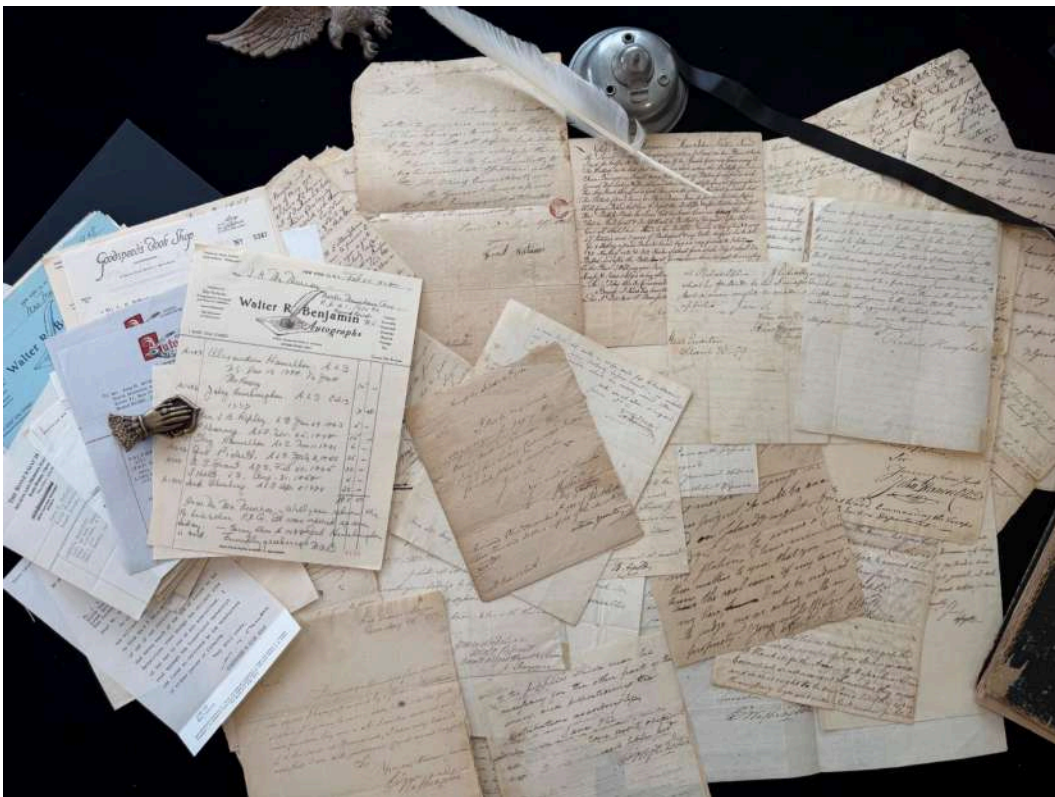


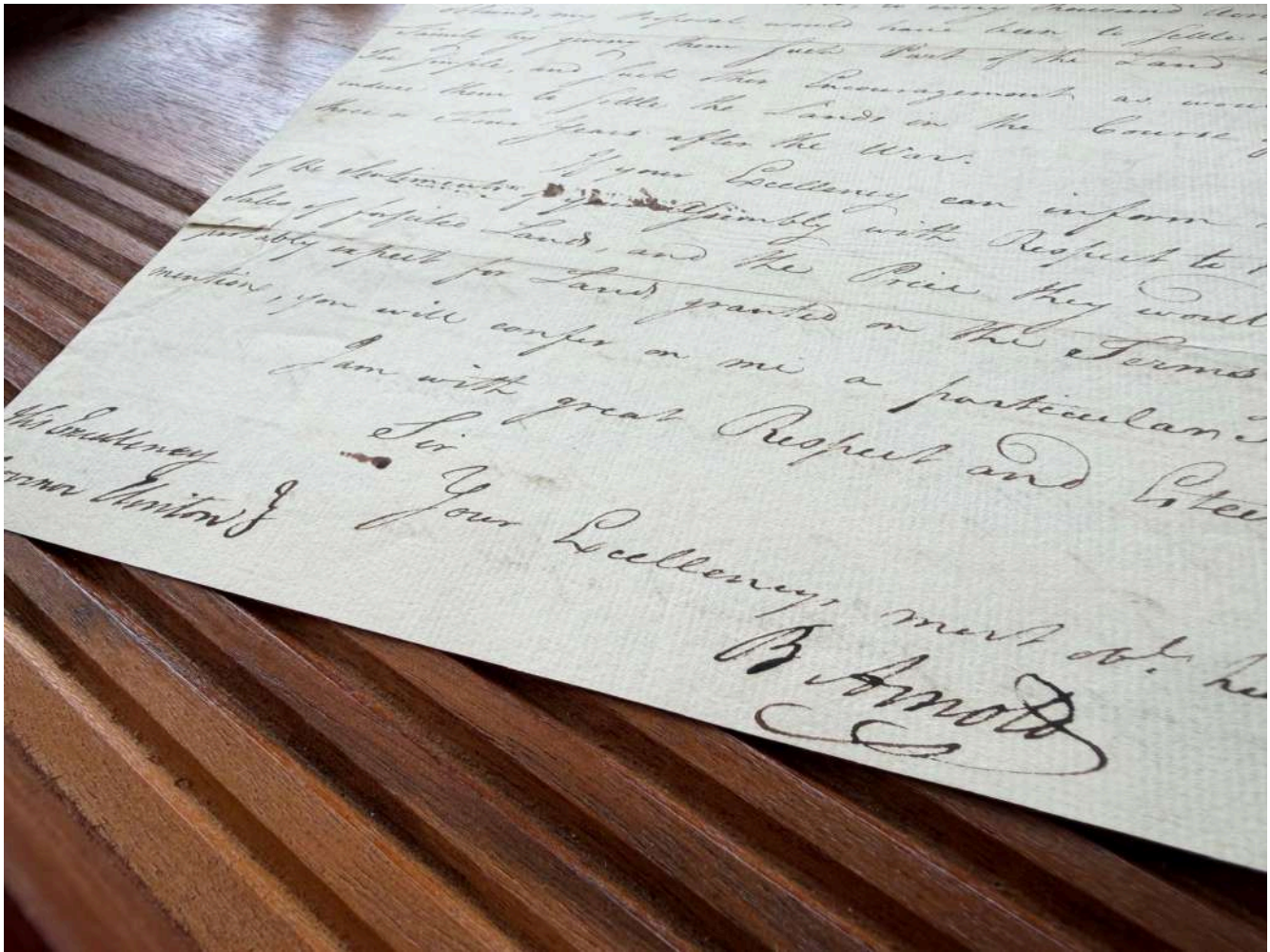


WASHINGTON AND REVOLUTION

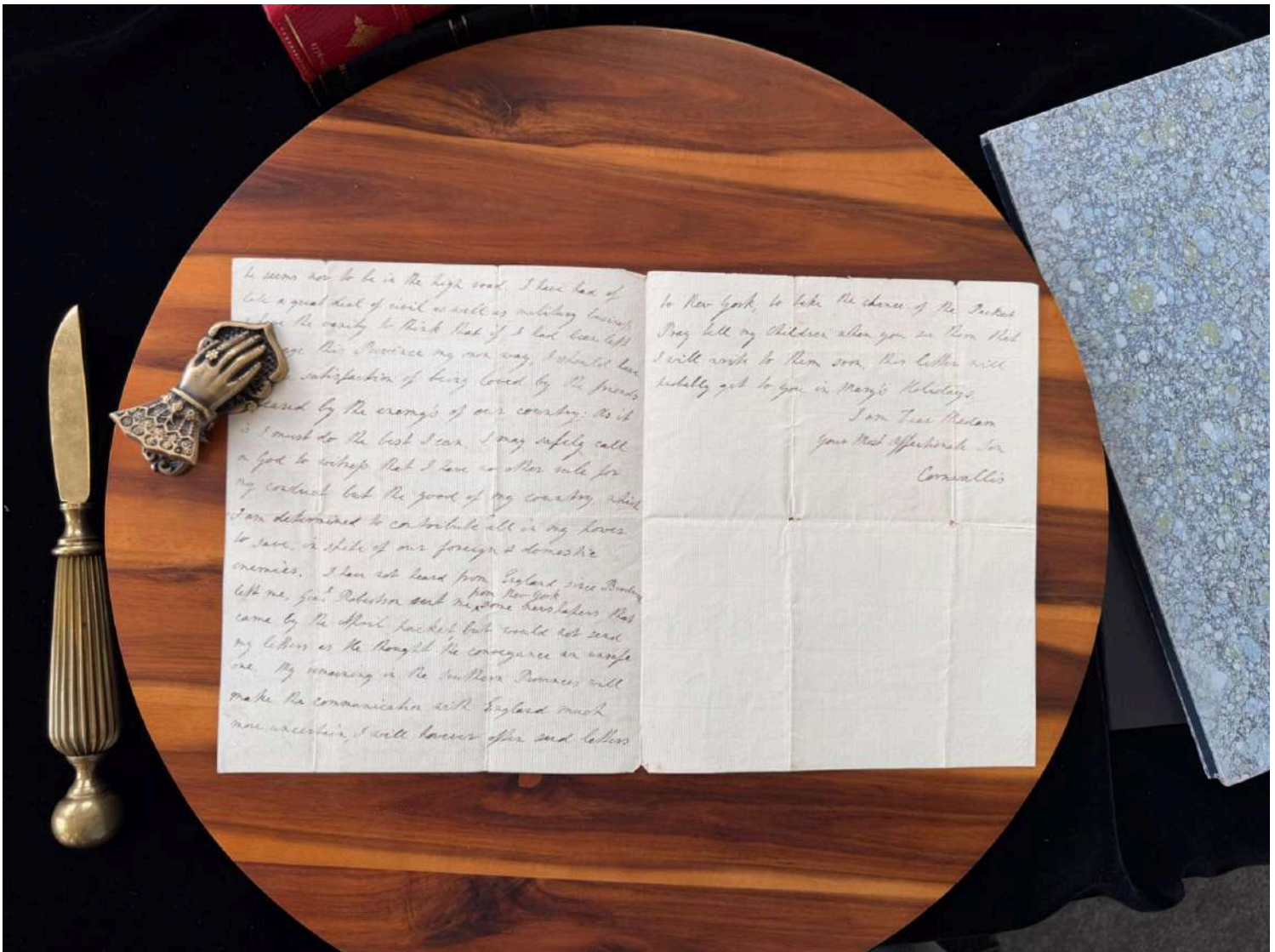


Assembled by a collector in the 1940s and 1950s from legendary firms: Walter Benjamin, Charles Hamilton and Rosenbach, among others. The focus: George Washington, the men who served with him during the war, and those he fought against.

