym to Dartmouth, December 18, 1775, "The 8th we carried the Pomkin King and Long Warrior, the two Head and Leading Men present, on board His Majesty's Schooner the *Saint Lawrence* where I delivered a private Talk. To which they answered."

9 Dec.

RETURN OF MEN ON BOARD BRIGANTINE *Dartmouth*, CAPTAIN SIMEON AKERMAN¹

<i>Names</i>	<i>Time of Enlistment</i>	<i>Rate per Month</i>	<i>When Discharged</i>	<i>Time of Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
				<i>mo. dys.</i>	
Simeon Akerman.....	Oct. 26	60s.	Dec. 7	1 10	4. 0. 0
Saml Pendexter.....	Oct. 26	40s.	Nov. 26	1	2. 0. 0
Simeon Furnald.....	Oct. 26	40s.	Nov. 26	1	2. 0. 0
Wm Cambridge.....	Oct. 26	40s.	Dec. 7	1 10	2. 13. 4
John Griffin.....	Oct. 26	40s.	Dec. 7	1 10	2. 13. 4
					£13. 6. 8

Examined & passed

Portsmo Decr 9th 1775 Received of Samuel Cutts thirteen Pounds six shillings and Eight pence in full of the above Bill –

Simeon Akerman

1. Isaac W. Hammond, comp. and ed., *New Hampshire State Papers*, XVI, Appendix, 925.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Beverly Decer [9] 1775

I have the Pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that Capt Manly has brought in here a Ship from London, and a Brig from St. Eustatia I Enclose your Excellency the Papers which I forward by Mr [Stephen] Cabot Shall Secure them Untill further Orders from your Excellency ² The Brig is Safe Arrived from Cape Ann ³ I am with Respect your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

[N]B

The Capt of Ship has hove Overboard the Cheafest part of his papers & some arms &c I find by the Steward the Ships Cargo is Chieffly Coals, 100 Butts of Porter 40 Live Hogs

1. Washington Papers, LC. The date of the letter is established by Stephen Moylan's acknowledgment of December 10. Bartlett was Continental agent at Beverly.
2. The ship *Jenny*, William Foster, master, and the brig *Little Hannah* (from Antigua; not St. Eustatius), Robert Adams, master.
3. The brig *Nancy* which had been partially unloaded at Gloucester.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Beverly 9 Decr 1775

I would Desire by Order of his Excellency General Washington that you would Order a Proper Number of your Station'd men to Give those prisoners Belonging to the Ship & Brig sent in here by Cap Manly Commandr of the *Lee* Privateer to Hd Qrs In Compliance you will Oblige Your [&c.]

William Bartlett

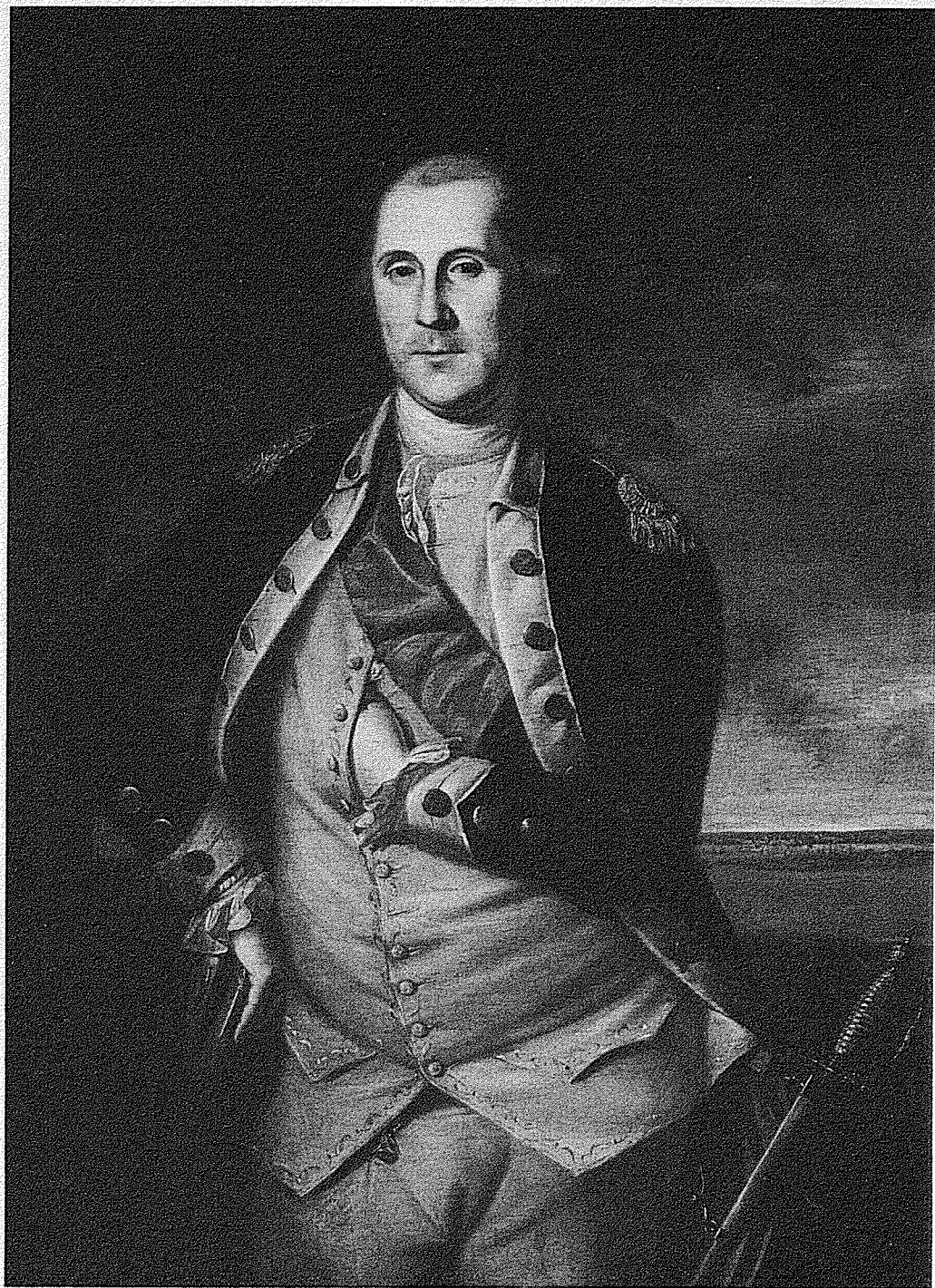
1. Pickering Papers, 39, 128, MassHS.

RICHARD DERBY, JR. TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen

Salem 9th Decr 1775.

Finding that Capt [Samuel] Ingersoll's going from Jamaica to Nova-Scotia has Given Cause to some of my Townsmen to Censure my Conduct in that Respect; and as no one can be more Desireous of Living in peace with his Neighbours than I am; nor any one more unhappy than he who justly Exposeth himself to the Censure of the Publick: and tho I can say with the utmost sincerity, that, in this matter, I had not the most Distant thought of offending Yet as the matter seems to be view'd a Different light by some, I am voluntarily Induced to say, That if I have by my Conduct in this Voyage, Justly offended any, I am Heartily sorry for it. –



General George Washington.

General Washington has ordered the Brigg *Kingston Packet* & Cargo to be Restored to me, and as I am made to understand it will be a Satisfaction to some, I take this opportunity to declare that I have not the most Distant Thought of the Brigg's Returning again to Nova-Scotia, nor is it my Intention to have any Dealing or Connection with any in that Province untill matters are settled, or Liberty is Granted for so Doing. I am Gentlemen [&c.]

Richard Derby Junr

1. Pickering Papers, 39, 126, MassHS.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, December 9, 1775.

Afternoon.

A Petition of Ebenezer Beal, setting forth that he received a Wound in assisting in the taking an armed Cutter in Machias River, and is thereby disabled from providing for himself, and praying for Support. Read and committed to the Committee for receiving Petitions of Wounded Men.

Mr. Gerry communicated an Extract of a Letter from one of the Delegates of this Colony at the Continental Congress, Inquiring what Number of Men in the Colony would engage as Marines, what Vessels may be hired upon Government Service, at what Place others may be Built, &c.²

Read, and Ordered, That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gerry and Col. Orne, consider an Answer to said Letter and Report.

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. See John Adams to Elbridge Gerry, November 5, 1775, Volume 2, 896-97.

COMMITMENT OF GEORGE PRICE ¹

Colony of the }
Mass Bay } Council Chamber Decr 9th 1775 -

To The Keeper of his Majestys Goal at Plymouth in the County of Plymouth

You are hereby Ordered & directed, to receive into your Custody, George Price, lately taken in a fishing Schooner ² from Boston & carried into Plymouth by Capt Coit, and him safely keep in Close Confinement, till the future order of the Major part of the Council -

In the Name & by Order of the Council

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 164, 213.
2. The schooner, captured on November 29, 1775, was nameless; her master, Jeremiah Downey, was one of four pilots on board waiting to guide the British transports into Boston harbor. Apparently Price was another.

LIEUTENANT HENRY MOWAT, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Sir Since I was with you last, I have been informed by Fluent the Mate of the *Newbury* Brig (who I mentioned on a former occasion) that he knows a vast number of Vessels belonging to New England now trading from different places particularly from the Dutch, and French West India Islands to a port in North Carolina, situated Nine or Ten Leagues to the Westward of Cape Hatteras, by name Beacon Island, which lies a little way in the inside of Ocracock Bar; he was there Seven Months ago, and he declares that there is no port on the continent so famous for smuggling; giving for reason, that no Kings vessels ever have been over this Bar, nor is there any Customhouse authority near it: he has been at this place eight voyages, and Says that the Pilots for the Bar have orders from all the Trading people near it, not to make known to any Kings Vessel the depth of Water on the Bar, and to persist should they fall in with any, that there is not water sufficient for them, at the same time, this man declares that there are at full Tides 15 or 16 feet, and that he has seen larger ships than the *Canceaux* Pass. I thought it incumbent on me to lay this information before you, and am [&c.]

H. Mowat

Canceaux Nantasket 9th December 1775

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

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1775

Providence, December 9.

Last Night a Gentleman arrived here, who has just made his Escape from Boston; he informs that the *Boyne* Man of War, of 70 guns, with General Burgoyne on board, sailed for England on Wednesday last [December 6]; she likewise carried, it is said, a Number of Masters and Mates of Vessels, that had been taken by the Enemy.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport, December] 9.

About one o'Clock this Aft. a small open Boat was coming into this Harbor: the *Glasgow* 20 Gun ship Capt Howe fired several shot at her; but she refused to bring too. They manned out a Barge – the Men in the Boat had small arms & fired three Guns into her, & kept on their Way. Capt How thereupon fired several shot at her but in such a Range that they came into To & struck. I was standing on a Wharf, when a Nine pound shot came & struck the stores just North of me. As I turned about to come off the Wharf, there came two shot, one a Nine pounder within a few feet of me, & passed a few feet right over the heads of about 20 Men standg on the next Wharf, & struck & went thro' the adjoynig stores into the contiguous houses, & another lesser Ball struck & fell in the Dock next the Wharfe where I stood, & within a few feet of me. But thro' a merciful & gracious providence we all escaped untouched – nor was any killed or wounded.

1. Manuscript diary of Dr. Ezra Stiles, The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, YUL. Hereafter cited as *Diary of Ezra Stiles*, YUL.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX'S LIST OF CANNON AT TICONDEROGA ¹

[December 9]

42 Cannon of differ[ent] Sizes

16 Mortar Howitz[ers]

58

		Cohorns	
2	5 $\frac{1}{10}$	}	Brass
4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Mortars		}	one Trunnion wanting
1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$		
1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
3	13		
1	10	}	Iron
1	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
		Howitzers	
1	8		
1	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		

1. Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

PARTIAL LIST OF CANNON AND AMMUNITION TRANSSHIPPED BY BOAT ON
LAKE GEORGE ¹[December 9, 1775] ³On board the Scow ³

6	18	pounders
3	13	Inch Mortars
1	Barrell	flints
	Pettiauger	
1	barrell	flints
1	brass	24 pounder
2	do	Mortars 8 or 9 Inch
1	Iron	do 9 Inch
23	Boxes	Lead
6	royall	Cohorns
2	field	peices 6 pound
6	do	4 do

1. Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

2. The date is approximated. It seems likely that Knox compiled the list before departing on December 9 for Fort George at the south end of the lake.

3. These cannon and stores were an important part of those being transferred under Colonel Knox's supervision from Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental army outside Boston. The scow grounded on a submerged rock on December 9, shortly after leaving the North Landing of Lake George. Although she was refloated by the morning of the 10th, "... on the same Night the wind being exceedingly high the sea had beat in her in such a manner that she had sunk," *ibid.* Fortunately, the water was so shallow where the scow sank that her gunwale remained above water. Within two days the scow, having been bailed out, arrived at Fort George.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Sabbati, 10 HO.A.M. December 9th, 1775.

Resolved and ordered, That Messrs. Jacobus Van Zandt, John Van Derbilt and Comfort Sands, be a committee to plan a voyage, or voyages, for at least two or more vessels, to be laden and sent out on account of the Congress of this Colony, and for the benefit of this Colony, to procure ammunition, arms, and such other articles as will be necessary for the general defence of this Colony, and to procure proper vessels for that purpose; and that the said committee report such plan or plans as they shall think proper or propose, with all convenient speed.

1. *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New-York, 1775-1776-1777* (Albany, 1842), I, 211, 212. Hereafter cited as *New York Provincial Congress*.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

Saturday, December 9, 1775

On motion from the Committee appointed to fit out armed vessels,

Resolved, That the said Committee be empowered to employ the following officers, and that their pay be as follows, viz:

Midshipman,	12	dollars	per	calendar	month,
Armourer,	15	do.		do.	
Sailmaker,	12	do.		do.	
Yoeman,	9	do.		do.	
Quartermaster,	9	dollars	per	calendar	month.
Quarter Gunner,	8	do.		do.	
Cook,	12	do.		do.	
Coxswain	9	do.		do.	

Pilot according to the usual rates; when absolutely necessary, the commander to give such further gratuity as may be necessary for the good of the service.

Resolved, That Monday next be assigned for taking into consideration the instructions to the delegates of Rhode Island.

1. Worthington C. Ford, *et al.*, eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Washington, 1904-37), III, 417-19. Hereafter cited as Ford, ed., *JCC*.

WILLING, MORRIS & CO. TO GREGORY & GUILLE ¹

Gentlemen

[Philadelphia, December 9, 1775] ²

Its a long time since we have had the Pleasure of paying our respects to you, and you will not be at a loss to assign reasons for this Silence, Therefore we need not take up your or our own time, in Offering them - We have now before us your Sundry Letters Dated the 2nd 5th & 18th May 3d & 6th June 4 July & 2nd August, and make due note of all Articles of acct Mention'd therein. & Thank you for the Course of advice which however latterly have been render'd useless, by the unhappy State of publick affairs - Capt Nichs Maingy not having appear'd on this coast, he no doubt was timely inform'd, our ports would be shut, and we are glad he did not come - We should have been very apt to close with

your proposal respecting a Ship for Capt Nichols Lamsurrier, had things remain'd in their Former channel, but Ships are now a bad concern, & we unluckily have to ma[n]y of them, You wonder we dont consume your Wines, in Answer we can tell you, our people have been long used to Mada Lisbon Teneriffe & Fayall Wines, all which are white, they are not used to or fond of red wines, even the best red port does not Obtain good sale in this part of America, & it is not very easy to break th[r]o' old Customs & attachments. We find all the Cargoes were arrived at the date of your last Letter (Except the *Kitty* Capt Lott, which we wish much to hear of & are now) Expecting her back, but sorry we are to find, that something or other turn[ed] up, as they arrive[d] to prevent any profits being made on the Adventures, you complain of this Business of working for Nothing & we beleive with reason, for our parts we are quite tired of it, & had not the State of Publick affairs done it for us we had Determined to Lessen our Concern in this branch which to us [h]as proved a Losing Game for three Years past we have in that time purchased it freely, and done our Business on the best Terms it could be Done, so that we have Nothing to blame ourselves for altho we have had infinite Trouble & Anxiety about our Fortunes and if either Branches had not answered we better had done Nothing however there is no help, we must be more cautious in future, that is if any Opportunities occur wherein we can carry on our Business with Safety – We are Disgusted with the Delivery of Henderson's Cargo at Cartagena & beleive that both you and we have been imposed on in that Transaction when you send us the Settlement of that Voyage we shall try what can be done with Henderson & his Owners altho such things should ever be Settled at the Discharging port – We expect you would before this time begin to feel the want of Supplies, from this Country & Consequently, that you would have sold off all the Cargoes & Completed the Remittance, we shall therefore be expecting Final Accts from you & happy shall we be when publick affairs are so far Settled, as that we can with Safety renew our joint Concerns, but if we do renew them, we hope it will be on terms to pay us much Better, than they have hitherto Done –

You will Learn with Surprize that our American Army has shut up the Ministerialists in Boston & Still keep them there, & that in the Mean time we have wrested from them the Possession of Canada, the Only Success proposed by these or any other Su[cc]esses is Only to procure Reconciliation on Constitutional terms & this we Sincerely hope will be Obtain'd & soon, our Influence is always exerted in favor of such Measures, as tend to this point & happy shall we be, in being any ways instrumental in Obtaining it, but you may Depend on Hearing from us when anything Certain can be said on that Subject – We have not heard from Messrs Gregory & Woosy Since the taking of Canada, but if their affairs require any assistance or Protection from the Authority of this Country we shall Serve them on application two of us being Members of Congress our Influence may be of some use to 'em if wanted We are Sir [&c.]

P.S. We had lik'd to have Omitted mentioning to you that on Settling the last a/C you rendered us, we find your Creditors [*sic* you Credit us] only for $\frac{1}{3}$ d nt Pr[o]cd of the Brig *Connollys* Cargo of wheat whereas our concern was $\frac{2}{3}$ ds for altho it was first Intend'd that Cap Dickson should be $\frac{1}{3}$ d Interested in the

Cargo by the Ship *Matilda* yet after the Loss of that Ship his Friends fell short & we took the $\frac{2}{3}$ ds to our acct & paid Entire Cost thereof Consequently you have to remit, to Messrs Wm Baynes & Co on our Acct L. Cath[ala]n 3800.8 with Interest we Think, This Matter was Explain'd in former Letters, but have not time to Examine being hurried

P.S. We just hear that Captain Steel is in the River

Copy

[Endorsed] (A Copy) Thomas Rich³

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/2389.
2. The date is established by a subsequent letter of March 1, 1776.
3. This is Captain Thomas Rich's copy of a copy which he found on board the ship *Aurora*, taken June 28, 1776, by H.M.S. *Enterprise*.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO NICHOLAS AND JOHN BROWN, PROVIDENCE
MERCHANTS¹

Gentlemen

Philadelphia Decr 9th 1775

We have proposed that the small sloop *Fly* belonging to Clarke and Nightingale is now going immediately to Providence shall return hither again directly and bring as many able seamen as she can carry – If her owners shall agree to this plan to Whom we have wrote for this purpose we shall be greatly obliged to you to use your utmost influence for the procuring of such seamen, it being slowly that we raise seamen here has put us upon this project and we hope that the Rhode island seamen who come to Philadelphia for this purpose will very soon see their own homes again As this is an essential service to your Country, we have No doubt of your engaging zealously in it – If the small sloop we have Mentioned should not be able to bring all the Seamen who are willing to enter into this service, we should be glad that you would procure another Vessel that you may think suitable to the purpose to come with the utmost dispatch with such over plus seamen to Philadelphia and a reasonable allowance will be made to her for that service, and she will be permitted if she chooses it to take a load of flour or other Provisions back – for this purpose it will be best for her to bring Governor Cooks Certificate that such Provisions shall be for the use of the inhabitants there or otherwise for the use of the Continental Army – I am in behalf of the Committee for Naval Affairs [&c.]

Step Hopkins

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JGBL. Hopkins, a Rhode Island delegate in Congress, was a member of the Continental Naval Committee.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia] Dec'r 9.

Upon application to this Board, on behalf of Capt. Nicholas Biddle,² that he may have Liberty to resign his Commission, in order to enter into Continental Service,

Resolved, That he have liberty to resign his Commission.

Messrs. John Pringle, & Thomas Yorke, having permission from this Board to load on Board their Brigantine a certain quantity of goods, the produce of these Colonies, which being insufficient to compleat her loading,

Resolved, That they, the said Pringle and York, have permission to load on Board said Brig't as much produce of these Colonies as will compleat her Loading for the account of this Province, being agreeable to a Resolve of Congress of 26th October last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 425.

2. Biddle had been commissioned to command the armed boat *Franklin* on August 1, 1775. As commander of the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*, he took part in the New Providence expedition of February-March 1776.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1775

Williamsburg [December 9].

An express arrived last Thursday night [December 7], who informs, that we have taken a little fort belonging to Dunmore, with 40 stand of arms.

An honest negro (Caesar, the famous barber of York) being asked what he thought of lord Dunmore's setting negroes free, said, that he did not know any one foolish enough to believe him, for if he intended to do so, he ought first to set his own free.

J. H. NORTON, JR. TO J. H. NORTON, SR.¹

[Extract]

Williamsbg Decr 9. 1775

I have hitherto been silent about our Governor's Operations, but I cannot help saying something of them, as they are marked with almost every Species of Cruelty that a wicked Mind could Suggest; After pillagg the Plantations on the Rivers for some Months past, taking Negroes, burning Houses, & the like Depredations he hoisted his Standard & issued a Damned, infernal, Diabolical proclamation declaring Freedom to all our Slaves who will join him, & obliged great Numbers to take an Oath that they will arm themselves & assist him with their Lives & Fortunes. Most of the Scotch have joined him & a great Number of Negroes: he is now entrenched with a Body of Men at the Great Bridge to prevent our Men from getting to Norfolk. he has tis said 500 Whites & as many Blacks. our Men in Number about 700 under Colo Woodford are entrenched within a few hundred Yards of his Party, & several Skirmishes have happened in which he lost 28 Men, our Loss is not more than 2 or 3. Colo [Robert] Howe from Carolina with abt 600 Men & a good Train of Artillery are daily expected to join Woodford, when a general Engagement may probably happen.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/40, 282-83. An intercepted letter.

JOHN PAGE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE¹

Dear Sir

Wm'sburg Decr the 9th 1775

It was so late when I receivd your Letter, & I have been so engaged in Business & surrounded by Company that I am scarcely able to tell you that I received it,

& by no Means have Time to say how much I am obliged to you for writing it – But however much I am pressed for Time I can not conclude without lamenting the unhappy Situation of our Country – So defenceless is it that I am persuaded that a couple of Frigates with a few Tenders & only one Regiment might at this Time make as compleat a Conquest of all the lower Counties of Virginia as Ld D. [Dunmore] has made of Princess Ann & Norfolk. Col. Woodford with 600 Men has been hitherto prevented from passing the Great Bridge on his Way to Norfolk by a Body of Negroes headed by Scotch Men & a few Regulars – & I make no Doubt that before he can pass, Norfolk will be made impregnable by Land – it is capable of being strongly fortified on a small Neck of Land near the Church where it is said Ld D has for some Time past employd several hundred Negroes – The only Way I conceive that Town can be taken without Cannon, must be, by taking Advantage of the Night & throwing into it by Water 3 or 400 resolute Fellows – & make a bold push at the Sloops of War at the same Time. I have mentioned this to several, but unhappily they call it a rash attempt & seem to be contented with the Expedition now carrying on under Col. Woodford – which if it should succeed can only force our Enemies on Board their Ships & oblige them to change the Scene of the War & spread their Depredations further. – I wish to God we had a few armed Vessels – to take the Tenders we might very much distress their Ships by it. I approve much of your Hint of procuring them from Bermuda or the Northern Colonies. But most of the Committee & Convention seem to think it in vain to attempt any Thing by Water – I think this may be attended with fatal Consequences – for if no Attempt of this Kind is made before Reinforcements of Ships & Tenders arrive, the People will be most wretchedly dispirited, & easily crushed – For my Part I think we should make a Point of keeping Possession of our Rivers, those excellent Channels of Commerce, & should strain every Nerve in Struggles for the Dominion of the upper Part of the Rivers at least – It is certain that 5000 Men can not defend our Coast against the Depredations of the Men of War & Tenders already here – but it is certain 500 Men in some Vessels could easily take the whole Fleet –

I have scribbled on beyond what I expected & have encroached on your Time – I will therefore instantly conclude – but must first beg that when you write to General [Charles] Lee you will present to him my Thanks for his Services, my Compts & best Wishes – I am dear Sir [&c.]

John Page

1. Lee Papers, UVL. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

THOMAS LUDWELL LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg, Decr. 9, 1775

I send you inclosed a printed account of intelligence recd at Headquarters from our camp at the [great] bridge about 20 miles from Norfolk, . . . Our Army has been for some time arrested in its march to Norfolk by a redoubt, or stockade, or hog pen, as they call it here, by way of derision, at the end of this bridge. Tho', by the way, this hog pen seems filled with a parcel of wild-boars, which we appear not overfond to meddle with. My apprehension is that we shall be amused at this outpost, until Dunmore gets the lines at Norfolk finished; where he is now

entrenching, & mounting cannon, some hundreds of negro's being employ'd in the work. This consideration added to the advanced season of the year & the strong expectation, as we find by intercepted intelligence, of a reinforcement arriving every hour from St Augustine made a bold & sudden stroke necessary, whilst we walk too cautiously in the road of prudence. — There were other passes into the neighbourhood of Norfolk. We are now in convention & have already voted the raising six new battalions of the continental number the two old battalions to be recruited to the same standard — these eight are expected to be on the continental establishment. The express, which brings you this go's with an application to Congress for this purpose. It would seem indeed highly necessary, from the manner in which Dunmore has hitherto baffled all our endeavours, to put our military matters under some other direction.

If Philadelphia is in such a forward state of Naval preparation as report says, it would be in her power to render the most signal service to this colony, and thereby to the American cause. The naval force of the enemy in this country consists of two sloops of war, the *Otter*, & *Kingfisher*, of sixteen six & four pounders, with their compliment of men indeed, one hundred & ten, but these much dispersed in tenders, & all except ten in the *Kingfisher*, & a few in the *Otter*, pressed men, disaffected to the cause, & unwilling to fight. Six deserters from the *Kingfisher*, examined last night, confirm these circumstances, which we were informed of before from other hands. A frigate of thirty guns, with metal proportionable, by coming into Norfolk river would not only become master of these, but of Dunmore's ship *Wm.* & a vast many other vessels loaded with the floating property of Tories, & seized cargoes, to the amount, as is said upon good grounds, of £14000. These gentry would, by such a stroke as this, be all taken up in a nett. Ld. Dunmore's preparations be all torn up by the roots, & the plan of hostility for this country to be begun anew. Ld Dunmore has issued his first *Virginia Gazette* printed I think on board the *William*. It contains his proclamation, the oath tendered to the people of Princess Anne & Norfolk, his conquest over the militia, & the letters of the Delegates intercepted by Capt Wallace.

1. Lee Papers, UVL.

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

Decemr 1775	Elizabeth River [abreast of Norfolk]
Wednesday 6	Carried the Troops & Volunteers with our Marines across the River Moderate Weather PM Exercised great Guns & small arms The Troops ret'd.
Thursday 7	Reced Water on board Employd occasionally
Friday 8	Fresh Gales & squally Weather at 6 PM employd carrying [the] Troops. Volunteers & Marines to Ferry Point.
Saturday 9	at 8 AM heard they had retreated & that several were killed & wounded — received fresh Beef on Board —. Fresh Breezes & cloudy. PM Employd taking our wounded Troops [&] Marines & Volunteers from Ferry Point.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/663.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

[Extract]

Great Bridge, near Norfolk, Dec. 9.

The enemy were reinforced about 3 o'clock this morning with (as they tell me) every soldier of the 14th regiment at Norfolk, amounting to 200, commanded by Capt. Leslie; and this morning, after reveille beating, crossed the bridge, by laying down some plank, and made an attack to force our breast-work, (the prisoners say the whole number amounted to 500, with volunteers and blacks) with two pieces of cannon, but none marched up but his Majesty's soldiers, who behaved like Englishmen. We have found of their dead, Capt. Fordyce and 12 privates; and have Lieutenant Battit, who is wounded in the leg, and 17 privates prisoners, all wounded. They carried their cannon back under cover of the guns of the fort, and a number of their dead. I should suppose (to speak within compass) their loss must be upwards of 50. Some powder and cartridges were taken. I sent an officer to inform them if they would not fire upon our people they should collect the dead and wounded. This they agreed to, and there has been no firing since. We are now under arms, expecting another attack. There is but one man of ours hurt, and he is wounded in the hand. The prisoners inform that Lord Dunmore has got a reinforcement of highlanders; they, I except, will be up next.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, December 16, 1775. Pendleton was chairman of the Virginia Committee of Safety.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., AND LORD DUNMORE ¹

Captain Squires Compliments to Lord Dunmore, would be much obliged to him for the reading of two Letters he sent him the other night, one directed to Robert Carter Nicholas, the other to Richard Henry Lee, which I will return to your Lordship again

Otter Sloop, Saturday Noon [December 9, 1775].²

[Dunmore's Reply]

Ld Dunmore Compts to Capt Squire, is sorry he can't send him the Letters he wants, having already inclosed them for the Secretary of State, but wishes Capt. Squire would send him some other letters that came by the same Vessel that he supposes Capt Squire had Misaid when he sent the rest, which should also be sent home.

Saturday Noon [December 9, 1775].

1. *Aspinwell Papers*, Part II, 750, 751. Dunmore was Royal Governor of Virginia.
 2. The date is established by Dunmore's letter to the Secretary of State, December 6, 1775, forwarding fifteen intercepted letters taken from a captured brig. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/1353, 321-34.

LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD H.M. SLOOP *Otter*¹

[Extract]

Dec. 9

Our troops, with about sixty Townsmen from Norfolk, and a detachment of Sailors from the ships, among whom I had the honour to march, set out from Norfolk to attack once more the Rebels at the great bridge, who had been lodged there some time, and had erected a breast-work opposite to our fort on their side of the river. We arrived at the Fort half an hour after three in the morning, and, after refreshing ourselves, prepared to attack the Rebels in their intrenchments.

Captain Squires, ever ready, from his accomplishments as a Gentleman, and his personal bravery as an Officer, to assist my Lord in the public cause, had sent his Gunners and men to manage two pieces of cannon, who were put in the front, and ordered to begin the attack. But how can it be supposed, that with 200 men we could force a strong intrenchment, defended by at least 2000? yet this was attempted, and we marched up to their works with the intrepidity of lions. But, alas! we retreated with much fewer brave fellows than we took out. Their fire was so heavy, that, had we not retreated as we did, we should every one have been cut off. Figure to yourself a strong breast-work built across a causeway, on which six men only could advance a-breast; a large swamp almost surrounding them, at the back of which were two small breast-works to flank us in our attack on their intrenchments. Under these disadvantages it was impossible to succeed; yet our men were so enraged, that all the intreaties, and scarcely the threats of their Officers, could prevail on them to retreat; which at last they did. The cannon were secured within the fort. We had sixty killed, wounded, and taken prisoners; among whom were the gallant Captain Fordyce, of the Grenadiers of the 14th Brigade, Lieutenants Nappier and Leslie, and Lieutenant Batut wounded and taken prisoner; men all universally esteemed, and for whom all shed tears; but these are dried upon reflecting, that they fell fighting for their King and Country. Such was the fortune of this day, which throws the greatest honour on the men for their unparalleled courage; and I have the pleasure to assure you, I have had the approbation of all my Officers for my behaviour. We set out on our return to Norfolk about seven o'clock in the evening, at which place we arrived at twelve, and the Soldiers were immediately embarked on board vessels prepared for that purpose.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, March 4 to March 6, 1776.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Tuesday [*sic* Saturday], Dec 9th, 1775.

Mr. William Parker applied for and obtained a permit in behalf of Mr. [John William Gerard] DeBrahm, for his (Mr. DeBrahm's) nephew, to pass to the *Cherokee* armed ship, which were produced and read in Council.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton reported that he with Capt. [Thomas] Savage had, according to order, inspected into the state of the naval armament of

this colony, and delivered in a report; also a list of able seamen still remaining in the colony regiments of foot.

South-Carolina, Charles-Town, Dec. 9th, 1775.

By order of the Council of Safety for the colony aforesaid. To the Sheriff of Charles-Town District, or his Deputy, or the Keeper of the common Jail in Charles-Town:

You are hereby commanded and required to receive into your custody in the common jail, and there safely keep until further orders, the body of Matthew Floyd, otherwise Captain Matthew Floyd herewith sent to you, suspected of being a spy, and of other high crimes and misdemeanors against the liberties of the colony aforesaid. And for so doing this will be your warrant.

Given under my hand and seal, the day above written.

Henry Laurens, President. [L. S.]

Sir — You will here enclosed receive a warrant for committing to the common jail, the body of Matthew Floyd, now in custody of the main guard of the regiment under your command.

You will be pleased to give the necessary orders for carrying the said warrant into execution, so far as the safe delivery of the said Matthew Floyd to the sheriff or keeper of the common jail. I am, sir [&c.]

Henry Laurens,
President of the Council of Safety.

Charles-Town, 9th December, 1775.

Col [Charles Cotesworth] Pinckney.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday evening, Dec 9th, 1775.

Col. [William] Moultrie having laid before the board a letter supposed of this date, from Major [Thomas] Pinckney, setting forth the disappointments he had met with going for Sullivan's Island — that he was now at Bolton's, and intended to effect his purpose this evening — but that as he would not be able to move before nine o'clock, further orders might be sent if needful.

Resolved, That Col. Moultrie be desired to order the detachment under Major Pinckney to return, without attempting Sullivan's Island.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 67-73.

10 Dec. (Sunday)

JOURNAL OF H.M. SLOOP *Hunter*, CAPTAIN THOMAS MACKENZIE ¹

Decembr 1775

Remarks [at Quebec] &c

Saturdy 2d

AM unbent the Sails got down the top Gallt Masts and [unreevd] the Running Rigging at Noon veer'd away on the Best Bower and hauld along Side the Wharf Sailmaker employ'd as before — First and latter parts Modt & fair Mid fresh Breezes with Snow PM got on Shore the Guns Anchors best

- Bower Cables and small Bower & Sh[ee]t Cables Sails and Booms Struck the Topmasts & unriggd them
- Sunday 3d AM got the Tops off got them & the Topmasts [Pul] tack Shrouds Topsail and top Gallt yards on Shore Received 389 pounds of fresh Beef Sailmaker employd as before — First and Mid parts fresh Breezes and fair latter little Wind & fair
- Mondy 4 at 11 hove off the Best Bower Weighd the Anchor and hauld the Ship a Ground into t[hè] Cou de Sac along Side the *Fell* Snow — Calm with Frost PM hauld the Boats up at 11 began to get ready to haul off got the Cables & topmasts on Board
- Tuesday 5 at 4 AM hauld along side the Wharf rigg'd the topmasts got the Sails on Board at 11 clear'd the Ship to haul on Shore again unrigg[e]d the topmasts and got them the Rigging and Lower Yards Ca[sk]s and Sails a Shore
- Wednsdy 6 Sailmaker employ'd as before got the Powder out Calm with frost at 3 PM hauld into the Cou de Sack
- Thursday 7 Moderate with hard frost and some Snow employ'd Securing the Ship and hove It higher up at high Water Sailmaker as before Do Weather PM the Captain a Midshipman and 22 Men went on Shore and Mounted the [Piquett] Guard in the upper Town
- Friday 8th AM returned from the Guard received on Board fresh Beef Salmaker employ'd as before — Do Wear PM the Rebels opend a Cohorn Battery and fired Several Shells into Town
- Saturdy 9th AM sent out a party and sett fire to some Houses at St Johns — Do Weather found the Rebels were Erecting a Battery on a Hill above St Johns fired several Shot at a Barn below it whence we seen [a] party of them
- Sundy 10th our Ships Company all came Shore & Marchd up to the Dauphin Barracks for the Winter Open'd a Cask of Pork No 65 Contents 160 Pieces deliverd to Mr Geo Lawe Cheif Engineer of the Garrison of Quebec 27 Puncheons 32 Hhds forty light Barrels 32 half Hhds and 1112 Iron hoops — Fresh Gales with Snow PM the rebels fired several Shot into the Town we fired Shot at them and some Shells at their Battery

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/466.