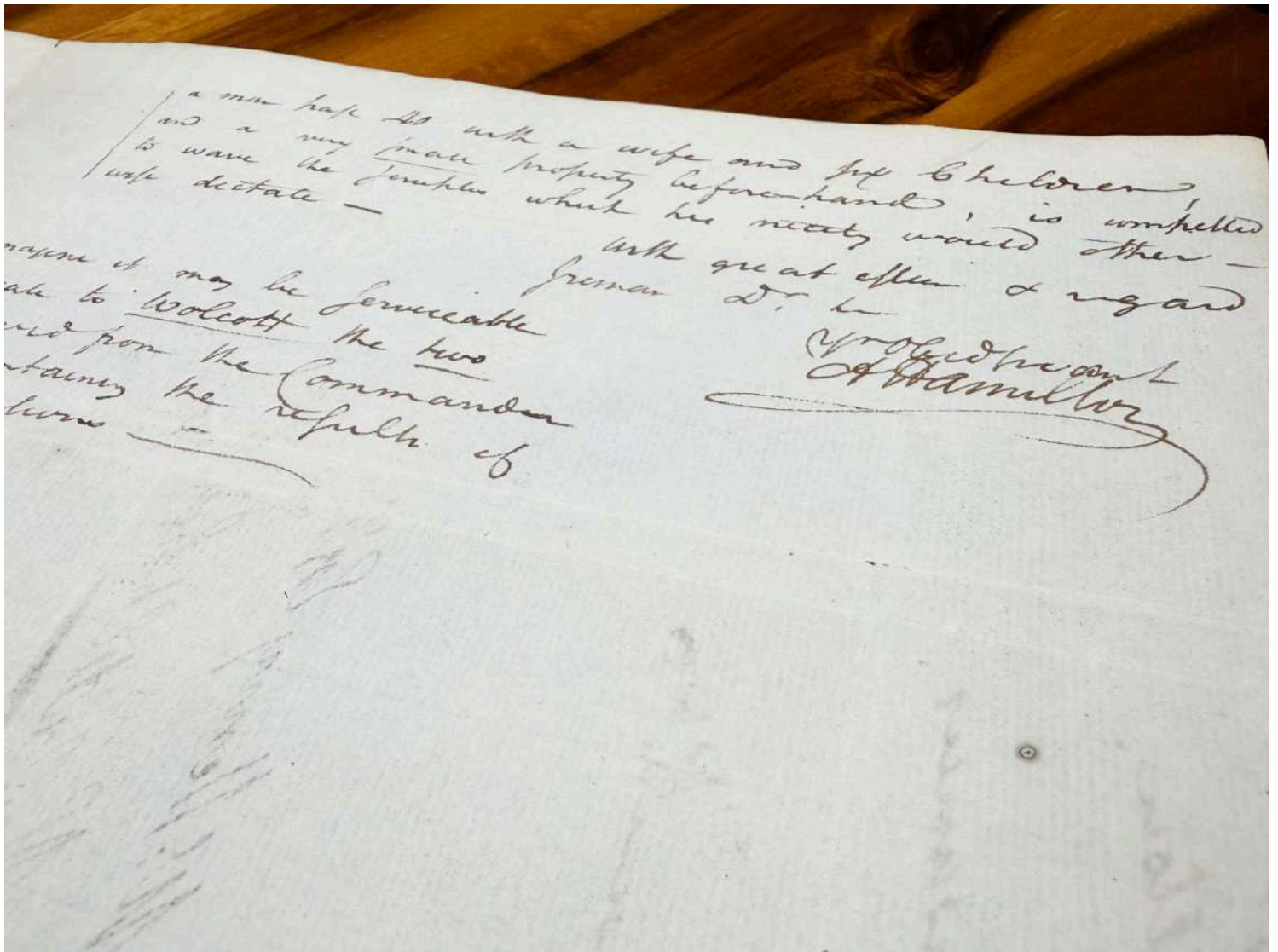




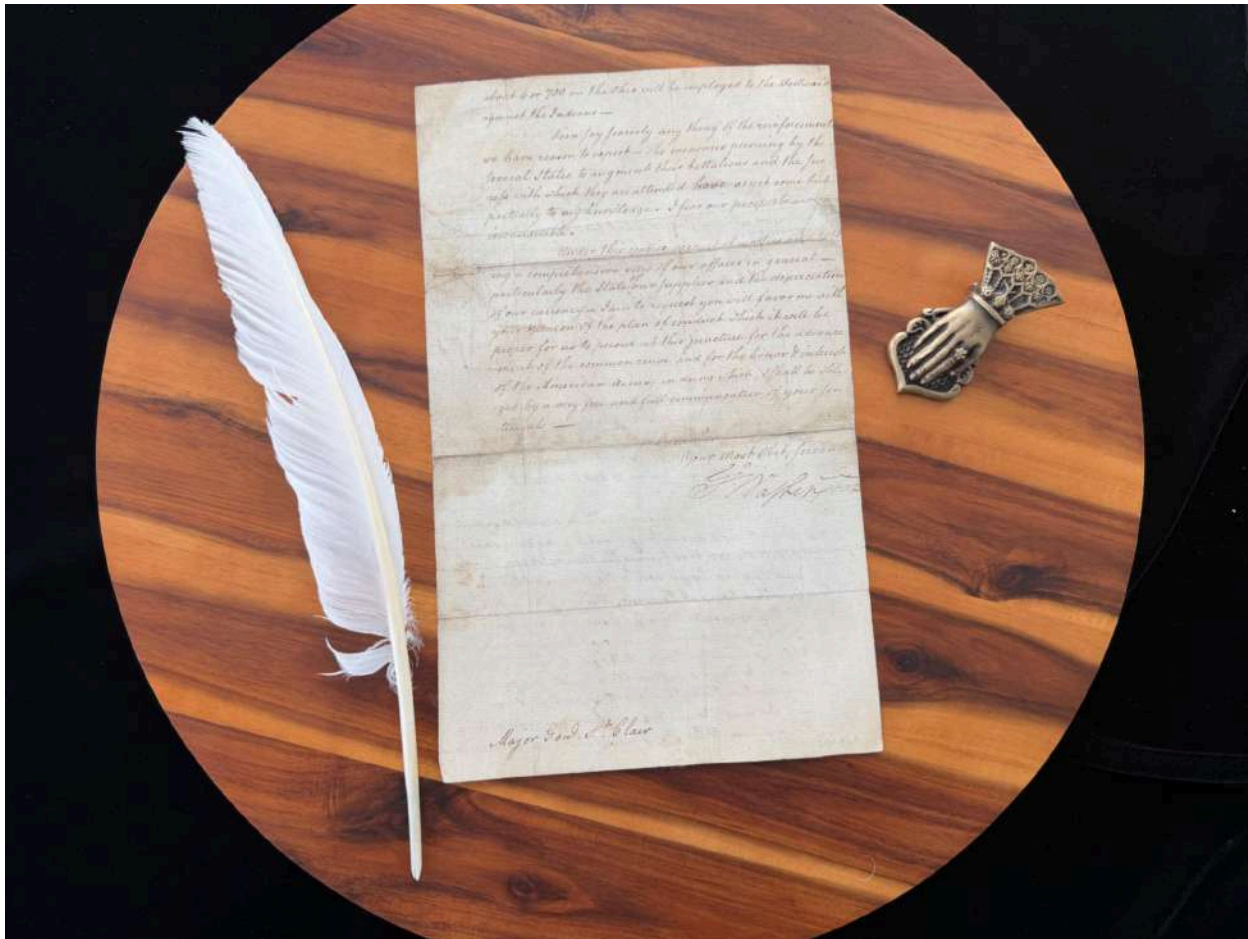
Benedict Arnold: "A most cruel and villainous attack on my Character since I left the City, by the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania, obliges me to return" Item 28.



Cornwallis from Charleston, 1780: “I have no other rule for my conduct but the good of my country, which I am determined to contribute all in my power to save, in spite of our foreign & domestic enemies.” Item 46.



Alexander Hamilton as Public Servant, Father: "My pecuniary sacrifices already to the public ought to produce the reverse of a disposition everywhere to compel me to greater than the law imposes." Item 59.



General George Washington Gives a Sweeping Assessment of the State of Both Armies and Aims at the "advancement of the common cause and for the honor & interest of the American Arms". Item 40

1

John Burgoyne, Aspiring British Commander, Announces that Secretary of War Charles Townshend Will Petition King George III Directly for His First General's Appointment

A remarkable letter, written at age 39, connecting 3 men who would play such a prominent role during the soon to come American Revolution

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948, it is the earliest letter of Burgoyne we have found ever reaching the market

John Burgoyne began his military career in 1737. In 1756, he was given command of the Eleventh Dragoons as a captain — but his real breakthrough came shortly after. He helped form the first two British light horse regiments and was given command of one of them — a genuinely pioneering role, as this was a revolutionary step, and Burgoyne was a pioneer in the early development of British light cavalry.

As a newly elected member of Parliament, he sought out, based on seniority and accomplishments, his first general's appointment in 1762, petitioning the King directly. This would make his reputation, as he served as a Brigadier-general in Portugal, winning particular distinction by leading his cavalry in the capture of Valencia de Alcántara and of Vila Velha de Ródão, compensating for the Portuguese loss of Almeida and playing a major part in repulsing a large Spanish force bent on invading Portugal.

Charles Townshend, then Secretary of War, is best known today for the Townshend Acts, which he pushed through Parliament in 1767, imposing import duties on the American colonies and becoming one of the key causes of the American Revolution. The King at the time was the newly enthroned, George III.