DIARY OF SIMEON PERKINS, LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA ¹

Sunday, Dec. 10th, — Capt. Benajah Collings arrived last evening from Cape Nichola Mole, he fell as far eastward as Isle Savel [Sable Island], and was in at Canso. He there heard that two armed schooners had been in there and taken several vessels that were New England property, and had been at Island St. John's and took Mr. Higgins in a schooner from England, and carried them off.

1. Innis, ed., *Perkins' Diary*, 106.

BENJAMIN HICHBORN TO JOHN ADAMS¹

[Extract]

Lexington [Being interrupted by Company, on the Evengs I had
 Decr 10th 1775 [devoted to this Letter, I rose early the next morning intending
 to fill this sheet, at least, & send it by Mr [Paul] Revere – I had wrote to the bottom
 of the preceding page, when a Gentleman called me aside & whispered – that he
 had the day before been in a large Company, among whom were Collo [James]
 Otis, Doct: [James] Winthrop & his Lady, that Mrs Winthrop censured my Con-
 duct respecting the letters very highly; in which she was joined by her Husband
 and Colo Otis. one of the Company suggested that I had satisfied General Wash-
 ington, but was answered by Colo Otis, with a good deal of warmth, that he knew
 neither the Genl nor any of the Officers about him, were in any degree satisfied
 with my Conduct. – this Story induced me to postpone writing till I should hear
 from you – Your most welcome Letter of the 6th ulto did not reach me till yester-
 day. this delay happen'd by my taking a different House in the Country, to
 what my Friend (who took it out of the Post office) expected – I assure you Sir,
 nothing cou'd have come mo[re] opportunely, no event cou'd have given me
 equal Satisfaction; it contained every thing I could wish for, so far as respected
 myself & is full of Sentiments, that are certainly just, independent & liberal

one thing only I must dissent from you in, because I know you are mistaken.
 you suppose the accident that threw your Letters into their possession, has exposed
 you to the ridicul[e] of our common Enemies. – believe me Sir, it is directly the
 reverse – they all dread (& many of them were ingenuous enough to acknowledge
 that they respected) your firmness in a system of Politics that must prove fatal to
 their Schemes. the incidental Remarks upon private Characters & occurrences
 they found themselves so little interested in, & so much qualif[d] by other obser-
 vations, that I scarcely heard them mentioned. even the humorous anec[dotes]
 of [H –] ² (at which I believe the [G–E is so much] disgusted) they called a Boy-
 ish performance [& it hardly produced a smile. –]

[you] are a better judge [of the] Effect it may have upon private Friends,
 than I can pretend to be; but I am certain it will have but one bad tendency,
 among many good ones, with your adversaries – Till this Event, your political
 Character has been so blended with your Name-Sake's, in the Minds of those who
 had not a personal Acquaintance with you, that he has been saddled with a great
 share of your political Crimes; but since your treasonable designs have been con-
 vey'd to his Majesty under your own Hand, you may possibly, have the Honor
 of an Exception, in the next tender of a general Pardon. – you are pleased to say
 you should be glad to have my whole Story. – I would with pleasure give it to you,
 but as it is very long, & I am yet weak & but poorly provided with every material
 for writing, I must beg leave for the present to omit it

from an expression in your Letter I imagine you presume I was discharged
 by Graves & Gage – the fact is this – my very ill State of Health preventing my
 Swimming away while the water was mild enough for such an enterprise, I had

constructed a vehicle of two kegs & a strip of pine board, which I could put together in two minutes, & was determin'd to set off on it the first favourable opportunity: but fortune made better provision for me than I was able to make for myself. – on a very stormy day a small Canoe belonging to the Capt: was fastened to the Stern of the Ship, an exceeding dark night Succeeding & the Storm continuing, afforded a Season exactly Suited to my purpose. from long confinement, miserable diet & a disorder which had not then entirely left me, I was quite feble: but anticipating the pleasures I have since realised with my Friends, [I felt superior to] every difficulty & hazzard. about Ten o'Clock that evenng I stole out of the Gun-room-port [&] by the rudder & let myself down (not without some danger as the Sea was running high) into the Can[oe] after being upon the water [about two hours] & a half [I reac]h'd Dorchester Neck, half drown'd [but] completely happy. – as I find you are upon a Committee for collecting Evidence of the Hostilities committed by the British troops & Navy, I cannot omit the following anecdote as a remarkable Instance of their Savage barbarity – One Drew now a Lieutenant of the *Scorpion* or *Viper*,³ I am uncertain which, & Bruce a private belonging to the *Preston*, landed on Bunkers Hill, soon after the battle of the 17th of June. Drew, after walking for some time over the bodies of the dead, with great fortitude, went up to one of our wounded Men, & very Deliberately Shot him through the Head. Bruce advanced further over the Hill, & meeting with a forlorn wretch, begging Mercy for Gods Sake! he advanced & with a “damn you, you Bugger you! are you not dead yet?” instantly demolished him – in a day or two after, Drew went upon the Hill again opened the dirt that was thrown over Doctr [Joseph] Warren, spit in his face, jumped on his Stomach & at last cut off his Head & committed every act of violence upon his Body. I had this story from two Gentlemen belonging to the *Preston* who were eye Witnesses of the facts. in justice to the Officers in general I must add that they despise Drew for his Conduct, the other was below their notice. – I am very happy to find that your Zealous Efforts in promoting so important a Matter as the better regulation of the Army have not been altogether without effect. Knox is in a station that I think he is fit for, & dare say, he will make a figure in – I am pleased to find Two or so agreeably circumstanced, but must own I should be much more happy to see him in a station that woud give him greater military Consequence, & more extensive advantages for improvement in the Art of War. for my own part, I can truly say, as I never had a view separte from the interest of my Country, in wishing to be concerned in public affairs, I can be not overly contented, but happy in a path of private life, among a few Friends, whose Confidence I am sure to possess without bounds & whose esteem it is my greatest ambition to merit. – however I have done, & ever shall do everything in power, consistent with the Character of a Man of honor, to alleviate the distresses & promote the happiness of my Country. – The Speculation you were so partial as to call ingenious, I must confess I was so much engaged in, that I felt no small disappointment in not finding it encouraged. I wou'd not propose a Plan, which I was afraid to execute, & there fore offered to

rest my life upon it's success. it wou'd be illiberal in me, to suppose it was rejected mainly because it was a proposal of mine; I must, therefore presume there were some good reasons against it, tho I am not able to fathom them. – Many People have been much alarmed at the backwardness of the Soldiers to enlist for an other year, but this disposition I think, may be accounted for very easily, without attributing to them an indifference to the Cause; indeed I can say from my own knowledge, that the People are as warm & annimated to support the contest as ever they were; & the ready supply of 7,000 minute Men upon a late Demand of the General, appears to me full evidence of it. –

Our privateers have made so many Captures that, it is impossible for me to be particular, most of those from Europe I am informed have considerable quantities of Coal in them – Capt: Broaton [Nicholson Broughton] who in Company with another, (I think Capt Selman) were ordered to cruise in the Mouth of the River St Lawrence have [done] a feat which seems to meet with general disapprobation. [in their] way home, they called in at the Island of St Johns & by force brought off [Mr. Callbeck who married N. [Cof]fins Daughter & Capt. Higgins [who married a Daughter of Job Princes.] Higgins had just arrived from [Europe & I believe had not been on shore –] Higgins told me [he expected to be released, with his Vessel & Cargo] immediately – Capt: Broaton may perhaps deserve censure for going counter to his orders, but I think in justice to ourselves we ought to seize every officer in the Service of Government wherever they may be found. for the propriety of this observation, we need only observe the Effects of our politeness to Lord Dunmore, & I am much mistaken if we don't soon see a Tryon i[m]mitating that malevolent genius. . . .

It is [not] easy to conceive the advantag that wou'd instantly arise, upon a Continental Declaration of Independence. Many thousands of our Merchants & Mechanics who are now idle in the Country woud repair to the Sea Coast and begain a Commerce that must be constantly encreasing, a very numerous Body who are now a burthen upon the Community, woud be thrown into employment, the laws woud be rendered respectable & every one woud wear a cheerful Countenance. – As we may expect our Coast to swarm with Transports & Men of War next spring, I hope the Congress will take the precaution of having some ships of considerable force prepared to receive them. –

two or three Frigates of two & thirty Guns, woud be of incredible Service with such a naval force, we might venture among a fleet of Transports & perhaps captivate the greatest part of their mighty armament – shoud any thing of this kind be in agitation, I woud beg leave to mention Mr Natl Tracy is a Person every way qualified to undertake the building & fitting such vessels for the Sea. and I think his Zeal of Service to the Publick in providing transports for Collo Arnold's Expedition, without the least Consideration (tho' he advanced large sums of Money, which he has not yet received) may entitle him to some notice. but I presume you are too well acquainted with his Character & disposition, to need any thing I can say by way of Recommendation. –

I am under a necessity of omitting [man]y Matters which I wish to mention, but you may expect to be trouble[d] with a series of Letters, unless you forbid it

in Season – please to accept in Return for your kind [endeavours] to promote my happiness & success in every [laudable pursui]t, the warmest wishes of my heart for yours I am Sir [&c.]

Benj^a Hichborn

1. Adams Papers, MassHS. Continuation of a letter begun November 25, Volume 2, 1128. Materials drawn from the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society are copyrighted and printed by special permission of the Society.
2. Quoting a facetious paragraph in a letter from Benjamin Harrison to Washington.
3. James Drew was the First Lieutenant of H.M. Sloop *Scorpion*.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Cambridge Decr 10. 1775

Your agreeable favour to his Excellency, came last night to hand; It was very unlucky that the Captn of the ship ² threw his papers overboard, he deserves to be severely punished, if It is true, that this was done after he was made a prize of, in any other war than the present, he would suffer death for such an action; But we must show him & such as fall into our hands, that Americans are humane as well as brave, you will therefore Sir, treat the prisoners with all possible Tender-ness: there are on board the Vessell from Antigua, Two Gentn, passengers, Mr John Burke & Mr Gregory, the former is strongly recommended to our good friends in Boston, tho not friendly to American Liberty; he still has the Character of a Gentleman, as such, it is the Generals orders that he be treated, the other was board a man of war, you will offer these Gentlemen a parole agreeable to the Inclosed Sketch, which I suppose they will not object to – If they should you must send them to Head Qutrs – The Captns & Crews of both Vessels had best remain with you and if you see fit, they may remain on board their Vessels, untill further Orders, but dont run the least risque of their doing mischeif by so many being together – If any way – apprehensive of them, Let them be sent to some Inland Town in your neighbourhood, recommended to the care of the Comittee of Safety who must provide them with necessaries for which they will be paid – Should they be disposed of in this last way Get the Captains to sign paroles for themselves & their crews, a Copy of which you will Transmit to the Committee of Safety to whose care they are sent, & mention to the Committee that they be treated with Humanity, there are Limes, Lemons & Oranges on board, which being perishable, you must sell Immediately, the General will want some of each, as well as of the sweetmeats & pickles, that are on board; as his Lady will be here to day or to morrow you will please to pick up such things on board as you think will be acceptable to her & send them as soon as possible – he does not mean to receive any thing without payment, which you will please to attend to –

The General is informed that the prizes are crouded with people from shore as well as those belonging to the Armd Schooners – It is his positive command that no person be Suffered to go on board any of them, the Officers & Agents excepted; That Embezzlements be particularly guarded against – If any should happen the Agents will be blamed & held accountable, so that you see the necessity

of being Strict in enforcing this order, pray when are you to send the Porter &c
We want it much – I am &c

S. M.

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. William Foster, master of the ship *Jenny*.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

[Cambridge] 10th Decr 1775

I wrote you this day to wch refer – the Cargo by the two prizes to be Laid up in a Secure place if you think the vessells are not Sufficent for that purpose – Capt [Winborn] Adams ² will deliver you this, he Says he will take a Cruize while the Sails which he thinks absolutely necessary, are making. You will please to Let Such Sails as he wants, be put in hands imediatly, as we Cannot have too many armed vessells out – Give him every assistance in your power, he wants to change his Swivels & some of his guns do sir indulge him & Let him proceed to Sea I am Sir. [&c.]

[S] M

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Commander of Washington's armed schooner *Warren*.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 10 [December]

Today the Admiral sent to Mr Arbuthnot a Copy of the Intelligence, which he had received from Captain Hamilton at Quebec, and acquainted him that as that Intelligence had come to Boston, before he had opportunity of sending Orders for the *Somersets* sailing, he had determined upon keeping her somewhat longer: that he had ordered the naval Contractors Agent, at Halifax, to supply a Quantity of Provisions for the Militia intended to be embodied to throw up Redoubts, Intrenchments &c, although he feared the Winter was too far advanced for such work and that the Labour already bestowed would be useless. And he wrote also to commodore Le Cras on the necessity for detaining the *Somerset*.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 15, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN EDWARD LE CRAS, R.N., HALIFAX ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 10 Decr 1775.

I have received your Letters dated Octr 15, 25 & 28 and November 6. 9, 15 with their Inclosures giving me full and satisfactory Accounts of your Proceedings with his Majesty's Ships at Halifax up to the time of Commodore Arbuthnot's Arrival, who acquaints me that on Account of the defenceless State of the Garrison he had kept the *Somerset* until he received my further Orders.

I am extremely sorry to acquaint you that by Accounts very lately received from Captain Hamilton of his Majesty's Ship *Lizard* at Quebec I find St Johns hath surrendered, that Montreal must likewise fall, that the Rebels had 1500 men at Point Levi, and that it was expected they would soon invest Quebec; so rapid a Progress could only be made with the assistance of the perfidious Canadians, who

doubtless will be equally desirous to put the Rebels in possession of the Province of Nova Scotia: and it is more probable they will now endeavour to seize the Kings Arsenal there than wait till the Spring when a strong reinforcement may render such an Attempt impracticable.

The present unpromising State of the Kings Affairs in the Province of Canada, the notoriety of the Disaffection of a Number of the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and the Danger with which his Maj's Yard and Stores are threatened, will therefore not allow me to let the *Somerset* proceed to England at present, but you may depend upon being relieved whenever it is in my power. I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix; 109-10, BM.

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

Decembr 1775 Moor'd at Rhode Island
 Sunday 10 Modt with some Snow at 2 A M sent all the Marines & some Seamen on board our Tender ½ past the *Bolton* & Tenders weigh'd & went to Cananicut ferry at 5 observ'd several houses on fire on Cananicut –
 Modt & hazey at 1 P M Anchor'd here the Tenders & *Bolton* brigg from Cananicut ferrey with a quantity of Cattle & other Stock, Rd [Toles] (Marine) wounded –

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/398.

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

December 1775 Moor'd In Rhode Island Harbour
 Sunday 10 Fresh breezes and Cloudy, A M at 4 landed 78 Men Arm'd on the Island of Connanicot to get off Stock P M at 1 Return'd our Officers and Men, 4 Marines wounded brought on board 8 Rebel Prisoners.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/804.

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

[December 1775] Moor'd between Long Wharfe and the [Town of Newport]
 Sundy 10th Modt Breezes and hazey weather Sent the Lieutenant and 1 Petty Officer on Board the Tender the Tenders of the Fleet with Marines and 50 Seamen & *Bolton* Arm'd Brigg, landed at Cona[ni]cut about 3 in the Morning to get Cattle was attack'd by a par[ty of] Rebels behind Stone wals &c Employd till Day light Attacking [the] Rebbels and Burning the houses & Driving the Cattle Sett one Torven in Flames – Breezes and Cloudy Wr Took Several Prisoners at 11 A M Returnd with 30 or 40 head of Cattle.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

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

- Decr 1775 Do [Sandy Hook] No 25''00 Wt 89 Leagues
 Sunday 3d Hard Gales & Squally at 1 P M Handed fore & Mizn topsails in Setting the Jib it split & lost most part of it housed the Lee guns found the Jib boom Sprung at 4 brought too the Chase a Snow from Dominica bound to New York the Gale Increasing handed the Courses and lay too under Main staysail a great sea shipped a great quantity of water Rolled 5 Shot out of the guns
- Monday 4th Do
 at 6 A M Wore ship ballanced the Mizon in Setting it blew all to pieces and went over board. Lay too as before lost out of the Guns Round Shot 2 Grape 1 First & Middle parts Do Wr at 9 P M Lowerd down the Lower yards Shipped several heavy seas
- Tuesday 5th Do No. 22:00 Wt 100 Leagues
 at 7 A M Sailmaker Empd Making a new Mizon at 8 sent the boat on board the snow which proved to be the *Chetsworth* sent on board our pilot and Ordered her to Boston Swayd up the Lower yards & set the Courses Light breezes & fair at 1 P M Set the topsls
- Wednesday 6 Do No. 22:00 Wt 84 Leagues
 at 7 A M out all reefs Sailmaker and all hands that can work Empd Making a new Mizon Fresh gales & squally at 2 P M Saw a sail Gave Chase at 10 Calm
- Thursday 7 Do [Sandy Hook] 24''00 West 73 Leags
 A M Still in Chase Sailmakers Empd as before at 10 brought too the Sloop *Two Brothers* from New London for Jamacia sent her to Boston Strong gales & squally at P M handed the fore & Mizen topsls.
- Friday 8 Do No 35''00 W. 65 Leagues
 at 1 A M handed Main topsail and foresail and lay too under Main Staysails. at 4 Saw a sail in the S E Qr at 8 More Modt gave Chase set fore sail fore & Main Topsls & bent the new Mizon. First part Fresh breezes & Cloudy Middle & latter hard gales with a dangerous sea from the Wesd Handed the topsls lost sights of the Chase
- Saturday 9 Do No 35''00 W 93 Leagues
 at 10 A M brought too double reef the fore sail and handed it in setting the mizon staysail it blew all to pieces & went over board lay too under Main staysail shiped several very heavy seas at noon saw a large ship laying too under bare poles Hard gales & squally thick hazy Wr with rain at 1 P M Saw the Ship under sail made sail & gave Chace More Modt out reef topsls at 4 Fired 3 Shot and brought too the ship *Peggy* from Phila-

delphia sent the boat on board and brought the Supercargo Master & ships papers on board of us² the sea running so high could not exchange the men found our bowsprit sprung got the sprit sail & Jib boom in and got down the foretop Gallt mast made sail Carpenters Empd fishing the bowsprit but could not fish it Sufficently to Proceed to America the bowsprit being sprung from the Outer part of the gammoning to the heel

Sunday 10

Do [Sandy Hook] No 43⁰⁰ Wt 112 Leagues at 6 A M found the fore topmast sprung in the cap reefed it at 7 less sea hoisted out a boat and sent a Lieut & ten Men on board the ship *Peggy* and took the people out of her the ship being leaky and short of water bore up for Antigua Sailmakers Empd making a new mizon staysail close reefed the foretopsail in 1st reef Main topsail & Mizen topsail at noon Ship in Company Mod: & Cloudy at 5 P M handed Mizon topsail Sailmakers Empd as before

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/1039.

2. Samuel Davison, supercargo, and Charles Kirby, master. See Mifflin to Davison, December 2, 1775, Volume 2, 1236.

THOMAS JEFFERSON TO JOHN PAGE¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia, ca. 10 December 1775]

One of our armed vessels has taken an English storeship coming with all the implements of war (except powder) to Boston. She is worth about £30,000 sterling as General Washington informs us, and the stores are adapted to his wants as perfectly as if he had sent the invoice.² They have also taken two small provision vessels from Ireland to Boston; a forty gun ship blew up the other day by accident in the harbor of Boston.³ Of a certainty the hand of god is upon them.

1. Julian P. Boyd, et al., eds., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* (Princeton, 1950), I, 270–71. Hereafter cited as Boyd, ed., *Jefferson Papers*.

2. The brig *Nancy*.

3. Rumor transformed a transport carrying hay into a "forty gun ship."

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON¹

[Extract]

[Great Bridge, December 10, 1775]

A servant belonging to major Marshal, who deserted the other night from col. [Charles] Scott's party, has completely taken his lordship in. Lieutenant Batut, who is wounded, and at present my prisoner, informs, that this fellow told them not more than 300 shirtmen were here; and that imprudent man caught at the bait, despatching capt. Leslie with all the regulars (about 200) who arrived at the bridge about 3 o'clock in the morning, joined about 300 black and white slaves, laid planks upon the bridge, and crossed just after our reveille had beat; a lucky time for us, and you'll say rather an improper season for them to make their push, when, of course, all our men must be under arms. The above lieutenant commanded the advanced party, and capt. Fordyce of the grenadiers

led the van with his company, who, for coolness and bravery, deserved a better fate, as well as the brave fellows who fell with him, who behaved like heroes. They marched up to our breastwork with fixed bayonets, and perhaps a hotter fire never happened, or a greater carnage, for the number of troops. None of the blacks, &c. in the rear, with capt. Leslie, advanced farther than the bridge.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that the victory was complete; and that most of their dead and wounded, with two pieces of cannon, were carried off under cover of their guns from the fort. We buried 12, besides the captain (him with all the military honours due to his rank) and have prisoners lieutenant Batut, and 16 privates; all wounded; 35 stands of arms and accoutrements, 3 officers [fusils], powder, ball, and cartridges, with sundry other things, have likewise fallen into our hands. This was a second Bunker's Hill affair, in miniature; with this difference, that we kept our post, and had only one man wounded in the hand.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, December 15, 1775.

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

Decr 1775 Moored in Elizabeth River Virginia Abreast the Town of
Norfolk
Thursday 8 Modt & fair P M sent the Marines & A party of Seamen to join
the 14 Regt to March up [to] the Great Bridge
Friday 9 At 4 P M Departed this life of 11: Wounds Jn McDonald Marines
Saturday 10 The Marines & Sailors ret'd

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/506.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

[Extract]

Great Bridge, December 10, 1775.

I must apologize for the hurry in which I wrote you yesterday, since which nothing of moment has happened but the abandoning of the fort by the enemy. We have taken possession of it this morning, and found therein the stores mentioned in the enclosed list, to wit, 7 guns, 4 of them sorry, 1 bayonet, 29 spades, 2 shovels, 6 cannon, a few shot, some bedding, a part of a hogshead of rum, two or more barrels, the contents unknown, but supposed to be rum, 2 barrels of bread, about 20 quarters of beef, half a box of candles, 4 or 5 dozen of quart bottles, 4 or 5 iron pots, a few axes and old lumber; the spikes, I find, cannot be got out of the cannon without drilling.

From the vast effusion of blood on the bridge, and in the fort, from the accounts of the sentries, who saw many bodies carried out of the fort to be interred, and other circumstances, I conceive their loss to be much greater than I thought it yesterday, and the victory to be complete. I have received no late information from Norfolk or Princess Anne, nor yet fixed on a plan of improving this advantage. I have despatched scouting parties, and from their intelligence shall regulate my future operations.

Enclosed is an inventory of the arms, &c. taken yesterday, to wit, 2 silver mounted [fusils] with bayonets, 1 steel do. without bayonet, 24 well fixed muskets

with bayonets, 6 muskets without bayonets, 28 cartouch Boxes and pouches; 3 silver mounted cartouch boxes, 2 cannon do. 26 bayonet belts, 27 caps, 2 hats, 1 barrel with powder and cartridges, 1 silk handkerchief with linen in it, 2 watches, cash 12s.6d. 1 pair of gloves, 4 stocks and buckles, 1 pair of silver shoe-buckles, 3 pair of silver knee-buckles, 2 snuff boxes, 10 knives, 1 barrel with ball and oakum, 12 coats, 12 waistcoats, 11 pair of shoes, 12 pair of ga[i]ters, 1 pair of breeches, 1 shirt, 1 pair of stockings, a parcel of old knee buckles, a parcel of old buttons, and a black handkerchief. The arms I shall retain for the use of the army; the other articles I shall dispose of at vendue, and apply the money arising from the sale in such manner as the Convention shall be pleased to direct.

Lieutenant Battit [Batut], having an inclination to inform the King's troops of the humane treatment he has met with here, I despatched Ensign [Benjamin] Hoomes with a flag of truce, who returned with the enclosed answer from the commander of the fort, viz: "Captain Leslie presents his compliments to Mr. Battit, and returns Colonel Woodford his sincere thanks for his kind treatment of the prisoners. He is happy Mr. Battit's wound is so slight, but is extremely sorry for the loss of poor [Charles] Fordyce."

The unfortunate Capt. Fordyce was a Captain of the grenadiers, of the 14th regiment; most of the soldiers were grenadiers of that regiment. As the Captain was a gallant and brave officer, I promised to inter him with all the military honours due to his great merit, which I hope will meet with the approbation of the Hon. Convention.

About 250 Carolina men are arrived under the command of Col. [*sic* Captain Edward] Vail; they are composed of regulars, minute-men, militia, and volunteers, and have brought with them 6 cannon. I have received no certain account of Col. [Robert] Howe, where he is, what number of force he commands, how armed and provided, or when or where he intends to join us.

I shall pay a due regard to the reinforcements you mention, and the establishment of the posts. I am just informed by Lieut. Battit that a servant of Major Marshall, who was in the party with Colonel [Charles] Scott, and deserted, informed Lord Dunmore that not more than 300 shirtmen were here: That imprudent man caught at the bait, and dispatched Capt. Leslie with all the regulars, who arrived at the fort about 4 in the morning.

I have enclosed the Honourable the Convention a general return of the forces under my command, also a list of sick and wounded. It is my wish to have orders for what is to be done with the wounded prisoners when able to travel. I recollect nothing more to add at present, than that I am, [&c.]

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, December 16, 1775. A shortened version of Woodford letter is in VSL.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Sunday, Dec 10th, 1775.

Mr. President reported the very critical situation he observed the *Comet* armed brigantine to be in.

The Council having received information, that Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare had last night, from the house of Lord William Campbell, seized and carried away a chariot and horses belonging to his lordship.

Ordered, That Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare do attend the Council immediately.

Attended accordingly. They declared that they had made the seizure, in consequence of Lord William having unjustly detained a considerable sum of money, their property, taken by the officers of the king's ships in Rebellion Road, from on board the sloop *Thomas and Stafford*, Solomon Gibbs, master, bound to this port from St. Kitts, and signed [*sic* seized] by the said officers on the entrance of the said sloop into the road.

The impropriety of their conduct being represented to them, they were desired to withdraw.

The Council then came to the following resolution :

The Council having been informed, that a seizure was last night made upon a certain chariot and four horses, the property of Lord William Campbell, summoned the parties accused to appear before them, and having heard and considered the reasons offered in justification of the act, have

Resolved, That such seizure was unauthorized, illegal and irregular; and do therefore order that the said chariot and horses be immediately restored and replaced.

Ordered, That Mr. Winyard, one of the messengers of the Council, do see the above order carried into execution; and that a copy hereof be properly directed to the Right Hon. Lady Wm. Campbell, sealed up and delivered to her ladyship by Mr. Winyard.

Messrs. Legare being called in again, and acquainted with the foregoing resolve and order, they readily acquiesced with the order to restore the effects seized. They were then told, that for any such injury, as stated, having been received, application ought to have been made by memorial to this board, to the end that redress if to be had, should be obtained by public authority.

Ordered, That the powder-receiver do deliver two hundred pounds weight of gun powder out of the public magazine, to the order of Col. Moultrie, for the use of Fort Johnson.

Ordered, That Mr. Fenwick Bull be desired to attend this board immediately.

Mr. Bull attended accordingly, and gave a particular account of the conversation which he said had passed between him, (as a notary) Lord Wm. Campbell, and the captains of the three sloops of war in the road, relative to Messrs. Legare's money, and the sloops *Thomas and Stafford*, and *Hetty*, and the cargo of the latter, lately seized there. Among other things, he declared, that Capt. [John] Tollemache did not deny having some of our negroes on board, but said they came as freemen, and demanding protection; that he could have had near five hundred, who had offered; that we were all in actual rebellion, and he had orders to distress America by every means in his power; that had his advice been taken, Fort Johnson should have been attacked on the day of his arrival, if the attack had cost fifty men, and this town should have been laid in ashes; but that it would surely be destroyed; and that, upon his honor, he soon expected two

frigates and a bomb to arrive here; that he avowed the seizure of Messrs. Legare's money, but said it had been delivered to Lord William Campbell, whose receipt he had for it, although Lord William had declared to him (F.Bull) that he had nothing to do with the money, or with other seizures, or in the affairs of the negroes.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 73-76.

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

Decbr 1775 in St Johns River East Florida
 Sunday 10 Salluted Governor Tonyn with 13 guns on his leaving the Indien Congress Came on Board an officer and a party of the fourteenth Re[get] at 4 P M weigh'd and came to sail down the River at 9 came too off Reeddy point and at 10 weighd and came to sail.²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4330.

2. *Ibid.*, the *St. Lawrence* put the troops ashore at St. Augustine on December 18, 1775, and remained in that port until the end of the year.

REAR ADMIRAL CLARK GAYTON TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

[Extract] *Antelope*, Jamaica 10th December 1775

Sir/ I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have received, both their Lordships orders, respecting Stationing Cruizers, to intercept & Seize, such North American Vessells, as might be found, to have any Arms, Ammunition, or any Contraband Goods onboard, or belong[in]g to the twelve Rebellious Colonies, or Owned by the inhabitants thereof, under certain restrictions. The first bearing date, the 11th August, I received by [a] Merchant Ship, the 24th of November, the Latter, of the 2nd September, I received by the Pacquet, the [] of November, likewise a Letter, from you in Addition, [to] these Orders, respecting the Dissposal of the Men, belonging to such Ships & Vessells as might be Seized and Detained, under the abovementioned Circumstances.

I beg leave to inform their Lordships, that immediately upon the receipt of them, I order'd Captain Douglas of the *Squirrel*, & Captain Gardner, of the *Maidstone*, [to] compleat for Sea, and the 1st instant, they Sail'd, from thence, the *Squirrel* I have Station'd at the Little Caicos's, and the *Maidstone*, at Henneaga, or Inauga Island, and inclose their Lordships, a Copy of my Orders, to their Captains, which I hope, will meet, with their Approbation -

In my Letter, of the 7th Novr I mention'd to their Lordships, my Doubts, with respect to the *Ferret* Sloop, and am sorry to confirm them as the *Pensacola Pacquet* arrived here, the 12th Novr, left Pensacola, the beginning of September, & then nothing had been heard of the *Ferret*, since her Sailing in August - Had she been cast away, on [the] Coast of Carolina, & any of the People saved, I must have heard of it, long since, as we have had a Number of Vessells arrived, but no Account of her.

In my last Letter, I took the Liberty, of laying before their Lordships, the Utility, that a Couple of Arm'd Schooners, would be, on this Station and since I have received their Directions, respecting Seizing the North American Vessells, carrying on a Contraband Trade, I am convinced, they would still be of greater use, as I have Intelligence, which may be depended on, that a Number, of these

Vessels resort to the Island of Curasoa, where they take [in] large Quantities of Arms, & Amunition, which [they] carry to America – Had, I any of these Vessells, under my Command, I could Station one of them, to Cruize this Island, to intercept them –

The *Antelope* remains at Port Roy[al.] I am, with respect Sir [&c.]

Clark Gayton

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/240. Stephens was Secretary of the British Admiralty.

11 Dec.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Beverly 11th Decer 1775

I beg Leave to inclose your Excellency the Petition of the Committe of Correspondence of this Town where they set fourth the sutiation of it in a Very Clear Light & Pray Your Excellency would hear and Answer the same, if you in your Great Wisdom think it Necessary.

Those Valuable Prizes brought in here are much Exposed as we have nothing to Defend them with – Our Harbour is as safe as any can be, where there is water sufficient to bring in such Vessels.

Our Forts & Brest Works, built at the Towns Expençe, would not Only Protect the Prizes but the Town if we had Guns and Amunition to put in them Therefore Pray your Excellency would hear the Petition not Only for the Relief of the Town but to Preserve that interest now belonging to the Continent.

And am with the Gratest Respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

1. Washington Papers, LC.

BEVERLY COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Beverly Decebr 11th 1775 –

May it Please Your Exelency. The Petition of us the Subscribers Humbly Sheweth That as the Highhand of minesterael Creuelty hath brought us in to a most unnatural War with our mother Country by which means the Town of Beverly is much Exposed to their most unnatural Savage Like Creuelty – the Town Lying more then four miles on the Sea coast and a grate part of that way Conveiniant for Landing, the Inhabitents of this Town with the assistance of Some of the Neighbouring Towns have thrown up Brestworks in Several of the most advantagiouss places within the Same and have no Cannon or Ammunition Or next a kin to none to Support them with, and what renders us more obnoxious to their unnatural Creualty and Vengeance is that the Contentental Privaters and others make this Harbour their Place of randevoze and have of Late Brought into this Harbour a Number of very Valluable Prizes, which we think are very much Exposed to the Enemy as also the Town in General Therefore your Petitioners Humbly Pray that Your Exelency whould be graciously Pleased to give us Sum releaf under our most Difucalt and Distressed Surcomstances and Let us have if you in your Wisdom think Best Two Nine pounder or one Twelve pounder with a Suitable quanety of Ammunition for the same

and those Two Six pounder and $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel of powder and about 20 balls on board of the Ship *Janne* [*Jenny*] and those Two Small peaces of Cannon brought in on board the Brig *Hannah* together with $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel of Powder Said to be on bord, which Vessels ware Brought into this Harbour by Capt Manly, and also for Sum Shot for the abovesaid Small Cannon which will we think Contrebut much to the Safty of the Interest of the united Colonies as also of this Town in Peticuler and will be Greatfully received by your Most Humbl & Obediant Servents

Caleb Dodge

Nathan Leech

Joseph Rea

Livermore Whittredge

Joseph Wood

1. Washington Papers, LC.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Beverly 11th Decer 1775

I acknolidge the Favour of yours of this date concerning the Ship *Concords* Cargo and shall forward it to Head Quts as fast as possible but the Roads being Very bad the Teamers think the Price Stipulated by Our General Court not sufficient Desire your Excellency would inform me weather you will allow them any more or not The Porter togeather with the Other Articles mentioned by your Excellency I shall forward the first warm Day

One favour I would beg of your Excellency concerning Capt Lawry [James Lowrie] of the Ship *Concord* as his Circumstances is Low he Desires He may if your Excellency thinks Proper Tarry at Salem as his Expences will be Lessen'd by it I think him to be a man of Honour and Can be depended on in Hart

I am with the Greatest Esteem Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 11th of Decr 1775.

Sir Captain Manly of the *Lee* Armed Schooner has taken & sent into Beverly Two prizes since I wrote you last, which was the 7 Inst, one of them is the Ship *Jenny* Capt Forster who left London late in October, he has very unfortunately thrown all his papers overboard, is not yet arrived at Camp, If he does, before I close this, I will let you know what Information I get from him, his Vessell is loaded with Coal & porter, of the latter he has about 100 Butts -- The Other is a Brigantine from Antigua, called the *Little Hannah*, Robert Adams Master, her Cargo consists of 139 Hogsheads of Rum 100 Cases of Geneva & some other trifling Articles, both Cargoes were for the Army & Navy at Boston -- I have great pleasure in congratulating you on this Success ² --

1. Washington Papers, LC.

2. Extract of a letter from Cambridge, December 11, 1775: "Two more vessels taken; one with coals and 50 butts of porter, his Majesty's present to the soldiers; the other with rum, fruit, &c. a present from the Tories to General Gage," *Pennsylvania Packet*, December 25, 1775. A further account is to be found in another letter of this date from William Tudor to John Adams. Adams Papers, MassHS.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1775

Advices from Cambridge of the 11th instant [December] are, That all the stores taken out of the ordnance ship had been brought safe to the Camp¹ . . . That Captain Coit, in an armed schooner of the United Colonies, lately chased a transport within a mile of the light-house, in Boston bay, when the crew cut all her rigging and took to their boat; upon which Coit boarded her, but finding he could not carry her off, he set her on fire and got on board his schooner; by this time a forty gun ship, which was stationed near the light-house, had got so near him as to make the grape shot whistle about his ears, but she stopping to extinguish the fire, Coit hoisted all sail and made off; she chased him about four hours, but finding it in vain, at length put about and stood back –²

1. The brig *Nancy*.

2. Coit's deed is related in numerous accounts. British admiration for the exploit is shown in the letter of General William Howe to Lord Dartmouth, November 27, Volume 2, 1155–56.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1775

Watertown, Dec: 11.

It is reported that the Piratical Gentry and military Butchers in the Town of Boston, not relishing Salt Provisions, which are too good for them, are equipping Men of war Schooners with Hay, wood &c. on their Decks, to decoy our Privateers, but their little Arts, like themselves, are of no consequence; it is to be hoped we shall have opportunity to convince them that the Provision Vessels we have already Capt[e]d will be but the beginning of sorrow to them, in the comfortable Prospect of a long cold winter: – From such events, should they experience keen appetites, and have nothing to eat, we should acquiesce in Providence: for as they have proved themselves to have no souls, there is no need of concern for their worthless carcasses. But we shall not be regardless of their arm'd schooners, and have no objection to the taking them, whenever they shall see fit to come in our way.

We have just received certain Intelligence, that on Saturday last [December 9] Capt. Manley of the *Lee* Privateer, took and carried into Beverly a large Ship of 300 Tons Burthen (mounted with two double fortified 6 Pounders, and 6 Blunderbusses with 18 Men before the Mast, bound from London for the Ministerial Army at Boston, laden with Coals, and provisions consisting chiefly of Porter, Cheese and 40 live Hogs, 30 more having died on the passage. Although Fuel and the above articles are no rarity to the Army of the United Colonies; yet so far as they are distressing to their Enemies, so far it must be acknowledged they are an Advantage to us – The above Ship had 7 Weeks Passage, and bro't Papers to 16th of October, which, together with the Letters, we are informed, the Captain hove over board after he was taken.¹

The same Day Capt. Manley also took and carried in there, a Brig of about 150 Tons Burthen, bound from Antigua for Boston, (consign'd to one Brimer, for the Use of the Ministerial Navy) laden with about 130 Puncheons of Rum, besides 100 Cases of Gin, some Cocoa, Sugar, and a Case of Oranges, to please the delicate Appetite of my Lord HOW! – Which however may possibly be more



MANLY

A FAVORITE NEW
SONG

In the AMERICAN FLEET,
Most humbly Addressed to all the JOLLY TARS who are fighting
for the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of AMERICA.
By a SAILOR.—It may be sung to the Tune of WASHINGTON.
BRAVE MANLY, he is stout, and his Men have proved true;
By taking of their English Ships, he makes their Jacks to rue;
To our Ports he sends their Ships and Men, let's give a hearty Cheer
To Him and all those valiant Souls who go in Privateers
And a Privateering we will go, my Boys, my Boys,
And a Privateering we will go,
O all ye gallant Sailor Lads, don't never be dismay'd,
Nor let your Foes in Battle never think you are afraid,
Those dastard Souls still tremble when our Cannon they do roar,
We'll take, or sink, or burn them all, or them we'll drive on Shore,
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Our Heroes they're not daunted when Cannon Balls do fly,
For we're resolv'd to conquer, or bravely we will die;
Then rouse all you New-England Dicks, give MANLY now a Cheer,
Likewise those Sons of Thunder who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Their little petty Pirates our Coast shall ne'er infect,
We'll catch their slippery Ships, Boys, for those we do like best;
Then enter now my hearty Lads, the War is just begun,
To make our Fortunes in their Coats, we'll take them as they run.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While *Shelley* he is flying from WASHINGTON's strong Lines,
Their Troops and Sailors run for fear, and leave their Stores behind;
Then rouse up, all our Heroes, give MANLY now a Cheer,
Here's a Health to hardy Sons of Mars who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
They talk of Sloop Ships, Lads, to scourge our free-born Land,
If they send out Six Hundred we'll bravely them withstand;
Resolve we thus to conquer Boys, or bravely we will die,
In fighting for our Wives and Babies, as well as LINNERY.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While HOPKINS he is finding them upon the Southern Shore,
We'll rout our Northern Coasts Boys, as soon as they come o'er;
Then rouse up, all my Hearties, give Sailor Lads a Cheer,
Brave MANLY HOPKINS, and those Tars who go in Privateers.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
I pray you Landlmen enter, you'll find such charming Fun,
When to our Ports by dozens their largest Ships they come;
Then make your Fortunes now, my Lads, before it is too late,
Defend, defend, I say defend an INDEPENDENT STATE.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
While the Surf it is tossing and Cannon Balls do fly,
We surely will our Foes subdue, or cheerfully will die,
Then rouse, all you bold Seamen, brave MANLY'S Commodore,
Should we meet with our desperate Foes, bless us, they will be tore.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.
Then cheer up, all my hearty Souls, to Glory let us run,
Where Cannon Balls do rattle, with sounding of the Drum;
For who would Cowards prove, or even stoop to Fear,
When MANLY he commands us in our bold PRIVATEER.
And a Privateering we will go, &c.

SALEM: Printed and Sold by J. B. K. at the Upper End of Main Street.

Woodcut of Captain John Manley appears with the song, 1776.

acceptable to our Army than any other Provision, saving a further Mess or two for the Congress, — which has not a very craving Appetite.²

On Wednesday morning the 29th of November, Capt. Manley, in the *Lee* privateer, in the service of the United Colonies, carried into Cape Ann a large brig called the *Nancy*, which he took off that place, bound from London to Boston.

[Here is inserted a list of the ordnance stores captured.]³

The principal part of the above most valuable cargo is already brought to Cambridge. The mortar is fixed on its bed before the Continental Labatory. It is called **THE CONGRESS**: — and is pronounced to be the noblest piece of ordnance ever landed in America. Indeed the acquisition of it *at this juncture* renders the value of it almost inestimable.

Last Saturday sen'night [December 2] a ship from Scotland, bound to Boston, laden with about 350 chaldrons of coal, and a quantity of bale goods, taken by Capt. Manley, was carried into Salem. She is about two hundred tons burthen, and is almost a new ship.⁴

Several vessels, loaded with fuel, provisions of various kinds &c. bound to Boston, have been carried into Salem and Beverly, within a few days past. One of them was a sloop of about 60 tons, armed with 4 swivels, had seven men on board, and was taken by a two mast boat, with the like number of swivels, without making any resistance.

Last week a privateer from Plymouth, took several small craft bound to Boston, with provision and fuel.

1. The ship *Jenny*, William Foster, master.
2. The brig *Little Hannah*, Robert Adams, master.
3. For complete inventory submitted to the Continental Congress see the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, December 12, 1775.
4. The ship *Concord*, James Lowrie, master.

AN OPINION ON THE BURNING OF FALMOUTH ¹

1st. The inconsistency of fitting out privateers at a great expence to intercept ships laden with provisions for the enemy and at the same time recommending it to each particular sea port town to furnish, at least not to prevent them from furnishing the men of war with all provision and necessaries, is so manifest that it would be idle to dwell upon it.

2nd. If it be said that it is prudent by this act of compliance to save the towns from cannonade, it may be answered, the men of war will certainly make further demands, and on the same principles their demands must be complied with.

3d. Is it not reasonable to suppose when the ministerial instruments reap such fruits from their menaces that they will [point out to their masters the] weak parts of America, and consequently that they will be encouraged to persist in [their plan?]

4th. Is it not probable, or almost certain, [if one] town bids them defiance, that the rest would be ashamed not to follow the example! and *vice versa*, if the sanction of the congress is given to any degree of compliance and submission to their terms, is it not probable that some one town will avail its self of the sa[nc]tion, and extend their complacency in proportion to the magnitude of their threats?

that another and another will plead precedent, and thus ultimately the enemy will be enabled by our own assistance to continue the war to our destruction.

5th. Is it not certain that if once the spirit prevails of denying every kind of refreshment to the ships of war, they cannot possibly keep their station, that disease and desertions of the crews wou'd in a short time unman the fleet, and consequently the distresses of America be brought to a speedy issue? but if it becomes an established rule to furnish the ships with necessaries, may not the war and distresses of America be prolonged *ad infinitum*.

6th. Is it in fact a clear case that ships of war can, with so great facility, destroy sea port towns? if indeed they have force sufficient to land they may effect this destruction.* but those who suppose it can be done by dint of cannonade, must be very little acquainted with the effect of cannon.# Cannon make a formidable noise to ears unused to the sound, but towns will receive inconsiderable damage from the utmost fury of any ships of war which can come into our harbours.

But, in our present circumstances (taking it for granted that ships and cannon can work all this mischief) is it not necessary to inculcate the principle of making partial sacrifices for the general good? for if this principle is not established, could a poor defenceless town be censured for submission to any terms which their lords may chuse to dictate?

Would any circumstance so effectually reduce the ministry to despair, as shewing an indifference about the existence or destruction of our towns?

*They effected the burning of Falmouth, a wooden Town, partly by landing Marines.

#[This is d]emonstrated by the little damage ge[n]erally sustai[n]ed by cities during a seige, and the [small] proportion of buildings burnt when the siege [is ov]er.

1. *Boston Gazette*, Watertown, December 11, 1775.

JAMES WARREN TO JOHN ADAMS ¹

[Extract]

Watertown, December 11th 177[5]

. . . Several Prizes have been taken in the week past, & among the rest a fine Ship from London, with coal, Porter Cheese Live Hogs &c &c and a large Brig from Antigua with Rum Sugar &c all the Country are now Engaged in preparing to make salt Petre fixing Privateers, or Reinforcing the army. I suppose if the weather had been favourable 12 or 13 Privateers would have been at Sea this Day in quest of 7 sail of Ships which came out with this Prize & had similar Cargoes. Commissions are making out for 2 Privateers from Salem two from Newberry Port one of them to Mount 16 Guns.² I hear one is fixing at Plymo & one at Barnstable. it will be in the power of the Congress another Year to Command the American Sea. we have here great Numbers of fine Vessels & Seamen in Abundance . . .

it is reported from Boston that they have taken one of our Privateers I fear it is true—

it is [true they have] indeed got one of our [privateers, the] Brig the Genl fixed from Plymo she [torn] double fortified six pounders, abt 20 swivels [torn]

we dont know who took her, or any [more] abt it Tis supposed she made a stout [resistance as] much firing was heard in the Bay.³

1. Adams Papers, MassHS.
2. During December 1775, five privateers were commissioned by the Massachusetts General Court: the schooners *Boston Revenge* and *Dolphin* from Salem; *Washington* from Newburyport; *General Ward* from Gloucester; and the sloop *Gamecock* from Newburyport.
3. The armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet was captured by H.M.S. *Fowey*, December 4, 1775. See the journal of H.M.S. *Fowey*, December 4-5, Volume 2, 1288.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Monday, December 11, 1775.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the Colony Treasury, unto Ebenezer Beal, of Machias, the Sum of Sixteen Pounds, in full for his Loss of Time six Months and his Boarding,²

The Committee on an Extract from a Letter from a Member of this Colony at the Continental Congress,³ reported. Read and accepted.

Resolved, That it be, and it hereby is strongly recommended to the Committee of Correspondence and Safety of the Town of [blank], and in Case of a Deficiency of both said Committees, to the Selectmen of said Town, that they cause to be made to this Court a true Return of the Number of Men in said Town, who are desirous of inlisting, and fit for Marines, or Seamen on board of armed Vessels, either in the Pay of the Continent or of this Colony, or of private Adventurers, who shall fix out said Vessels; also the Names of such Persons as are desirous of entering the Service aforesaid, and are qualified for Commanders or other Officers: Likewise the Ships, Brigantines, Schooners or Sloops in said Town, suitable for armed Vessels, which are to be sold or hired out; to whom they respectively belong; what their Tonage; the Depth of Water they draw; their Breadth; their Decks; and what their Age. And that said Return be made, agreeable to the Schedule herewith sent them, and without Delay lodged in the Secretary's Office.

Resolved, That the foregoing Resolve be printed, and sent to the several Maritime Towns in this Colony, with a special Direction to each of the said Towns, by filling up the Blank in the same, with the Name of each Town, to which it shall be sent.

Resolved, That Colo [Samuel] Thompson, be a Committee to cause the foregoing Resolves, and the Schedule annexed, to be printed and sent to the Towns mentioned therein.

[Schedule annexed]

A Return from the Town of [blank] of Persons qualified for Officers and Seamen who are desirous of inlisting on board of armed Vessels in the service of the United Colonies, or of this Colony, or private Adventurers; - Also, of the Dimensions of Vessels fit for the Purpose aforesaid, to be sold or hired out of said Town; the Owner's Names; Age of the Vessel, &c. agreeable to the within Resolution of the General Court.

Names of Persons qualified for Com-	Depth of Water.
manders.	Years old.
Number of seamen.	Number of Decks.

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is, thrice recommended to the Committee of Correspondence and Safety of the Town of _____, and in Case of a Deficiency of both said Committees, to the Selectmen of said Town, that they cause to be made in this Court, a true Return of the Number of Men in said Town, who are fit for enlisting, and fit for Marines, or Seamen, on board of armed Vessels, either in the Bay of the Continent, or of this Colony; or of private Adventurers, who shall fix out said Vessels; also the Names of such Persons, as are desirous of entering the Service aforesaid, and are qualified for Command, and other Officers; Likewise the Ships, Brigantines, Schooners or other armed Vessels, in said Town, fitted out with said Vessels, and carried out, to whom they respectively belong, with their Tonnage; the depth of Water they draw; their Breadth; their Decks; and what their Guns are. — And that said Return be made agreeable to the Schedule hereto sent them, and without Delay, to be laid in the Secretary's Office.

RESOLVED, That the foregoing Resolve be printed and sent to the several Antient Towns in this Colony, with a special Direction to each of said Towns, by filling up the Blank in the same, with the Name of each Town, to which it shall be sent.

RESOLVED, That Colonel *Thomps*, be a Committee to carry the foregoing Resolves, and the Schedule annexed, to be printed and sent to the Towns mentioned therein.

Sent in for Concurrence

7. WARREN, Speaker.

In Council, December 22, 1975.

Read and concurr'd

PEREZ MORTON, Dep't Sec'y

Continued on

W. SEVER,
B. GREENLEAF,
H. SPOONER,
CALEB CUSHING,
JOSEPH GERRISH,
JOHN WHETCOMB,
FEDERIAH FOSTER,
JAMES PRESCOTT,

ELDAD TAYLOR,
T. PALMER,
CHARLES CHAUNCEY,
JABEZ FISHER,
S. HOLTON,
MOSES GILL,
JOHN TAYLOR.

A true Copy, Attest

PEREZ MORTON, Dep. Sec'y.

A R E T U R N *from the Town of* _____ *of Persons qualified for Officers and Seamen, who are desirous of joining on board of armed Vessels, in the Service of the United Colonies, or of this Colony or private Adventurers:—Also, of the Dimensions of Vessels, fit for the Purpose aforesaid, to be sad or hired out in said Town; the Owner's Name; Age of the Vessels, &c. agreeable to the within Resolution of the General Court.*

[illegible]

Form for towns to report on the availability of seamen and vessels suitable for arming, 1775.

Number of Ships fit for arm'd Vessels.	Schooners and Sloops.
Tonage.	Tonage.
Breadth.	Breadth.
Depth of Water they draw.	Depth of Water.
Years old.	Years old.
Number of Decks.	Decks.
Number of Brigs.	Persons qualified for other Officers.
Tonage.	Owner's Names.
Breadth.	

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. For Beal petition see Journal of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, December 9, 1775.
3. See Journal of December 9, 1775.

COMMISSION OF CAPTAIN PETER ROBERTS TO COMMAND MASSACHUSETTS
PRIVATE SLOOP *Gamecock* ¹

Colony of the } The major part of the Council of the Massa-
Massatts Bay } chusetts in New England – To Peter Roberts.

Gentlemen Greeting;

W. Sever
B. Greenleaf.
W. Spooner
Caleb. Cushing
Jh Gerrish
Jn Whitcomb
Jedh Foster
Js Prescott
Ed Taylor
Cs Chawncey
J. Palmer
S. Nolton
J. Fisher
Jno Taylor
B. White

Whereas Jonathan Titcomb, Tristram Dalton
Mosses Little Stephen & Ralph Cross Jackson
Tracy, J Tracy all of Newburyport in the
Colony of Afores'd have at their own Expence
fixed out & Equipped for the Defence of Amer-
ica a Sloop called the *Game Cock* burthened
about Twenty Tone & have recommended
you as a Suitable Person to be Commander
thereof – We have thought fit to Commission
you for the purpose afores'd & do accordingly
by these presents give you the said Peter
Roberts full power with such other persons as
you shall engage to your assistance to sail in
the said Vessel on the Seas attack take & bring
into any Port in this Colony all armed & other
Vessels which shall be found making unlaw-
full invasions attacks or depredations on the

Sea Coasts or navigation of any part of America or improved in supplying
the Fleet and Army which have been or shall at any time be employed against
the United Colonies or employed by the Enemies of America in any respect what-
soever and also all Vessels whose Masters or Super-Cargoes shall have had Designs
of carrying supplies of any Kind to the Enemy or that shall be returning from the
Enemy after having carried such supplies — that such proceedings may be had
thereon as are required by a law of this Colony passed in the present Session of
the General Court entitled an Act for the encouraging the fixing out of Armed
Vessels to defend the Sea Coasts of America, and for erecting a Court to try &
condemn all Vessels that shall be found infesting the same, & you are hereby

directed in all your proceedings to govern yourself by the said Act. — Given under our Hands & the Seal of the s'd Colony at Watertown the Eleventh Day of December 1775 In the fifteenth year of the Reign of his Majesty the Third By their Honors Command

Perez Morton, Dp Secy.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 5, 24.

RECEIPT OF SAMUEL BROWN AND OTHERS TO WILLIAM WATSON ¹

Plimouth Decr 11th 1775

Then we Recd of William Watson Esqr & Ephraim Spooner four days Provisions for Each of us we haveing been left Sick at this place P Capt. Sion Martindale When he went out of this harbour in the Brigga *Washington* last week we now are Going to Join our Respective Companys at head Quarters neere Cambridge — ²

Samuel Brown	his
the	Ebnzer X Tyler
Mark of + Elisha	mark
Franklin	William Mar[chent]
Joel Searle	the
Amos Booth	Mark of X Micah
	Stewart

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 411, LC.

2. Washington's armed brig *Washington* had been taken December 4, 1775, and these men avoided capture because of their illness. Watson was Continental agent at Plymouth.

SELECTMEN AND COMMITTEES OF FALMOUTH TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honble Council and house of Representatives in general Court assembled —

The petition of the select men, and committees of correspondence and inspection of the town of Falmouth, in the County of Barnstable, in behalf of the inhabitants of sd Town sheweth —

That in the Island called Nashon, one of the Elizabeths Islands is a very commodious harbour, known by the name of Tarpaulin Cove, much used by all vessels passing thro' the Vineyard sound, and where a small ship of war, and two or three tenders being placed might intercept and even destroy all the unarmed vessels passing thro' the sd sound, and all vessels in Buzzards Bay, which will include the coast from Cape Cod to Rhode Island; and may also from thence be able to make discents upon the coast and take off stock and provisions for the supply of our enemies; — For the preventing of which there has been hitherto a company of men, raised by the wisdom of our government and stationed there which has greatly molested the ministerial ships in harbouring in sd Tarpaulin Cove, and hindered their landing on sd Nashon Island; — And we humbly conceive that if a company of men be continued at sd Cove with a number of canon planted at sd harbour they would render it a very uncomfortable station for the ministerial ships, and keep them at a proper distance, and deter them from landing and taking off the stock which is very valuable on sd Island, and also be very

beneficial to the trade of the country and a great security to us on this exposed sea coast –

Likewise that some suitable man in this town may be appointed to muster sd company –

Furthermore your petitioners shew, That in the west end of this sd Town of Falmouth there is a harbour called Woods Hole, very convenient for the Rendezvous of privateers or armed vessels, where they will be safe from the attacks of the enemies ships of war. And as they have taken our vessels and employed them in their service, for carrying stock and provisions, to our great grief and mortification, taken forceably from us and our neighbors, and transported it, before our eyes, for the supply of our enemies and oppressors in Boston; – And in your great wisdom, if you should see fit to allow us two privateers, or armed vessels to defend our sea coasts, and to take their ships and transports, and such of our own vessels, as they have wrested from us – Therefore Hoping the honble court will take these things into your consideration, and provide for the security of this much exposed town & sea coast, as your approved wisdom shall direct; And your petitioners shall ever pray &c –

Falmouth Decr 11th 1775

Jo ^s Palmer	}	Committee of Inspection
Samuel Fish		
Daniel Batles		
Tim ^o Crocker	}	Selectmen
Nath ^l Shiverick		

Bart Bassett	}	Committee of Correspond[ence]
Job Parker		
Nath ^l Shiverick		
Noah Davis		

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 246.

NICHOLAS BROWN TO JOHN BROWN¹

Dear Brother

Provid: Decemr 11. 1775 –

As the Plan for a Powder voyage in wch you was to be deeply Consern'd, faild – doubtless you would be glad to know the Reasons &c – Mr Forster return'd on Monday Evg [December 4] his Capt, Stevens, detain'd in Order to Make preperation & Expected the Next day, but did not Make his Appearance till Wednesday eveng when All those first Consern'd wth Capt Power in Lew of Jo. B. who was gone to Newport to Joyn'd Govr Bradford in there Appot for Fortifyg &c – We spent the evg wth Capt Stevens till 10, OC. but soon Discover'd he had but little faith In the Voyage hove Out Many Diffeculty, but after awhile got his T[e]rms wch we Comply'd with, but he Desird till Next Day at 3 OC. to give his Answer, at wch time those Consern'd was to be Together & Come to some Conclution – The Diffecultys he Started was that Just before he Came away som[e] Gentl Coll: Lees Sons &c had recd Letrs of a late Date giving Accot of two fr[y]gates Crewsg in the Bay of Bisca, that the English Crewsers Made Prizes of all english Vesseles they found Comg or gog to France or Spain – that they the Lees &c had a Vessel at Bilboa after Powder hall'd up & the hands Dischargd & Other Vessels in other of those foureen Ports was in the same Circumstances – That there was no Powder to be got at Bilbow, & that therè was no Other way to get it but to Make the Vessel a Spanish Bottom & to go in to some ports of

France in the Bay, As he Seemd very doubtfull whether Powder would be suffer'd to be bro't from Spain, While they had So grait An Armant out, And that Makg Another Voyage with a Spanish Bottom from Bilbao would take so much Time, as would make him so late in the spring As to be too Resky – He din'd with me the next Day & went of[f] Home emediete after Dinner without givg us the least Notice only told his Horsekeeper he would not Stay least he should be Imp[o]rtuned to go in the Voyage – Many Other Excuses as the Vessel being at a Distance & he must go home After his things &c – Thus Ended the Voyage, Messrs Forsters was hourly expecting Mr Lee in Town, when we Expected to hear more of the Contents of the Letrs aforsd – But have hear'd Nothing of them since – C Starbuck went from here Saturday for Swansey, wth Design to get to Nantucket With Barny who Cant have gone from thence yet as the Wheather has bin – He was to forwd Your Sloop to you at Pha with what Dispatch he Could make – A Gentl from the Eastwd here after Cannon for a B[r]ig to be fited a priveteer wch beleaves to be the Most Profitable Business, sees Capt Manly took on Saturday Afternoon 2 prizes wch he saw one a large [], Ship of 325 Tons, from London, saild Abot 20th Octr was Loaded with Cole Porter & some Port Wine—² The Capt as Soon as borded hove Overbord his Pocket book with his Dispatches to the Genl &c – he Came up to the Camp with the Express wch bro't from the Ship Large Bundls of Paprs & Letrs to the Officers &c in Boston Contents yet unknown – The Other a Vessel Fitted from Boston, from the Wt Ind bound into Boston 150 Tons with 130 hhd rum with Sugar Coffee & Coca &c—³ Yesterday we had Acct of Another Specimen of Wallace A[n]imosity He landed, as sd 250 Men Abt 4 OC. Saturday morning on Conan[i]cutt burnt all the Houses between the two Ferrys Abot 14, fir'd upon the whomen & Childred as they run of[f], Killed One Whoman & shot Old Mr Martin thr'o the belly wch is Tho't Cant recover, took Some Men Next to there Wifes onbord the ships – and a Qty of Stock, we had but Abot 30 Men on the Isd – wch want Able to stand Agst such Numbers this is the Short, of the best Accot have bin Able yet to Collect, th'o Several Express have bin up this was perform'd by the Brig on the East side & Some Tenders Abot Other parts of the Island By this I think its Manafest, The Priveteer, Capt Whipple has prevented Much of this kind of Mischief, The Minute Men was Come off the Isl & naighther of the Galleys ready—for want of Some Navel Force to keep Wallace In Awe Proberbly he Will ravage the Whole Bay – The Commanders of his Crewzers are beCome good Pilots wch Make it high Time they where Destroy'd or Taken –

Capt Wm Rhodes Came up to Town with his Sloop last night he got in to the Eastwd Bro't sum thing Short of 15 C of Powder for the Colony & Abot 1½ Tons on-fright for Connecticut, after a Voyage of near 6 mo – he Loadd his Vessel wth Coffe Brandy &c & the Led sent for & return'd Abt 2,000 Dolrs – He has br'ot two French Gentl with him on purpose to Contract for Powder⁴ One is the Kings Armorer of the Cap the other from paris on purpose for to Contract, he seems Much of a Gent & Schollar as I am told by Prof Manning & Mr Howel, wth the latter I tho't proper to go & see the Gentn this eving, they talk no English but French & Lattin by the One from Parris – they seem sensible, & Say they can supply the Whole thats wanted for the Cont[e]nent – They have a parris paper

of 28th Augst wth Accot of Govr Pens Arrival in Engd, with the Petion Some the Resolves & Extracts of the Declaration of the Congress – They seem in a Hurry to see Genl Washington & Much Incl[in]g to secrecy till they Can see the Genl they Inform'd me they had heard of Our House & had Communicated more, as Capt Rhodes sd than he had known of there Buisness in all the Passage &c they have Ingag'd Me One Interview &c when they return I have Inform'd them what we have to pay them wth Vizt Sperm Candles Oil, Tobacco & all Kinds of Provisns wch they say will Answer by our Carryg them & sellg for that produce for the French Isds & some to France wth the like produce, wch they say will ansr as well as Cash – The Gentl from France to Stay here in the Country while the Other goes to France with any English Capt that May be Trusted to go with him The Powder they say May Come direct here from France Or to Spain [as] afsd from thence in Such Bottoms as we please – Its not improb[ab]le, but Genl Washington may recomend them to the Congress, if that Nesry Article is Not sufficiently provided for Allready – They allso Say they Can pro[cure] All Kinds of arms & Clothng the same way – Altho its very proberble Supp[ly]s of Powder & Other Necsry[s] besides Clothg May be got thr'o such Contracts, Nevertheless Our Own Manufactuerg of Salt Peter & everything else Shod be properly Encouraged

As I Understand the Comte will report a Number of Heavy Cannon Wanted for the Defence of the Colony, I hope you'l Spair no pains to get a Suitable hand or two who understand all parts of Makg them as well as the price to the Westward As I much doubt whether Brother Jo[hn] will be At Liberty to give much attendance to the Makg the Cannon You Will doubtless Indeavor to find out all the S Peter made pr Week in all the Works now Erected & the Increases whthr there really be any Qys of Brimstone to be got in this Country & of the Lead Mines & the Most likely Place for Importg all sorts of Clothg from Other Powers In Europe Why can't Sperm Candles (as they are a Superfluety, & tend to Impoverish the Consumers) be Caryd to Any part of the English Isld to Raise Mony to be lay'd Out for Necesry foreign Manufacterys Among other Powers wch will help to save the Sterlg Money in the Country
[Endorsed] Rough Copy Letter to Brother John Brown at Phia
p Post Decemr 11, 1775

1. Nicholas Brown Papers, JCBL.
2. The ship *Jenny*.
3. The brig *Little Hannah*.
4. Messrs. Penet and Pliarne.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Providence Decemr 11th 1775

I do myself the Honour to address this Letter to you by Mr. Penet, and another French Gentleman ² who arrived here last Night in Capt. [William] Rhodes from Cape Francois, who was despatched some Time since from this Place for Powder. Mr Penet comes extremely well recommended to our Committee for providing Powder from a Merchant of Character at the Cape. He hath Proposals to make for supplying the United Colonies with Arms and war-

like Stores. I am informed that the other Gentleman is a Person of some Consequence. I beg Leave to introduce them to your Excellency, and to assure you that I am with great Respect, Sir [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

1. Washington Papers, LC. Cooke was Governor of Rhode Island.
2. M. Pliarne.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport, December] 11.

Abot 1 o'Clock yesty mornig a Bomb Brig, 1 schooner & 2 or 3 armed sloops went to Conanicott & landed upward of Two hundred Marines Sailors & Negroes at the E Ferry; and marched in 3 Divisions over to the W. Ferry, & set the several houses on fire there, then retreated back settg fire to almost every house on each side the road & several Houses & Barns some dista on the N & S side of the Rode, driving out Women & Children &c.

Houses Burnt & lost

Wido Hull	1 house	
Jos Clarke Esqr	2	& 1 Barn
Thos Fowler	1. 1.	1 Crib
Ben. Ellery	2. 1.	1 Store
Benj. Remington	2. 0	
Jno Gardner	1	& 1 Tanyard
Gov. Hutchinson	1	
Wo Franklin	2	
Abel Do	1	
Bendt Robinson	1	

15 Dwellgs

A compa of Minute Men had left Conant the Aft before so that there were but 40 or 50 soldiers on the Isld, of wc 22 were well equipped. At the Cross Rodes there was a Skirmish – our pple killed one Officer of Marines & wounded 7 or 8. not one Colonist was killed or hurt in the Skirmish. The King's forces fired on Mr Jno Martin aet 80 standg unarmed at his Door & wounded him badly. Mr Fowler had above 30 Head Cattle: these the Regulars carried off & perhaps a dozen Head more, about 30 Sheep & as many Turkeys, & some Hogs, Beds Furniture & other plunder. They returned on board at X & XI o'Clock & came to this Harbor about Noon.

The Alarm spread, & I am told there are this day Three hundred Men on Conanicott, & Eight Hundred upon this Island. The To in great Consternation.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

Newport Mercury, Monday, December 11, 1775

Newport, December 11.

About one o'clock yesterday morning, the bomb-brig, a schooner, and 2 or 3 armed sloops, left the harbour, went to Conanicut, and landed upwards of 200

marines, sailors and Negroes at the East ferry, marched in three divisions immediately over to the West ferry, and set the several houses on fire which were near the ferry place, then retreated back, setting fire to almost every house on [each side the road, from the west to the east Ferry,] and several houses and barns some distance on the N. and S. side of the road; driving out the women and children, swearing they should be burnt in the houses if they did not instantly turn out—[The houses] were plundered of beds, wearing apparel, and such household furniture as could be conveniently carried off, the rest were consumed. Some women, we are told, were stripped of some of their best clothes they had on. 'Tis said Capt [James] Wallace *commanded on this humane* expedition. A company of minute-men had left Conannicut the afternoon before, so that there were but about 40 or 50 soldiers on the island, most of whom had been inlisted but a few days, and arrived there but the evening before, in miserable condition for such a sudden attack; but notwithstanding, tis said there is certainly one officer of marines killed, and 7 or 8 badly wounded. There was not one Provincial either killed or wounded, except Mr. John Martin, who was shot in his belly standing unarmed in his door. — The above vessels brought off about 30 head of oxen and cows, a few sheep and hogs, most of which they killed before they took them on board. The left Conanicut yesterday, and came to this harbour again about noon.

The above houses were not all occupied by the owners, but each had at least one family in it, and some had two. We expect to give more particulars of this matter next week.

A vessel belonging to a rank *Tory* of this town, was lately seized at Cape Francois, 'tis said, because she belong'd to a villain who was an enemy to America; and we hear the people at the Cape intend to make the Congress a present in powder, equal to the value of the above vessel and cargo.

EDWARD DAVIS TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

New York 11 Dcr [1775]

On Saturday Night arrivd here from O[u]r Army in Cannada Leutnt [Nathaniel] Norton from Colnle [James] Clintons Redgmt Mr Bain [Gunn] & Mr Phines Chapman who Bring us the agreeable News that all the Shipg that Lay at Monterale has fell into the Hands of Genr Montgomery, among them the *Gaspe[e]* Brgg of war with all the Crew Prisonrs, (Coln Allen Excepted) lately taken near St John's — the Fleett whith Govr Carleton on Board had Saild for Quebeck But was intercepted By a gondola and a Battery Erected By Colnl Easton neare the Rivr Sor[re]ll and there Taken with about 150 Solders &c among them Coln Prescott & Co who wher arrived at Ticonder[o]g[a] on their way to Connetucut — that Carlton and Leuke De La Corne, and 2 others whent off in a Bo[a]t from the Flett before it Struck, but where Taken Prisoners By Coln Arnold near Quebeck —² that Genl Wo[os]ter was left to Command at Mntr[ea], and Genl Montegomry was gone to assist Coll Arnold to secure Quebeck —

[page missing]

There are fitting out [at] Philladehe and will Sail in a few days to meet Severall other Vessells fitting out in Maryland and elsewhere the *Black Prince*

who is to Carrey upward of 30 guns and 2 other Vesls square Sail of 20 Guns each with Many Tend[r]s a Better Sloop from Bardme [Baltimore] Cap Ston a fast Sr well Mand a New Schor Bu[l]d for Hudson and a New Brig for Commdre [James] Nicholson Middlton Shoor from Anapls Brass Guns Coln Loyd &c all which are Intended to take that [Dog] Dunmore it is supposd if the [Dog] Shoud find the Provos w[ith] the assistance of the Cands Nrwrđ the strain of E Allen to strong for him he wil [Fly] up Potomack [indecipherable]

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

2. Davis' information in this paragraph was taken from the *New York Gazette*, December 11, 1775. An erroneous report; Carleton had eluded Arnold's force and had entered Quebec where he was preparing the city's defenses.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Monday, December 11, 1775

A letter from General Washington, dated 30th November, being received, was read, enclosing an Invoice of Stores on board the *Nancy* transport, taken by the schooner *Lee*, Captain Manly

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took into consideration the instructions given to the delegates of Rhode Island, and after debate thereon, come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing these colonies with a naval armament, and report with all convenient speed.

That the committee consist of a member from each Colony. The members are Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, Mr. S[amuel] Adams, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Stephen] Crane, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [William] Paca, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, and Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden.

The Committee to whom the petition of Jonathan Hudson was referred, reported their opinion in certain resolutions,² which being read, were agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for permission to export said cargo to any place other than the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Aldernay, or Man, or the West India Islands, is reasonable.

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for any further permission is unreasonable.

Resolved, That the said petitioner give bond, with sufficient security, to the chairman of the committee of the town of Baltimore, under a penalty of double the value of the said cargo, to export the said cargo to some place other than the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Man, and the islands of the West Indies; and within six months after the said exportation, to produce to the said chairman a certificate of the port, to which the said cargo shall have been shipped, authenticated under the hands of two Merchants of known character and reputation, residing in the same port; and that on executing such bond, the said chairman sign a permit to the said petitioner, allowing him to export the said cargo.

A petition from D[avid] Beveridge, was laid before Congress and read,
Resolved, That the same be referred to a Committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. [John] Jay. Mr. [George] Read, and Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 420-24.

2. The petition was received and the committee appointed on December 8, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 11th.

Resolved, That Capt. Nathaniel Boyce take the Command of the Armed Boat *Franklin*, Capt. [Nicholas] Biddle, the late Commander being promoted in the Continental Service.