Autograph letter signed, England, April 14, 1762, to an unknown "My Lord," announcing that the Secretary of War, Charles Townshend, will petition the King directly on his behalf for his first General's appointment.

"I can no more suppress in silence the sense of obligation I have to your Lordship than I can express it in such terms as it deserves. I beg your Lordship to believe it will be always the great point of my ambition to render myself worthy of your good

opinion; & I hope I shall not forfeit any part of it if I presume once more to solicit your Lordship's countenance in a petition I am making to his Majesty for a mark of his Royal favour in a different mode.

"There is not yet, My Lord, any officer nominated for the Staff upon the Cavalry lines. The Secretary at War encourages me to hope I shall not be thought unreasonable in requesting the local rank of Brigadier, as my experience in the service gives me pretensions over the Portuguese; & my seniority in the service would prevent my preferment from being any injury to English officers, I being older than any officer destined for the Portugal Service who is not already upon the Staff.

"Mr. Townshend [Secretary of War] has promised to take his Majesty's pleasure upon this subject today.

"I shall not add to the very great liberty I take with your Lordship by trespassing further upon your time with apology or professions."

Burgoyne did get this appointment and rose through the ranks during the Seven Years' War, earning the affectionate nickname "Gentleman Johnny" from his troops for his fair but demanding leadership style.

He distinguished himself in several engagements, including raids on Cherbourg, St. Malo, and Valencia d'Alcantara, before turning to politics when the war ended in 1763. Notably sympathetic to the American colonists, he publicly stated in Parliament that he could not blame them if they rebelled against British treatment. When the American Revolution broke out, Burgoyne was sent to Boston as deputy to General Gage, a post he found unsatisfying. After returning briefly to England to care for his ill wife, he came back to North America in 1776 and eventually took command of an ambitious campaign to march south from Montreal to Albany with 8,500 men. Despite early battlefield successes — including the capture of Fort Ticonderoga — his expedition was plagued by supply shortages, deserting militia, unreliable Indian allies, and critically poor communication with General Howe, who ultimately chose not to rendezvous with him at Albany. Isolated and outnumbered, Burgoyne made two desperate assaults on American positions at Saratoga in September and October of 1777, both of which failed. With roughly 12,000 American troops under General Gates surrounding him and no viable path of retreat, he surrendered approximately 5,000 men on October 17, 1777 — a defeat that proved to be a turning point of the Revolutionary War. Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

My Lord
 ms. B. 1. 7

I can no more suppress in silence the sense of obligation I have to your Lordship than I can express it in such terms as it deserves. I beg your Lordship to believe it will be always the great point of my ambition to render myself worthy of your good opinion; & I hope I shall not forget any part of it if I presume once more to solicit your Lordship's countenance in a petition I am making to his Majesty for a mark of his Royal favour in a different mode.

There is not yet, My Lord, any officer nominated for the Staff upon the Cavalry line. The Secretary at War encouraged me to hope I shall not

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 officers destined for the Portugal service who is not
 already upon the Staff.

Mr. Townshend has promised to take his Majesty's
 pleasure upon this subject today.

I shall not add to the very great liberty I
 take with your Lordship by trespassing further upon your
 time with apology or professions.

I have the honour to be with the utmost
 respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's
 Most Obedient
 & Most Obedient Servant
 J. Burgoyne

Chesham Street
 April 14 1762

2)

Four Years Before Distinguishing Himself in the Continental Army, Rising to Adjutant General under George Washington, Alexander Scammell, Who Would Die Before War's End, Writes His Mother About Life and Its Value

“They [inhabitants] would soon learn to set a proper Value upon the necessaries, Conveniences & comforts of Life. Indeed I never knew how great a Blessing even the meanest necessaries of Life was till now since I have seen Poverty in such various Shapes.”

A rare letter of a Revolutionary patriot who would die young, the earliest one public records disclose

“The man who inspired us to do our full duty was Alexander Scammell,” General Washington said of him after the Battle of Monmouth

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Alexander Scammell grew up in Mendon, Massachusetts, the son of a prominent doctor. He graduated from Harvard University in 1769 and thereafter studied law in Berwick, Maine, under John Sullivan, and boarded with Benjamin Chadbourne, a prominent jurist, militia leader, and patron of education.

In January 1775, Sullivan was sent to represent New Hampshire at the Second Continental Congress. Congress named him a brigadier general and sent him north to fight under General George Washington.

Scammell joined Sullivan's Brigade of the New Hampshire militia. In the summer of 1775, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, Scammell witnessed the Siege of Boston. After the British evacuation in March 1776, Scammell's regiment went north to Canada and then south through New Jersey. In October 1776, Scammell became

brigadier major in General Charles Lee's division, and in November, he was promoted to colonel of the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment.

Scammell not only survived but thrived through many of the war's most prominent battles and events. On Christmas night 1776, he crossed the Delaware with General Washington before the victory at the Battle of Trenton. He fared well at the Battle of Princeton and was involved in some of the heaviest fighting of the war at the Battles of Saratoga. He spent the bitter winter of 1777-78 with Washington at Valley Forge, where he served as Washington's aide de camp and was appointed adjutant general in 1778. As adjutant general, he was the senior military officer responsible for maintaining army records, handling communications, and processing orders from General Washington, a role akin to chief of staff. He held this position for three years.

In June of 1778, Scammell also distinguished himself at the Battle of Monmouth. The British were evacuating Philadelphia, and Washington ordered General Lee to attack, but Lee refused. Washington and Scammell took command and held the field, prompting Washington to declare, "The man who inspired us to do our full duty was Alexander Scammell."

In the Yorktown campaign, Scammell led 400 light infantry of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment. Making a rare misstep while scouting behind enemy lines, he was shot by the British on September 30, 1781 and died a week later in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Before the war, he was part of a land survey expedition in the remote, sparsely settled "eastern Country" (interior/coastal Maine). It was rugged, solitary work, but he's clearly moved by the experience — the poverty he witnessed among rural Maine settlers prompted genuine reflection on gratitude and humility, which takes up much of the letter's moral tone.

Scammell focused on his health and his belief that a simple country life is beneficial to one's health: "I have this Summer & Fall past, & do at present enjoy the best Health I ever did in my Life.... The Country tho a poor one is remarkably healthy. I find that Health & Contentment is not to be look'd for among the Gay, the Luxurious, & dainty in populous Places." It is, perhaps, indicative of the life he hoped to pursue after the war.

Autograph letter signed, Berwick, Maine, January 3, 1772, to Mrs. Jane Scammell, his mother. He writes:

"Honord Mother I embrace this Opportunity of writing to you being the first I have had since I wrote from Boston in August. I have just arriv'd from the eastern Country & got into Winter Quarters at Berwick. Shall board with Col. Chadbourn till next

Spring. The Family is very genteel, generous, & kind & my very particular Friends. I can (with the sincerest Gratitude to my Almighty Guardian) inform you that I have this Summer & Fall past, & do at present enjoy the best Health I ever did in my Life. I have liv'd a very retir'd Life in the Woods the greatest Part of my Time. But tho the Life was very Solitary I found the want of Company in some measure compensated by the Healthfulness of the Employment. Mr. Scammell, his Lady & Family have Attended the Expedition in our Store Ship in the Different Harbors most handy to the Business & have enjoy'd most perfect health. The Country tho a poor one is remarkably healthy. I find that Health & Contentment is not to be look'd for among the Gay, the Luxurious, & dainty in populous Places. But in the retir's Village, or country Town. Let the dainty, the well fed & prodigal but only go into the eastern Country & see the poor inhabitants & their Method of Living. They would soon learn to set a proper Value upon the necessaries, Conveniences & comforts of Life. Indeed I never knew how great a Blessing even the meanest necessaries of Life was till now since I have seen Poverty in such various Shapes. I hope I shall make a right improvement of it, make grateful Acknowledgments to my All bountiful Benefactor for every Mercy & be led thereby up nearer to the Fountain of every Blessing. I hope to visit Mendon next Spring, if nothing turns up to the contrary, & should have come this winter of Traveling was not very bad at this Season of the Year.

"I hope you will enjoy Health & Contentment; & wont cease to offer up Prayers to the Throne of Grace, for a blessing upon your Dutiful & affectionate Son."

An early letter from a patriot who would serve and lead in many of the seminal battles and events of the Revolutionary War, and who would tragically die in the line of duty just as American victory was finally secured at Yorktown.

Scammel died young and his autograph is uncommon. Only a handful of his letters have reached the market in the past 20 years, this being the earliest.

1793
 A 1910

Honor'd Mother
 I embrace ^{this} Opportunity of writing to you being the
 first I have had since I wrote from Boston in
 August. I have just arriv'd from the eastern
 Country. I got into Winter Quarters at
 Berwick. I shall ^{board} with Col. Chadbourn till next
 Spring. The Family is very gentle, generous, & kind.
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 you that I have this Summer & Fall past & do
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 the Throne of Grace, for a blessing upon your

Dutiful & affectionate Son
 Berwick Janry 4. 1772. Alexander Scammell

3)

A Great American Moment: The Colonies Come to the Support of Boston After Britain Passes the Boston Port Act in 1774, the First of the Intolerable Acts, and Moves to Close the Port

We have never seen a similar piece reach the market: The Town of Newport, R.I. communicates to Boston and the towns in its colony its passage of a resolution calling for solidarity for American liberty and property rights

The original resolution, signed by its clerk, likely one of the copies sent to local towns

This sold at Anderson Art Galleries in 1924 and then again with the Walter Benjamin firm in the 1940s

The Coercive Acts of 1774, known as the Intolerable Acts in the American colonies, were a series of four laws passed by the British Parliament to punish the colony of Massachusetts Bay for the Boston Tea Party. The four acts were the Boston Port Act, the Massachusetts Government Act, the Administration of Justice Act, and the Quartering Act. The Quebec Act of 1774 is sometimes included as one of the Coercive Acts, although it was not related to the Boston Tea Party. These oppressive acts sparked strong colonial resistance, most especially the meeting of the First Continental Congress, which George Washington attended in September and October 1774.

The Boston Port Bill—more formally the Boston Port Act—closed the port of Boston beginning June 1, 1774, until the East India Company had been repaid for the destroyed tea and order restored. The act effectively strangled Boston's economy, since the town depended heavily on maritime trade.

The Port Act stated that: no goods could be loaded or unloaded at Boston except for essential supplies, customs operations were moved to Salem, and British naval enforcement would ensure compliance.

Rather than isolating Boston, the measure united many colonies behind Massachusetts. Colonists viewed the act as a dangerous example of Parliamentary tyranny and an attack on colonial self-government. Other colonies sent food and aid to Boston, and opposition to the Port Bill helped lead directly to the convening of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It became one of the central grievances leading toward the American Revolutionary War.

The Act passed in late March 1774 and news reached Boston in early May.

Newport merchants, political leaders, and town meetings strongly supported Boston after the port was closed in June 1774. Rhode Islanders viewed the punishment of Boston as a threat to all colonial ports and commercial liberties. Public meetings in Newport condemned Parliament's actions, endorsed non-importation measures, and encouraged colonial unity. Rhode Island in general—and Newport specifically—also sent aid to Boston. Colonies throughout North America contributed food, livestock, and supplies to help sustain Bostonians whose livelihoods had been crippled by the closure of the harbor.

Autograph document signed, Wm Coddington, Town Clerk, Newport, RI, May 20, 1774. *"At a Town Meeting legally held at Newport in ye Colony of Rhode Island y^e 20th day of May 1774.*

"Voted that we have y^e deepest Sense of y^e Injuries done to y^e Town of Boston by y^e Act of Parliament lately passed for putting an end to their trade and destroying the Port. And that we consider this Attack upon them as utterly subversive of American Liberty. For ye same Power may at Pleasure destroy y^e Trade of and Shut up the Ports of every other Colony in its Turn so that there will be a total End of all Property.

"Voted that we will unite with y^e other Colonies in all Reasonable and proper Measures to procure y^e Establishment of y^e Rights of y^e Colonies upon a just and permanent foundation; and particularly in Case the other Colonies shall upon this most alarming Occasion put a stop to their Trade to Great Britain and y^e West Indies that we will heartily join with them in this Measure.

"Voted that y^e Committee of Correspondence for this Town immediately transmit a Copy of these Resolutions to y^e Committee of Correspondence for y^e Town of Boston

"Voted that y^e Committee of Correspondence for this Town immediately send a Copy of y^e above Resolutions to each Town in this Colony. A True Copy, Witness Wm Coddington Town Clerk"

Boston Port-Bill

At a Town Meeting, ^{legally} called & held at Newport in
 Colony of Rhode Island on 20th day of May 1774.

Voted that we have of deepest Sense of the Injuries
 done to the Town of Boston by the Act of Parliament lately
 passed for putting an End to their Trade of Destroying
 the Ports: and that we consider this Attack upon them
 as utterly subversive of American Liberty: That same
 Power may at Pleasure destroy the Trade & shut up
 the Ports of every other Colony in its Turn so that there
 will be a total End of all Property.

Voted that we will unite with the other Colonies
 in all Reasonable and Proper Measures to procure the
 Establishment of the Rights of the Colonies upon a just
 and permanent Foundation; and particularly in case
 the other Colonies shall upon this most alarming Occasion
 put a Stop to their Trade to Great Britain and the
 West Indies that we will heartily join with them in
 the Measure.

Voted that the Committee of Correspondence for
 this Town immediately transmit a Copy of these
 Resolutions to the Committee of Correspondence for the
 Town of Boston

Voted that the Committee of Correspondence for this
 Town immediately send a Copy of the above Resolutions
 to each Town in this Colony.

a True Copy
 Witness W^m Goddington Town Clerk

Meeting called & held at Newport in
the 20th day of May 1774.
to we have of deepest sense of the Injuries
of Boston by the Act of Parliament lately
passed an End to their Trade & destroying
that we consider this Attack upon them
as we of American Liberty. From Sa
pleas we destroy. & Trade of that
other Colony in its Turn so th
End of all Property.
will unite with
Mean we

4)

Lord Stirling, Two Years From Joining the Continental Army, Stresses the Need to Pay the Workers at His Ironworks, Which Would Come to Supply the Patriots With Critical Ordnance

“I must beg that you will not fail in furnishing him with the money as soon as possible: A disappointment may be attended with fatal Consequences...”

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

One of the earliest ever letters of Stirling to reach the market

In the lead up to the American Revolution, the political loyalties of Lord Stirling (William Alexander) were unclear. Born in New York City of Scottish descent, he served as a provisioning agent for the British during the Seven Years' War in North America. He interacted and socialized with colonial elites, was a member of the Royal Council of New Jersey and favorite of loyalist Governor William Franklin. In 1759, he lobbied to claim the disputed Earldom of Stirling in Scotland; a Scottish court granted him the title, but he was blocked by the House of Lords. Still, he kept and used the honorific Lord Stirling.

However, he had married into the Livingston family; his wife, Sarah, was a sister of Philip Livingston, soon to be a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He had also become disenchanted with British rule after the Seven Years War. By 1776, Stirling had joined the New Jersey militia and was appointed a Brigadier General. His most significant military contribution came in August 1776, when he held off the British troops during the Battle of Long Island. He was captured and held as a prisoner on parole, then released during a prisoner exchange.

He later took part in both the Crossing the Delaware and the Battle of Princeton, the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and the Battle of Monmouth.

Stirling also supported the Patriots as a businessman. In 1771, he purchased the Hibernia Furnace in Rockaway Township, New Jersey. In the coming years, throughout the Revolution, Hibernia Furnace would supply the Continental Army with critical ordnance, including cannons, cannonballs, and shot. Under Stirling's ownership and the management of Joseph Hoff, this ironworks became a vital industrial asset.

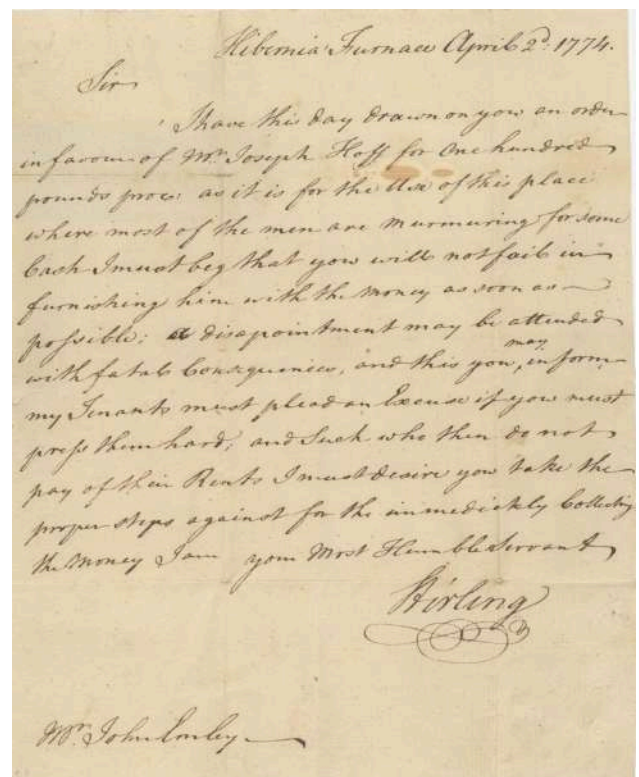
Running the ironworks in years prior to the war was a difficult task, as the financial situation in the colonies was fraught.

Autograph letter signed, Lord Stirling, Hibernia Furnace, April 2, 1774, to Mr. John Emley at Whitehall, Hunterdon County. In this letter, he is requesting John Emley, a prominent landowner in New Jersey, give his manager Hoff one hundred pounds "proc," or proclamation money, the currency used in the American colonies before the war. Stirling stresses his need to pay his workers.

"Sir, I have this day drawn on you an order in favour of Mr. Joseph Hoff for One hundred pounds proc: as it is for the Use of this place where most of the men are murmuring for some Cash I must beg that you will not fail in furnishing him with the money as soon as possible: A disappointment may be attended with fatal Consequences, and this you may inform my Tenants must plead an Excuse if you must press them hard; and Such who then do not pay of their Rents I must desire you take the proper steps against for the immediately Collecting the money I am Your Most Humble Servant Stirling."

Only two years later, Stirling would join the Continental Army, putting himself on the front lines. He died just before the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, his death attributed to gout, and so did not live to see the official end of the war.

The town of Stirling, New Jersey, is named for him.



5)

The Minuteman and Militia Pledge of 1775, Signed by 75 Soldiers of John TenEyck's Company in June 1775, Just Two Days After Bunker Hill

“We, the subscribers, do voluntarily enlist ourselves in the Company of Captain John TenEyck and do promise to obey our officers in the service”

Sold by Charles Hamilton in 1955; This was written and filled out the very day Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army

These men, many of whose names have been lost to history, answered the call of Lexington and Concord

On April 18, 1775, about 700 British Regulars in Boston, under Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith, received secret orders to capture and destroy colonial military supplies reportedly stored at Concord. Through effective intelligence gathering, Patriot leaders, among them John Adams and John Hancock, received word weeks before the British expedition that their supplies might be at risk and had moved most of them to other locations. On the eve before the battles of Lexington and Concord, a series of military movements by General Gage and Lt. Col. Smith raised the attention of many of the men in the Provincial Congress, among them Joseph Warren, who sent for Paul Revere under the highest level of secrecy, Revere barely evading the patrols of the British. He, along with a couple other men, was to warn area militias of the British plans and the impending British Army expedition from Boston.

Groups of impromptu militia had been raised and trained, and were awaiting the British attack. These men, whose legacy and fame continues to this day, were the minutemen. They were not only in Massachusetts. Provincial Congresses sprung up elsewhere to prepare themselves. Among the earliest was in New Jersey, which met in June 1775. They called for the organization of local militias. The Rules and Orders of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey were formally adopted the first week of June 1775. They established committees of safety, militia regulations, and ordered each county to organize companies — including those designated for “minute service.”

Early militia officers were often prominent local men—landowners, merchants, or officials. The soldiers were generally younger, unmarried volunteers drawn from county militia, expected to mobilize quickly for sudden threats. These men, whom the Congress referred to as “minutemen” were trained and to be ready on a moment’s notice. The 1st Regiment of Essex County Militia was part of the earliest organization of New Jersey’s Revolutionary-era militia forces, and among the earliest in the entire nation-to-be.