Upon application to this Board, in behalf of Capt. James Josiah, that he may have leave to resign his commission to enter the Continental Service, liberty was granted him.²

Upon motion of Mr. Thomas Wharton, one of the Committee for importing and procuring Powder, Arms &ca., for the use of this Province,

Resolved, That they, the said Committee, direct Messrs. Willing & Morris & Co., to load the Ship *Neptune*, Robert Collins, M'r, with the produce of these Colonies, for the purpose of procuring said articles from Foreign parts; And that the following Certificate be Issued, viz't:

This is to certify, the Messrs. Willing & Morris & Co. have permission to load the Ship *Neptune*, Robert Collins, M'r, with the produce of these Colonies, the same being for account of this Province, and the export agreeable to a resolve of Congress of 26th Oct'r last.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 425, 426.

2. Josiah was appointed a lieutenant and served on board the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*.

MINUTES OF THE BALTIMORE COMMITTEE ¹

At a Meeting of the Committee Monday 11 Decemr 1775

The following is a Copy of a Letter from the Masschusetts Bay Delegates in Congress to this Committee on the Subject of Shipping Flour to the New England Governments—

[Here is inserted the letter of 4 December, 1775]

Mr Mark Alexander having applied to the Committee for Liberty to load the Sloop *Grampus* (John Brackett Master) with Provision for the Use of the Colonies to Massachusetts Bay, the same was granted on his entering in a Bond with said Master in Double of the Value of the Cargo, that he will land the same, and produce a Certificate thereof, from a Committee of the Port, where it was landed, to this Committee, and that the usual Oath be taken by them —

Mr Mark Alexander, on behalf of George Welsh and Elisha Thatcher, made Application for Permission to load the Schooner *Peggy*, John Lathrop Master, for the same Parts as above, which was granted on the above Condition —

1. Baltimore Committee, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION¹

[Williamsburg] Monday, December 11, 1775.

Ordered, That Mr. [James] Mercer, Mr. [Richard] Bland, Mr. Henry Lee, Mr. [Thomas] Newton [Jr.], Mr. [William] Aylett, Mr. [James] Holt, and Mr. [George] Brooke, be a committee to inquire into the conduct of John Goodrich, William Goodrich, and John Goodrich, Jun. relating to the importation of gunpowder, and other articles, for the use of this colony.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 62.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston]

Monday, December 11, 1775.

Mr. President reported, that Mr. Winyard had yesterday, according to order, waited on Lady William Campbell, with a copy of the proceedings of the Council, relative to the seizure of Lord William's chariot and horses; that her ladyship said that seizure had been attended with such circumstances, that she could not, without her lord's orders, receive the said chariot and horses; that Mr. Winyard nevertheless carried them to the place of Lady William's residence, where he found every place for their reception barred, and that her ladyship persisted in the refusal to receive them; so that he was obliged to return them to whence they were brought.

Resolved, That a letter similar to that sent to the committee at Beaufort, be written to the committee at Georgetown, to prevent the loading of vessels contrary to the Resolutions of the Continental Congress.

And the following was accordingly written:

Charles-Town, Dec. 11th, 1775.

Gentlemen – You are desired to use every means in your power effectually to prevent the loading of vessels in your port and within your district, or in any of the creeks, inlets, or private landings, with rice, indigo, or other produce of this colony, intended for any port out of the limits thereof, without special permission in writing from the Council of Safety or the [Provincial] Congress. And particularly you are to see that no person, even with a permit, on any pretence whatever, clear out for any port of Great Britain, Ireland, or any of the British West-Indies, the contrary being expressly ordered by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, who have refused to suffer even such vessels as they have permitted to load to clear out at any of the Custom Houses.

Your attention to this notice will be of great moment to the common cause, therefore it is particularly enjoined and required.

By order of the Council of Safety

Henry Laurens, President.

P.S.—The Council of Safety have permitted Daniel Sewell to depart the colony, for his health, provided you are satisfied he is otherwise entitled according to law.

We desire you to inform us what vessels are in your port.

Ordered, That the powder-receiver do deliver one quarter barrel of gunpowder to Capt. Simon Tafts [Tufts], for the use of the ship *Prosper*.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 76-79.

12 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth] 1775 Dec. 12.

ordered Receiver Genl to pay the Committee appointed to procure Powder abroad, Six hundred pounds, to be by them accounted for. – 600 –

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 29.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER FROM ROBERT HANSON HARRISON TO DR. ELEAZER WHEELLOCK ¹

Cambridge 12th Decemr 1775

Acknowledged receipt of two Letters thankd him for information respecting Major [Robert] Rogers & inclosed a Letter for him, which was Saved with other papers thrown overboard by Capt: Forster [William Foster] – ²

1. Washington Papers, LC. Harrison was aide-de-camp to Washington.

2. Foster was master of the ship *Jenny*.

TIMOTHY PICKERING TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COUNCIL ¹

Tuesday Morning

May it please your Honours,

The Secretary has just now informed me that your Honours have thought fit to appoint me judge of a court to try the justice of the capture of vessels infesting the sea coast of America, which shall be brought into the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex or Essex; and that my answer is requested this morning:— Your Honours will please to accept my thanks for the appointment – with an assurance that I have no disposition to refuse an office however hazardous or difficult, that is judged necessary for the public good, & which the judiciary, in whose power it is to make or advise an appointment, & to whom I am personally well known, think me qualified to discharge. I am, may it please your Honours [&c.]

Tim. Pickering junr

[Endorsed] In Council Decr 12th 1775

Read & ordered to be entered in the file of Council

Perez Morton Dpy Secry

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 194, 176-77.

EXECUTIVE RECORDS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Tuesday December 12th 1775

Read & Ordered that the said Peter Roberts be Commissionated for the purposes aforesaid on his giving Bond with one sufficient Surety to the Colony Treas-

urer for the faithful performance of his Duty therein agreeable to the Act prescribing the same,

Read & Ordered that the said Offin [Boardman] be Commissioned for the purposes aforesaid on his giving Bond agreeable to the Act of this Colony prescribing the same, ²

1. Executive Records of the Council, Mass. Arch.

2. Roberts and Boardman were hereby commissioned to command the privateers *Gamecock* and *Washington*, respectively.

VICE ADMIRAL GRAVES TO COMMODORE MARRIOT ARBUTHNOT, HALIFAX ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 12 December 1775

The *Amity's Providence* Transport arrived the 28th of November with the Seamen raised in Newfoundland, and Lieut. Robertson delivered me your Letter of the 17th Ulto. I am much obliged to you for your particular Representation concerning the Want of Ordnance Stores at Halifax, which I shall not fail also to represent; but, excepting Match, I have had no Complaint of a deficiency of small Stores hitherto. In August last I acquainted the Lieut. General of the Ordnance, and my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with the necessity for sending Ordnance Stores to Halifax for the use of the Fleet, leaving it to the Ordnance Board to proportion the Quantity to the number of Ships employed here; so that I am in Hopes a Supply of all kinds will soon arrive.

I have pleasure in confirming your Appointment of Mr Phillips, who I find is well qualified to be a Surgeon of the Hospital. I am told the Clergyman ought not to demand a Crown for burying a man, it is certainly an exorbitant Fee, and too much for the Surgeon to pay out of his allowance; I think half a Crown to be sufficient, and, considering Circumstances, as much as should be given, 'tis quite a novel Practice. The Clergyman formerly had a Chaplaincy in one of the King's Ships and desired no payment for burying the Seamen; And the present Gentleman is Chaplain of the *Chatham*. I desire you will continue your attention to the sick, and direct a Captain to visit and report to you weekly how the People are accomodated and treated, that should the present Establishment of the Commissioners of the sick and hurt be found inadequate to the present Season of Scarcity I may upon your representation procure it to be enlarged; and indeed I cannot help thinking that fifteen Pence a day at Halifax is too scanty an allowance for food, lodging, nursing, firing and other incidental Charges.

The *Cerberus* has been twice aground and part of her false keel is athwart. I have therefore ordered Captain Symons to proceed to Halifax to get his Ship careened and fit for sea again as soon as possible, but until I can send other Ships, or some arrive at Halifax, I mean the *Somerset*, *Cerberus* and *Savage* to stay with you for the Security of the Yard: however I think it not unlikely that some of the Ships from England may drop into Halifax, and that you will be able to send the *Somerset* to England in a very short time. Mr Le Cras will in the mean time strike his distinguishing Pendant. I am &c

Sam. Graves.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 16-17, BM.

INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED FROM SION MARTINDALE ¹[H.M.S. *Fowey*, December 12, 1775]²

That a Brig laden with Ordnance Stores for Boston was taken the 28th or 29th of November last, by a Schooner of Six 3 Pounders commanded by a Captain Manley, and carried into Cape Anne Harbor; – That part of her Cargo was Conveyed to the Head Quarters of the Rebel Army at Cambridge on the Saturday following: ³ – That an Express had Arrived at Cambridge from Montreal that Governor Carleton had destroyed the Ammunition and Provisions at that place, And retreated to Three Rivers, (a place so called) And that a Colonel (thought to be) Harris with One thousand Canadians were endeavouring to cut off his retreat to Quebec.

That there is a Schooner of four Carriage Guns and ten Swivels having 50 Men on board to sail from Plymouth the 5th or 6th instant on a Cruize for Ten days only, and that she has black Sides, Tallowed bottom, two Topsails and Oars on her Quarters, commanded by one Coit, that her Colours are a Green Pine Tree in a White Field, with the Motto, "Appeal to Heaven," ⁴ that the Signal to know each other was to hoist the Colours at the Fore topmast head, And lower the Main Sail half down. – Beverly has fitted out three Schooners two are of four Carriage Guns each Swivels and Men not known, the third is the Schooner above mentioned commanded by Manley.⁵

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

2. The date is approximated, based upon the following extract from the journal of the *Fowey*: "Tuesday 12. [December] A M got Making Swabs Matts & sent the Prisoners on board the *Tartar* & Cleaned the Main hold." PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

3. The brig *Nancy*.

4. This description is of Washington's armed schooner *Harrison*.

5. Captain Sion Martindale's knowledge of the vessels at Beverly was sketchy, probably made deliberately so.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1775 Decr 12

By the same Conveyance ² the Admiral acquainted Governor Legge that in consequence of a considerable Supply from England the Contractors Agent had Orders to furnish six Months Provisions to his Excellency's Militia, and that Mr Arbuthnot was directed to exempt the Natives of Nova Scotia from Impress, which was rather more than the weak State of the Squadron would justify, to convince the Province that their Trade should have every protection, but that all other Marine[r]s must be taken, there being no means beside of making good the Deficiencies continually happening by Sickness, Deaths, Desertions, and Prisoners, and if the Fleet could not be kept manned the Services expected from it must remain unexecuted.

The Admiral in a Letter to Commodore Le Cras (dated the 10th instant) apprized him of the Accounts from Quebec, where the rapid Progress of the Rebels made it more probable they would now endeavour to seize the Kings Arsenal at Halifax than wait till the Spring, when a strong Reinforcement might

render such an Attempt impracticable; and that the present unpromising State of the Kings Affairs in Canada, the notoriety of the disaffection of a Number of the Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and the danger with which his Majs Yard and Stores were threatened, would not allow of the *Somerset* proceeding to England at this time.

The Cruizers in the Bay having been driven into Nantasket by bad Weather, the Admiral on the 10th instant ordered Captain Bishop of the *Lively*, the senior Officer, to put to Sea with all the Kings Ships and Vessels there, except the *Mercury*, and cruize between the Capes Anne and Cod as usual, for the Security of the Supplies arriving for the Garrison, and in case of Gales of Wind to endeavour to get into Cape Cod Harbour, as a better Rendezvous for a part of them than Nantasket; to go into Marblehead and destroy a Vessel said to be carried in there, loaden with Coals and Bale Goods³ the day the *Lively* came in last; The *Nautilus* or *Canceaux* to keep off Cape Ann, as nearly in the track for making that headland as possible; and upon taking any Vessels not to send them with a few hands to Boston, but one Ship of the Squadron to convoy them in, for that the Contrary practice had proved very detrimental*

Note * It may not be improper here to remark that the Vessel mentioned in the Admiral's Order to Capt. Bishop had not been carried in, but having made the land about Marblehead was under the necessity (as afterwards appeared) of pushing in to prevent being shipwrecked in the Gale

The General having again expressed by Letter of [illegible] his Apprehensions that the Rebel Cruizers might intercept the Supplies expected for the Garrison, which would subject the Kings Army to the greatest Distresses, the Admiral wrote the following answer⁴

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 17-18, BM.

2. The transport *Whitby*.

3. This was the ship *Concord*, James Lowrie, master, with dry goods and coal, from Greenock, carried into Marblehead on December 3, 1775 by John Manley in Washington's armed schooner *Lee*.

4. See Graves to Howe, December 13, 1775.

COLONEL NATHANIEL FREEMAN TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Sandwich, December 12, 1775. -

May it please your Excellency:

Colonel Otis, the younger, the author of the letter to your Excellency enclosed herewith, sent the same open to me, as we were together in ordering Mr. Lovell apprehended and sent a prisoner to your Excellency. Upon reading it, I thought it would not be improper to add, that the two Lovells mentioned in this delinquent's letter, owned that they told Shubael Lovell, the prisoner, they wished he had returned their names to the King's officers as friends to Government, and as having refused to take up arms, &c.

This Shubael, though he appears an ignorant fellow, hath considerable influence among the Barnstable Tories, hath practiced coasting to Nantucket the

summer past, and I have no doubt hath communicated every thing of intelligence to the navy, if not frequently supplied them with provisions. Doctor Gelston, to whom he alludes in his letter, we have taken a number of depositions of his having supplied them considerably from Nantucket. He swears he will do it in defiance of the people, and threatens communicating the small-pox to any one who resists him. I wish he was taken, but cannot get any one, as yet, to join me in sending on for him. I hope your Excellency will take care that he is taken. The depositions concerning him are now in the hands of Joseph Nye, Esq., at the General Court. I shall be furnished with more, and be at Head-Quarters with Colonel Otis, this week, by Thursday, when shall take the Liberty to wait on your Excellency. In the mean time, I am [&c.]

N. Freeman.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 1337.

COLONEL JOSEPH OTIS TO GEORGE WASHINGTON¹

Barnstable, December 12, 1775.—

May it please your Excellency:

The enclosed letter was sent me by the Governour of Rhode-Island, on the receipt of which, with the advice of the Field Officers of this regiment, I took up the writer, and, with the advise of Colonel Otis, have sent the man to your Excellency, by Lieutenant Lothrop. The two men mentioned in the letter, we talked with, but have dismissed them till further orders, as there was no proof against them but their being mentioned in the letter sent Captain Ayscough.²

As to Mr. Lovell's character and situation, he is one that we have always looked upon as a Tory, and something busy in the Opposition. He has a large family of small children that want his assistance. I pity the man's folly. As I shall be at Head-Quarters this week, with the Militia ordered from this regiment, shall do myself the honour to wait on you further about the matter. Should be glad Lieut. Lothrop might have the care of him till I see your Excellency. I am [&c.]

Joseph Otis.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 1337.

2. See Shubael Lovell to Captain James Ayscough, November 16, 1775, Volume 2, 1043-44.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE RHODE ISLAND DELEGATES IN THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

Gentlemen,

Providence Decemr 12th 1775

Last Sunday Morning [December 10] about 2 or 3 oClock Wallace landed upon Jamestown with about 200 Men. we had but a Handful of Men upon the Island who in general behaved with Bravery, but being so greatly over-powered were compelled to retreat with the Loss of 2 Men taken Prisoners. It is believed that an Officer of the Marines was killed, and 7 Men wounded on the Part of the Enemy; who burt 16 Houses, having First Plundered them, besides Barns and Cribs. They took off about 40 Head of Cattle, 40 or 50 Sheep & 40

Hogs. Mr John Martin coming out of his House unarmed to speak to the commanding Officer was shot into the Belly and it is very probable that his Wound will prove mortal. The Inhabitants were surprized in their Beds the Enemy having landed before they were discovered. They burnt almost all the Houses between the Two Ferries. Mr Clarke's Farm-House and another he owned near the Ferry Place with all his Outhouses were destroyed.

Mr [Henry] Ward informs his Brother that our Committee for settling the Colony Accounts tell him that they look upon Capt. Whipple's Sloop as a Continental Vessel. The Assembly and General Committee consider her at present as belonging to the Colony; although they expect Payment from the Continent for her Voyage to Bermuda and to Philadelphia and in Case an Expedition had been determined upon to the Eastward that she would during that Expedition have been upon the publick Risque and Expence. And it will be best to comply with Capt. Whipple's Instructions—The Regiment of Men raised for Defence of this Colony it is expected will be paid by the Continent; but the Emergency was so sudden that Application could not be made to the Congress.

The Inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay have raised the Men requested of that Colony for Defence of the Lines with great Spirit, Many Towns having sent near double their Quota. I am with great Regard, Gentlemen, [&c.]

Nich^s Cooke

S. Hopkins & S. Ward Esqrs

1. MNHP.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Decr 12.

People removg & filled with Expecta that the present Conflict will bring on the Burning of the Town of Newport also.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS ¹

[New York] Die Martis, 10 HO.A.M. December 12th, 1775.

Mr. [Jacobus] Van Zandt from the committee appointed to plan a voyage, or voyages, for two or more vessels, in order to procure ammunition and other necessaries, reported a plan of a voyage for three vessels to Europe. The same was read, and after some debates thereon the same was recommitted to the same committee for reconsideration and amendments.

1. *New York Provincial Congress*, I, 213.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Tuesday, December 12, 1775

On motion, *Resolved*, That the intercepted letters of Brooke Watson, and the invoice of the Cargo of the brig *Nancy* transport, taken by the schooner *Lee*, Captain Manly, be published.²

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1775.

WHEREAS this Congress has received undoubted Information, that a Number of disaffected Persons in Queen's County, have been supplied with Arms and Ammunition, from on board the Asia Ship of War, and are arraying themselves in military Manner to oppose the Measures taking by the United Colonies, for the Defence of their just Rights and Privileges. Ordered that, of

Jamaica Township,

Captain Benjamin Whitehead,
Charles Ardin,
Joseph French, Esq;
Johannes Polhemus.

Newtown.

Capt. Nath. Moor,
John Moor, senior,
Samuel Hallet,
John Moor, junior,
William Weyman,
John Shoals,
Jeromus Rapalye.

Flushing Township.

John Willer.

Hempstead Township.

Justice Gilbert Van Wyck,
Daniel Kiffam, Esq; Cowneck.
Captain Jacob Mott,
Thomas Cornell, of Rockaway.
Gabriel G. Ludlow,
Richard Hewlet,
Captain Charles Hicks;
Doctor Martin,
Justice Samuel Clowes.

Oyster-Bay.

Justice Tho. Smith, Hog-Island.
Justice John Hewlet,
Captain George Weeks,
Doctor David Brooks,
Justice John Townsend.

being charged as principal Men among the disaffected in said County, do attend this Congress, at Ten o'Clock, Tuesday Morning next, the 19th inst. to give Satisfaction to this Congress in the Premises, and that they be protected from any Injury or Insult during their coming to and returning from this Congress.

A letter from Christopher Leffingwell, with sundry enclosures respecting a cargo of molasses, taken out of the brig *Nancy*, was received and read;

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 424-25.

2. The invoice was published in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* that same evening. Similar listings, although less complete and unofficial, had already appeared in print. For example, the *New England Chronicle*, November 30 to December 7, 1775, and the *Boston Gazette*, December 11, 1775, contained such lists.

Pennsylvania Evening Post, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1775

Philadelphia, December 12.

INVOICE of STORES on board the *Nancy* store ship, Robert Hunter, master, taken by the schooner *Lee*, Captain Manly. Laden on board the *Nancy* store ship, Mr. John Wilkinson contractor, and Robert Hunter master, the under-mentioned particulars, to be by them transported to Boston, in North-America (the danger of the seas excepted) and there delivered to John Grant, Esq; Commissary and Paymaster to the train of artillery in North-America, being in farther part of Colonel Cleveland's demand. By order of the Board, the 26th of July, 1775.

Muskets, with bayonets, scabbards and steel rammers, 2000.

Cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, 2000.

Tanned leather slings, 2000. In eighty chests.

Flints. Wallpiece 250, in one keg. Musket 100,000, in fifty kegs. Carbine 5,000, in two kegs.

Forge bellows, one pair.

Hand bellows, double blasted, three pairs. Budge barrels, copper hooped, fifteen. Kit brushes, six. In four three quarters, one half, and one and a quarter ton vats. No. 114 to 119.

Fifty hand barrows, and wheel barrows, fifty.

Callipers, one pair of brass, one pair of iron ditto, and 100 yards of canvas, No. 144, to 119.

Chalk, four hundred weight, in two quarter ton vats.

Spare travelling carriages, twelve pounders, heavy, 11.

Empty paper cartridges, twelve pounders, 10,000 in ten three quarter ton vats, No. 99 to 108. Six ditto, 5,000 in three three quarter ton vats, No. 109 to 111. Four ditto, 2,500 in one three quarter ton vat, No. 112. Three ditto, 3,000 in one ditto, No. 113.

Flags. Union, small, one. Ordnance jack, two.

Pincers, for drawing fuzes, six pairs. Common ditto, 12.

Funnels of plate, ten. Ditto, for shells, copper of sorts, six.

Hammers for vents, 50. No. 114 to 119.

Park picquets, shod, 25. Handerow levers, six feet, 25.

Harness, horse, thills with cart saddles, 80; bit halters, 100; traces, 20; wanties, 80, in eighteen three quarter ton vats, No. 57 to 74.

Harness, men's, twelve to a set, 200 in twenty three quarter ton vats, No. 37 to 56.

Tanned hides, fifteen; laboratory kettle, one; copper ladles without staves, 24 pounders, seven; 12 ditto, seventeen; 6 ditto, ten; 3 ditto, two; iron melting

Published every *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday* Evenings.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1775.

Num. 129.

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Stamp Machine, with typing pad below. EOC, 23 1/2" high
Quarter size page.

Office of Director, Sept. 1, 1970. S. BLUNT.

PHILADELPHIA. Printed by H. L. G. 1875

ladles, twelve; Muscovy lanthorns thirteen; tin ditto, ten; dark ditto, fifteen, No. 114 to 119.

Marline. Twenty skeins tarred, and ten white.

Brads, 5000 of one inch, and 5000 of one inch and a half. Spungetacks, 5000. Nails, small copper, 2000; 4000 of streak, and 90,000 quarter rose. No. 114 to 119

Camp kettles, fifty, in four three quarters, and one quarter ton vats, No. 120 to 124.

Oil. One barrel of olive, in seven jars; and one barrel of train, in fourteen jars.

Cartridge paper. Twelve pounders, sixty reams, in 24 three quarter ton vats. No. 75 to 98.

Perpendiculars, new pattern, two; rafts, half round, 12, No. 114 to 119. Anvil, for smiths, one.

White rope, coils, two of four inches and a half, one of three inches, and two of one and a half.

Sheepskins. Twenty-five dozens, in 25 bundles.

Sheets of tin for case shot. Three boxes.

Shot. Musket, 31 tons 500 lb. in 625 boxes. Buck, 1200 lb. in eight barrels and four boxes.

Spikes. Eight inch, 10,000, in twenty weight powder barrels, No. 1 to 20; seven inch ditto, 10,000, in 16 ditto, No. 21 to 36.

Spare sponge, and rammer heads. Ten of 24 pounders, 15 of 12, 30 of six, and six of three. Twenty-five pair of scissars. Three pair of brass scales. Weights from four lb. to a quarter of an ounce, three piles, No. 114 to 119.

Staves, spare, for ladles, &c. 100. Thread 200 weight, in a half ton vat, No. 120.

Twine, 100 weight, in a quarter ton vat, No. 121.

Round shot. Twelve pounders, 3000. Six pounders, 4000. Junk, ten tons.

Mortar beds, for land service. Three of thirteen inches, four of ten, and four of eight.

Ammunition waggons, seven. Carbines, with bayonets, scabbards, and steel rammers, seventy-five; Carbine cartouch boxes, with belts and frogs, seventy-five. Tanned leather slings, seventy-five. In three chests.

Handspikes, 100

Camp kettles, with frying pan covers, 100, in ten three quarter ton vats.

LABORATORY STORES.

Carcasses, round, thirteen inches, fifty in fifty boxes; oblong, eight inches, 100 in 34 boxes.

Shot fixed to wood bottoms. Round, 24 pounders, 160 in 20 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1080 in 90 boxes. Six pounders, 2720 in 98 boxes. Three pounders, 90 in 3 boxes. – Case; 24 pounders, 72 in 9 boxes. Twelve pounders, 1280 in 107 boxes. Six pounders, 1416 in 51 boxes. Three pounders, 96 in 3 boxes. Eight inch howitz, 30 in ten boxes. Five and a half inch howitz, 100 in 10 boxes.

Empty flannel cartridges. Heavy, 24 pounders, 1500 in a case, No. 21. Twelve pounders, 2000 in a case, No. 23. Light, six pounders, 5,800 in a case, No. 20.

Fixed fuzes. Four and two fifths, 8440 in two cases, No. six and seven.

Empty shells. Thirteen inches, 100. Ten ditto, 100. Eight ditto, fifty. Five and a half, 100 in thirteen boxes.

Tin tubes fixed. Six pounders, light, 16,000 in a case, No. fourteen.

Bottoms of wood for mortars, thirteen inches, 100.

Iron round shot. One pounders, 20,000 in 200 boxes.

Covers of cured paper. 24 pounders, 1050 in a case, No. 33. Twelve pounders, 3,600 in two cases, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders, 2800 in one case, No. 42.

Caps of cartridge paper. Twenty-four pounders, 1050 in a case, No. 33. Twelve pounders, 3600 in two cases, No. 37 and 38. Six pounders in a case, No. 42.

Mealed powder, two barrels, in a case, No. 48.

Portfires. Long and small, 100 dozen, in a case, No. 28.

Empty flannel cartridges. 12 pounders, light, 1500 in No. 28.

Board's order, 11th of August, 1775.

One brass mortar of 13 inches, with a complete mortar bed. To be delivered to Capt. Stehelin.

Board's order, August 9, 1775.

Watchcoats, thirty-two, in two half ton vats, No. 125 and 126. Two reams of muster rolls, one ditto pay lists, and one dozen of the articles of war, in a quarter ton vat, No. 129.

For Mr. Durnford. B. Blight.

Office of Ordnance, Sept. 1, 1775.

Stephen Moylan.

A true copy from the original.

P.S. Two brass six pounders on board the brig.

Published by order of Congress. Charles Thomson, Secretary.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO CHARLES WILLIAM FREDERICK DUMAS ¹

[Extract]

Philad. Dec. 12, 1775.

We are threatned from E. [England] with a very powerful Force to come next Year against us. We are making all the provision in our power here to oppose that force, and we hope we shall be able to defend ourselves. But as the Events of War are always uncertain, possibly after another Campaign we may find it necessary to ask aid of some foreign Power. It gives us great Pleasure to learn from you, that toute l'Europe nous souhaite le plus heurent succès pour le maintien de nos libertés. But we wish to know whether any one of them, from principles of humanity, is disposd magnanimously to step in for the relief of an oppress'd People; or whether, if, as it seems likely to happen, we Should be oblig'd to break off all connection with Britain, & declare ourselves an independant People, there is any State or Power in Europe, who would be willing to enter into an Alliance with us for the Benefit of our Commerce, which amounted before

the war to near seven Millions Sterling per annum, and must continually increase, as our People increase most rapidly.

Confiding, my dear Friend, in your good will to us & our Cause, and in your Sagacity and Abilities for Business, the Committee of Congress, appointed for the Purpose of establishing & conducting a correspondence with our Friends in Europe, of which Committee I have the honour to be a Member., have directed me to request of you, that as you are situated at the Hague, where Embassadors from all the Courts reside, you would make use of the Oportunity that situation affords you, of discovering, if possible, the disposition of the several Courts with respect to such Assistance or Alliance, if we Should apply for the one or propose the other. As it may possibly be necessary, in particular instances, that you Should, for this purpose, confer directly with some great Ministers, & show them this Letter as your Credentials, we only recommend it to your discretion, that you proceed therein with Such Caution, as to Keep the same from the knowledge of the E. [English] Ambassador, and prevent any public Appearance at present of your being employ'd in any such Business, as thereby we imagine many Inconveniencies may be avoided, and your means of rendering us service increased.

That you may be better able to answer some Questions, which will probably be put to you concerning our present Situation, we inform you:

That the whole Continent is very firmly united; the Party for the Measures of the British Ministry being very Small and much dispersed.

That we have had on foot the last Campaign, an Army of near 25000 Men, wherewith we have been able not only to block up the Kings Army in Boston, but to spare considerable Detachments for the Invasion of Canada, where we have met with great success, as the printed papers sent herewith will inform you, and have now reason to expect, that whole Province may be soon in our possession.

That we purpose greatly to increase our Force for the ensuing Year, and thereby we hope, with the Assistance of a well-disciplined Militia, to be able to defend our Coast notwithstanding its great extent.

That we have already a Small Squadron of armed Vessels to protect our Coasting Trade, who have had some success in taking several of the Enemy's Cruisers, and some of their Transport-Vessels and Store-Ships. This little naval force we are about to augment, and expect it may be more considerable in the next Summer.

We have hitherto apply'd to no foreign Power.

We are using the utmost Industry in endeavoring to make Saltpetre, & with daily increasing success. Our Artificers are also every where busy in fabricating Small Arms, casting Cannon, &c. Yet both Arms and ammunition are much wanted. Any Merchants who would venture to send Ships laden with those Articles might make great profit, such is the Demand in every Colony, and such generous Prices are and will be given, of which, and of the manner of conducting such a Voyage, the Bearer ————— [Mr. Story] can more fully inform you. And whoever brings in those articles, is allowed to carry off the value in Provisions to our West-Indies, where they will probably fetch a very high Price, the general Exportation from North America being stopt. This you will see more particularly in a printed Resolution of the Congress.

We are in great Want of good Engineers, and wish you could engage and send us two able ones in time for the next Campaign; one acquainted with Field Service, Sieges, &c. the other with fortifying of Sea-Ports. They will, if well recommended, be made very welcome and have honourable Appointments, besides the Expenses of their Voyage hither, in which ——— [Mr. Story] can also advise them.

As what we now request of you, besides taking your time, may put you to some Expences, we send you for the present enclos'd a Bill for One Hundred Pounds Sterling to defray such Expences, and desire you to be assured, that your services will be considered and honourably rewarded by the Congress.

We desire also that you would take the trouble of receiving from ——— [Arthur Lee] Such Letters as may be sent by him to your care, and of forwarding them to us with your Dispatches. When you have Occasion to write to him, to inform him of any thing which it may be of importance that our Friends there Should be acquainted with, please to send your Letter to him under cover ——— [William Lee] and do not send it by ——— [post] but ——— [by some trusty shipper, or other prudent person who will deliver it with his own hand] &c. &c. And when you send to us; if you have not a direct safe Oportunity, we recommend sending by way of ——— [St. Eustatia, to the care of Messrs Robert and Cornelius Stevens, merchants there, who will forward your dispatches to me.]² &c.

B. Franklin

[Endorsed]

Philad. Dec. 12, 1775.

We the underwritten appointed by the American Congress a Committee of Foreign Correspondence &c.³ having perused the above Letter, written at our Request, do approve and confirm the same.

John Dickinson John Jay.

1. C. W. F. Dumas Collection, The Hague, LC Transcript.

2. Francis Wharton, ed., *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States* (Washington, 1889), II, 64–67. Hereafter cited as Wharton, ed., *Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence*. Wharton prints the letter with the blanks filled in, but dates it December 19, whereas from the endorsement by Dickinson and Jay, dated December 12, it is evident that Franklin wrote it on the earlier date.

3. The committee was appointed November 29, 1775, and consisted of five members: Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, Thomas Johnson of Maryland, John Jay of New York, and both Franklin and Dickinson, of Pennsylvania.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO LANDON CARTER¹

my dear Colonel,

Philadelphia Decr 12th 1775

Before you receive this, Mr Colston will have given you all the news of this place when he left it. since which one of our little men of war, called the *Lee*, capt Manly, has taken a Store ship, loaded with 2000 stand of arms, a great deal of artillery, 30 tons of shot. a quantity of shells & shott for the bombs & Cannon; and a very great quantity of all kinds of Artillery stores; to the amount of 20,000 £ Str, as tis tho't We make no doubt but Quebec & Carlton with his powder are

in our possession by this time. If we are supply'd with powder from that or any other quarter this winter we shall certainly make Boston too hot for Howe; as the Ministry has kindly supplied us plentifully with Artillery. these successes to the Northward, and the former reputation of Virga make the present proceedings with you, appear in a very odd light. The real friends of liberty are under great concern, & your delegates are mortified with the sneers & reflections of the lukewarm. but that is trifling to the uneasiness we suffer, from the apprehension of the consequences, that may follow, from Ld Dunmore's being allow'd to get to such a head. It does not appear to me, that Woodford's force is sufficient to effect any thing decisive. In my opinion, our safety depends upon an immediate, & effectual stop being put to that infernal Demon, & his tory associates at Norfolk. The Congress are giving the greatest attention to a Navy, & I hope we shall have ships enough by the spring to oblige the Ministerial fleet to consult their safety by keeping close together, & of course will not be able to do us much injury. I am surprised at not receiving Letters from my friends in Richmond by the Contl post. The Postmaster assures me there is a post established from Fredericksburg to Port royal, Hobb's hole, & Urbanna; And the County Comtees were to direct where the offices shou'd be kept. I wish it was enquired into & the obstructions mentioned; that they may be removed, if in the Postmaste[rs] power. I hope the County chose a Comtee to your liking, & that every thing is quiet. — Is it not necessary that the Convention shoud establish some kind of Government? as Ld D — [Dunmore] by his proclamation, has utterly demolished the whole civil Government. I believe the Congress will adjourn before Christmas, but whether long enough to allow me to see Virga is uncertain. In the mean time my best wishes attend my friends in Richmond I am Dear Col. [&c.]

Francis Lightfoot Lee

To Colo Landon Carter/Richmond County/Virginia

1. Francis Lightfoot Lee Folder (Misc.), VHS. Lee was a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress.

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE TO A FRIEND IN ENGLAND ¹

[Philadelphia, December 12] ²

The Gentleman who brings this, will have all our public papers; by which you will see our great success this year, against your infamous Ministry. The Associations & Committees of correspondence, gives us some hopes, that your Hill will soon be graced with their heads. It is my opinion that if the war continues another year, G. Britain & the Colonies are disunited for ever. Our troops now in pay & order'd to be raised amount to 35,000 & will be 8 or 10,000 more in the spring. We have now 10 Ships of war from 10 to 30 Guns in Continental pay; & are determined to exert the whole force of the Continent this winter to fit out as many large Ships as possible against next summer. There are many small Ships belonging to the different Colonies, & private persons to cruise upon the Ministerial transports; & many others getting ready. Ld [John Stuart] Bute ³ will soon make America a great Naval power. The Lee capt Manly, took the other day a store Ship called the *Nancy*, loaded with Musketts artillery & other

stores to a great amount. We thank the Ministry [for] the supply. all Canada is ours.

1. Francis Lightfoot Lee Folder (Misc.), VHS. Only a fragment of this letter is extant.
2. The date is approximated, based on the account of Manley's capture of the *Nancy*. This was first printed in Philadelphia in the *Pennsylvania Packet* of December 11, 1775, without naming the *Nancy*. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on December 12, 1775, published the invoice and identified the store ship as the *Nancy*.
3. The peer used by George III to break the power of the Whigs.

JOSEPH HEWES TO CAPTAIN EMPEROR MOSELY¹

Sir

Philadelphia 12th decem - 1775

Mr [Robert] Smith has wrote me he has given you orders to take in Wine at Spain and then proceed to [Saltitudes] for a load of Salt, I fear this will not do as you will run a great risk of being seized by English Men of War among the Salt Islands, I cannot think the profits on the Wine will be equal to the risk, I should rather you should take a load of Salt and instead of Wine get as much Powder and good Muskets as possible and proceed directly home, endeavour to make the land to the Northward of Cape Hatteras get a pilot of[f,] and if any Kings Ship or Cutter should be at Occacork you must land your Powder & Muskets on the Banks and get them sent up to Edenton by small Craft, or you may probably be able to get the Brig in at New Inlet between Hatteras & Roanoke Inlet, if so you may also send the salt up in small Craft advising Mr Smith of your arrival by a boat sent on purpose, or if you cannot do this, nor get into Oco-cork for Kings Cutters I would have you proceed directly for this place, there is not one Kings Vessel on this River nor has there been one for some time past nor any expected till April or May next, if then and you have nothing to fear from the Custom House officers, they dare not look out, if you can get any kind of freight for this place take it, if you cannot get Powder and Muskets you may take Wine and proceed to St. Eustatia or any dutch or Foreign Port and endeavour to sell the Wine and buy Powder & Muskets this you may do either with a load of Salt or without, if you go without Salt reserve as much Money as will purchase a Load but be very carefull not to go to any place to purchase Salt where you will be likely to fall in with any of the Kings Ships, if you do not return directly from Spain to Carolina you must be very carefull to write to Mr. Baillie to get proper Insurance be particular in informing him where you intend to go that he may make Insurance accordingly, I think this will be the Safest Port on the Continent to come too, after you arrive in Spain write by every opportunity you can possibly get to my Brother Josiah Hewes of this City Merchant, inform him of every step you intend to take, advise with Messrs. Duff & Welch on all these matters and do the best you can for our Interest, if the Brig can be sold for a good price let her go, if not do the best you can, if you take in both Salt & Wine and cannot do better, that is cannot get into Carolina with Safety, I think you may get in here without much risque, pray dont fail to write by every opportunity, Powder, Salt Petre, Muskets, good Cannon say nine & Six Pounders, I believe will answer if well bought, at any rate Powder & Muskets cannot fail, I am Sir [&c.]

Joseph Hewes

1. Samuel Johnston Papers, Hayes Manuscripts, NCDAH. Hewes was a North Carolina delegate in the Continental Congress.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON'S INTELLIGENCE FROM PHILADELPHIA ¹

Intelligence received from Philadelphia
the 12th December 1775.

Lord Dunmore is entrenched at Suffolk with 2000 Men certain, I have heard from two Gentlemen that he has 5000, and that five Counties have joined him to a Man; there are great preparations making at Philadelphia to attack Lord Dunmore; Five Vessels getting ready with the greatest dispatch, one of them carries 20 Nine pounders, and 12 Sixes, One of Twenty Nine Pounders, Two of Fourteen Guns and one of 16, besides a New England Sloop of 14 Guns, lying before the Town, and had brought Officers for the other Vessels; the Commodore who commands this Fleet is from Rhode Island, his Name is [Esek] Hopkins. — There are now Orders for three Regiments, Viz: two from Pennsylvania, and one from Jersey to March towards Suffolk by way Chisepeak to attack Lord Dunmore. [Endorsed] (Copy) Governor Tryon's Intelligence from Philadelphia 12th Decemr 1775. Rd in V. A. Shuldhams Letter 19 Janry

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/484. The intelligence was furnished by James Brattle, valet of James Duane; see footnote to "Intelligence Received from William Tryon," November 16, 1775, Volume 2, 1051. Tryon was Royal Governor of New York.

HENRY DOUGHERTY AND OTHERS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen: —

Liberty Island, December 12th, 1775.

We, the Commanders of the Pennsylvania Armed Boats, Beg leave to represent to you, that Sundry of us having examin'd our Magazines, and find that our powder is suffering much from the natural dampness of all the Boats, and the long time it has been on board. We likewise have to observe, that the Inclemency of the weather is so severe on our men, occasions general dissatisfaction among them, and makes desertion very frequent, which is impossible for us, totally to prevent. We thought it our duty to give you this Intimation, and submit the measures to your Wisdom.

We would not have it conceiv'd that this proceeds from any desire we have of being (in consequence of it) order'd to town, But purely that the service we are engaged in may not suffer; The good of which, we do assure you, no sett of men has more sincerely at heart than, Gentlemen, [&c.]

H. Dougherty,	Benj. Thompson,
Charles Alexander,	Allen Moore,
Jno. Hamilton,	Rich'd Evers,
James Montgomery,	James Blair,
Thos. Moore,	John Rice.
Alex'r Henderson,	

1. Samuel Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Philadelphia, 1852–56 and Harrisburg, 1874–), 2nd series, I, 379. Hereafter cited as Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis Tuesday, December 12, 1775.]

On motion, Resolved, That no boat or other vessel belonging to this province, go out of this province, without a licence in writing from this Convention, the Council of Safety hereafter to be appointed, or from some committee of observation, and that the particular place such boat or vessel shall be designed to go to, shall be expressed in all licences granted by the committees of Observation. And if any such [boat or vessel shall be] navigated beyond the Limits of this P[rovin]ce without such Licence, or if after having obtained such Licence, the Skipper thereof shall, without absolute and inevitable Necessity go to, or touch at, any Place out of this Province, other than that mentioned in such Licence or shall carry any Person or Letter, of which he shall not give previous Notice to such Committee, or shall bring back any person or Letter of which he shall not give Notice to some Committee of Observa[tion,] as soon as may be after his return, such Skipper and all other Persons accessory to such Misbehaviour, may be punished by Imprisonment; but it is understood that this resolution is not to prohibit the crossing Patowmack, although the Boats or Vessals employed or used therefor should go up the Creeks or arms of Patowmack river making into Virginia, or to proh[ibit] passing or repassing at the Ferry on Pocomoke River.

1. Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775-Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Tuesday, December 12, 1775.

The President laid before the Convention a letter received from Col. Woodford, which, being read,²

Resolved unanimously, That this Convention do highly approve of Colonel Woodford's conduct, manifested as well in the success of the troops under his command, as in the humane treatment of, and kind attention to, the unfortunate, though brave officers and soldiers, who were made prisoners in the late action near the Great Bridge, and that the President communicate to Col. Woodford the sense of his country on this occasion.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 63.

2. See Woodford to Pendleton, December 9, 1775.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

[Extract]

Great Bridge, December 12.

L. Col. Stephen [Edward Stevens] arrived at Kemp's Landing last night, and agreeable to my orders, sent a party to secure every person in that neighbourhood that had left Norfolk since the battle of the Great Bridge . . . I have had a number of people from thence today, whose stories disagree. They bring two petitions, one from the poor inhabitants of Norfolk, the other from the distressed Highlanders, which I likewise send enclosed; and, having given no answers to them yet, have detained the bearers for farther consideration. . . . Major [Francis] Eppes arrived here this evening with his party, and col. [Robert] Howe

with 340 of the [North] Carolina regulars. . . . I shall march to-morrow with a number of the troops. I am just informed, that several sail of vessels were arrived today, thought to have troops on board; but col. Howe supposes them to be the tenders returning from North Carolina.

1. Purdie's *Virginia Gazette*, December 15, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Dec. 12th, 1775.

Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare presented a memorial dated 11th December, 1775, and also an affidavit by Fenwick Bull, dated 10th December, 1775, referred to.

Tuesday Evening, Dec. 12th, 1775.

A motion was made, that the memorial this day presented by Messrs. Samuel and Benj. Legare, be referred to the general committee. A debate ensued, and the question being put, it passed in the negative.

Ordered, That the said memorial be taken into immediate consideration.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Council, that Messrs. Samuel and Benjamin Legare may justly seize and take into their possession, and cause to be sold at public auction, after ten days notice, any effects of Lord William Campbell in Charles-Town, and out of the said sale to reimburse themselves to the amount of one hundred and sixty half-johannes, set forth in their memorial to be unjustly detained, and also a sufficient sum to defray the expences attending the said sale and incidental charges, returning the overplus, if any there shall be, to the said Lord William Campbell, or to his representative in Charles-Town. And that the said Samuel and Benjamin Legare should, previous to the sale, give to Lord William Campbell due notice of this resolution, to the end that his lordship may, by a restitution of their property, prevent the said sale, if he shall think proper.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 79-81.

13 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Portsmouth] 13 [December].

ordered Receiver Genl to pay the Committee for procuring Powder abroad, the Light Gold in the Treasury, according to an amount thereof by him exhibited to this Committee.

1. *Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society*, VII, 30.

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

Decr 75

Cape Ann N E.B N Distance 6 Leagues -

Wednesdy 13 at 5 A M Got under way in Company with His Maj's Ships
Lively Nautilus & Canceaux at 6 Past by the Lighthouse at
8 Went in between Cat Island and marble head at ½ past

Saw sevl Sail of schooner[s]. Gave Chase to One Down between
 baker Island & the main Fired Sundry Shot at Do She Runng
 into the upper Harbour under the Cover of the fort the fort
 Fired Sevl shot at us to no affect Haul'd our Wind to the
 Wtward at 11 Struck on a Ridge of Rocks Half way Rock
 bearing SWBW Distance 2 Miles and the Et End of Bakers
 Island NW. at 12 Got off with the Loss of our False Keel
 Lost a Studdg sail boom Iron of[f] the Yard
 Mod and fine Wr at 1 P M Spoke His Majestys ship *Lively*
 the Captn thought it Proper for us to make the Best of our way
 to Boston at 8 P M Came to an Anchor in 10 fm Water with
 our best br & Gave her ½ a Cable boston Lighthouse N W
 Distance 1 Mile

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4219.

PHILLIP CALLBECK TO THE SALEM COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen,

Salem 13th December 1775.

The distressed situation that I left my Family in has determined me at the hazard of my life immediately to proceed to the Island of Saint John – preparatory thereto I am obliged to goe to Beverly where I shall be detained the whole day which debars me from waiting on you in order to request your indulgence to be permitted to Ship on Board a Vessel which I have hired to goe from Beverly to Winter harbor – six barrells of Flour – three barrlls of Bread – three barrlls of Pork and one barrll of W:I: Rum – the reasons that I have to offer for this request are – that most part of my winter supply have been destroyed at the Island – by which I am reduced to a sole dependance on your determination – I have to add that His Excellency Genl Washington has granted me an order to be assisted in my intended Voyage – I shall further give you every security that the supply of provisions that I ask the liberty of shipping are entirely for my own consumption and for no other use – Mr Pitman who is so kind to take charge of this will inform you of many particular circumstances which I hope will induce you to shew me a lenity that shall ever be acknowledged by him who is Gentn [&c.]

Philp Callbeck

1. Pickering Papers, 39, 129, MassHS.

MEMOIRS OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH ¹

[Cambridge] 13th [December] An express arrived from Marblehead, with advice that three British men-of-war were standing for that harbour. Col. [John] Glover's regiment,² with Capt. [Thomas Waite] Foster's company of artillery, and a company of riflemen, were ordered to march to Marblehead with all expedition.³

1. William Abbatt, ed., *Memoirs of Major-General William Heath By Himself* (New York, 1901), 25.
2. "Revolutionary War Journal of Phineas Ingalls," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, LIII, 88, reads: "Dec. 13. Marblehead sent for and marched for home, but returned having heard of a French ship."

3. Extract of a letter from Cambridge, December 13: "Our privateers meet with success in bringing in vessels that were going to the relief of Boston, which town is in great distress . . . The three men of war which appeared off Marblehead, are since gone off without doing any damage," *Pennsylvania Journal*, December 27, 1775.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM WATSON ¹

Sir

Cambridge 13 Decembr 1775

Your favour of the 4th inst is come to hand Your attention and activity in fitting out the two armd Vessells is pleasing to his Excellency, I wish they may Carry in some prizes that may pay you for all your trouble Captain Manlys good fortune seemes to Stick to him. he has taken three valuable Prizes since my last this shews of what vast advantage to the Cause, these Vessels would be, if the Commanders were all as attentive to their duty and interest as Manly is – there runs a report, about Camp that one of our little fleet is taken and carried into Boston we shall be uneasy until we hear from Martindale as he is the one suspected, if Capt Coit. and he are Safe, let us know it as soon as possible – Your[s] of the 11 is come to hand, I fear there is no doubt that the *Washington* is taken. –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

EBENEZER HALL TO MARK ALEXANDER ¹

Sir

Medford Decembr 13 1775

I should Be Glad if you Could ship me as much flour as the Twenty bb of Rum Came to that I Last shiped to you By Captn Thatcher as I under stand he is a comin this way with [h]is vessel and flour is very hard to Be Got at this Time of pubelick Distres I should Be abloydg to you if you would Right me so that I may make insurence Because of the Enemy I should not send it this Time But People think ther will not Be so much Danger this winter from the Enemy as ther ships must keep in the harbors I would have it shiped where you or Captn thatcher shall think Best for I would Cart it fifty miles Rather than the Enemy should have a Chance to take it I am in Grate want as Bisness is stoped in a Grate meashur and I am not able to Lye Ought of the mony I should Wrote to you Before this Time had it not Bin for sickness and the Trobles of [income] so ny me as I am in three miles of the Enemys inc[ampment] But we Dont feare them at Present as we have got good Generels and souldjers in high spirrits But I hop that this unhap[py] Diffirence wont Last Long But that the ministre and king will Be Convinced of there Rong meashure they are persuing so that our Trade may Be as in Times past I Remane [&c.]

Eben^r Hall

Postscrip I should Be Glad if you would Send me my accompt

1. Jenifer Papers, MdHS.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD DARTMOUTH ¹

[Extract]

Boston 13th December 1775

His Majesty's Ship *Tartar* being ordered to England by Admiral Graves, I am to confirm to your Lordship the intilligence before communicated of the Cap-

ture of the Ordnance Brig *Nancy* by the Rebels, and that there is a Certainty of another Vessel, the Property of a Merchant, loaded with woolen Goods, and every Article necessary for Cloathing, having lately fallen into their Hands, which must afford great Relief to their most essential Wants.²

I am also concerned to observe that the Uncertainty of defenceless Vessels getting into this Harbour is rendered more precarious by the Rebel Privateers infesting the Bay, who can take the Advantage of many Inlets on the Coast, where His Majesty's Ships cannot pursue them, and from whence they can safely avail themselves of any favorable Opportunities that offer. The Admiral being of Opinion that the Ships cannot block up the several Ports of Cape Ann, Marblehead, Beverly and Plymouth which afford Protection to these Pirates without the Assistance of a Land force that cannot at present be spared, has placed his Ships in Nantasket Road, with Orders to cruise from thence in the Bay, which not proving effectual I would humbly propose, that the Provisions, and other valuable Stores, be sent out for the future in Ships of War, without their lower Deck Guns or in Vessels of sufficient Force to defend themselves against these Pirates. One of them a Brigantine with Seventy three Men has been brought in by His Majesty's Ship *Fowey*,³ and I enclose to your Lordship a Copy of the Captains Instructions from Mr Washington, commanding the Rebel Army: The Prisoners are sent to England in the *Tartar*.

1. PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.

2. The ship *Concord*.

3. The armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE¹

Sir

Preston Boston 13 Decr 1775

I wish it was in my power to give your Excellency more Satisfaction on the Subject of your Letter, which I had the Honour to receive Yesterday, but altho' fully sensible of the Distresses this Garrison will be subjected to by the Rebels taking its Supplies; Yet it is impossible entirely to prevent it with the Men of War alone at this Season. All that I can do is to place the Kings Ships in the most likely Situations to fall in with Vessels expected to arrive, and these are, I think, off Cape Anne, within Salem Bay, off Marblehead, and thence to Cape Cod. The Cruizers are now under Orders to spread themselves on these Stations, and to rendezvous in Cape Cod Harbour in Gales of Wind Easterly. But, without our having Possession of Marblehead and Cape Anne Harbour also, it is impossible for the Ships to keep on their Stations or prevent the Rebels from making further Captures. If your Excellency thinks it adviseable to attempt seizing the Peninsula of Cape Anne, every assistance the Fleet can afford shall be chearfully given. I am &c²

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 18, BM.

2. *Ibid.*, Graves added in his narrative, as a footnote to the above letter: "But to this proposition, thus repeted the general made no reply."



The Hon. Sir William Howe K^t of the
BATH.
Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces in America

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO CAPTAIN ANDREW SNAPE HAMOND, H.M.S.
*Roebuck*¹

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

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship *Preston* at Boston the
13th Decr 1775

Sam^l Graves

By Command of the Admiral G. Gefferina

1. Hamond Papers, Orders received 1775–1776, UVL.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE¹

Sir

Preston Boston 13 Decr 1775

Since I had the Honor to acquaint your Excellency that no provisions could be spared from the Transport at Halifax Harbour, I find Mr [Alexander] Brymer, the Agent for supplying the Kings Ships there, has received a considerable Supply from England on Account of the Contract; and at General Howe's desire in consequence of your Requisition I have ordered Mr Brymer to supply six months provision[s] for 500 Men for the use of that number of Militia to be embodied in the Province.

I have acquainted Commodore Arbuthnot that I will for the present consent to exempt from being impressed such Seamen as are Inhabitants of Nova Scotia, but that all others must be taken. The Ships of the Squadron are very short of their Complements; we have no other means of supplying the Deficiencies, continually happening by Sickness, Deaths, Desertions and being made prisoners, but by pressing. If the Squadron cannot be kept manned the Services expected from it must remain unexecuted, and the consequences are too obvious to mention. I beg your Excellency to believe that the Exemption I have now made is rather more than the present weak state of the Squadron will justify, but I hope thereby to convince your Excellency and the Province in general, that the Trade of Nova Scotia shall have every protection in my power to give. By examining all Letters at Boston I hope we shall discover the traiterous Correspondence you suspect. I have therefore given Orders to open all Letters, except such as are addressed to Officers on the King's Service. I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 110, BM.

"EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM BOSTON, DEC. 13, 1775"¹

We are now almost as much blocked up by the sea as we have been for these eight months by land. By this opportunity you will receive a confirmation of the rebels having taken the Ordnance brig. This is a great loss to us and a great acquisition to them. The rebels have also just taken another vessel from Britain, valued at 10,000 l. loaded with necessaries for the army.² These vessels have been carried into Cape Aren [*sic* Ann], which is only seven leagues from the mouth of this harbour, and they were taken almost within sight of our Admiral's ship. Yet

there is nothing to prevent the rebels taking every vessel bound for this port; for though there are near twenty pendants flying in this harbour, I cannot find that there is one vessel cruising in the bay. Surely our Admiral cannot be allowed to remain here much longer a curse upon the garrison. We used to say here that the suite of our former General were intent on nothing but profit; but we have more reason to complain of our sea commander. All the summer while the sick and wounded were dying daily for want of fresh provisions, not a boat was permitted to fish in the harbour till Mr. ————,³ the Admiral's secretary, was softened down with a dollar from each boat. You may be sure we were not silent at this exaction, which was both impudent and barbarous, and after a long time got it abolished. But after this we found ourselves in a worse situation. As no dollars were paid, fishing passports were with difficulty procured; the Admiral was never to be seen, and his secretary was always busy; so that it often cost many days attendance before a single boat could have leave to fish. You may guess what execrations were poured forth against them by all sorts of people, the sick, the wounded, and the well, the army, and the inhabitants. If a vessel was fitted out by the army for to sail in quest of fresh provisions, General Gage's desiring a pass was sufficient reason for a refusal; for the Admiral and his 'spouse entertained a mortal antipathy against the General and his Lady. On a second application the reply was, that such a pass was against the Port Bill. To this it was answered that the Port Bill was not passed to starve his Majesty's troops. In such messages as these, eight, ten days, or a fortnight, were lost, and a pass was at last granted on the General's absolutely demanding it for the sake of supplying the sick and wounded who were languishing in the hospitals. A vessel detained in this manner was taken by the rebels on her return from the Bay of Fundy, fully laden with live stock. She was taken by the first vessel fitted out by the rebels and must have came saf[e] had she not been detained as above. The disagreement between the General and Admiral first originated with their wives; both of whom led their husbands. Every plan of the Generals that miscarried afforded matter of laughter to the Admiral's family, who sneer'd and cried out, "Well! this is Mr. General's fine plan!" The General soon had his revenge, for Mr. Admiral undertook himself to defend Noodles's [Noddle's] Island; but the rebels soon made him retreat, defeated his marines, burnt all the hay and barns, and carried off the live stock. Then he undertook to defend Long Island; there again he was defeated, and the women and children who resided there for their health carried off before his face: Then he undertook to defend the light house; there he suffered more disgrace than ever; it was burnt while he and his ships lay in full view: When the rebels had done their business they retired; upon which Mr. Admiral ventured to land a party of marines and a number of workmen to rebuild it; they were no sooner ashore than the rebels in their whale boats landed again on the island, and his marines and his carpenters were killed or taken prisoners under his own guns.⁴ During all this Mr. and Mrs. General had their revenge, and they enjoyed it: all their cry was "Well! these are Mr. Admiral's fine plans!" In a few words our navy never made so disgraceful a figure. If our sea commander is not speedily recalled no service can be expected from our fleet. He has quarrelled with the General, the army, with all his own officers except his own hangers-on, with

the Commissioners, and with all who had any business with him. After all I believe the man de[s]igns well; but his own wife says that a fit which he had on his arrival here has rendered him good for nothing.

1. *Morning Post and Daily Advertiser*, London, January 17, 1776.
2. The ship *Concord*.
3. George Gefferina.
4. The Noddle's Island, Long Island and lighthouse incidents are described in Volume 1.

RECEIPT FOR REPAIRS TO WASHINGTON'S ARMED SCHOONER *Harrison* ¹

Plimouth Decr 13th 1775

Then I Recd of Watson & Spooner twenty four Shillings & 8d for My Self & four Men More Going from the wharf to the Garret to Carry down brick & Morter & building up the Chimney in Schooner *Harrison* that was broken Down

Recd p Solomon Atwood Junr

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 129, LC.

GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE TO THE SHERIFF OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY,
MASSACHUSETTS ¹

Sir

Providence Decem 13th 1775

I send you by the Advice of his Excellency General Washington Mr [Henry Edwin] Stanhope late a Lieutenant on board the *Glasgow*,² and Mr. Robinson late a Midshipman on board the *Asia* who are not to leave North Hampton until they are properly discharged They go under the Care of Capt. Dunn and of my Son Nicholas Cooke jun. I inclose you a Promise signed by each of them. Mr Stanhope is a Gentleman of Rank being Nephew to Lord Stanhope and to the Duke of Chandois. The other I am informed is a Person of a pretty good Family in England. I am, Sir [&c.]

Nich. Cooke

1. Letters from the Governor, 1768-1777, vol. 2, R.I. Arch.
2. Stanhope, an acting lieutenant, was seized on a wharf in Newport on the night of November 30, 1775; see journal of the *Glasgow*, that date, Volume 2, 1205.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport, December] 13.

Town-Meeting to see if we shall supply Wallace. The Town generally for supplying him notwithstanding his Barbarity in Burning Conanicott. Wallace told one of his Prisoners, that he should soon serve Newpt as he had done Conanicott - and that he had assurance that upon his Landg 200 he should be joynd by 250 of the Inhab of Newport, which would instantly joyn him upon his Landing.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

NATHANIEL SHAW, JR. TO THOMAS & ISAAC WHARTON, PHILADELPHIA ¹

Gentlemen

New London Decr 13 1775

Since I wrote you last by Capt [Jonathan] Leeds in the Sloop *Polly* and Capt [Edward] Chappell in the Sloop *Betsey* are both sail'd for Phila and my Friend

Peter Vandervoort writes me that they arived in N York and would Sail from last Monday, so that I flatter myself they will arive by the time this comes to hand and make no Doubt but you will despatch them with their Cargoes soon as possible the method of Clearing out must leave to you. Inclosed is two Letters for them which deliver, am Glad to hear West India Goods are on the Rise, as I have had them so long on hand immagine they will pay the extra. I have not heard from W[illiam] Leeds in the Schooner *Pompy* [*Pompey*] Since I left Phila am much concern'd about him if any Vessell should arive from Guadalupe should be glad you would inquire of him – If you have any late News from Grats Britian be so kind as to let me know, as I imagine the first we hear will be of great importance to this contry I am Gent [&c.]

N Shaw Jun^r

1. YUL.

HENRY BABCOCK TO GURDON SALTONSTALL ¹

[Extract]

Stonington, 13th Decr 1775.

On my return from Camp, lodged last Saturday night [December 9] at Tower Hill. On Sunday morning, at break of day, we were alarmed with the cry of Fire, upon which we found that five houses were in flames upon the Island of Conanicut. The country was alarmed as soon as possible. Fifty Provincials were upon the Island. I immediately repaired to Narragansett Ferry, where I found a number of people collected. Out of a hundred, thirty-six volunteered, who put themselves under my command, embarked on board of a Sloop. Capt. Wallace, just as we embarked, set fire to two houses. We imagined he designed to burn every house on the Island.

I appointed Mr. Jonathan Hazard and Capt. Tew, to act as officers. We were told that the enemy had landed a number of field pieces. I observed to the people at the Ferry, that even if they had, they were not so terrible as some people imagined; that it was a shame to afford no relief to the distressed inhabitants, and that the party on the Island might be entirely cut to pieces, for the want of our assistance; and that it would be a noble prize to take Capt. Wallace prisoner. The Colo of the Militia and several other officers I urged hard to step on board the Sloop, but they tho't the attempt too hazardous, and chose to keep themselves out of danger. We arrived time enough to save one house.

Capt. Wallace landed with 75 marines, 125 seamen and 20 women. They plundered and burnt 15 houses; took off 50 head of cattle, 30 sheep and 40 hogs. Besides, a number of barns full of hay, and several cribs full of corn were likewise committed to the flames. He landed at three o'clock in the morning, with five tenders; surprized the guard; took two of them prisoners, and several women and children and sundry of the inhabitants. Eight Indians, that were under the command of Lt. Smith, made themselves a raft of rails and pushed off for the Main, but were taken up by Major Dyer, who arrived with a number of men from North Kingstown, about an hour after we landed. Capt. Wallace, seeing a collection of people at Narragansett, and a number embarking on board the Sloop, tho't it most prudent to take himself off, and not to wait our arrival. . . .

I most heartily congratulate you upon Capt. Saltonstall's being appointed second in command in the American Navy. I dare say he will do honor to his Country. . . .

N.B. The women and children and inhabitants were set at liberty the next day by Capt. Wallace. No person wounded, except Martin on the Island. Four marines wounded by the Provincials.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 337-39. Saltonstall was a colonel in the Connecticut militia.

CAPTAIN GILES HALL TO GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL ¹

Agreeable To your Honors Directions Dated 4th Inst I Improved the First Oppertunity that Wind & Weather Permitted and Proceeded to Cruize in the Sound with Intention to proceed as far up the Sound as White Ston or Hunts point But on Saturday Last [December 9] Being a Little Eastward of Newhaven Speak with Capt Niles in the Schooner *Spey* [*Spy*] Who Confirmed the Report of that armd Sloop that your Honor Ordered me after was actually Returned back and Pased by New york in Confirmation of which I thought Proper To put Into this Harbour & on Hereing yr Honors appointment of the General assembly meting on the 15th Instant Decemr Thought Proper to Tary here for your Honors farther orders From [&c.]

Giles Hall ²

New Haven, 13 Dec. 1775

1. Trumbull Papers, vol. 1, 372, ConnSL. Trumbull was governor of Connecticut.
2. Captain of the Connecticut armed brig *Minerva*.

LOSS SUSTAINED IN CAPTURE OF SLOOP *Neptune* ¹

The Following is An Acct of the Loss Sustained By two Ministeriel Cruisers On the 6th Day of Sept 1775 The One Belonging to the *Rose*, James Wallace Commander, the other to the *Glasgow*, Howe Commander. By Lemuel Brooks Sloop *Neptune* Laden with Shugar & Salt Bound to New york Belonging to John Brooks of Stradford In Connecticut. One Eaighth Part Josiah Hubble, One $\frac{1}{8}$ part Jonathan Boothe One $\frac{1}{8}$ part; Benjamin Brooks, One $\frac{1}{4}$ part Lemuel Brooks $\frac{3}{8}$ As the Honourable Continental Congress have Advertised for Said Losses To Be Brot In to the Comtee Appointed for that Purpose the following is A True Acct Attested By the Master, Mate and one [of] the Mariners -

Sloop *Neptune* Burden 95 Tons 44 foot

Two Years and 6 Months Old Full Rigged	600	0	0
1641 Bushels Sault, a 2/6	205	2	6
43182 lbs Shugar, as pr Invoice 45/	971	11	9
14 Barrels Limes 20/	14	0	0
3 Chests of Close, Bedding, Quaddrants, Books, and Cabbin Furniture Estimated	60	0	0

£1850 14 3

Lemuel Brooks, Eleazer Scott George Raymond

Fairfield County ss. Norwalk
13th December Ano Dom. 1775

Then personally appeared Lemuel Brooks Master ² Eleazer Scott Mate & George Raymond Mariner they & each of them made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the foregoing Account.

Sworn before me

Joseph Platt Justice of peace

1. Papers CC (Connecticut State Papers), 66, I, 149, NA.

2. See Protest of Lemuel Brooks, Halifax, September 20, 1775, Volume 2, 158-59.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York Decemr 13th 1775

Capt Chappell & Leeds be still here & are now gone to Obtain a Clearance from our Custom house for Jamaco, the easier to pass on for Phila, this is in Consiquence of a Brigg Capt Thompson belonging to me sailing yesterday with a Load of Wheat & was Stopt at the hook & Sent back again to the Wharf, in consequence of wich the Capt went on board the *asia* & Capt Vandeput behaved very kind & genteel to him & told him he Recd orders last Sunday from England to Stop all Vessells going from one Colony to another & Suffer none to go with Cargo[es] but to England Ireland & the English Islands in the West Indies, in Consiquence of this Information have made enquiry & am advised both Leeds & Chappell better Clear from this to Jamaica, they are gone to the Customs house, but not yet Retd. to Inform the Result, I am [&c.]

P Vandervoort

P S. Since Writing the Within Chapple is Returnd to my house & Informs me booth him & Leeds have obtained Clearances for Jamaica & mean to sail first Wind & hope they may go off Saif & git saif to Phila, but fear the Season is too far advanced -²

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

2. Chappell and Leeds were still waiting for a fair wind on December 15. See Vandervoort to Shaw of that date.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM TRYON TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy

On board the Ship *Dutchess of Gordon*

New York Harbour 13 Decr 1775

Sir. As I do not at present see any flattering Prospect of my being able to go on Shore in my Government, with Security to my Person, or benefit to His Majesty's Service, I expect the Severity of the Winter will soon render it impracticable, for either the *Asia* or the Merchant Ship I am on Board to remain with Safety, in either the North or East River, or even in this Harbour, In that Emergency I will submit it to your Excellency whether it would not be highly necessary for the *Asia* to repair to Virginia to aid Lord Dunmore's Operations, especially as he is threat'ned with a Visit from the Enemy's Squadron equipping at Philadelphia with all Dispatch, as You will be informed by the inclosed intelligence received this Morning from the best Authority; ² I could in that case take the benefit of the

Asia's Escort clear off the Coast, in my way to England, or proceed with her to Virginia. I am with Esteem and Respect [&c.]

W^m Tryon

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

2. See Governor Tryon's information from Philadelphia, December 12, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday, December 13, 1775

A letter from General Washington dated 4 December, with sundry enclosures, being received, were read.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for fitting out a naval armament, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows:

That five ships of thirty-two guns, five of twenty-eight guns, three of twenty-four guns, making in the whole thirteen, can be fitted for the sea probably by the last of March next, viz. in New Hampshire one, in Massachusetts Bay two, in Rhode Island two, in Connecticut one, in New York two, in Pennsylvania four, and in Maryland one.²

That the cost of these ships so fitted, will not be more than 66,666 2/3 dollars each, on an average, allowing two complete suits of sails for each ship, equal in the whole to 866,666 2/3 dollars.

That the materials for fitting them may be all furnished in these colonies, except the articles of canvas and gun powder; and that therefore it will be proper the Congress direct the most speedy and effectual means of importing the said articles of canvas and powder; that of the former, 7,500 pieces will be wanted, and of the latter, one hundred tons.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed with full powers to carry the above report into execution, with all possible expedition, (except what relates to canvas and powder) at the expence of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the appointment of the committee be deferred till to Morrow.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the Secret Committee to embrace the best and earliest opportunities to procure the quantity of duck and powder in the above report.

Mr. [Thomas] Willing, a member of the Secret Committee, desiring to be excused on account of his living out of town, which rendered it impracticable for him to attend the committee, that usually met in the Evening:

Resolved, That he be excused, and that another be elected in his room.

The member chosen, Mr. R[obert] Morris.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be authorised to give able-bodied seamen that may be willing to enter on board the ships of war of the United Colonies, eight dollars per calendar month.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 425-27.

2. New Hampshire, *Raleigh*, 32; Massachusetts Bay, *Hancock*, 32, and *Boston*, 24; Rhode Island, *Warren*, 32, and *Providence*, 28; Connecticut, *Trumbull*, 28; New York, *Montgomery*, 28, and *Congress*, 24; Pennsylvania, *Randolph*, 32, *Washington*, 32, *Effingham*, 28, and *Delaware*, 24; Maryland, *Virginia*, 28.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Wednesday 13 [December]. I was at Congress The Delegates of Maryland & Georgia all absent – A report from a Comee was agreed to for equipping Thirteen Ships of War in several Colonies of 32 Guns 28 and 24 Guns each & the Expence of each at an Average estimated at 66,666 $\frac{2}{3}$ Dollars – There is a secret Comee whereof Govr [Samuel] Ward is Chairman and Thos McKean Clerk, Mr [Thomas] Willing resigned his Seat in it & Rob. Morris was chosen in his Room by Ballot . . . Debates Whether a Comee of One out of each Colony shall be appointed to take care of Naval Affairs in the Nature of a Board of Admiralty. postponed – Col. [Richard Henry] Lee moved to raise the Wages of able Seamen in the Armament now fitting out, from 50/ Penna Cury which had been before fixed by Congress, to £3 p Month and this was carried by Vote – ablebodied Landmen remain as before at 50/ p Month –

1. Diary of Hon. Richard Smith, Delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress, 1774–1776, LC. Hereafter cited as Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

SAMUEL WARD TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

Sir

Philadelphia 13th Decr 1775

I was astonished to find by a Letter from Mr [Thomas] Mumford that You was shipping live Cattle on Acct of the united Colonies, there is an express Resolve of Congress that no horned Cattle, Sheep Hogs or Poultry should be exported and it must be owing to the great Haste in which your Permit was made out that it may not [have been] expressly inserted you was informed however of the Purport of it by Mr [Silas] Deane as he recollects & (I think by Me Mr Shaw[]) You will therefore if the Vessels have not sailed instantly stop the Exportation of any live Stock mentioned above: The Necessity of the Strictest Compliance with every Resolve of Congress you are well sensible of I doubt not therefore your immediate Compliance as you value the Interest of your Country am Sir [&c.]

Sam Ward

P. S. Be good enough to send Me by next Post a Copy of the Permit

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS. Ward was a Rhode Island delegate in the Continental Congress.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY¹

[Philadelphia], December 13th 1775

Resolved, That three of our Armed Boats, with their Officers and Crews, be constantly at Liberty Island, and that there be a relief of that Number of Boats every three days; and that this duty begin with the Eldest in command, & the rotation be continued according to Seniority, & by equal duty through the Fleet.

Resolved, That Capt. Dougherty be ordered up immediately from Liberty Island with his Boat, and that Capt. [James] Hamilton & Capt. [Charles] Alexander, inform him of this Resolve.

Resolved, That Robert Towers, Commissary, examine the Powder on Board the Armed Boats in Town, & Report the State of it to this Board to-Morrow.

Resolved, That Mr. Clement Biddle be requested to see that the Barracks

are in proper order for the reception of the People on Board the Armed Boats, and that the Necessaries requisite for their accomodation are procured, & make report of his proceedings to this Board.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 426, 427.

Pennsylvania Journal, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1775

Philadelphia [December 13].