The regiment’s duty was home defense: Guarding the coastline and river approaches against British ships in New York Harbor; Providing detachments for patrolling and enforcing resolutions of the Continental Congress (such as stopping trade with Britain); Serving as minutemen to respond to unexpected attacks. They carried out raids, ambushes, and harassment of British troops and Loyalist militias. Later, they reinforced Continental Army operations, but also acted independently.

Document signed, June 19, 1775, two days after the Battle of Bunker Hill, in an unknown hand, signed by 75 soldiers who signed the pledge located at the top of the document, among them Lt. Peter Vroom. Some of these men would have trained and served as minutemen, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Congress. Others would have performed duties of the militiamen. *“We, the subscribers, do voluntarily enlist ourselves in the Company of Captain John TenEyck in the Township of Hillsborough in the County of Somerset under the command of Colonel [blank] and do promise to obey our officers in the service as they shall appoint us agreeable to the rules and regulations of the Provincial Congress. Witness our hands this 19th day of June 1775.”*

We have found only one similar, large scale minuteman or militia pledge from this early in the war, signed by the soldiers, having reached the market, and we carried it.

We the subscribers do voluntary enlist ourselves
in the company of Capt. John Hendyck, in the
Township of Hillsborough, in the County of Somerset
under the command of Col.

and do promise to obey our Officers in such Service
as they shall appoint us, agreeable to the rules and
orders of the provincial Congress, Witness our hands
this 19: day of June 1775

Peter Droom Jew?
Peter Dumont
Jacobus Quick

Peter Dumont
Cornelius Van Nuy
Cornelius Van Arsdalen
Hendrick Van Dike

Jochem Quick
William Spader
Nicolas Duboyz
Henry Cock
John Cock
Peter Wintear
Jacob Wintear
John Vanhise

Isaac Covert
Peter Quick
Andris Ten Sike
Court Voorhees
Abraham Van Arsdalen
Abraham Wilson
Andrew Van Mee Desworth

Hendrick Fisher
Minna Voorhees

Peter Voorhees
John Brogan
Junio Middlerard
Joseph Vanadlen

Garret Van Arsdalen
Jacob Cock

Hendrick Van D. Veer
Abraham Stryker
Court Voorhees
Jacob Voorhees
John Voorhees

Jacob Cock
John Saums
Hannaes Hoagland
Peter Hoagland
Cornelius Van Nuy
Burgun Covert
Jacobus Van Nuy
John Van Nuy

<p> John Bishop Joseph Van Doren Jacob Laffer John Staats Junr. Derick Voorhes Thomas Skillman Peter Werlee </p>	<p> John Van Arsdaken Conrad Van Waggoner Jacobus Ammerman </p>
<p> Lucas Hongland Reynier Staats Spaack Sedam Gerrit mitz Peter Van Doren Albert Stolhoff Jacob Kerstow Abraham Louw and Giebert Karsough </p>	<p> <i>1795</i> <i>1795</i> <i>1795</i> </p>
<p> Garnet Williamson Peter Ditmars William Griggs Abraham Dubois Peter Broome Peter Troom Abraham Stricker John Covert Thomas Covert Tunis Van Middleburgh Garnet Demott John Van Middleburgh Abraham Hoff Henry Gomer </p>	<p> <i>[Faint handwritten notes]</i> </p>

6)

The Dawn of Washington's Command: Thomas Chase, Tea Party Patriot, in July 1775 Secures Spears at George Washington's Order to Protect the First Headquarters of the Continental Army from British Attack

"By order of the General", this took place less than a week after Washington arrived to assume command, meaning it was one of the very first things Washington did on his assumption of command

Last sold in 1953 by Goodspeed's

An incredibly rare document from the dawn of the Continental Army, connecting a Tea Party Patriot to General Washington and showing the work done in the aftermath of Lexington and Concord to secure the fledgling army

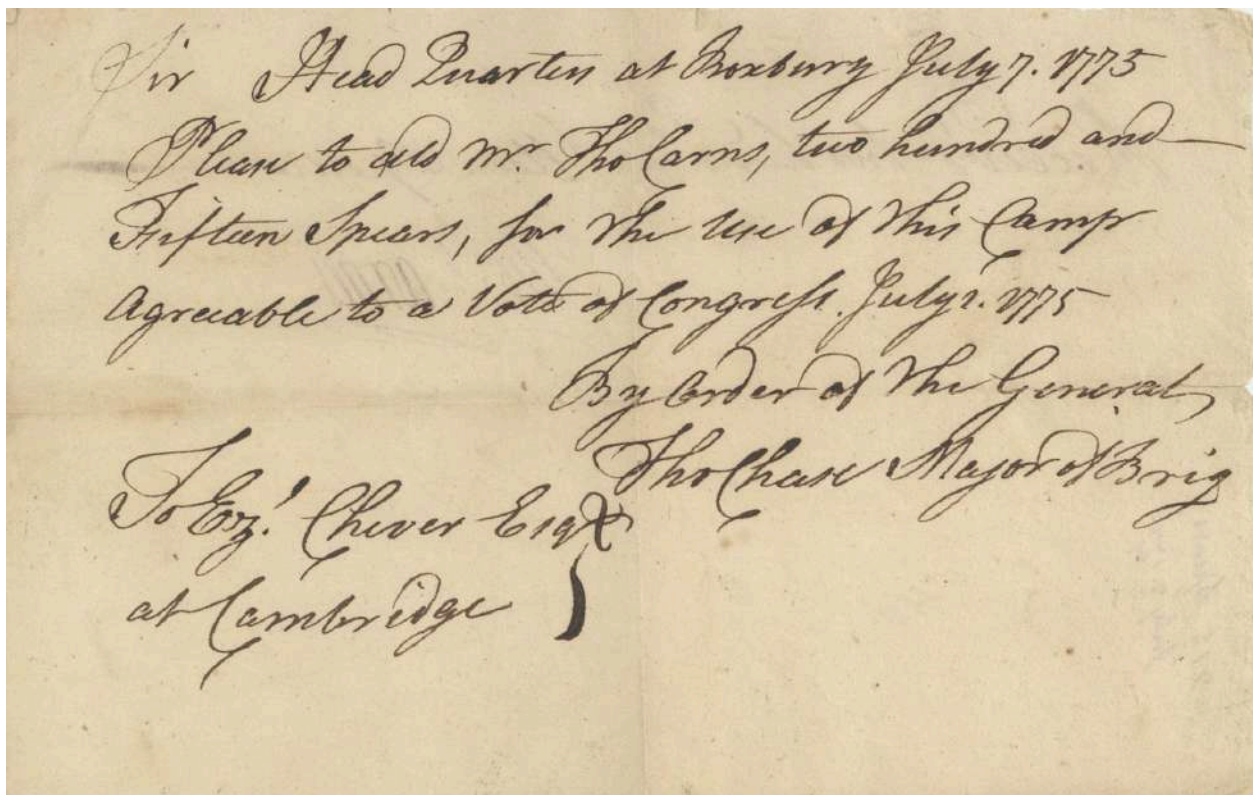
As a "Grand New England Army" took shape outside of Boston, the Continental Congress in Philadelphia decided to adopt the army and commit to support what was happening in Massachusetts. They appointed the Virginian George Washington to assume command and reform the body of militia soldiers surrounding Boston. On July 2, 1775 Washington arrived in Cambridge to establish his headquarters and begin the process of restructuring. In short time Washington appointed senior officers, introduced a new system of military discipline, and established the Continental Army.

Washington's challenges were monumental. The lack of military equipment, especially powder, was the greatest concern. He had been told that 308 barrels were available but discovered that this was the amount prior to the battles at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. Now only 36 were left, less than nine rounds per man. A British attack at this point might be devastating. Washington leaked false information that he had 1800 barrels of powder while ordering that spears be built to repel a British attack.

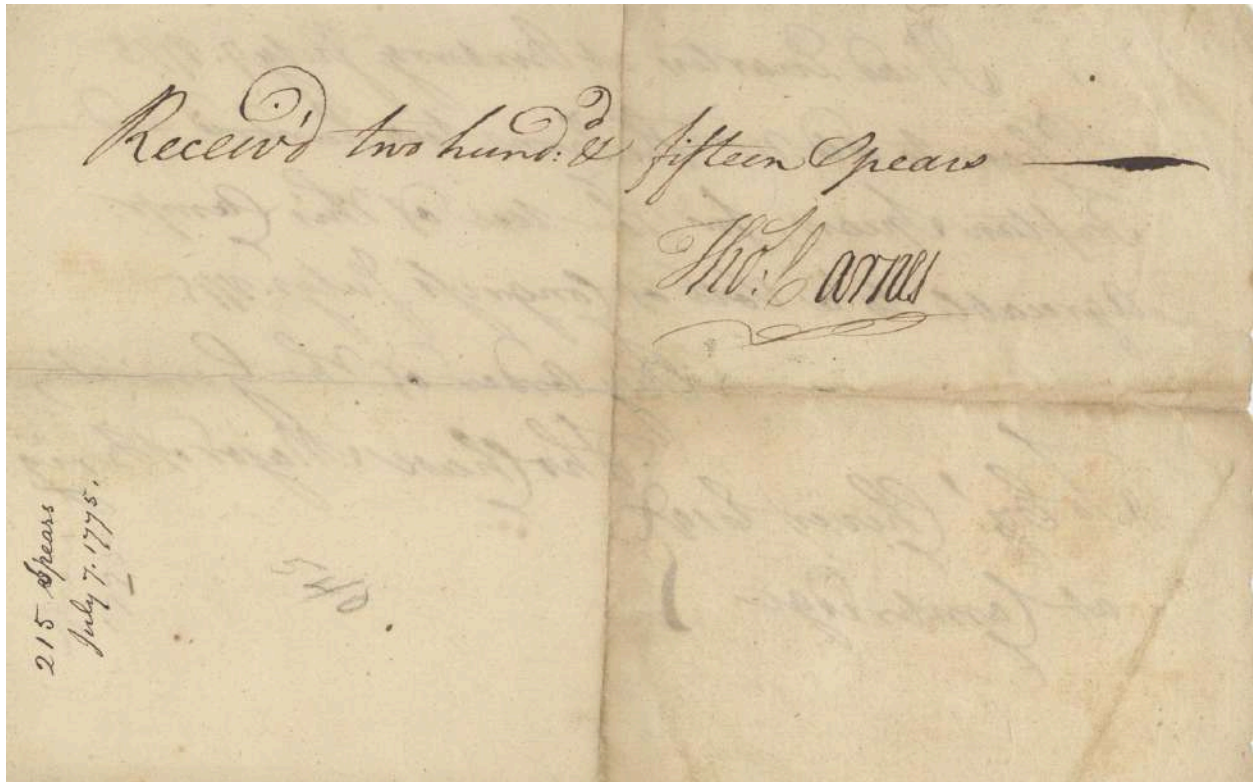
Thomas Chase, who was 34 at the time of the Tea Party, was the part-owner of Chase & Speakman's Distillery in the South End of Boston. He was a member of the Loyal Nine, a member of the North End Caucus, and part of a committee of 10 men who were chosen on December 14, 1773 to accompany Francis Rotch to meet with customs officials and demand a pass for the ship Dartmouth. Following the Boston Tea Party, Chase would serve on the Committee of Inspection in 1774, and serve as Deputy Quartermaster for the general forces during the war.