By the most authentic advices from the Camp at Cambridge, we are informed, that about the 27th ult. Capt. Adams, in the armed schooner *Warren*, belonging to the United Colonies, took a large schooner laden with fruit and vegetables of various kinds bound for Boston.¹ That on the 27th of the same month Capt. Manly, of the armed schooner *Lee*, belonging to the United Colonies, observing a fleet of vessels bound into Boston, found means to separate a large brigantine mounting two fine brass six pounders, and a sloop which served as a tender from their convoy, took them both and carried them into Cape Ann,² where the brigantine, when these advices came away, was discharging as fine a collection of military stores (powder excepted) as ever was sent to this country, the value estimated at £20,000 currency – but to our army inestimable. As this capture was made in sight of the other vessels, and at no great distance from Boston, there was reason to apprehend a violent effort would be made to recover it, to prevent which, General Washington ordered four companies to march immediately to cover the unlading the vessel. Teams were impressed from all quarters to bring away the stores, and Col. Glover, in the mean time, to raise the Minute Men in the neighbourhood of Cape Ann, for their immediate security.

That Capt. Manly narrowly missed taking the vessel containing their whole ordnance store, she being just a head; but the present capture is the most seasonable and providential supply that any army ever met with, containing (except powder) the very kind of military stores that was wanting for immediate service.

1. The schooner *Rainbow*, John McMonagle, master, from Nova Scotia.

2. The references are to the brig *Nancy* and the sloop *Polly*, although the former was not cut out of a convoy, and the latter was not a tender but rather a vessel bringing supplies from Nova Scotia to Boston.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Wednesday, December 13, 1775.

Resolved, That the Committee of Safety do write to Col. Woodford, desiring that he will endeavour to effect an exchange of the prisoners in his possession for our worthy countrymen now confined by Lord Dunmore; and, if he should not be able to effect such exchange, that he send his prisoners to the city of Williamsburg, as soon as it can be conveniently done, and that he also send the slaves taken to the said city.

Ordered, That the slaves taken and confined at the town of Hampton be sent to the publick jail in the city of Williamsburg.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 63, 64.

PINKNEY'S *Virginia Gazette*, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1775

Williamsburg [December 13].

A few days ago 6 of lord Dunmore's men deserted from the *Otter*. They met some of our men, on their way to this city, by whom they were treated with the utmost hospitality; in return, they assisted us, with the highest pleasure, in stowing away our baggage, and in expediting our troops to their destined place. When they were asked what induced them to leave Dunmore, they answered, "Hungry bellies, naked backs, and no fuel; besides, in other respects, the most cruel and inhuman treatment."

COLONEL ROBERT HOWE TO THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Great Bridge] December 13, 1775

We have scouting parties down the Bay, to give intelligence of the arrival of any vessels, or any other event, either to our advantage or otherwise. From the officers commanding those parties, we have received certain intelligence that a man of war, either of thirty-six or forty guns, is within the Bay, and on her way to this place, with a large brig, supposed to be a store ship, both full of men.² This may probably give us something to do, and I hope we may execute it properly.

1. Force Transcripts, LC.

2. H.M.S. *Liverpool*, a 28-gun frigate, convoying a brig loaded with ordnance stores, anchored off Norfolk on December 21, 1775. See the journal of H.M. Sloop *Otter* of that date.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 1775.

Ordered, That Captain Tufts, commander of the colony ship *Prosper*, do forthwith remove the ship *Betsy*, lying near Mr. Gibbes' wharf, up Ashley river, near the *Prosper*, there to remain until further orders; that he be very attentive to prevent negroes going on board the said ship, and every irregular correspondence with the shore; and that he do report to this board as occasions may require.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 81-82.

14 Dec.

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

Sir

Beverly 14 Decer 1775

I now forward to Your Excellency by the Bearer Three Casks of Porter purchased of Capt [Robert] Hunter one Bll of Lemons of what was Remaining Sound out of the ship *Concord* one Box of Pickels one Keg of Sweetmeats one Box of wine Two Cases of wine one Bll of Tea & Loaf Sugar one Bll of Oranges being all the sound ones on board the Brign [*Little*] *Hannah* the Oranges being Directed to his Excellency Generall Gage hope they will be the more Acceptable to His Excellency Generall Washington the Box of sweet meats being all I can find at Preasant on board when she is on Loaded if there should be any more found Shall forward them to your Excellency There is on board the Briga [*Little*] *Han-*

nah a Number of Cask of Lemmons & Limes being almost all Perish'd therefore Shall Sell them Next Monday at Publick Auction if no Counter Orders from your Excellency four Loafs of Sugar out of Ship *Jenney* being all there was Onboard hope These will Arrive Safe & Clear from Frost and am with the Gratesst Respect Your Excellencys [&c.]

William Bartlett

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Sir

Cambridge, Decr 14 1775

The Two french Gentlemen, who will appear before you with this, brought recommendations to me from Governor Cooke of Providence, their names are, Messieurs Pennet & Depliarne.

They propose a plan for supplying this Continent with Arms & Ammunition, which appears to me very eligible, as I am not acquainted with the extent of Schemes already formed by Congress for the attainment of these necessary Articles, I have declined entering into any engagements with them, but have prevailed with them to proceed at the publick expence to Philadelphia & there thro you to lay their proposals before Congress or a Committee of Congress, to whose attention I beg leave to recommend them & the Important business they come upon. I am &c

[George Washington]

P.S: I have given these Gentl[emen] reason to expect that they can get back to the Cape as commodiously & speedily from Philadelphia as they could from Providence, in which I should be very sorry they were disappointed.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Cambridge 14 Decr 1775

Sir I received your favour of the 2 Instant with the several Resolves of Congress therein Inclosed – The Resolves relative to Captures made by Continental armed vessells only want a Court Established for Trial to make them complete – This I hope will be soon done, as I have taken the Liberty to urge it often to Congress.

I am somewhat at a Loss to know whether I am to raise the Two Battallions of Marines here or not, as the delay can be Attended with but little Inconvenience, I will wait a further explanation from Congress before I take any Steps thereon.

I am much pleased that the money will be forwarded with all possible expedition as It is much wanted, Also that [John] Conolly & his Associates are [taken], It has been a very fortunate Discovry — I make no doubt but that the Congress will take every necessary measure to dispossess Lord Dunmore of his hold in Virginia, the sooner Steps are taken for that purpose, the more probability there will be of their being effectual. . . .

I will make application to Gen How & propose an Exchange for Mr Ethan Allen, I am much afraid I shall have a like proposal to make for Captain

Martindale, of the Armed Brigantine *Washington* & his men, who It is reported was taken a few days past by a Man of War & carried into Boston – we cannot expect to be allways successfull.

1. Washington Papers, LC.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Cambridge Decr 14. 1775

Your favour of the 11 Inst was handed me by the Two French Gentlemen, Monsieurs Penet & De pli[a]rne, for which I am exceedingly obliged to you — I have heard their proposals & plan for supplyg the Continent with Arms & Ammunition, which appear plausible & to promise success; But not thinking myself authorized to Enter into any contract respecting the same, & being not fully Acquainted with the measures Congress have adopted for procurg these Articles, I have prevailed upon them to go to Philadelphia & Recommended them & the consideration of their plan to that Body, where the Matter will be finally Agreed upon or Rejected

I must request the favour of you to furnish every Necessary for accomodating them & Carriages with all expedition for carrying them as far as Governor Trumbulls – They are to travel at the Continental expence & Whatever charge you may be at on their Account, you will be pleased to Transmit to me & It shall be immediately Reimbursed I am &c

1. Washington Papers, LC.

New England Chronicle, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 TO THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 1775

Cambridge, December 14.

Yesterday afternoon an express arrived at his Excellency the General's from Marblehead, with advice, that three men of war were seen off that harbour, and that it was apprehended an attack upon the town was intended. On the reception of this intelligence Col. Glover's regiment, with a company of artillery, were ordered to march immediately for that place.

Since the arrival of the above mentioned express, we hear, that the 3 men of war had approached, by yesterday noon, very near the mouth of Marblehead harbour; and that all the militia of the neighbouring towns were under arms – A very good fortification, mounting about 20 pieces of cannon, has been lately erected at the entrance of the said harbour; so that, we hope, any attempt for destroying the town will meet with a vigorous and successful resistance.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO JOSHUA WENTWORTH ¹

Sir

Cambridge 14th Decembr 1775

I see by your favour of the 3d Decembr that mine to you of the 1st had not then reach'd your hands I then desird you would dispose of the Cargo by the *Rainbow* allso the Sloop, if a tolerable price could be got for her if this last is not done 'ere this reaches your hands, you must defer it, until further orders

The two Vessells sent into Winter Harbour were very unjustly taken, and are deliverd up to their respective owners—Captain Adams has his compliment of men made up. Please to make my compliments to Mr King, tell him I will be much obliged to him for the Invoice of the Flour by first private hand —²

Captain Manly has been very successfull since I last wrote you, having taken three more valuable prizes — I wish the Commanders of the rest of our little fleet were as active if they were, we cou'd Conquer our Enemys without loss of blood

1. Washington Papers, LC. Wentworth was Continental agent at Portsmouth, N.H.
2. Flour from the cargo of the *Prince George*, seized in Portsmouth harbor in October 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Thursday, December 14, 1775
Afternoon

A Letter from his Excellency General Washington, inclosing a Letter from Colonel [James] Otis, and Colonel [Nathan] Freeman, relative to Shubal Lovell, a Tory, taken Prisoner by Colonel Otis. Read and Sent up.²

1. Journal of the House of Representatives, Mass. Arch.
2. See Freeman's and Otis' letters of December 12, 1775.

Boston Gazette, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1775

Watertown, Dec. 14.

A sloop with 19 head of cattle, bound from Nova Scotia for Boston, and a brig laden with (*tory*) furniture, from Boston for Halifax, were taken at the Eastward about 12 days since.

DIARY OF EZEKIEL PRICE ¹

Thursday, Dec. 14 One Mr. Kelton, from Dorchester, says, that, by the flags of truce which have lately come out at the lines, the account of the enemy's taking one of our privateers is true. It was a brig fitted out at Plymouth, commanded by one Captain Mansfield [Sion Martindale], who, being attacked by a twenty-gun ship, which boarded them several times, and was beat off; at last the privateer was overpowered by their great force, but not before they had every officer on board killed, and all the men to eighteen out of seventy-five; and the brig was afterwards carried into Boston.²

1. *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1st series, VII, 220.
2. About the only accurate statement in this report was that the armed brig *Washington* of Washington's fleet was captured and later carried into Boston.

Massachusetts Gazette and the Boston Weekly News-Letter, THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 1775

Boston, Dec. 14. 1775.

Last Thursday [December 7] a Piratical Brig, with 10 Carriage Guns and 75 Men, fitted out at Plymouth, and commanded by one Martingale, was taken by the *Fowey* Man of War and brought in here. The Prisoners we hear are to

be sent to England in the *Tartar* which sails this Day. Several other Ships likewise sail this Day for England, two of which carry the Officers of the 18th and 59th Regiments.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN PERRY ¹[Boston, December 14] ²

After a hard passage of ten weeks and three days I arrived at Boston; but what added to my uneasiness was, that after making the land I was three and twenty days beating off and on to get in, most of my rigging was perfectly blown away, for nothing sure was able to stand such weather; only two men and myself were able to keep the deck, the rest being fairly knocked up with the fatigue: at length we fell in with the *Fowey*, who lent us every assistance: ³ going for Boston harbour we were obliged to come to an anchor in Nantucket [*sic* Nantasket] road; and here from the shore the provincials fired at us, and would, I believe, have taken the vessel, but that the men of war sent their boats and towed us into harbour. The soldiery seem to be in good spirits. Fresh provisions are very scarce, and consequently very dear; beef 14d. per lb. potatoes 8s. per bushel, turkies 10s. a piece, and other poultry in proportion; however there is no want of salt provisions, with pease, oatmeal, &c.

1. *London Chronicle*, January 9 to January 11, 1776. Perry, master of the transport *Mary*, was writing to the ship's owners in Liverpool.
2. The date is approximated, and based upon the statement that the letter came in the *Tartar* frigate, which sailed from Boston, December 16, 1775.
3. From journal of the *Fowey*, Monday, November 20, 1775: "at 7 [A.M.] fired a Gun to bring to a Snow which proved from Liverpoole to Boston, Sent her a Mizen topsail & a Puncheon with water & 3 Men." PRO, Admiralty 51/375.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 14 [December]

The *Halifax* Schooner sailed Convoy to a Transport with poor Inhabitants of Boston, under Directions, after landing them at Deer point and seeing the Transport safe up the Harbour again, to anchor in Pudding or Shirly Gut, and there to be vigilant in looking for the Enemies small Privateers which sometimes lurk about there, and to run out and in occasionally as she could best annoy the Enemy and protect Vessels coming to Boston.

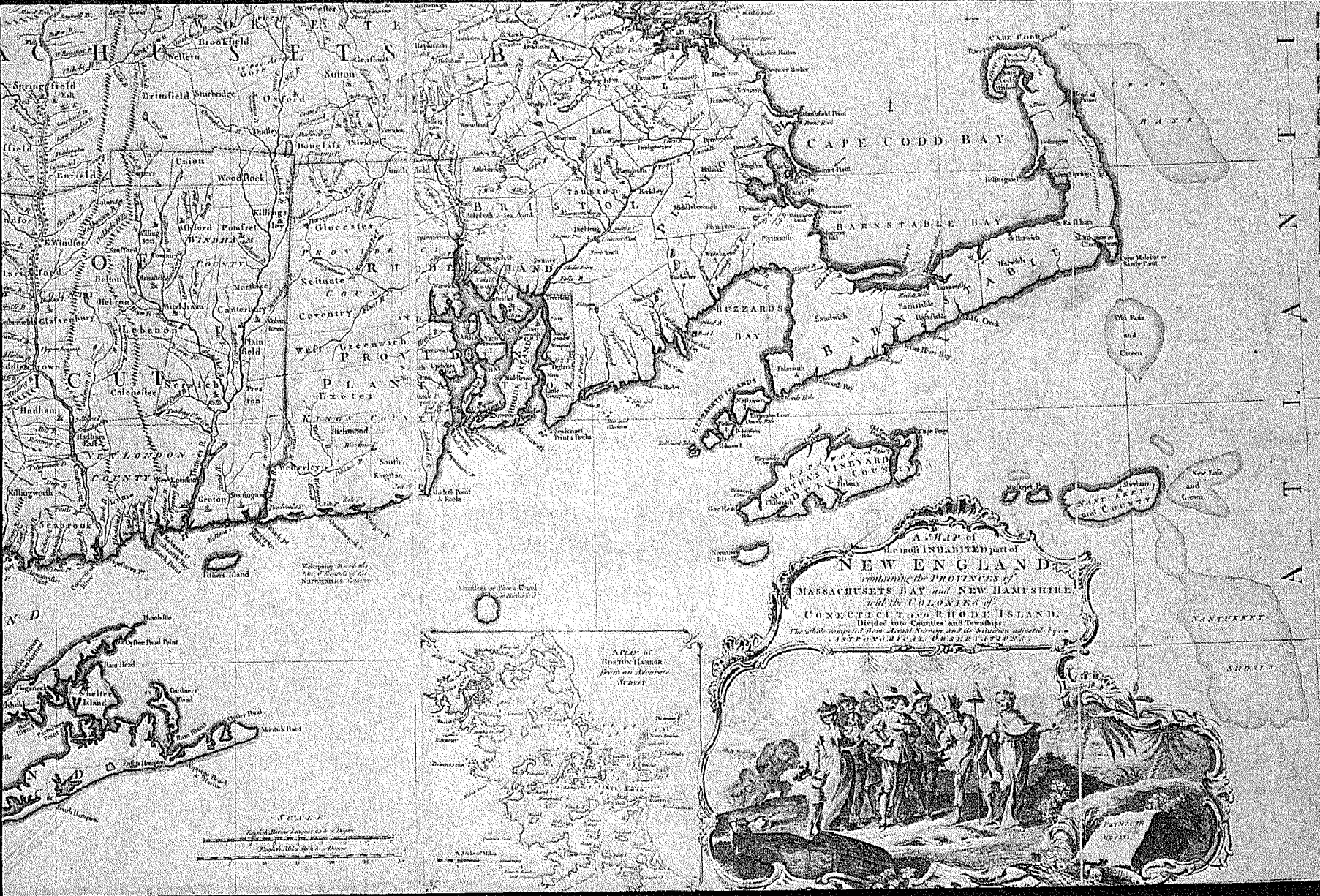
1. Graves's Conduct, II, 18, BM.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO JAMES MORDEN ¹

Sir

Preston Boston 14th Decr 1775

I am concerned to find from your Letter November 3d that the *Preston's* Demand for Ordnance Stores cannot be compleated until a Supply arrives from England, which probably may not be till May or June next. Commodore Arbuthnot acquaints me that you have neither Match, Cordage, Plank or Junk; and that contrary to the Rules of Service these Stores are required from the Yard. If you have not already done it, no time should be lost in demanding the above



A MAP of
the most INHABITED part of
NEW ENGLAND
comprising the PROVINCES of
MASSACHUSETTS BAY and NEW HAMPSHIRE
and the COLONIES of
CONNECTICUT and RHODE ISLAND.
Divided into Counties and Townships.
The whole computed from Astral Survey and the Situation adjusted by
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.



Articles, and all other kinds of small and great Stores generally used on board the Kings Ships, that the Service may not be retarded for want of necessary Supplies; and you may rely upon it that there will be frequent Applications to you next Summer. I am &c

Sam^l Graves

1. Graves's Conduct, Appendix, 110–11, BM. Morden was Ordnance Storekeeper at Halifax.

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

Decembr 1775

In Nantasket Road, Boston

Wednesday 13th

at ½ past 2: A M the *Lively* made the signall to weigh, at ½ past 3 weigh'd & came too sail, in Compy the *Lively*, *Canso* [*Canceaux*], and *Hinchinbrook* Schooner, Employ'd getting our Ship ready for Action, at day light saw several small Vessels in the Entrance of Marblehead Harbour, at 10: was a bout 2 or 3 miles from the Town, saw the *Hinchinbrook* in Chace of a Schooner, at Noon half way rock bore Wt 4 or 5 miles, hawl'd to the Etward, the *Hinchinbrook*, and *Canso* parted Company; cloos reef the Tops Modt Breezes and Cloudy Wr at 3 reefd the main sail; Thatchers Island NWBW½W 2 or 3 miles down Top gt yards, at 6. Do Wr hawl'd the wind, at 7 lost sight of the *Lively*

Thursday 14th

10 [A.M.] saw a sail in the SE sett cloos reefd fore & Mizen Topl out 3d reef main Topl More Modt & Cloudy, the Extream part off Cape Ann WBS 3 or 4 Leags Modt Breezes & Clear Wr at 1 TKd in Chace of a Schooner, out reefs the Tops gott Topgt yards a Cross, sett Steering sails, at 4 [P.M.] Pidgeon Hill WBN½N, 7 Leags still in Chace, at ½ past 6 lost sight of the Chace, down Steering sails in 1st & 2d reef Tops & hawl'd our wind, at 7 TKd

1. PRO, Admiralty 52/1884.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES¹

[Newport] Dece 14.

Town Meeting – sent a Committee & settled with Wallace & agreed to supply him. Just at Night Orders came from the Committee of Safety, refusing to permit Wallace to be supplied & forbiddg all Communication with him. Instantly another To Meetg assembled & sat till IX o'Clock in Eveng. In the present Distress the[y] voted a Committee of 25 to set off to Morrow Morn'g for Providence to petition the Committee of Safety to revoke their Order; & nominated me for one of the Committee – but I declined it. The Committee a Mixture of Tories &c. I have Reason to believe that the Tories are inveigling the lower sort of pple with Ministerial Monies, to take up Arms on pretence of defendg their property, & makg them believe that it is the aim of Providence to destroy Newport. I think it necessary to undeceive them by a Reference to the Continental Congress.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

GURDON SALTONSTALL TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

New London, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Capt. [Dudley] Saltonstall is much disappointed in not receiving Articles for the seamen to be enlisted for sea-service. There are many good men well disposed to engage at this port, New Haven, and farther westward, but they will not engage as yet, without knowing the terms. Capt. Saltonstall will this morning take a turn among the seamen, to let them know he is without further directions, and encourage them as much as possible to engage; and then, immediately set off for Philadelphia, and will probably reach New York Sabbath evening, or Monday morning. He will necessarily be detained a little on the road, to engage what seamen he can: you'll not have a letter from him this day, as he will be with you as soon as possible.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 335-36. Deane was a Connecticut delegate in the Continental Congress and a member of the Naval Committee.

MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

[Extract]

Albany December 14th 1775.

Sir Since my last to you I have received no Accounts from Canada.

I learn that the recruiting Parties I have sent out, meet with little Success. The Troops at Fort George & Tconderoga have only seventeen Days more to serve, & I fear they will come away, as soon as their Time of Service is expired.

All the Prisoners are not yet arrived here. The Moment they come in, I shall send them to Esopus, as well the Officers as Men, for Colo: [Erastus] Wolcott informs Me that Governor [Philip] Skene as well as his Son have fled and that two Frenchmen are also gone, one of which is Oreillat, whom Mr. Brook Watson recommended to Major Shireff [William Sherriff] to get exchanged, the Vicinity of Hudson's River to New Town & Bridge field, the two Tory Towns in Connecticut, favours their Escape; I have given such Orders to Colo: [Cornelius D.] Wynkoop that if they are properly executed, I shall be under no Apprehensions for those that go to Ulster County. Wynkoop is a spirited & good Officer. —

The River here is closed, the Prisoners are to march by Land. I propose keeping the French Seigneurs until I can move them at l[ess] Ex[pense] Perhaps too if Quebec should fall into our Hands General Montgomery may beg of Congress to permit them to pay a Visit to their Families. I am Sir &c.

Ph: Schuyler

1. Papers CC (Letters of Major General Philip Schuyler), 153, I, 362, NA.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday, December 14, 1775

The Congress, agreeable to the order of the day, proceeded to the appointment of the committee, for carrying into execution the resolutions of Congress, for fitting out armed vessels.

Resolved, That the said Committee consist of one from each colony.

Resolved, That the choice be by ballot.

The members chosen, Mr. [Josiah] Bartlett, Mr. [John] Hancock, Mr. [Stephen] Hopkins, Mr. [Silas] Deane, Mr. [Francis] Lewis, Mr. [Stephen] Crane, Mr. R[obert] Morris, Mr. McKean,² Mr. [George] Read, Mr. [Samuel] Chase, Mr. R[ichard] H[enry] Lee, Mr. [Joseph] Hewes, Mr. [Christopher] Gadsden, and Mr. [John] Houston.

The Congress took into consideration a letter received yesterday from General Washington of the 4th: Whereupon,

Resolved, That the second resolution in the report of the committee on General Washington's letter, relative to transports, be recommitted.³

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 427, 428.

2. "Mr. McKean" is lined through in text.

3. See this second resolution in the *Journal* for November 25, 1775, Volume 2, 1131-33.

SAMUEL WARD TO HENRY WARD¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia 14th Decr 1775

I have the Pleasure to acquaint you that upon considering our Instruction for a Navy the Congress have agreed to build thirteen Ships of War, a Comee is to be this Day appointed with full Powers to carry the Resolve into Execution, Powder and Duck are ordered to be imported, all other Articles it is supposed may be got in the Colonies; two of these Vessels are to be built in our Colony, 1 in New hampshire and etc; the particulars I would not have mentioned; the Ships are to be built with all possible Dispatch.

The fitting out our small Fleet go[es] on well: . . .

1. Bernhard Knollenberg, ed., *Correspondence of Governor Samuel Ward, May 1775-March 1776* (Providence, 1952), 142-44. Hereafter cited as Knollenberg, ed., *Ward Papers*.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

[Philadelphia] Thursday 14 Decr. Much of the Day was spent upon an Answer to that Part of Gen. Washns Letters requesting Directions what to do with the Ships & Cargoes lately taken by our armed Vessels which was at length referred after learned Debates & Authorities from Vattel² &c Much Altercation Whether a former Resolution of Congress had passed agt confiscating the Ships taken in Carrying Military Stores or Goods to Boston, the Colonies on Vote were equally divided upon it, however it was agreed that the Cargoes should be forfeited & that such Matters ought to be tryed in the Admiralty Court and by the Course of the Law of Nations not of the Municipal Law . . . A Member from each Colony ([Stephen] Crane for New Jersey, tho now absent) chosen by Ballot to procure or cause to be built and fitted out the 13 Ships of War yesterday ordered³ . . . [James] Duane presented a Petition from Peter Berton of New York

praying Compensation for a Vessel taken by the Men of War, it was referred by Ballot to [Thomas] Lynch, E[dward] Rutledge & myself —

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Emeric Vattel (1714–67) Swiss jurist.
3. "Mr. [Silas] Deane was left out of the delegation by his State, and some others of the naval committee were dispersed, when Congress appointed a committee of twelve, one from each State, for naval affairs, so that I had no longer any particular charge relative to them; but as long as I continued a member of Congress, I never failed to support all reasonable measures reported by the new committee." John Adams, *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States*: . . . (Boston, 1856), III, 12.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 14th

Resolved, That John Ross, Muster Master, be directed to make a return to this Board of the Number of Men & quantity of Bedding on Board the armed Boats.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 427.

JOURNAL OF THE MARYLAND CONVENTION ¹

[Annapolis] Thursday 14th December 1775.

It appearing to this Convention by sundry Depositions that William Bartlet Townsend of Worcester County had left this Province with inimical Designs against the same, and that the said William Bartlet Townsend [ha]d carried sundry Inhabitants of this Province to [join] Lord Dunmore, who is now carrying on Hostilities against the Colony [of] Virginia, and has committed Depredations upon the Property of some of the Inhabitants of this Province; And this Convention being also informed, that the Committee of Observation for Worcester [co]unty had fixed a Guard upon the Estate of the said William [B]artlet Townsend, as well to save the same from waste, as to [pre]vent the said William Bartlet Townsend carrying the Negroes thereon to join him with Lord Dunmore. And Application having been made [by Bartlett Townsend, son of the sa]id William Bart[ett] Townsend, to take the management of the said estate into his possession, to secure the same against waste, and to prevent the negroes thereon being removed,]

[*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the committee of observation for Worcester county aforesaid, to commit the said estate to the sa]id Bartlet Townsend, [taking bond with sufficient secur]ity for his taking Care of, managing and secur[ing] the said Estate, and every Part thereof, first having the same inventoried and appraised, and to be accountable for the same, and to take such Measures as shall be necessary to prevent the Negroes on the said Estate being carried out of this Province, or removed to any Place where they m[ay] be liable to be taken out of this Province, and to return [and deliver] up the said Estate and every part thereof, as soon as the said Wi[lliam] Bartlet Townsend shall surrender himself to the Committee of Worcester County, to take his Trial before the Convention, if sitting, or the Council of Safety hereafter to be appointed.²

1. Proceedings December Convention Dec. 7, 1775–Jan. 18, 1776, Md. Arch. Text in brackets is either torn or missing in manuscript, and has therefore been taken from *Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the seventh of December 1775* (Annapolis [1776]).
2. *Ibid.*, the Council of Safety was appointed Wednesday, January 17, 1776.

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION ¹

[Williamsburg] Thursday, December 14, 1775.

The President laid before the Convention a letter from Col. Woodford, enclosing a petition from the poor inhabitants of the town of Norfolk, requesting his protection; also a petition from sundry distressed Highlanders, lately arrived from Scotland, praying that they might be permitted to go to Cape Fear, in North Carolina, the place where they intended to settle, together with sundry other papers, which were read.²

Resolved, That the President be desired to write to Col. Woodford, directing him that all such Tories, taken by him, who shall, upon an examination before the field-officers, appear to have born arms against this colony, be sent to the city of Williamsburg; and that all others who, upon such examination, shall appear inimical to the liberties of America, be detained by him till the farther order of the Convention, or Committee of Safety; That he extend all reasonable indulgence to such as appear to have taken the part of Lord Dunmore through necessity; that he take the distressed Highlanders, with their families, under his protection, permit them to pass by land unmolested to [North] Carolina, and supply them with such provisions as they may be in immediate want of.

The President also laid before the Convention a letter from Col. [Robert] Howe, of North Carolina, informing him that he had joined Col. Woodford with the troops under his command, and should be happy to afford him his best assistance.

Resolved, That no person be allowed to make reprisal on the property of Lord Dunmore, in this colony, or their property seized by him, or the navy, without the order of this Convention.

1. *Virginia Convention*, 65, 66.

2. See Woodford to Pendleton, December 12, 1775.

LETTER FROM A MIDSHIPMAN ON BOARD H.M. SLOOP *Otter* ¹

[Extract]

[Off Norfolk] December 14 ²

The Rebels having now nothing to obstruct their passage, arrived and took possession of Norfolk, and in the evening saluted us with a volley of small arms; on which, the next morning, I was sent on shore to their Commander, to inform him, that if another shot was fired at the *Otter*, they must expect the town to be knocked about their ears.

1. *Lloyd's Evening Post and British Chronicle*, March 4 to March 6, 1776.

2. Probably December 15. See Woodford's letter of December 15, 1775, and Squire's message of same date.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Thursday, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Mr. [John] Rutledge laid the following draught of a letter to the Congress or Council of Safety in Georgia, before the board:

Charles-Town, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Gentlemen – The Council of Safety have heard, with astonishment and concern, that several vessels are loading at Savannah for Great Britain; some with rice, and others, one in particular, of Mr. Tailfer's, with indigo.

It is true that the Continental Association did not prohibit the exportation of rice to Europe, or of other American produce, (except to Great Britain, Ireland, or the West Indies) after the 10th of last September; so that shipping rice to Great Britain before the resolutions of Congress of the 1st ult., (copy of which is enclosed) were known, was allowable. It is to be wished, however, that Georgia had pursued the conduct of the northern colonies, all of whom, we are assured, in consequence of the late restricting acts, suspended exportation, as this colony also did after the 10th of September, (except for purchasing the means of defence) till the sense of the Continental Congress should be declared on that subject; but, with respect to shipping of indigo to Great Britain, after that period, they are without excuse.

For the honor of your colony, and the interest of America, we shall rejoice to know, that a report so disgraceful to the former, and injurious to the latter, is void of foundation. We cannot yet be persuaded to think it otherwise, for we hope that the continental resolutions will be inviolably observed in your colony, as in any other, and doubt not that the disaffected in Georgia are so few, and the friends of liberty so numerous and powerful, that all attempts of the former, to hurt the American cause, will ever prove abortive.

We have, however, thought it expedient to address you on the subject, being desirous of obtaining a true account of the matter, from the best authority. We therefore request that you will favour us with it, by return of the bearer, and hope it will enable us to remove any ill impressions which may have been made; but if, unfortunately, the fact should be as reported to us, we earnestly entreat that your Congress, Council of Safety, or General Committee will take the most effectual measures for preventing so flagrant a breach of the Continental Association and resolutions.

We have been applied to, for leave to clear out vessels, with the produce of this colony for Great Britain, as a cover of safety, when it was pretended that such vessels should nevertheless proceed directly to a foreign port, and for the express purpose too of procuring ammunition; but we have refused our assent, and have ordered the committees at the out-ports to be watchful against such attempts, which, though specious at first view, are full of danger to the common cause, and might give great encouragement to designing men

to commit frauds. The Congress at Philadelphia refused such indulgence even to those to whom they had given special license to export.

By order of the Council of Safety.

Henry Laurens, President.

The Provincial Congress, or Council of Safety, Georgia.

Ordered, That the said letter be immediately engrossed, and sent by express.

Upon information that Capt. Alex. Wyly, master of a coasting schooner which had been seized about five weeks ago, had come up to town last night,

Ordered, That the said Wyly be summoned to attend this board immediately.

He attended accordingly; and declared that he had been detained on board the *Tamar*, sloop of war, ever since the seizure of his vessel by order of Lord William Campbell, to whom he had been represented as a good coasting pilot; that he had repeatedly solicited his dismission, but could never succeed till he received an answer (which he produced) from Lord William Campbell, to a letter he had written to his lordship on the 5th inst., which being shown to Capt. Thornbrough, that gentleman readily restored him to his liberty. Capt. Wyly also declared that he saw a number of slaves belonging to the inhabitants of this town on board some of the ships of war, and on shore upon Sullivan's Island, several of which he knew; and that a few days ago, when a report prevailed, that they were to be attacked upon Sullivan's Island, they were taken off the shore in boats sent from the ships, and that he saw about twenty of them carried on board the schooner seized from him, which schooner, as well as two negroes he left behind, was his sole property.

Capt. Wyly then signed the Association, declaring his frequent absence had prevented his doing so before.

The Hon. William Henry Drayton made an offer of his service in the naval department of this colony.

Ordered, That the said offer be taken under consideration tomorrow.

Ordered, That Col. Moultrie be desired immediately to procure and employ five proper boats, to cruize across the channels from James Island to the marsh of Shute's Folly, and within Hog Island, ordered, manned, and commanded in such manner as shall be most effectual to cut off all irregular correspondence with the men of war and other ships in Rebellion-Road.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 82-85.

ABRAHAM HEYLIGER TO VICE ADMIRAL JAMES YOUNG¹

Sir.

St Eustatius 14th December 1775.

It having been represented to me on the part of Mr Joy Hair, the bearer hereof and owner of Schooner *Nancy* lately arrived from the port of Baltimore in the road of this Island, that on Tuesday the 12th Current, the said Schooner *Nancy* then Laying peacably at Anchor, under the neutral and friendly protection

of the fortress in this Island Established for Security of the rights and franchises of the high and mighty the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, and the Honourable the West India Company by them priviledged; was by the certain persons of Charles Penman & Thomas Ramsy, feloniously and piratically carried away, under the Signal usually accorded to vessels of all Nations, requiring a Change of Birth; and by them delivered to William Garnier Esquire or other the Commanding Officer or Officers of his Britannic Majesty's Ship of War the *Argo*; and afterwards by him or them sent away to the Island of Antigua.

I flatter myself that your Excellency will readily believe, that this my public reclamation, in the name of my Masters, of the aforesaid Schooner *Nancy*, with whatever she had on board at the time of her being piratically carried away from under the protection of the fortress of this Island, flows from the purest and most disinterested motives, a Sense of the duty I owe to my Sovereigns.

Happy should I be in hearing that the unfortunate differences at present Subsisting between Great Britain and her Colonies, were terminated in a Satisfactory manner. Extremely Cautious have I ever been of Administering even the smallest avoidable occasion of Offence to the former and impressed by a just Sense of the Dignity and justice of his Britannic Majesty, I am bound to believe that in the Chastisement of his disobedient Subjects, he will never be brought to approve of an Evident infringement of the priveledges of a friendly Port; and certain I am, that Enterprizes of so atrocious and flagitious a nature as those committed by the Persons who carried the aforesaid Schooner *Nancy* out of the Road of this Island, in manifest violation of the law of nations, neither can or will be Countenanced by the worthy and distinguished representative of one of the first potentates in Europe.

I purposely avoid all reasoning upon the Subject; Submitting to your Excellency's own Wisdom and Sensibility the part you are to take upon this occasion and being with the highest Consideration and respect. – Sir [&c.]

Abr^m Heyliger

His Excellency James Young Esquire, Vice Admiral of the Red and Commander in Chief of His Britannic Majesty's Ships, Stationed at the Leeward Islands. Antigua.

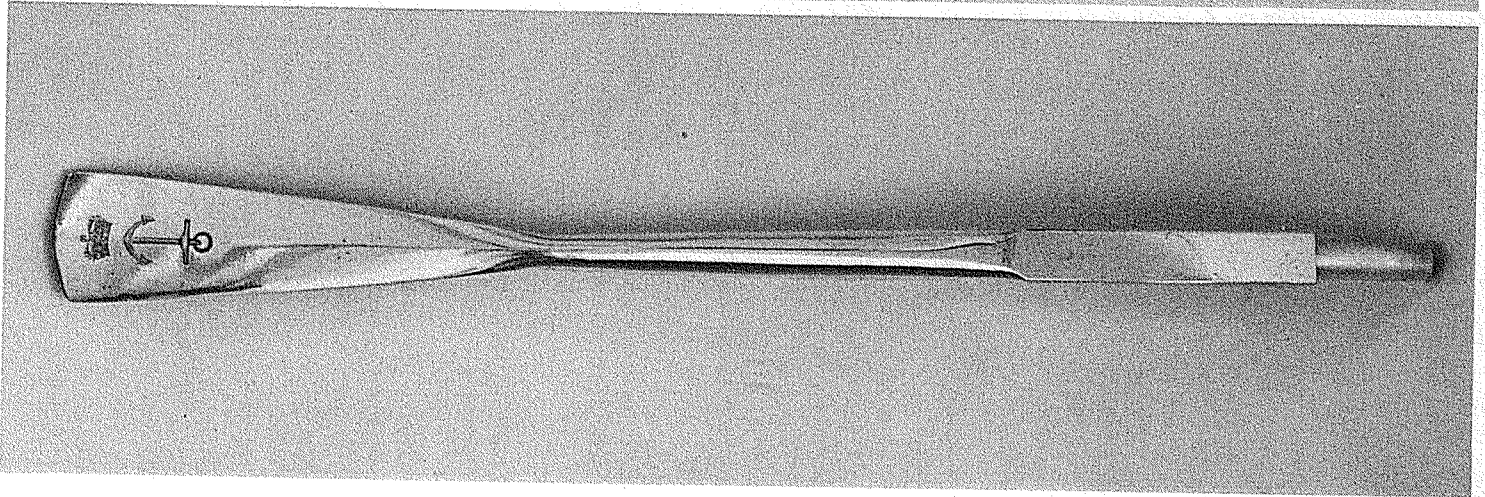
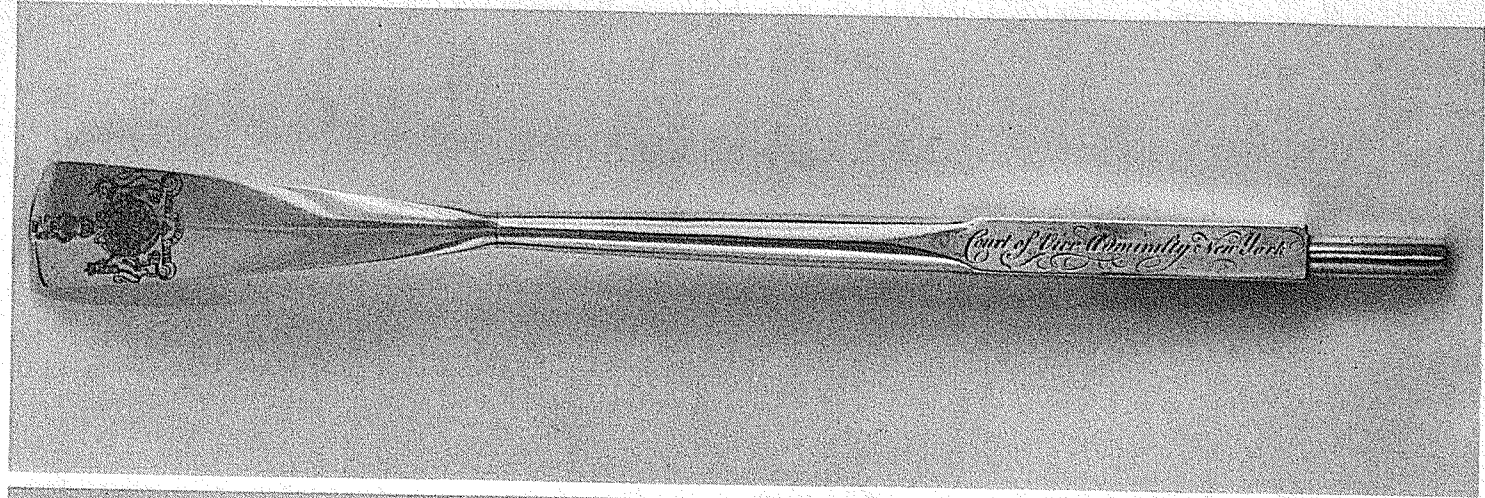
1. PRO, Admiralty 1/309. Heyliger was governor of St. Eustatius.

15 Dec.

MINUTES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.¹

At a Council holden at Halifax the 15th December 1775

Mr George Henry Monk Marshall of the Provincial Court of Vice Admiralty having been sent by Order of the Court to Cape Sable, attending According to Order declared that Mr Joshua Snow of Port Rosway did on the 13th December declare & say, that being at Barrington about 8 Days past, on board a Schooner, He then saw two Armed Schooners each Mounting 8 Carriage Guns and 16 Swivels (the Carriage Guns about 8 pounders) and Mann'd with 80 Men each,



Silver oar, mace of the Vice Admiralty Court of New York, c. 1725. (Bottom) The reverse side.

well Armed and Equip'd for War, – That he heard some of the said Armed Schooner Crew, say, that the said Schooners were fitted out together with three others at Salem, in New England, – that the other three were in the Bay of Fundy, in company with Captain [Jeremiah] OBrian, that he heard said Arm'd Schooners were Commissioned from the American Congress to make prizes upon the Coast of Nova Scotia – That the said Schooners had taken four Prizes, three of which they had sent to Salem, and brought the other into Barrington. – That while he the declarant was at Barrington the Schooners there took a Brig Captain [Samuel] Ingersol Master taking in a Loading for the West Indies, and sent her to Salem. –

That afterwards the said Schooners went to Cape Forshue in this Province and there landed their Men, and made Prisoners of the Inhabitants and took a Brig bound for Nantuckett by Orders of the American Congress to Machias with Provisions, which had Come to Cape Forsue Contrary to the Orders from the Congress, and was supposed to be run away with the Cargo and afterwards released the Inhabitants except two or three Officers of the Militia – That some of the Petty Officers of said Schooner told him this declarant, that from Cape Forsue they intended to come to the Eastward, and should in their Way touch at Liverpool.

That Also this declarant heard that Governor Patterson of the Island of Saint John was a Prisoner on board One of the said Schooners, and that he was taken at the three Rivers, on said Island: –²

That One of the said Officers told him this declarant that the Marblehead Regiment was broke up, and put onboard the five Schooners – That thirteen thousand Men had been embodied by the Congress to subdue Nova Scotia, and particularly Halifax, and that they Were prevented from pursuing their design while the Men of War lay in the Bay of Fundy, and that they beleived Halifax would have been taken long since, had it not been for the Small Pox being there which at present deterred the Liberty Army –

The following Question was put by the Governor.

Is it necessary at this time to require of every Person coming into this Province to take the Oath Acknowledging the Supremacy of the British Legislature which proposed to be part of An Act for the More ready Admission of Settlers &ca –

On which Mr Chief Justice gave His Opinion, that no person could be compell'd to take any oath without the Legislative Authority. –

Read, a Memorial signed by several persons Inhabitants of Yarmouth, setting forth, and professing their Loyalty to the King, and that they are almost all, of New England, where they have ma[n]y Relations, that the Armed Vessels with Pirates of that Country had lately invaded their Town, and taken away some Officers of Light Infantry, that they were Acquainted if they woud not Oppose them, they should be unmolested, that they were unable to defend themselves, And therefore requested permission either to go to New England, or come to Halifax, or else to remain Neuter

On which the Council were Unanimously of Opinion that the request and proposition of the Memorialists could neither be received or Admitted, a Neutrality being Utterly absurd and inconsistent with the duty of Subjects who are

Always bound by the Laws to take Arms, in defence of Government, and oppose and repel all Hostile Attempts and Invasions, that the Duty they Owe as subjects cannot be dispensed with and that they Must be Obedient to the Laws of the Province; – In the Mean time every possible Measure will be take[n] for their Aid and Protection. – And it was resolved, that Application be made to [the] Admiral, for a Ship of War to be Stationed at Port Rosway in such a Manner as will best protect the Inhabitants of that part of the Coast: – Also One Ship of War in the Gut of Canso.

1. Council Minutes, N.S. Arch.

2. The prisoner was Lieutenant Governor Phillip Callbeck; not Governor Patterson who was then in England.

GOVERNOR FRANCIS LEGGE TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Nova Scotia Halifax 15th December 1775.

Sir From frequent accounts and informations which I receive, the Coast of this Province from Canso to Cape Sables, is much expos'd to the Insults and depredations of the New England Pirates, they began at Canso and having taken an English Schooner thereabouts, & other Vessels elsewhere (by their own accounts) the[y] proceeded to Cape Sables to a place call'd Yarmouth, where they landed; it appears from the Accounts transmitted, that there were two large Schooners each mann'd with 80 Men, who had firelocks Pistols and Cutlasses, & the Vessels Arm'd each with eight Carriage Guns, besides Swivels, after they landed they went to a part of the Town where a light Infantry Company was Collecting, & forming, and there seiz'd and took away several of the Officers belonging to it, at the same time acquainting the people in General, that if they woud remain Quiet and not oppose them they should not be molested.²

On the whole this proceeding has excited such Terror in the people, that they have transmitted a Memorial requesting in Effect to be absolv'd from their Duty as Subjects, by having Liberty to be Neuter, or that they may come to Halifax, or go to New England, Alledging that they have relations there, at the same time professing their Loyalty to the King, but declaring their inability to defend themselves. And it was thereon Advis'd and Resolv'd that application should be made Sir to you, requesting that you woud Order one Ship of War to be Station'd to the Eastward in the Gut of Canso, & another to the Westward at Port Roseway, between this Harbour and Cape Sables, from this Disposition together with the two Ships Station'd in the Bay of Fundy, it is conceiv'd that the Coast may be preserv'd from Insults and Ravages, and the Inhabitants be kept in Countenance and protection. I am &c

(Sign'd) Fran^s Legge

1. Letter Book of the Governor and Council, Commencing 19th October, 1760 and ending in 1784, 234, Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S. Hereafter cited as Council Letter Book, N.S. Arch.

2. The Governor confused two separate raids. That around Canso was perpetrated by Captains Broughton and Selman of Washington's navy. The incident at Yarmouth was the action of an armed vessel from Machias.

PORTSMOUTH COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY ¹

Gentlemen –

Portsmo 15th Decr 1775.

We herewith transmit you Gen. Washington's Letter respecting Capt. Emmes, supposing it a Matter more properly cognisable by you than us. At the same time We beg leave to hint that we should think it imprudent to suffer him to take passage to the W. Indies in either of the vessels now fitting out, & that a reasonable Sum should be allowed him for Board from the time he was discharged from the ship *Prince George*, till he leaves the Province. I am by order of the Committee of Safety, &c.

H. Wentworth, Chairman.

1. Nathaniel Bouton, *et al.*, eds., *Provincial Papers: Documents and Records Relating to the Province of New Hampshire . . .* (Concord, etc., 1867–), VII, 684. Hereafter cited as Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT, BEVERLY ¹

Sir

Cambridge 15th Decer 1775.

Your favour of the 14th came to hand with the Sundry articles therein mentiond, I was in hopes there was some bottled porter which would have been much more agreeable than that in Cask, the General sends back the Tea which I am informed consists of two Canisters only – the barrel of Lemons was not halfe full there was some preserved ginger on board the Antigua vessel wch would be very agreeable.

Capt. Lowrie just now deliverd yours of the 11th His Excellency thinks the price of Teams as fixt by the Province full sufficient, he will not raise the price – His Exy approves of your Selling the Lemons & Limes, the Potatoes Cabbage & every thing that is perishable on board the different prizes

Capt Lourie & Capt. Foster have Liberty to stay at Salem on their Parole, Let them have their wearing apparell, & what to you appear Clear to be their private property taking their Receipts for what you give them –

Mr [John] Burk will deliver you this, You are orderd to give him & Mr Gregory all their private property takeing their Receipts You must also give Capt [Robert] Adams all his private property takeing his rect –

Attend to former Orders by preventing embezzelment, as the Court is not Yet establised to bring on the Trial, I have nothing further to mention to you concerning them than that all possib[le] Care must be taken of every article. – 4 Loves of sugar are all that came to hand. I am, Sir [&c.]

Stephen Moylan

1. Washington Papers, LC.

STEPHEN MOYLAN TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir,

Cambridge 15th Decemr 1775

I wrote you this day by Mr Burke to which you will please be refered – the General was Much Surprisd at the Rapacity of the Crews in Striping the prizes of every Little thing they Coud Lay their hands upon – it is now

his positive Comand that you make a Strict enquiry for the different articles which have been taken, & such as can be got returned to the proper owners & that Such articles as cannot be found must be made good to them the same to be deducted from the shares of those whom it can be proved were the pilagers, if they cannot be found out – it must be a charge upon the one third belonging to the Captors – of this you must acquaint Captain Manly & the Agent for the people if any Such is by them appointed

His Exy desires, you will pay a Strict attention to this order, & that he may not be plagued with any more applications of this sort –

1. Washington Papers, LC.

MEMORANDUM OF A LETTER TO WILLIAM BARTLETT ¹

Sir

Cambridge 15 Decr 1775

Acknowledged receipt of his letter with petition from Committee of Correspondence of Beverly – If any Cannon not immediately wanting for the armed Vessels to be lent them – Shot to be lent – powder found on board the prizes to be detained in his hands & if absolutely wanting for the Town, to be lent

Wm Bartlett Esqr

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JACOB BOARDMAN'S PETITION TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

To the Honl the Council & House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay—

The Memorial of Jacob Boardman of Newbury-port sheweth—

That your Memorialist together with several others, Inhabitants of the same Town, being anxiously concernd, lest the American Cause shou'd suffer for want of a convenient supply of the Articles necessary to make a vigorous Defence against the wicked Attempts of our Enemies, have entertaind Thoughts of sending a Vessel to some part of Europe for the purpose of procuring Gun powder & other military Stores; and they have so far prepar'd for a Voyage of this sort, as to have rais'd upwards of Two Thousand Pounds Lawfl Money, to be laid out for Articles of that sort besides a Sum sufficient to purchase a Vessel to bring it in. – They will however, have no Desire to proceed any further in this Design, if it should be made known to them that their Endeavors in this Regard, will not probably tend to the Advantage of the Public: But if on the other hand, Your Honors shoud so consider the matter as to think fit to give them suitable Encouragement, they will proceed with Alacrity to accomplish their propos'd Plan. All which is humbly submitted, by your Honor's dutiful Memorialist

Jacob Boardman

Watertown Decr 15th 1775.

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 180, 249.

VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES TO PHILIP STEPHENS ¹

Sir,

Preston Boston 15 Decemr 1775.

On the 5th instant His Majesty's Ship *Fowey* cruizing off Cape Anne fell in with and after a Chace of two hours and a half took the Brig *Washington* commanded by Sion Martingale [Martindale] Mounting Six 6 Pounders, four 4 Pounders and Ten Swivels with Seventy four Men.

This Vessel is Armed at the Continental Expence, and her Commander, besides a Commission of Captain in their Army, from the Congress, has Instructions from General Washington; her Lieutenant has also a Commission for Lieutenant in the Rebel Army.

Considering it of importance that their Lordships should have the earliest intelligence of this Capture, and have possession of the Commissions and Instructions above Mentioned. – I have directed Captain Medows to proceed in the *Tartar* without a Moments loss of time to Spithead, and to go Express with them to Town. – I beg leave to refer their Lordships to Capt Medows for any other information they may desire of the State of things here. As there is no Commission in Boston to try persons Guilty of Acts of Rebellion or High Treason Committed on the High Seas, I have sent home the whole Crew of the Brig with Captain Medows,² except four, two Deserters from the *Glasgow* and *Swan* and two Englishmen Prisoners who have entered on board the *Fowey*. The Derserters shall be tried at a Court Martial as soon as possible.

It was my intention to have manned the Brig and send her out again immediately but the Account of her unfitness was so strongly represented that I ordered three Captains to survey and report the State she was in, I transmit a Copy of my Order and their report, their Lordships may be assured, she exceeds their description of her badness.

Two Victuallers Vizt The *Layton* and *Resolution* are not Yet arrived, nor any others of the Men of War expected but the *Phoenix* and *Roebuck*, and the *Lizard* at Quebec.³ The *Boyne* Sailed for England the 5th instant with General Burgoyne on board.

I beg their Lordships directions Concerning the future disposition of the Crews of such Vessels as may be taken in Arms. Many inconveniencies will arise from keeping Prisoners on board and in the present State of things a few only can be kept Prisoners in Boston. – I must therefore intreat their Lordships will be pleased to direct in what manner any that may be landed shall be Victualled, and if under the direction of the Commissioners for Sick and Hurt and Prisoners of War as hath been Usual, that that Board may be Ordered to send me the necessary forms and directions for my guidance, or Appoint an Agent to receive and Victual Prisoners at Boston. I am Sir [&c.]

Sam^l Graves

Endorsed Rd by Capt Meadows 6 Jan. 1776

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485. A copy is in Graves's Conduct, II, 18–19, BM.

2. General Howe, in a private letter to Lord Dartmouth on December 14, expressed the hope that the uncertainty about the fate of the crew of the *Washington* would deter others from privateering, and added: "Besides I coud wish a Distinction to be made between Prisoners taken on Shore and on Sea, which last Mode of War will hurt us more effectually than any thing they can do by Land during our Stay at this Place," PRO, Colonial Office, 5/93.

3. The *Layton* and *Resolution* had parted from their convoy in a gale which occurred during the night several days after their sailing from St. Helen's on September 8, 1775. See journal of the *Charming Nancy*, Volume 2, 709.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] 1775 Decr 15

The *Brittania*, [Martin] White Master, the first of a Fleet of 30 Sail with Coals, Porter, Potatoes &c for the Army,² arrived this day.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 19, BM.

2. A list of twenty-three of these ships was enclosed in a letter from Philip Stephens to Graves, September 26, 1775, Volume 2, 735-36.

BARNABAS HEDGE'S ACCOUNT AGAINST WASHINGTON'S ARMED SCHOONER
Harrison ¹

1775	Schooner <i>Harrison</i>	To Barnabas Hedge	Dr
Decr [15] ²	To the Use of My Store for barrecks for the Men before the Vessell was ready to receive them — 1 week		} . . 4 —
	Recd the Contents of Watson & Spooner Entd P Barnabas Hedge —		

1. Prizes and Captures, No. 135, LC.

2. The date is an arbitrary one. The use of the store for a barracks was probably in November while the *Harrison* was undergoing repairs in Plymouth, but the payment for rental was made much later. A second bill from Hedge for the use of his store for ten days as a barracks for the crew of the *Washington* "before the Vessel was ready to Receive them," is also dated December 1775. *Ibid.*, No. 137.

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

Decr 1775 Cape Cod SW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 9 or 10 Leag[s]
 Fridy 15 at 6 A M made Sail at 8 handed Fore Topsail at 10 handed Main
 Topsail Saw a Sail to the Eastward Bore away & gave Chace
 Set the Topsails Fresh Breezes and fair Weather at $\frac{1}{2}$ past one
 P M Came up with the Chace found her to be a Brig from
 Guardeloupe bound to Pescataque at 5 took her in Tow and made
 Sail ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/546.

2. *Ibid.*, according to the *Lively's* journal, the brig was towed until December 18, and then cast off. No further record of her has been found.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport, December] 15.

The Committee of 25 went off this Mornng accompanied with Miss Molly Call[e]nder a Quakeress, who is moved by the Spirit to intercede for the Safety of Newport. Wallace promises that he will wait for the Return of the Committee; and Expresses his Desire to save the Town.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

JOURNAL OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY¹

[New Haven, Thursday, December 15]

Resolved, That a brigantine owned by Capt. John Griggs be purchased for the use of this Colony,² to be fitted and improved as an armed vessel for the defence thereof; and that Col. David Waterbury be a committee to purchase the said brigantine and appurtenances, at a price not exceeding one thousand pounds, taking an inventory of the appurtenances belonging to said brigantine and a bill of sale thereof to the Governor and Company of this Colony; and that he make report thereof to this Assembly; and in case the said Colo. Waterbury shall purchase said brigantine, that with all convenient dispatch he proceed with her to the port of New Haven.

Resolved by this Assembly, That Colo. David Waterbury and Capt. Isaac Sears be impowered and directed to enquire, view, examine and find out some suitable vessel to be improved for an armed vessel in defence of this Colony, and what terms such an one may be either purchased or chartered, with their judgment, estimate and opinion thereon, and report made to this Assembly at their present sessions.

Resolved by this Assembly, That Colo. David Waterbury and Capt. Isaac Sears be a committee to view and examine a certain brigantine belonging to Capt. John Griggs, at Greenwich, and find whether said brigantine in their opinion and judgment is fit to be improved for an armed vessel for defence of this Colony, find the terms she may be purchased or chartered, and report accordingly.

Resolved, That Capt. Giles Hall, commander of the brigantine *Minerva*, now in the Colony's service, be directed and he is hereby directed and ordered, forthwith to deliver to Jonathan Fitch, Esqr, at New Haven, all the guns and warlike stores now on board said brigantine; and having so done, he is further directed to dismiss as many hands as he shall think proper, reserving a sufficient number to sail said brigantine into Connecticut River, and proceed with her with all possible dispatch to Rocky Hill, and deliver her to the owner according to charter party. And in case he should be prevented by ice in the river, he is to lay said vessel in the most convenient and safe place and to discharge the hands, reserving only a sufficient number to take proper care of said vessel, and make return to his Honor the Governor and Council of War of his proceedings, and make up his portledge bill and muster roll and lay the same before the Committee of the Pay-Table for adjustment and payment.

Resolved by this Assembly, That one armed vessel in addition to those already ordered or provided, and also four row-gallies, be built or otherwise procured, suitably manned, armed and equipp'd for the defence of this and the neighbouring Colonies, under the direction of his Honor the Governor and the Council appointed to assist him in the recess of the Assembly, who are hereby authorized and fully impowered to perform said service as soon as may be.

1. Charles J. Hoadly, ed., *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* . . . (Hartford, 1890), XV, 200-02. Hereafter cited as Hoadly, ed., *Connecticut Records*.

2. The brigantine *Lilly Ann* was purchased and renamed *Defence*. Under Seth Harding's command, she was manned and ready for sea in April 1776.

CAPTAIN GILES HALL TO MATTHEW GRISWOLD¹

Decr 15th 1775

To the Honorable Mathew Griswold Esqr

Sir – In Case the weather wold not permit of Getting the Brigg *Minerva*, up to the proper place of Deliverry,² Should be Glad of partickular Directions with Regard to Laying up sd Brigg In Sum Safe place and Likewise in Regard to the Guns Stores, &C and how I shall Discharge and pay of[f] the People I am Sir [&c.]

Giles Hall

1. Trumbull Papers, vol. 373, ConnSL. Griswold was Deputy Governor of Connecticut.

2. See Journal of the Connecticut Assembly of this date.

COLONEL HENRY KNOX'S ACCOUNT FOR BRINGING CANNON FROM
TICONDEROGA TO FORT GEORGE¹

Decr 9	paid Capt [John] Johnson for the work of 43 men for 2 days at 1/ each man	
	11 dollars	£4 8
	4 ditto for Colo Holmes men	1 12
	2 ditto for Capt Wyncoops	16
	10 ditto paid Mr Adams	4
15th	paid the Battoe men for going up to Tionderoga & bringing [torn] concerning the Cannon	[torn]

1. Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

PETER VANDERVOORT TO NATHANIEL SHAW, JR.¹

[Extract]

New York Decemr 15, 1775

Dear Sir booth Leeds & Chappell be still here, & hope in the morning a Wind will offer, a sloop that saild two days ago with a Clearance for a foreign Island was Stopt by the *Asia* man of War & Sent back & in Consiquence of what Capt Vandeput said, she yesterday Cleared out for an English Island & went down again this morning & was again Stopt & overhauled by the *Asia* & finding all Right agreeable to her Clearance, was Dischard & Proceeded on her Way with a Certificate from Capt Vandeput, to let her pass the two 40 gun Ships now at Sandy hook –

yesterday we had Acct of two 40 gun ships Arriving at Sandy hook, the *Rhobuck* & the [*Phoenix*] booth was come to Winter here with the *asia* and by Request of Dunmore One of them is orderd to Virginia & wich of the two will Winter here is as yet Uncertain, as this sloop has been admitted to pass this day, I make no doubt, Chappell & Leeds will be admitted to pass in Ballast, as they be booth Cleared for Jamaica my only fear is for Leeds, your Renownd name being in the Register, the Pilot that Carries Leeds down will give me Information on his going from the hook, in Consiquence of wich I shall take care to advise Whartons of their Sailing from the hook, wish you had wrote me of their Intended Voyage & on their sailing woud have advised the flower being sent to

Reedy Island for fear of the Ice as the Season is so far advanced fear they will not get up to Phila – I am now shipg you some more flower by Jno Harris, as I fear One of the 40 gun ships may come in our East River & stop us, hope he will sail to morrow – am obliged to pay Cash for flower . . .²

our Provincial Congress have made a house & doubt not a good one & firm to the Cause & hope all will go Right here – by Acct by a Vessell here I learn E & W L Sloop was at sd Asd & has some of the Need – & hope she is saif by this [Post.]

1. Shaw Papers, NLCHS.

2. See Shaw to Thomas & Isaac Wharton, and Vandervoort to Shaw, December 13, 1775.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 15, 1775

Resolved, That Messrs. George Meade and company, merchants, of the city of Philadelphia, be permitted to export from the colony of Virginia, so much of the produce of that country, as shall be equal in value to any quantity of salt, not exceeding six thousand bushels, which they shall carry and safely deliver there to the committee of safety or their order, who are empowered to regulate the prices of the said produce and salt; and that the said George Meade and company, having given to the delegates of the said colony, in this city, bond with sufficient surety, under a penalty of double the value of the said salt, that they will not carry any produce of the said colony, which they may receive in return for their salt, to the islands of Great Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, or Man, or to the West Indian islands, and producing to the committee of safety of the said colony a certificate thereof, signed by the said delegates here, shall have a permit under the hand of the chairman of the said committee of safety, to export the said produce, the said permit being to be endorsed on, or annexed to a manifest of the cargo exported.

The Committee to whom the second resolution in the report on General Washington's letter relative to transports, was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 429–32.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH¹

Friday Decr 15. Col. [Richard Henry] Lee moved that George Mead & Co. of Philada may export from that City to Virginia 6000 Bushels of Salt & carry abroad Produce to the Amount from thence, opposed by [John] Jay, [Francis] Lewis & others & supported by [Thomas] Nelson, Wyth [George Wythe], Rob. Morris &c – it passed in the affirmative 7 Colonies to 4.

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.

SILAS DEANE TO ELIZABETH DEANE¹

[Extract]

Philadelphia, Dec. 15th, 1775.

. . . Naval preparations are now entering upon with spirit, and yesterday the Congress chose a Standing Committee to superintend this department, of

which I had the honor to be unanimously chosen one. This will detain me here some time after the 1st of January; indeed, I apprehend that the Congress will leave a number, to put into execution the Resolves of the Congress, together with the Naval Committee, as the adjournment will probably be over to the 1st of March. I do not expect to return sooner, unless it may be, to engage workmen in the business, part of which I shall agree to have carried on in the Colony . . .

I look out, most impatiently, for your brother Dudley. His Ship is a fine one, of thirty odd guns, and is nearly ready.²

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 339-41.

2. Dudley Saltonstall had been given command of the Continental ship *Alfred*, 24 guns, flagship of Esek Hopkins' fleet.

GEORGE READ TO HIS WIFE ¹

[Extract]

[Philadelphia, December 15]

I was yesterday put upon a committee ² that is to meet every evening at six o'clock, which may be obliged to sit regularly for ten days to come, and as I am considered a great absentee hitherto, I must attend constantly for awhile.

1. William Thompson Read, *Life and Correspondence of George Read, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence* (Philadelphia, 1870), 117.

2. The Marine Committee.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] Friday, December 15th.

Garret Hulscamp having made application for liberty to have his Boat go down the Bay to take him out of Capt. Johnston's Ship, of which he is Pilot.

Resolved, That the liberty he prays for be granted, provi'd he goes no farther than the Brown, & that he avoid going or being taken on Board any British Ship or other Vessel of War

Upon application of Mr. [Matthew] Mease, an order was directed to Capt. Dougherty to discharge from Capt. [Alexander] Henderson's Boat, Daniel McMichael, as he is to be employ'd in another Service.

Resolved, That Colo. [Daniel] Roberdeau, Mr. [Owen] Biddle, & Mr. [James] Mease, be a Committee to draw up Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Officers and Men belonging to the Armed Boats, while they are quarter'd in the Barracks.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 428.

PURDIE'S *Virginia Gazette*, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1775

Williamsburg, December 15.

Seven sailors, deserted from the men of war at Norfolk, came to town this week. They were pressed men, and say there is hardly a sailor on board the ships but would run away if he had an opportunity.

On Tuesday last [December 12], a large schooner from the West Indies, bound to Norfolk, was taken and brought into Hampton by our men stationed there. She was laden with rum and sugar, and had 2700 dollars on board.

Last Friday se'night [December 8] the sloop *Christian*, belonging to mr. Archibald Govan, loaded with wheat, and bound for Glasgow, having met with a gale of wind, put back into Hampton road, and was carried into Hampton by a party of the minute-men stationed there. On examining the letters aboard of her, many were found to contain sentiments inimical to America, written by people from Norfolk; but, in justice to the owner, we cannot help mentioning, that his letters contained *sentiments very friendly to this country*. This is the third time this vessel has put back from accidents.

Last night col. Bullit [Thomas Bullitt] arrived from the army, with doctor Campbell of Norfolk, who, besides several other gentlemen of that borough, had surrendered themselves to col. Woodford, and sued for protection. — Lord Dunmore, we hear, swears most furiously that he will bombard Norfolk, should the *shirtmen* come into it. They most certainly will, so that we need not be amazed to hear, soon, of that place's being laid in ashes.

COLONEL WILLIAM WOODFORD TO EDMUND PENDLETON ¹

[Extract]

Norfolk, December 15, 1775.

Sir, I wrote you last night; since then nothing material has happened; we still remain in the same situation. This morning a midshipman, with a flag of truce, arrived from the *Otter*. That and our answer you have enclosed. All the principal Tories, with their families and effects, have retired on board the ships of war and other vessels in the harbour, of which there is a very large fleet. What they intend I know not, and I am much at a loss to inform your Honourable Body what steps we shall take, further than to keep possession of this part of the town, and afford what protection we can to the inhabitants that claim it. We are much at a loss for your further orders, which we hoped to receive before this time, and are not without our fears that some accident must have happened to your express.

I received a letter this morning from Mr. Cary Michell: Our answer is enclosed, with his letter. I have the worst opinion of the people here, and have no doubt but every thing relating to us is laid before his Lordship. If it is your intention that a part only of the present force should remain at *this place*, I would submit it to your consideration, whether the 2d regiment, or any part of it you may think proper to withdraw, may not, after their hardy duty, be drawn off.

I wrote the Convention last night that I had resigned the command to Col. [Robert] Howe, as that Gentleman's military abilities, and great experience, will be full equal to every task. I would ask the Convention's leave of absence to see my family, and attend to my private affairs, for so long time as shall be agreeable to them. I do not mean this so long as there is a prospect of any actual service, either offensive or defensive.

You have, enclosed, a return of the strength of the troops at this place, and for further particulars must refer you to several members of your respectable body, who are the bearers of this. I am, with the greatest respect, Sir [&c.]

William Woodford.

1. Dixon and Hunter's *Virginia Gazette*, December 23, 1775.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW SQUIRE, R.N., TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT NORFOLK ¹

Captain Squire's compliments to the commanding officer, informs him that several musquet balls were last night fired at the king's ship from some people at Norfolk. Captain Squire did not return the fire, from a supposition it was done out of wantonness. Captain Squire does not mean to fire on the town of Norfolk unless first fired at; must beg to know if any hostile intention was meant to his majesty's ship, and people under his command.

Otter sloop, off Norfolk, December 15, 1775.

Answer to the above.

Colonel Howe's and colonel Woodford's compliments to captain Squire, and assure him they gave no orders to fire upon the *Otter*, and conceive the musquet balls mentioned in captain Squire's message to have come from our guard, who fired by mistake upon one of our own parties.

Robert Howe. William Woodford.

1. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette*, December 20, 1775.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY ¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Tuesday [*sic* Friday,] Dec. 15th, 1775.

The Hon. Wm. H. Drayton's offer of yesterday being taken into consideration,
Resolved, That his offer be accepted, upon condition that Capt. Tufts will relinquish his command of the ship *Proper* [*Prosper*]. Ordered.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 85-87.

16 Dec.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO GOVERNOR SIR GUY CARLETON ¹

Holland-House, near Quebec,
December 16, 1775

Sir:

Notwithstanding the personal ill-treatment I have received at your hands — notwithstanding the cruelty you have shown to the unhappy prisoners you have taken, the feelings of humanity induce me to have recourse to this expedient to save you from the destruction which hangs over your wretched garrison. Give me leave to inform you that I am well acquainted with your situation. A great extent of works, in their nature incapable of defence, manned with a motley crew of sailors, most of them our friends; of citizens, who wish to see us within the walls; a few of the worst troops, that call themselves soldiers; the improbability of relief, and the certain prospect of wanting every necessary of life, should your opponents confine themselves to a simple blockade, point out the absurdity of resistance. Such is your situation. I am at the head of troops accustomed to success, confident of the righteousness of the cause they are engaged in, inured to danger and fatigue, and so highly incensed at your inhumanity, illiberal abuse, and the ungenerous means employed to prejudice them in the minds of the Canadians, that it is with

difficulty I restrain them, till my batteries are ready, from assaulting your works, which would afford them a fair opportunity of ample vengeance and just retaliation. Firing upon a flag of truce, hitherto unprecedented, even among savages, prevents my following the ordinary mode of conveying my sentiments; however, I will at any rate acquit my conscience. Should you persist in an unwarranted defence, the consequence be upon your own head. Beware of destroying stores of any sort, as you did at Montreal or in the river. If you do, by Heavens there will be no mercy shown.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 289-90. Montgomery was promoted to Major General by the Continental Congress, December 9, 1775.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD MONTGOMERY TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID
WOOSTER ¹

Head Quarters before Quebec Decr 16th 1776 [*sic* 1775]

Dear General, The Bearer Mr Melchoer I sent Express to St Johns for Artillery Stores. Be so good as to give him all the Assistance in your Power, particularly in Money Matters. Yesterday we open'd a Battery of 5 Guns & a Howitzer and with very little Effect. I attempted to summon the Governor by a Flag of Truce - He would not receive any Letter. The Enemy have very heavy Metal, and I think will dismount our Guns very shortly. Some they have already rendered almost useless. This gives very little Uneasiness - I never expected any other Advantage from our Artillery than to amuse the Enemy, and blind them as to my real Intentions.

I propose the first strong North Wester to make two Attacks by Night, one with about a third of the Troops on the lower Town, having first set Fire to some Houses which will in all Probability communicate their Flames to the Stockade lately erected on the Rock near St Roque, the other upon Cape Diamond Bastian by Escalade. I have not Time to point out my Reasons for this particular Attack Let it suffice that it is founded on the Nature of the Ground, Works, & the best Intelligence I have been able to procure. However I am not certain whether or no the Troops relish this Mode of Proceeding. I am fully convinced of the Practicability. But should it not appear in the same advantageous Light to the Men, I shall not press it upon them, well knowing the Impossibility of making Troops act with the necessary Vigor on such an Occasion when their Minds are possessed with imaginary Terrors.

We are exceedingly weak it is true, but the Enemy are so too in Proportion to the Extent of their Works; and as they know not where they will be attacked all must be guarded. Indeed their Apprehensions for the lower Town induce them to bestow their greatest Attention on that Quarter. I hope the Arms, Lead, & Flint are on the Way. I could wish for a Reinforcement if to be spared. We have not much above 800 Men fit for Duty, exclusive of a few Ragamuffin Cana-

dians. I believe you will not think it proper to let the Contents of this Letter go abroad. Should you have no Account of any Cash on the Way, I must beg you will send an Express to hasten it. I shall soon be exceedingly distressed if a Supply does not arrive. I must therefore beg you to raise what you can for Fear of Accident. Let a considerable Number of Shirts be sent down as soon as possible. Our Men are much in Want of them. I must refer you to Mr Melchoir for Particulars Believe me Dr Sir [&c.]

Richard Montgomery.