Autograph document signed, Thomas Chase, Headquarters at Roxbury, Massachusetts, July 7, 1775, to Ezekiel Cheever, commissary of artillery, ordering for "Mr. Thomas Carns, two hundred and fifteen spears for the use of this camp agreeable to a vote of Congress July 2, 1775. By order of the General, Thomas Chase, Major of Brigade."

An incredibly rare document from the dawn of the Continental Army, connecting a Tea Party Patriot to General Washington and showing the work done in the aftermath of Lexington and Concord to secure the fledgling army, just days after Washington's taking up of the position.



Sir Head Quarters at Roxbury July 7. 1775
 Please to give Mr. Tho Carns, two hundred and
 fifteen spears, for the use of this Camp
 agreeable to a Vote of Congress. July 2. 1775
 By Order of the General
 Tho Chase Major of Brig
 To Coy. Cheever 61st
 at Cambridge



7)

George Washington's Aide de Camp, Stephen Moylan, in 1776 Directs the General's Naval Agent to Restore the Private Effects of the Captain of One of the American Navy's First Major Vessel Seizures, the Nancy

"It is the Intention of His Excellency [Washington] that private property should be given up to Masters of vessels, crews, or passengers... and as Captain Hunter brought in so very valuable a prize, for us it is but reasonable..."

This represents an important humanitarian policy decision exhibiting Washington's fundamental fairness, ordering the return of personal property (or compensation for it) to the captain and crew of captured vessels

This rare war-date communication last sold in 1948 through the Walter Benjamin firm

On September 2, 1775, Washington sent a letter to Capt. Nicholson Broughton, a captain in John Glover's Massachusetts Regiment, authorizing him to take command of the first vessel in the Continental service: "You being appointed a Captain in the Army of the United Colonies of North America, are hereby direct[ed] to take the Command of a Detachment of sd Army & proceed on Board the Schooner Hannah at Beverly lately fitted out & equipp'd with Arms, Ammunition & Proviss. at the Continental Expence."

Encouraged by the success and aware of increased British naval activity, Washington authorized an expansion of the fleet, informing Congress on October 5, 1775: "I have directed 3 Vessels to be equipped in order to cut off the Supplies, & from the Number of Vessels hourly arriving it may become an Object of some Importance." The ships of Washington's fleet, as well as ships authorized by the states, had enough success for further expansion. Washington informed Richard Henry Lee: "At the Continental expence I have fitted out Six pr the Inclosed list, two of which are upon the Cruize, directed by the Congress—the rest ply about Capes Cod & Ann—as yet to very little purpose."

The six vessels were the schooners Lee, Harrison, Lynch, Franklin, and Warren, and the brigantine Washington. Tradition has it that the fleet flew the "Appeal to Heaven" flag, as suggested by Col. Joseph Reed: "Please to fix upon some particular colour for a flag, and a signal by which our vessels may know one another. What do you think of a flag with a white ground, a tree in the middle, the motto 'Appeal to Heaven?' This is the flag of our floating batteries."

Capt. John Manley commanding the Lee made the most impressive capture on November 29, 1775. His prize was the British brigantine Nancy, carrying two thousand muskets, thirty tons of musket shot, one hundred thousand flints, thirty thousand round shot, barrels of powder, and a thirteen-inch mortar. The captain was Robert Hunter, a merchant not commissioned in the British Navy.

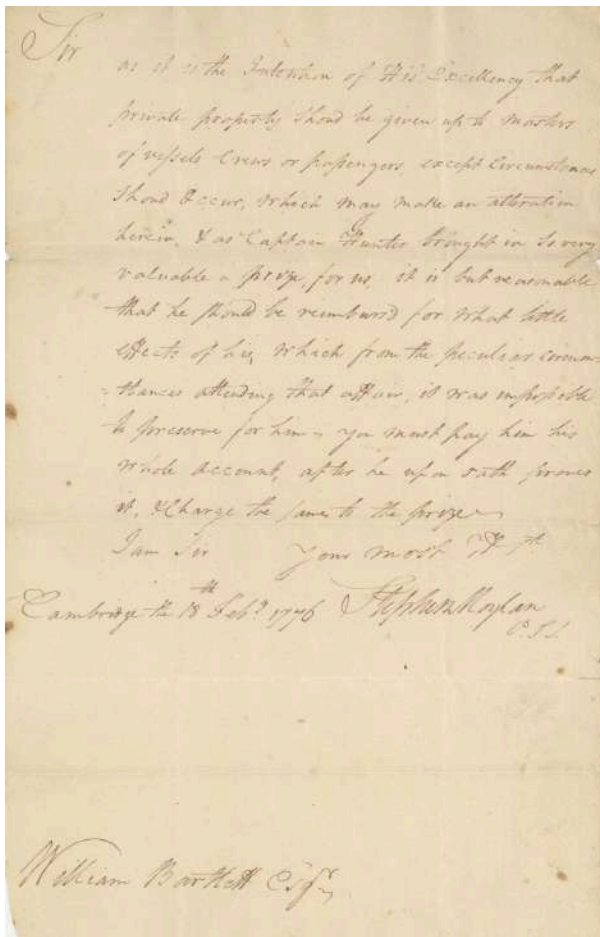
Manley's captures were among the earliest major American naval successes of the Revolution. Operating under Washington's authority before the formal Continental Navy fully emerged, he intercepted British supply

ships bound for Boston. His most celebrated capture was the HMS Britannia, loaded with military supplies, but he took several other vessels as prizes, including the Nancy.

These captures were enormously important because Washington's army around Boston was critically short.

Washington decided in late January 1776 to allow the officers and crew of the Nancy to head home, with the ship and its goods having been taken by the US, excepting those that were private and personal rather than military. At this time, William Bartlett served as the naval agent under General George Washington and oversaw the seizure and auctioning of captured British vessels.

Autograph letter signed, Stephen Moylan, Cambridge, February 18, 1776, to William Bartlett. *"Sir, It is the Intention of His Excellency that private property should be given up to Masters of vessels, crews, or passengers, except Circumstances should occur, which may make an alteration herein, & as Captain Hunter brought in so very valuable a prize, for us it is but reasonable that he should be reimbursed for what little effects of his, which from the peculiar circumstances attending that affair, it was impossible to preserve for him, you must pay him his whole Account, after he upon oath proves it & charge the same to the prize."*



This represents an important humanitarian policy decision exhibiting Washington's fundamental fairness, ordering the return of private property (or compensation for it) to the captain and crew of captured vessels. Here it is ordered that the British captain of the Nancy be made whole for his personal goods.

8)

A Prisoner Petition From 1776 to Jonathan Dayton, Asking the 16-Year-Old Soldier to Appeal for Clemency to his Father, Col. Elias Dayton

"Plead with Your Honourd Father for to Relieve us out of a Miserable Prison as we hope of your Goodness can"

A rare and fascinating glimpse into clemency and appeal during the Revolution itself

In the fall of 1776, Colonel Elias Dayton's unit built Fort Schuyler in Rome, NY and Fort Dayton in Herkimer, NY, and fought off Indian raids from Johnstown and German Flats. The "Main Guard House" mentioned in the letter was likely a military guardhouse at one of these frontier postings.

Jonathan Dayton was only about 16 years old in 1776. He had left the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in 1775 to fight in the Revolution, serving under his father Elias in the 3rd New Jersey Regiment. He had become Regimental Paymaster on August 26, 1776. Dayton would become the youngest signer of the U.S. Constitution, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the city of Dayton, Ohio is named after him.

Autograph document signed, Thomas Dixon Fletcher, on behalf of a group of prisoners, to Jonathan Dayton, from the Main Guard House, September 18 1776.

"The Humble Address of the several Persons now confined for their several crimes in the Main Guard House Humbly Sheweth that we entirely rely on your Interest and Goodness.

"Humbly Hoping that you will Interest yourself in our behalf and Plead with Your Honourd Father for to Relieve us out of a Miserable Prison as we hope of your Goodness can, & intreat of him to Mitigate our Punishment & as he feels Joy at the Meeting of his belovd Son, I hope he will feel the same Joy at the Returning of several of his sons by Adoption to their duty. This done we Shall be for ever bound for to Pray &c

Prisoners

Tho^s Dixon Fletcher

Tho^s Connolly

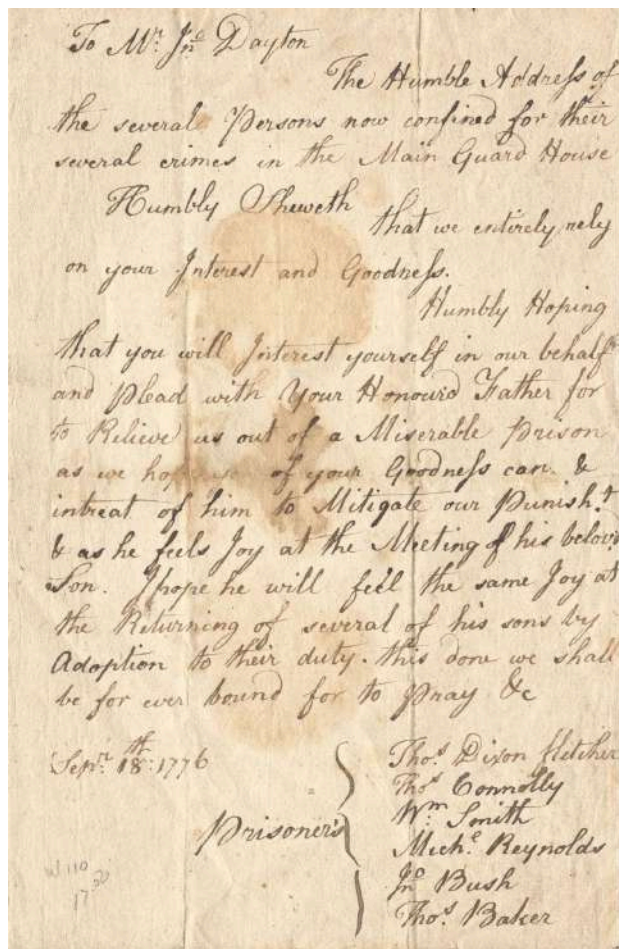
Wm^s Smith

Mich.^e Reynolds

Jn^o Bush

Tho^s Baker

A new set of articles of war was adopted on September 20, 1776 — just two days after this letter was written — which raised the maximum flogging sentence from 39 lashes to 100. The prisoners may have been writing in a race against time, knowing harsher punishments were coming. Certain crimes even carried the death penalty, including sleeping on duty and leaving a post without authorization.



To Mr. Jno. Dayton
 The Humble Address of
 the several Persons now confined for their
 several crimes in the Main Guard House
 Humbly Sheweth that we entirely rely
 on your Interest and Goodness.
 Humbly Hoping
 that you will Interest yourself in our behalf
 and Plead with Your Honour's Father for
 to Relieve us out of a Miserable Prison
 as we hope of your Goodness care &
 intreat of him to Mitigate our Punish^t
 & as he feels Joy at the Meeting of his beloved
 Son. I hope he will feel the same Joy at
 the Returning of several of his sons by
 Adaption to their duty. this done we shall
 be for ever bound for to Pray &c
 Sept: 18: 1776
 Prisoners }
 Tho^s Dixon Fletcher
 Tho^s Connolly
 Wm^s Smith
 Mich.^e Reynolds
 Jn^o Bush
 Tho^s Baker

9)

**General Charles Lee Blames General Washington for the Fall of Fort
Washington and Fears for the Fate of "American Freedom" After the Fall of
the Fort in 1776**

**"Indecision bids fair for tumbling down the goodly fabrick of American freedom,
and, with it, the rights of mankind."**

*He blames Washington: "'Twas indecision in our military councils which cost us the garrison of Fort
Washington"*

*If we "do not now exert themselves, they must, and indeed ought to be, enslaved; but if they act with the
necessary vigour and virtue, I will answer for their success."*

*He advocates open defiance of Congress: "There are times when we must commit treason against the laws of
the State for the salvation of the State... For Heaven's sake lose no time in sending up the Militia"*

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1950

On November 16, 1776, the Battle of Fort Washington ended in a catastrophic American defeat, marking the dismal conclusion of Washington's New York Campaign. After early successes repulsing British warships and Hessian attacks gave the garrison a false sense of security, British General Howe launched a coordinated three-pronged assault with 8,000 troops against the fort's 3,000 defenders. Despite initial American resistance and heavy British casualties, General Percy breached the southern defensive lines while Cornwallis and Mathew overwhelmed the eastern defenses, leaving Colonel Magaw no choice but to surrender the fort and its roughly 2,800 surviving men at 3:00 P.M. — one of the largest American troop losses of the entire war.

Along with the cornucopia of supplies, the British had effectively eliminated the last bastion of American resistance on Manhattan Island. For the Continental army, the loss of manpower coupled with the captured supplies were hard blows to morale and the cause. In addition, the fall of Fort Washington would be one of the lowest points in the military career of Nathanael Greene, who had insisted and persuaded Washington that Fort Washington could be held. Four days later, the Americans would abandon Fort Lee, on the opposite bank of the Hudson River, on the morning of November 20. The fortification was occupied by the British later that same day. Washington's force would beat a hasty yet hard retreat across New Jersey to the safety of Pennsylvania, beaten and downtrodden but alive to fight another day.

The defeat intensified doubts about Washington's leadership, both in Congress and among his own officers, among them his second in command, General Charles Lee. Some in Congress began quietly considering whether Washington should be replaced.

Paradoxically, the disaster ultimately strengthened Washington's resolve. His famous crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 and the subsequent victory at Trenton directly answered the catastrophe at Fort Washington, reviving American morale and keeping the Revolution alive through its darkest hour.

At the time of Fort Washington's fall, Lee was commanding a separate detachment of the Continental Army in New York, north of the main action. Washington had repeatedly urged Lee to bring his forces across the Hudson to join the main army in New Jersey, but Lee deliberately delayed and dragged his feet — a point of serious friction between the two generals.

Autograph letter signed, General Charles Lee, Camp near Phillipsbourg, November 22, 1776, to James Bowdoin, President of the Massachusetts Council.

"Indecision bids fair for tumbling down the goodly fabrick of American freedom, and, with it, the rights of mankind. 'Twas indecision of Congress prevented our having a noble army, and on an excellent footing. 'Twas indecision in our military councils which cost us the garrison of Fort Washington, the consequence of which must be fatal, unless remedied in time by a contrary spirit. Enclosed I send you an extract of a letter from the General, on which you will make your comments; and I have no doubt but that you will concur with me in the necessity of raising immediately an army to save us from perdition. Affairs appear in so important a crisis, that I think even the resolves of the Congress must no longer too nicely weigh with us. We must save the community in spite of the ordinances of the Legislature. There are times when we must commit treason against the laws of the State for the salvation of the State. The present crisis demands this brave, virtuous kind of treason. For my own part (and I flatter myself that my way of thinking is congenial with that of Mr. Bowdoin's) I will stake my head and reputation on the

propriety of the measure. To come to the point: I request and conjure you, therefore, to waive all formalities, and devise some means of completing not only your regiments prescribed to the Province, but add, if possible, four companies to each regiment. We must not only have a force sufficient to cover your Province and these fertile districts from the insults and irruptions of the tyrant's troops, but sufficient to drive 'em out of all their quarters in the Jerseys, or all is lost. Disaffection is daily increasing in Pennsylvania, which must be checked by a tremendous superiority. In the meantime send up a formidable body of Militia to supply the place of the Continental troops, which I am ordered to convey over the river. Let your people be well supplied with blankets and warm clothes as I am determined by the help of God to unnest 'em even in the dead of winter. Let me hear from you soon."

He adds a ps: *"For Heaven's sake lose no time in sending up the Militia, and a number of shoes, stockings, and blankets, for the army. If Massachusetts and Connecticut do not now exert themselves, they must, and indeed ought to be, enslaved; but if they act with the necessary vigour and virtue, I will answer for their success."* Small trimming at top right visible in scan and not affecting text.

Lee was finally captured by the British on December 13, 1776, still having never joined Washington, found at a tavern several miles from his own troops — an embarrassing end to his insubordination. He was held by the British as a prisoner until exchanged in 1778. During the Battle of Monmouth later that year, Lee led an assault on the British that miscarried. He was subsequently court-martialed and his military service brought to an end.

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1950.

Sir,

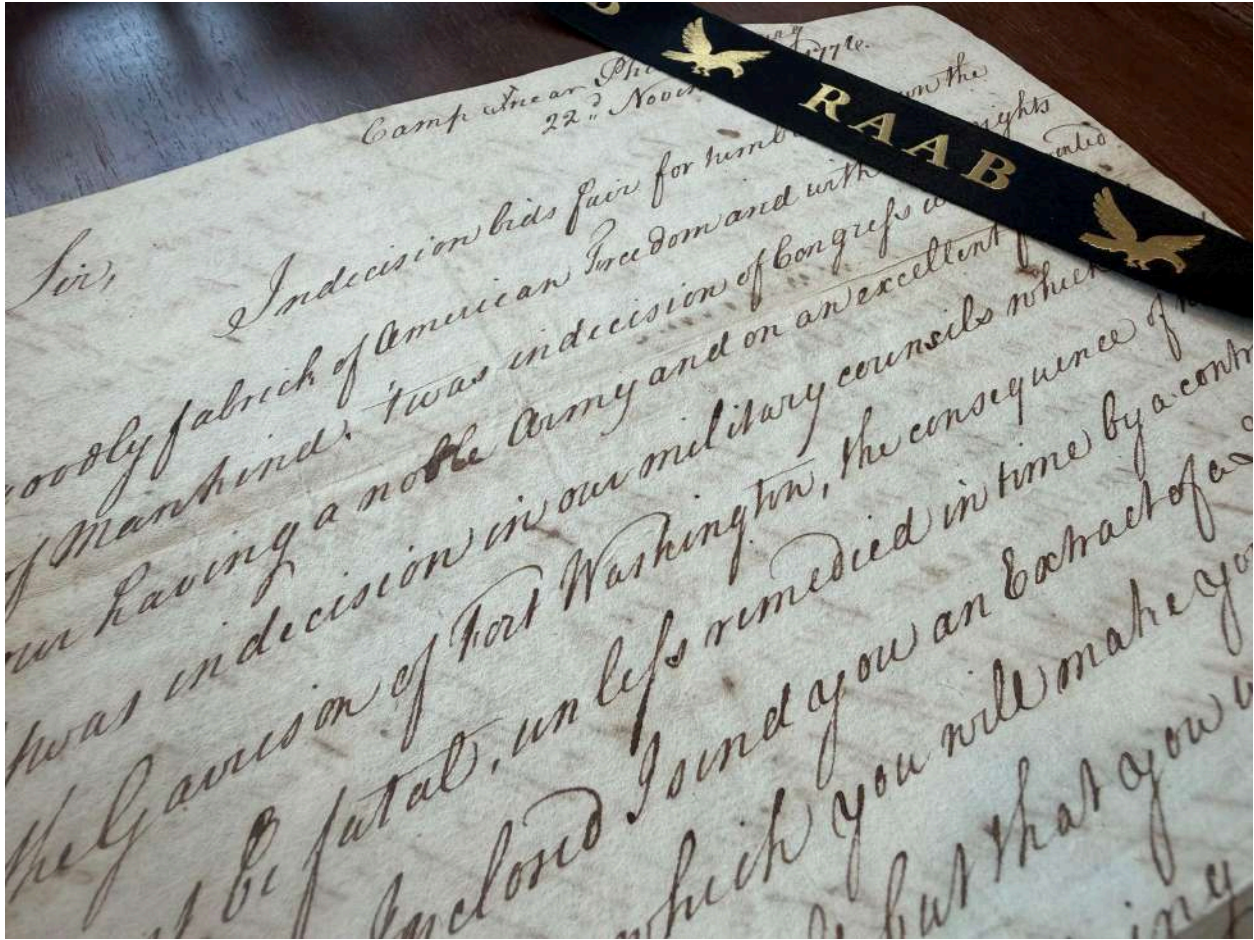
 Camp near Philipsburg
 22^d November, 1776.