1. John Hancock Papers, III, 292-93, LC.

RICHARD BULKELEY TO THE MAGISTRATES OF THE TOWN OF YARMOUTH ¹

Secys Office

Gentlemen

Halifax 16th December 1775

The Memorial from the Inhabitants of Yarmouth has been laid before the Governor & Council and I am to acquaint you, that the request and proposition of the Memorialists could neither be received or Admitted, a Neutrality being utterly Absurd and inconsistent with the duty of Subjects, who are always bound by the Laws to take Arms in defence of Government, and oppose and Repel all Hostile Attempts and Invasions, that the duty they owe as Subjects cannot be dispensed with, and that they must be obedient to the Laws of this Province.

In the meantime every possible Measure will be taken for their Aid and Protection. I am &c

(Sign'd) Rich^d Bulkeley

To the Magistrates & Inhabitants of the }
Township of Yarmouth in Queens County }

1. Council Letter Book, 231, N.S.Arch. Bulkeley was Secretary of Nova Scotia Royal Council.

WILLIAM KNIGHT AND OTHERS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF
SAFETY ¹

Portsmouth, Decr 16, 1775.

Pursuant to the above order,² We the subscribers determined on & transported four vessels for the purpose abovementd & valued the same. Since wch findg it unnecessary they shou'd lay any longer at their mooring & have return'd them to the respective wharves from whence they were taken & deliver'd them to the several owners unhurt; but that one of the Cables & Hawsers are injured by use, of wch a future Estimate may be made, if the owners require it.

Wm. Knight

William Pearne

Josh. Wentworth

Supply Clap.

1. Bouton, ed., *Documents and Records of New Hampshire*, VII, 632.

2. The resolution of October 27, 1775, requiring that the vessels be prepared to block the harbor in case the threatened attack by Henry Mowat's squadron materialized.

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

Decemr 1775 C. Ann. S51W, Dis[t] 12 Leags
 Saturday 16 at 9 A M pass'd by the *Tartar* & *Halifax* with 4 Transports 1/2
 past 11 let go the Bt Br in 3 fam
 Light House E Boston Town WNW 6 miles – Convoy run up to
 the Town –
 Light airs, at 1 P M weigh'd & got under sail & run up to Boston
 at 4 Anchored with Bt Br ²

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/885.

2. The *Senegal* and convoy had sailed from Halifax on December 8, 1775.JOURNAL OF H.M.S. *Tartar*, CAPTAIN EDWARD MEDOWS ¹

Decemr 1775 Cape Ann N B E 1/2 E Distce 7 Leagues
 Tuesday 16 ² at [6] A M Unmoor'd made Signal for Sailing fir'd a 9 Pdr
 Weighed and came to Sail 5 Sail of Transports in Co
 First part Modt & Clear

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

2. The 16th was a Saturday. The writer of the journal went astray on Wednesday, December 13, and did not have a correctly dated entry until Wednesday, December 20.

CAPTAIN RICHARD DODGE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Extract]

[Chelsea] Decr the 16th 1775

May it please your Excellency

I Have in Closed the Observation of the Day.

Last Eveing Eight men Runaway in a bote from Boston, to our guard at the
 ferry – arly in the moring finding thay had been with the guard. Immediately
 forwooded them to the Commete on the Commete Re[c]eption thay Clensed them
 by Smooking them and Lett them pass one of tham was Capt James Warden who
 was Taken, in major miffins employ ² who is Vary Desierous of Seeing the major –
 Six of them are masters of Vessels and brought the inClosed Acctt I am [&c.]

Richard Dodge Capt

N B Yeasterday one Large mortar was Caried over to Bunker Hill the Troops are
 fillin water Carring on board the Transports Provision is Very scarce the offi-
 cers Say not more then anuf to Last them Six weeks one of the Gente man Say he
 Dined with a man that Dined with Lord parsey [Lord Hugh Percy] a few Day[s]
 ago upon horse beaff this from the men that Came out of Boston last Night.

[Enclosure]

This Acompt I Recivd from Boston this day – Dcmber 17, 1775

Remarks for Tusday Dcmber 5 1775 Gott into Boston mett With the Ship
Boyan ³ Bound for London, Wich Had on Bord 30 Masters of Vesels Pasheners on
 bord

Thuesday 7 the *Fwy* [Fowey] man of war 20 Guns Mountigue [George Mon-
 tagu] Commander Brought in the Brige *Washington* one Martendell Commander

mounted 10 Guns and ten Swivells 72 men the Capt and all the men was Put
On Bord the *Priston* [Preston]

General Washington

Munday Last Prisners was Put on bord the *Tarter* man of war to be Sent Hom
for Triel as Pyrets—

The Followg is the Price of Provison in Boston vizt

Rum	£ 0 12-0 P	Gall Starding	orders from Generel How to
Moloses	0 3-0 by the Hh		Pull down the Old North meet-
Wood	4-16-6 P	Cord	ing House and one Hundr[e]d
See Coal	4-14:0 [Cholron]		Wood Houses
Salt Beef	4 4-0 P	bl	Morson Scotch menster
Merder Wine	1- 8-0 P	Doz	took Bribe of A
Read Porter	1- 4-0 D[i]tto		Seretu[ain] Genttelmen
Hay	20- 0-0 P	tun	of 36/ Starling to Gett
beef	0- 9-0		Out of Boston and
Turke[y]s	0-10-6		72/ to Let him Bring
Foulls	0- 4-6		Out [] trunk of
Onions	0- 0-6 P	lb	£2 ho Pound in Cash
Patato	0-10-0 P	Bushel	Wich when he Had
Solders Lounces	4 Pound P	week	it in his Power Sezd
			the Holl and Carreed
			it to Boston

1. Washington Papers, LC.
2. Warden was master of the schooner *Tryal*, taken by H.M. Sloop *Nautilus* August 22, 1775.
See journal of the *Nautilus* for the same date, Volume 1, 1206-07.
3. H.M.S. *Boyne*, departing for England with dispatches and passengers.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON TO JOHN HANCOCK ¹

Chelsea December 16, 1775

Observations of this day.

Last evening eight men came in a boat from Boston to our guard at the ferry, six of them captains of vessels. They brought the following account.

Yesterday one large mortar was carried over to Bunker hill, the troops filling water, carrying it on board the transports—provisions scarce; not more than sufficient for six weeks—one regiment of foot and three companies of the light horse sail for Halifax this day.

Dorchester 16 December 1775

Sailed out of Boston harbour this morning, eight large and two small vessels taken to be tenders, by their firing appeared to be going a voyage out to sea.

Mr Joshua Pico came last night from Boston, he confirms the information that the regiment of foot and some companies of light horse were preparing to embark for Halifax.

Sir

Cambridge 16 December 1775

The information contained in the above coming so many different ways corroborated by several vessels having sailed this day from Boston, I thought it my

duty to transmit it to you, tho Halifax is the place given out for their destination, it is possible they may be bound elsewhere. I shall communicate this intelligence to governors Cooke and Trumbull, and to the convention of New York for their government. I remain, sir &c.

Geo. Washington

1. Papers CC (Transcript of Letters from George Washington), 169, I, 147-48, NA.

CAPTAIN PELEG WADSWORTH TO GEORGE WASHINGTON ¹

[Cambridge] 16th December 1775

May it please your Excellency

Agreeable to your Orders of the 5th Inst: I have examined the harbour of Cape Cod. Give it as my Oppinion – that Cape Cod makes a very extensive Harbour with any Winds from the West to North & N.E. & Shipping may conveniently Ride out of the Reach of Cannon altho' the whole Shore was lined with them. But the Cove, which may strictly be called the Harbour might be pretty well commanded from an Eminence on the Shore. This might deprive an Enemy of the most commodius part of the Harbour prevent their Watering, Rendesvous &c &c I am [&c.]

Peleg Wadsworth

1. Washington Papers, LC.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, Decr 16, 1775

The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into Consideration sundry Resolves of the Continental Congress and Report, have attended that service, and Report on the Resolve of said Congress dated October the 26th, 1775 as their Opinion, that a Committee of both Houses be appointed to engage & Fix out with all possible dispatch on the Account and Risque of this Colony, Ten Vessels to be laden with as much Provision, Horses, or any Other Produce of this Colony, except Horned Cattle, Sheep, Hogs & Poultry, as they may deem necessary for the Importation, of Ammunition, Sulphur and Salt Petre, Arms and German Steel, for the Manufacturing Gun Locks, &c, And that the said Committee be empowered to give Orders to the Commander of such Vessel to export the said Cargo to the Foreign West Indias for the Purposes aforesaid—all wch is humbly Submitted.

In Council Read and Sent down

Walter Spooner pr Order

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Read and Accepted

In Council Read and Concurred and Thereupon

Resolved that William Sever, Benjamin Greenleaf & Moses Gill, Esqrs with such as the Honble House shall join be a Committee for the purposes mentioned in the above Report.

[Endorsed] In the House of Representatives Read and Concurred and the Speaker, Colo [Azor] Orne, Capt [Joseph] Foster, & Major [Stephen] Cross are joined to the Committee of the Honle Board—

1. Mass. Arch., vol. 34.

JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ¹

[Watertown] Saturday, December 16, 1775.

A Memorial of Jacob Boardman, of Newbury-Port, setting forth that he with a number of others, Inhabitants of said Town, had made preparations for a Voyage to Europe, for Gun Powder, and other Military Stores, and praying the Court (if their intention is thought to tend to the public Advantage) to give them suitable Encouragement.²

Read and committed to Col. [Nathaniel] Freeman, Mr. [Thomas] Crane, and Doct. [William] Baylies.

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

2. See Boardman's petition, December 15, 1775.

DIARY OF DR. THOMAS MOFFAT ¹

[Boston] Decr 16th embarkd In the *Tartar* Ship of war Captn Meadows to whom I was recommended by the admiral ² – Captn Meadows distinguishd me with every civility favour and kindness. Captn Harris a wounded Officer of Earl Purcys Regt was also a Passenger of the Cab[i]n we passed time most agreeably in Conversation and reading without Cards or Gaming.

1. Thomas Moffat's Diary, July 30, 1775 to October 8, 1777, LC. Moffat was a notorious Rhode Island tory. Pinkney's *Virginia Gazette* of December 9, 1775, carried a dispatch from Providence dated November 16: "An act has passed the house, sequestering the estates of Thomas Hutchinson, esquire, late governor of the Massachusetts Bay, Gilbert Deblois, Doctor Thomas Moffat, Samuel Sewall, George Rome, Jahleel and Benjamin Brenton, and several other estates within this colony, the owners of which are avowed enemies to the liberties of America."

2. H.M. Sloop *Tartar* sailed from Boston for England, December 16, 1775 and arrived at Spithead, January 6, 1776. PRO, Admiralty 51/972.

NARRATIVE OF VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

[Boston] Decr 16

By the *Senegal* the Admiral received a Letter from Commissioner Arbuthnot, dated 30th November 1775,² relating that two armed Schooners from Marblehead had been in Canso Road, and forbid all the Masters of Vessels there to carry Lumber or any other Supplies to the West Indies or any other of the Dominions of Great Britain or to Boston: that these Schooners had only taken one Vessel laden with 40 Tubs of Butter, and came from the Island of St Johns, where they had not done the smallest damage except making Prisoner of the Lieutt Governor, on pretence of his enlisting Volunteers for the Royal Army and Militia: that afterwards they put into Barrington Harbour, took a Brigantine with Fish and then steered to the Westward: . . . that he had directed the *Senegal* to Victual and Store for six Months, and then proceed to the Bay of Fundy and cruize as long as the Season would admit, but that on hearing the foregoing Account of the Rebel Schooners he had altered her destination.

By another Letter dated 8th December, the Commissioner informed the Admiral, that the Governor had sent an Officer to him (who had come in three days from Annapolis [Royal]) to let him know that the People there were under the greatest Apprehensions of being attacked as soon as the *Merlin* should leave

that Place, and that he had therefore sent a Schooner with six months provisions to that Sloop, and Orders for her to cruize as long as she could and to winter at Annapolis.

The Admiral, who had long ago ordered both the *Senegal* and *Merlin* to winter in the Bay of Fundy where they had been left by the *Tartar* expressly for the Security of the Trade in the Bay and the Western Coast of Nova Scotia, was surprized and not altogether satisfied with this irregular innovation upon his Orders: And the *Senegal* going so soon to Halifax for Provisions was what he had not intended, as he well knew how much provision those Sloops had on board, and had taken care to send a Transport on purpose with a farther Proportion for four Months, in order that they might not be obliged to quit their Station during the Winter. However, as contrary to his Expectation, no Frigates or Sloops were arrived from England, and he had Intelligence that several Vessels were expected at Liverpool in Nova Scotia with Arms and Ammunition from Barcelona, and knew Liverpool to be a Place not much frequented by Men of War, he imagined the *Senegal*, as she was quite ready, would be the properest Vessel to send there, and therefore did not order her back to Annapolis.

1. Graves's Conduct, II, 19-20, BM.

2. This seems to have been Graves's first knowledge of the raid by Broughton and Selman on the Island of St. John.

LIEUTENANT SAMUEL NORTON TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ¹

Gentlemen:

Martha's Vineyard, December 16, 1775.

On the 24th November last, I observed a sail-boat, with six men on board, sailing from Edgartown, in pursuit of His Majesty's ship *Swan*, Captain James Ayscough, commanding. I being officer on guard on the east side of Holmes's Hole harbour, observed her motions; but she being so far from the shore, could not command her to, but going nearer the west side, the guard fired upon the said boat, but the people would not bring to. But keeping watch of said boat's return, I had the pleasure of seizing her on the 25th said November; and as there was no Committee or leading men in this town that would take notice of the offenders, I, by order of my commanding officer, took said offenders under examination, before a Justice of the Peace, whose affidavits I have herewith enclosed, which will show your Honours said offenders' faults.

Your advice in this case shall be ever acknowledged by [&c.]

Samuel Norton,

Lieutenant in Second Company in Dukes County.

1. Force, comp., *American Archives*, 4th, IV, 290-91.

Providence Gazette, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1775

Providence, December 16.

Several Vessels, loaded with Fuel, provision, &c. bound to Boston, were last Week taken, and carried into Salem and Beverly. — A Privateer from Plymouth has likewise taken several small Craft, bound to Boston, with Provision and Fuel.

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

[December, 1775] Moord be[tween] the Town [&] Fort Wh[arf off
Newport]
Saturday 16th [Light Airs & Variable] Weather Landed on Brinton's Point
to Get hay was attack[d] By a Great Number of Rebels &
Returned on Board again with out any hay—

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/960.

JOURNAL OF H.M. BRIG *Bolton*, LIEUTENANT THOMAS GRAVES ¹

December 1775 Moored abreast the Town of Newport
Saturday 16 At 7 A M unmoored and hove short on small Br at 8 loos'd
sails to dry. at 9 Weighed and ran out to the So wd of Fort Island
in Comy the *Rose* and *Swans* Tenders at 10 Anchd with small
Br in 8½ fm Water in Brenton's Cove, Veer'd away ⅓ a Cable.
Brentons point NW ¼ mile. Landed several of our Men,
with those of the Tenders (under the Command of Lieut
Graves) in order to get off some hay, saw a great Number of
Rebels [wit]h Arms, advancing who fired at our Men, coming
off in the Boats returned it with Carriage Guns and Small
Arms, which soon dispersed them.
First part mode & fair Wr middle little wind, with Calms,
latter thick foggy Wr
at [4] P M weighed and came to sail, turning to Windward,
between Fort Island and Brentons Point. at ½ past 4 it fall-
ing calm, Anchd with small Br in 18 fm off Brenton's farms.
Veer'd away ½ a Cable Dumplin Rocks NW ½ a mile, the
Rebels coming down again and firing at the Brigg, threw 4
Shells & 8 3 pdrs among them, after which they continued
Silent, at ½ past 9 weigh'd and came to sail, at ½ past 10
Anchor'd with Small Br in 5½ fm in Newport Harbour;
Veer'd away ½ a Cable.

1. PRO, Admiralty 51/4127.

DIARY OF DR. EZRA STILES ¹

[Newport] Dec. 16.

The infamous Capt Wallace at X A.M. sent one Brig & 2 Tenders & landed
Marines on Brentons point to take off hay as they have 13 head of Cattle starving.
Two Compa marched from Head Qurs down the Neck & joyned Capt [William]
Bartons Compa there — in all about 120 men, to oppose the Landing. The Brig
fired — the Marines & sailors had got to the Stacks — our soldiers fired on them, &
they instantly quitted, left the Hay & fled on board ship.

1. Diary of Ezra Stiles, YUL.

ADAM BABCOCK TO SILAS DEANE ¹

[Extract]

New Haven, 16th Decr 1775.

I am very glad you have been thoughtful of Capt. [Dudley] Saltonstall, and have provided him with a place which, I have not the least doubt, he will fill with honor to himself and satisfaction to his Country. It will give me much pleasure to assist him and the officers he leaves behind him, in collecting seamen here, not only that I may serve him, but especially the Cause, which lies very near my heart. But why do you stop at four Ships? Pray let me hear you are preparing ten at least, of the best Ships you can get; and order every material collected this winter, in the different ports that favor such a design, to build and furnish out a fleet of twenty sail of Frigates, from twenty-four to thirty-six guns, In case of an accomodation this winter, the expense will be no mighty affair; and if the war proceeds, we are undone without such a Fleet, which, as their Force must be divided into three or four parts on the Continent, would be an over match for any they can send into these seas. I think this place would be a proper one for building two; and here is a very fine parcel of long stuff collected quite eno' for one; and as our ports will soon be entirely secure, provided we can get heavy cannon, the Ships would be in perfect security till they should be fit for sea. I should be glad to serve the public in this or any other way that I am capable of.

1. *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society*, II, 341-43.COLONEL GOLD SELLECK SILLIMAN TO REV. JOSEPH FISH ¹

[Extract]

New Haven Decemr 16, 1775

Yesterday the General Assembly met here but they have not yet had Time to do any Thing, but only hear the Publick Letters read; nor do I understand that any One particular Matter occasioned their coming together at this Time, but the general alarming State of publick Affairs; I hear that our Enemies have lately given another Specimen of their Savage Cruelty, in burning up all the Buildings on Connnanicutt Island; where they will strike next God only knows; God has appeared most signally favourable to us this Summer; every Place in Canada is in our Possession except Quebeck which our last Accounts told us was beseiged by Col. Arnold and that General Montgomery had marched from Montreal to assist him, all the Armed Vessels & transports with which Govr Carlton went from Montreal are in our Possession and he himself fled away in a Boat. these particulars may be depended on;

1. Trumbull and other Assorted Papers, YUL.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM HUNTER, R.N., TO VICE ADMIRAL SAMUEL GRAVES ¹

Copy

Sir I have the misfortune to inform you that I was taken Prisoner at St Johns with thirteen more belonging to His Majesty's Brig *Gaspee*; ten seamen are quar-

tered at Canaan and myself and Officers are in this place – As to particulars I am not permitted to write; and I am Sir with respect [&c.]

W^m Hunter.

Weathersfield, Connecticut December 16, 1775

1. PRO, Admiralty 1/485.

COLONEL TIMOTHY BEDEL TO COLONEL JAMES HOLMES ¹

Sir

Crown Point 16th Decr 1775

I Arrived here last Night with the Schooner and Sloop ² and about 60 Prisoners, and the Ice will not permit me to come up any further I have Genl Montgomerys Orders to deliver them to Genl Schuyler And being informed he is not at Ticonderoga Shall be glad you would give me some Assistance and it being the Genls Orders that they Should go to Harlaers, I Should be glad to know what to do with them. If Lake George is passable I Should be glad all the Boats there might be detained for the Use of the Service. I am Sir [&c.]

Tim^o Bedell Co[l.] of N Hampshire Rangers

I Shall be glad to know if the Committee from the Congress is with you, as a number of Indians is here wants to See them the Bearer will bring an Answer

The Commanding Officer Ticonderoga

[Endorsed] Colo. Tim. Bedells Letter 16th Decr 1775 to Col: James Holmes

1. Schuyler Papers, vol. 14, NYPL.

2. The *Liberty* and *Enterprise*, respectively.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BROWN, JR.'S RECEIPT FOR CAPTAIN JOHN JOHNSON ¹

Fort George Decr 16, 1775

Recd of Henry Knox twenty six dollars which Capt John Johnson paid to different Carters for the use of their Cattle, in dragging Cannon from the fort of Ticonderoga to the North Landing of Lake George ²

W^m Brown Jun^r Lieut

1. Diary of Henry Knox, MassHS.

2. See partial list of cannon and ammunition transshipped by boat on Lake George, December 9, 1775.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK ¹

[Extract]

Dec. 16, 1775.

Captain Vandeput of the *Asia*, has shown his orders to some of the principal inhabitants here, whic[h] is, to seize all vessels either going in or out, the prov[ision] vessels and those with salt to be sent to Boston; in [con]sequence of which he has already took a brig belong[ing] to Mr. Beach, with a load of salt, from Lisbon, [or St.] Ubes; and notwithstanding she leaks intolerably, a[nd] has already pumped out near one quarter of her salt, [yet] she is going to Boston. ²

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, December 25, 1775.

2. The brig *St. Helena*, Thomas Herriot, master.

JOURNAL OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ¹

[Philadelphia] Saturday, December 16, 1775

Resolved, That the committee appointed to carry into execution the resolutions of Congress relative to a naval armament, be empowered to draw on the Treasurers, from time to time, for any sums not exceeding 500,000 dollars, for carrying into execution the resolutions of Congress.

The Committee to whom the petition of D[avid] Beveridge was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

1. Ford, ed., *JCC*, III, 432-35.

DIARY OF RICHARD SMITH ¹

Saturday 16 Decr A Letter read from Gen. Washington ² advising of some Captures made by our Vessels & that he had released the President of the Island of St Johns & others who had been taken ³ . . . the Comee appointed to fit out the 13 Ships were impowered to draw on the Treasury for 500,000 Dollars -

1. Richard Smith's Diary, LC.
2. Washington's letter of December 7, 1775.
3. Phillip Callbeck, Thomas Wright, and Mr. Higgins.

VOTE OF THE CONTINENTAL MARINE COMMITTEE ¹

[Copy]

Marine Committee Decr 16, 1775

Agreed That the Thirty two Gun ships be of the following Dimensions Vizt

The Gun Deck	132 feet	1 Inch
Keel	110 Do	10¾ Inches
Beam	34 Do	5½ Inches
Hold	11 feet	

That the 24 Gun Ships be of the Same dimensions as the *Hero* Privateer built in the City of Philadelphia in the last War - the[n] follows the *Hero's* Dimensions ²

1. Captain J. G. M. Stone Private Collection, Annapolis. This copy was made for John Langdon who was to build one of the thirty-two gun frigates in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and, as he was not interested in the smaller ships, the dimensions for them were omitted from his copy.
2. The *Hero* was built at Philadelphia in 1762 by James Penrose, Joshua Humphreys, master. Her principal dimensions were 120 feet 6 inches by 95 feet 6 inches by 32 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches. Marion V. Brewington, "The Designs of Our First Frigates," *The American Neptune*, VIII, No. 1, January 1948, 16.

MINUTES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Philadelphia] December 16th, 1775.

At a Meeting of the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the Prisoners confined by this Board, agreeable to the directions of Congress, be removed to the New Gaol, and that the following order be delivered:

In Committee of Safety.

Philad'a, 16th Dec'r, 1775.

You are hereby required to conduct the Soldiers & the three Sailors from Rhoad Island,² now Prisoners in your Gaol, to the New Gaol in this City, and there deliver them into the Custody of Mr. Thomas Apty.

Sign'd by order. Jno. Nixon, Chair'n.

To Thomas Dewees, Keeper of the Gaol of Philad'a County.

1. *Pennsylvania Colonial Records*, X, 429.2. Prisoners brought in by Abraham Whipple in the Rhode Island armed sloop *Katy*.INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS OF PENNSYLVANIA ARMED BOATS ¹

In Committee of Safety,

[Philadelphia] 16th Dec'r 1775.

The officers of the Provincial arm'd Boats are hereby enjoined to observe the following Rules while stationed in the Barracks, that good order be supported and strict discipline maintained:

The Boats on their arrival at this City must be moored in some convenient Dock, and after a proper Guard is appointed to them, the Crews must be march'd in good order to the Barracks, where they will be quartered by Mr. C[lement] Biddle in the South wing & not more than 8 privates with non-commissioned officers in One Room, reserving to Capt. William Allen the 2 Rooms which he has fitted up while he stays.

That the roll of each Crew be called over every Morning & Evening, and that proper notice be taken of the absentees.

That the Tatoon shall be beat every evening at 8 O'Clock, and that none of the men of the Crews shall be out of the Barracks after that hour, and until the Roll is called in the morning, except with special leave.

That the master-of-arms officiate as an adjutant and make the return to the Commanding officer for the Guards each day, & parade them at the proper time for that purpose.

That the South Gate of the Barracks be the only passage for the Privates of the Boats to and from their Quarters.

That not less than one commissioned officer of each crew lodge in the Barracks during the time their men are there.

The suitable Guards be constantly kept over the Boats, the Firewood & at the South Gate.

That one-quarter of a Cord of wood be allow'd to eight men weekly, and no more.

That our Resolve of the 13th Inst. be constantly and steadily observed, for relieving the Boats stationed at Fort Island from time to time, while the navigation continues open.

That the men be paraded as often as possible at some convenient place and taught the manual Exercise & Evolutions, according to the most modern & approved practise.

As the preserving a strict discipline amongst the men is essentially necessary to keep a proper harmony and decorum amongst them, it is therefore enjoined & required that the Officers exact a steady & strict observance of these & all our former Rules and Articles for the orderly government of their Crews, and as it is too common that an unnatural & unreasonable jealousy subsists between Seamen & Landsmen, that may be productive of mischievous strifes & contentions between People of the Provincial arm'd Boates & the Troops now Stationed in the Barracks, you are therefore, each of you, in your respective stations, to prevent it amongst the Officers or men as much as you possibly can; and we do further recommend to the Officers, as they are embarked in the same cause, and intended for the same service, as the officers of the marching Regiments (viz: the protection of American Liberty,) that they display a Liberality of sentiment becoming Gentlemen, by cultivating a friendly intercourse with the said Officers.

1. Hazard, *et al.*, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd series, I, 599, 600.

LETTER FROM THE VIRGINIA COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Extract]

Williamsburg, December 16.

The action at the Great Bridge proves more important than we expected. The victory was complete. The enemy abandoned their post hastily, and retreated to Norfolk, their loss near an hundred. The Regulars, disgusted, refused to fight in junction with Blacks; and Captain Leslie, we are told, declared no more of his troops should be sacrificed to whims, and put them on board the ships, in consequence of which Norfolk is abandoned, and we expect is now occupied by our troops, who were on their march there when our last account was dispatched. Many Tories are come to us, and their cases now under consideration. More notorious ones are gone on board the vessels, which have in them very valuable cargoes.

1. *Pennsylvania Packet*, Philadelphia, January 1, 1776.

DIXON AND HUNTER'S *Virginia Gazette*, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1775

Williamsburg, Dec. 16.

Last Tuesday [December 12] a vessel from the West Indies, for Norfolk, was made a prize of by a party of our troops, and carried into Hampton. Her cargo (which was intended for the use of our enemies) consisted of 2700 dollars, a large quantity of sugar, and several hogsheads of rum.

MINUTES OF THE PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, COMMITTEE OF SAFETY ¹

[Martinborough] December 16. 1775

Whereas the Committie of this County on the 17th day of July Last made a Certain Contract with Capt Paule White for the Importation of powd[er] & Lead which Contract have been Complied with on the part of said Capt Paule White who hath Laid his Accot Before this Committie wherein it appea[rs] that the Vessell was Seized on Acc[ot] of the powder &c. but have Deliverd the powder & lead &c as p Accot

The Sloop *Temperence* which was Seizd on accot of powder & Lead sent to the West Indias as p agriment with the Committiee £450 0 0

To 717 lb of powder @ 5/.	£179.	5.	0
To 1782 lb of Lead @ 63/.	56	2	6
To 8 Cask for the Lead @ 2/.		16.	0
To 2 hodgsds for the powder 11/.	1.	2	0

£237.: 5: 6
177. 19. 2

75 p Ct advance p agriment.

£415. 4. 8.
£865: 4: 8

The above Accot was Rendered by Capt Paule White which is allowed

Ordered that the prisedent of this Committie Transmitt a Copy of the above Accot and the Agriment (with Capt White Relative thereto) to the provintial Councill of this province for their Approbation

The Committie being Informed that Capt White hath a Quantity of Po[w]dr orderd that Coln Robt Salter & Arthur Forbes wai[t] on Sd Capt White & Secure the Same for the use of the Publick

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

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY¹

In the Council of Safety [Charleston],
Saturday, Dec. 16th, 1775.

Mr. President reported, that having yesterday, as desired, conversed with Capt. [Simon] Tufts respecting the command of the ship *Prosper*, that gentleman expressed so great a zeal for the public service, as to declare, that he shuld not look upon any exchange or alteration in his situation, that might be conducive to the public good, as a slight or disgrace; and he would readily and cheerfully quit the command of the *Prosper*, and resume that of the *defence*, or serve in any capacity wherein he could be useful to the colony.

On motion,

Resolved, That the captains in the colony navy bear command independent of each other, and without regard to dates of commissions, until further order.

Resolved, That the Hon. William Henry Drayton be appointed captain and commander of the colony armed ship *Prosper*.

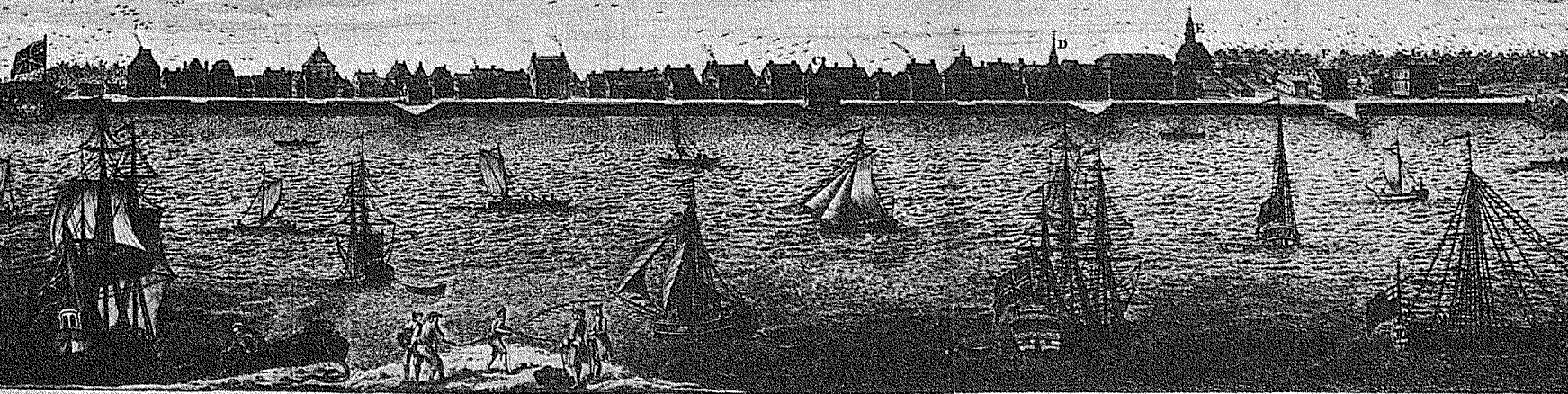
And a commission was made out accordingly.

Mr. President acquainted the board, that the provincial guard upon Col. Gadsden's wharf, had last night intercepted a canow, clandestinely attempting to go through Hog Island creek to the *Cherokee* armed ship, having on board two of the domestics of Lord William Campbell, three negroes, the property of inhabitants of this town, with sundry quantities of provisions and other articles; and that certain letters had been found upon them, which were produced and read.

Mr. John Sigell, steward to Lord William Campbell, attended in the name of Lady William, to inquire the cause of the above seizure, which he was made acquainted with.

Engraved for the London Magazine.

An Exact Prospect of CHARLESTOWN the Metropolis of the Province of SOUTH CAROLINA.



Col. Moultrie attending, to report the foregoing seizure, also reported the seizing of another canow, destined as the former, and delivered in another intercepted letter.

Ordered, That Col. Moultrie be desired to restore to Lady Wm. Campbell all the wearing apparel of her ladyship or children that were found in the first-mentioned canow, and to dispose of the other articles for the use of the troops, in such manner as he shall think proper.

On motion,

Resolved, That measures be forthwith taken to apprehend and disperse the runaway slaves upon Sullivan's Island, under the protection of the men of war, and who have lately, in armed parties, committed several robberies and depredations on the people of the colony.

Lieuts. [William R.] Withers and [James] Coachman of the Indian company attending.

Ordered, That the concerting a proper plan of operations for the said company be committed to Mr. President, Mr. Arthur Middleton, and Doct. [David] Oliphant, and that they do confer with Col. Moultrie, and the said Lieuts. Withers and Coachman, upon the manner of carrying the same into execution.

On motion,

Resolved, That John Moggridge (one of the waiters in the service of the customs) being suspected of practices highly injurious to this colony, be forthwith seized and apprehended, and committed to the common jail in Charles-Town.

The following warrant was accordingly issued:

South-Carolina,
Charles-Town, Dec. 9th, 1775.

By order of the Council of Safety for the colony aforesaid. To the Sheriff of Charles-Town District, or his Deputy, or to the Keeper of the common jail in Charles-Town:

You are hereby commanded and required to receive into your custody in the common jail, and there safely keep until further orders, the body of John Moggridge, herewith sent to you, suspected of high crimes and misdemeanors against the liberties of the colony aforesaid. And for so doing this will be your warrant.

Given under my hand and seal, the day above written.

Henry Laurens, President.

Ordered, That a letter be written to Capt. Thornbrough, acquainting him that all further supplies of provisions to the king's ships will be prohibited, unless the fugitive slaves of the inhabitants which receive protection from them, are forthwith delivered up.

It appearing by an intercepted letter, that a trunk of books belonging to James Trail, who lately withdrew himself on board the *Cherokee* armed ship, is shipped on board of a sloop bound for Georgia.

Ordered, That the committee of observation be desired to make inquiry after said trunk, and if found, to cause the same to be re-landed.

In the Council of Safety,
Saturday Evening, Dec. 16th, 1775.

The Hon. Wm. H. Drayton applied for commissions appointing Capt. Stephen Seymour to be Second Lieutenant, and Capt. Jacob Milligan to be Third Lieutenant of the colony armed ship *Prosper*.

And commissions were made out and signed accordingly.

Ordered, That the domesticks of Lord William Campbell, which were on board the canow stopt last night, be immediately brought before the Council.

Being brought accordingly, and it appearing, upon their examination, that some of his Lordship's effects had been put on board the sloop ———, Alexander Mills, master, bound for Georgia.

Resolved, That the said sloop be immediately stopt; that no goods whatever be taken out; and that all letters in possession of the master be demanded.

Ordered, That the committee of observation be desired to carry the above resolution into execution.

Ordered, That a guard be immediately placed about the house of Lord William Campbell, to prevent the removal of any of his Lordship's effects, until further orders, in order that such persons as may be injured by his Lordship's seizure and detention of their property, and encouraging, harbouring and protecting their runaway slaves, may be indemnified.

1. *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, III, 87-91.

17 Dec. (Sunday)

GEORGE WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOR NICHOLAS COOKE ¹

Sir

Cambridge 17th Decr 1775.

By sundry persons and accounts just from Boston, I am informed, that the Ministerial Army is in very great distress for want of fresh Provisions and having received intelligence that there are 200 fat Cattle on Block Island and some Transport Vessels cruizing that way, in quest of Necessaries for the Army, I must request you to have the Cattle &c removed from thence immediately, and from every other place where their Ships can come and take them off[f]; It is a matter of the utmost importance, to prevent their getting a Supply; If they can be hindered now, the advanced Season of the year and the Inclement weather, which we may expect ere long, will put it out of their power.

I yesterday received the inclosed information from several persons who lately came out from Boston, which I thought my duty to transmit to you. It is more than probable, that the destination of the Troops may be very different from what they have given out; they may have made use of that to deceive in another Quarter. I am &c.

G^o Washington

1. Washington Papers, Varick Transcripts, LC.