Indecision bids fair for tumbling down the
 goodly fabric of American Freedom and with it the rights
 of Mankind. 'twas indecision of Congress which prevented
 our having a noble Army and on an excellent footing.
 'twas indecision in our military councils which lost us
 the Garrison of Fort Mifflin, the consequence of which,
 must be fatal, unless remedied in time by a contrary
 spirit. I enclosed I send you an Extract of a Letter from
 the General, on which you will make your comments,
 and I have no doubt but that you will concur with
 me in the necessity of raising immediately an Army
 to save us from perdition: ~~for my part~~ ~~the~~ affairs
 appear in so important a crisis, that I think even
 the Resolves of the Congress must no longer too nicely
 weigh with us. We must save the community in
 spite of the ordinances of the Legislature. There are
 times when we must commit treason against the
 laws of the state, for the salvation of the State. The
 present crisis demands this brave virtuous kind
 of Treason, for my own part, and I flatter myself
 that my way of thinking is congenial with that of
 Mr. Pindar's. I will stake my head and reputation
 on the propriety of the measure - to come to the point,

I request and conjure you therefore to waive all formalities
 and devise some means of completing not only your
 Regiments prescribed to the Province, but to add if possible
 four Companies to each Regiment. We must not only have
 a force sufficient to cover your Province and then fend
 from the insults of the Enemy and incursions of the Tyrant's
 Troops, but sufficient to drive 'em out of all their Quarters in
 the Jerseys or all is lost, disaffection is daily increasing
 in Pennsylvania which must be check'd by a tremendous
 superiority - in the mean time send up a formidable
 Body of Militia to supply the place of the Continental Troop
 which I am ordain'd to carry over the River - let your People
 be well supplied with blankets and warm Cloathes as I
 am determin'd by the help of God to unnerst in
 in the dead of Winter - let me hear from you soon
 Yours most affectionately
 & respectfully
 Charles Lee

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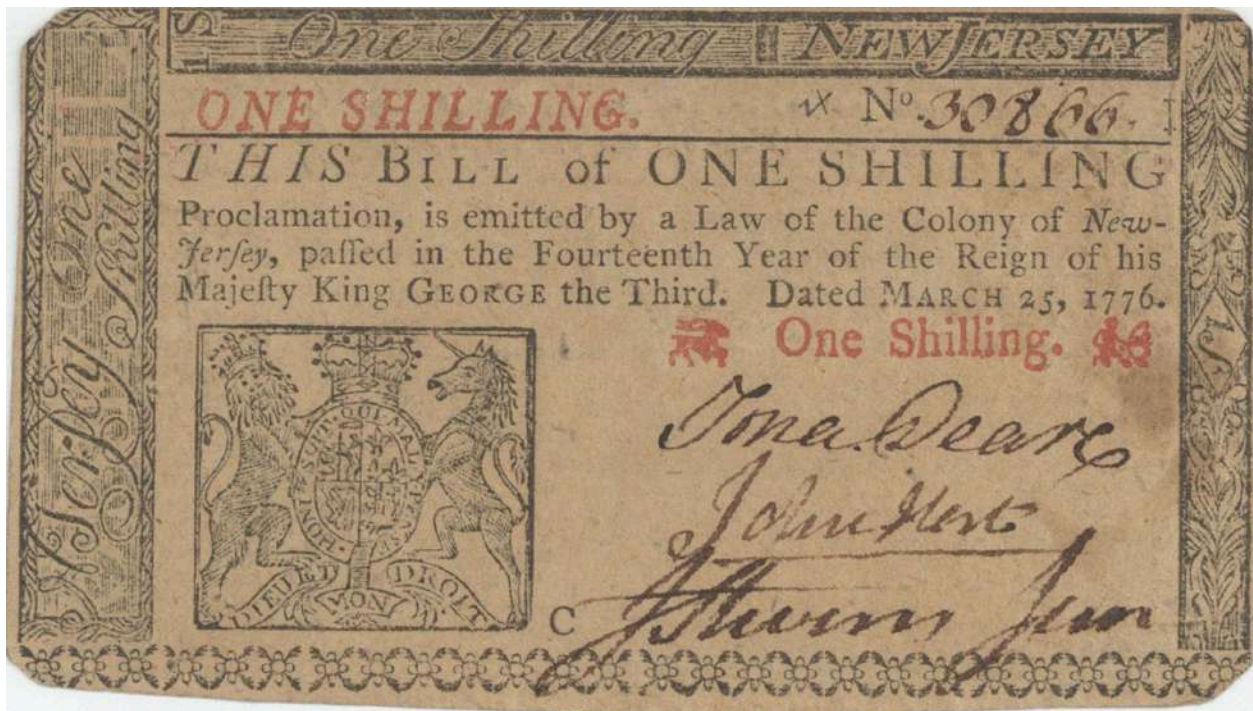
For Heavens sake lose no time in sending up the
 Militia and a number of Shoes Stockings and
 and Blankets for the Army - if Massachusetts and
 Connecticut do not now exert themselves, they must
 and indeed ought to be enslaved, but if they act with
 the necessary vigor and virtue I will answer for the Suc



10)

Continental Currency Signed in 1776 by Signer of the Declaration of Independence John Hart

Signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey. Engraved New Jersey **note** for one shilling, no. 6177, printed by Isaac Collins of Burlington, 4.25 x 2.5, dated 1776, **signed** in black ink by John Hart, Tona Deare, and John Stevens, Jr.



11)

John Hancock, President of Congress, Directs Crucial Continental Army Recruiting at Washington's Urging, Informing the Commander There, Gen. Artemas Ward, That the Funds Are Being Sent

A rare war-date letter of the President of Congress to a Senior General, during Congress's brief tenure in Baltimore

Hancock's younger brother Ebenezer was Deputy Pay Master General there, and managed disbursement of the funds to raise troops for George Washington

This letter was sold to a collector by Walter Benjamin Autographs in 1948

The Eastern Department was a geographic command of the Continental Army established on April 4, 1776, covering New England (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut).

Functioning as a home-front defense, it raised troops, managed local militia, secured ports, and protected against British coastal raids. It also had the responsibility to pay, clothe, and provision the Continental Army troops stationed in that department. Major General Artemas Ward, a General from Massachusetts, had been in charge of the colonial forces camped in Cambridge since the day after the battles of Lexington and Concord. George Washington took over that responsibility. Ward then led the Eastern Department from April 4, 1776 – March 20, 1777.

Money was desperately needed in the Eastern Department to pay and outfit the Continental troops there, as well as to cover the costs of raising new recruits. So on January 31, 1777, Congress passed a resolution resolving that a sum of money be advanced for paying bounties and defraying the expenses of raising and equipping the new recruits in that region. And Congress authorized a large amount of funds for this purpose: \$300,000 was to go to Massachusetts, and \$100,000 each to New Hampshire and Connecticut. These funds were largely made up of the newly printed Continental currency, which the Congress authorized to fund the

war effort. John Hancock, as President of Congress, oversaw the transfer of funds to the Deputy Paymaster General in the Eastern Department, who was Hancock's own younger brother, Ebenezer Hancock. He was in charge of managing and dispensing the money, and coordinating expenditures with the commander of that department, Artemas Ward.

Monies were sent to Ebenezer on a number of occasions. These were in part to enable him to pay the wages of General Washington's troops. Soldiers would queue up to get their pay at Ebenezer's store at 10 Marshall St. in Boston. Other funds, such as those referenced in this document, were for recruiting new troops and paying their bounties and wages.

Because of concern about British proximity to Philadelphia, the Continental Congress fled that city and met in Baltimore on December 20, 1776. It remained in Baltimore for just over two months, until February 27, 1777.

Autograph letter signed, Baltimore, February 8, 1777, to *"the Honble. Major General (Artemas) Ward, Commanding the Troops in the Eastern Department"*, giving him details of the sums being sent. *"By this opportunity the Sum of Three hundred thousand Dollars is sent to Ebenezer Hancock, Esq., Deputy Pay Master Genl. in the Eastern Department, subject to your Warrants, for the purpose of paying the Bounties and Defraying the Expenses of Raising the New Levies in the Eastern Department. One hundred thousand Dollars are sent to the State of Connecticut, and one hundred thousand Dollars to the State of New Hampshire by this Opportunity for the same purposes. You will please to give the necessary orders for the payment of the Money sent to my Brother. I have the Honour to be with Sentiments of Esteem, Sir, Your very hum. Servt., John Hancock, Prest."*

An important letter showing Congress's attempts to raise recruits for the Continental Army, completely in Hancock's hand.

This letter was sold to a collector by Walter Benjamin Autographs in 1948, and has been in that collector's family ever since.

Baltimore Febr^y. 8. 1777

Sir,

By this Oppor^y. the Sum
 of Three hundred thousand Dollars is
 sent to Ebenezer Hancock Esq. Deputy
 Paymas^r Gen^l. in the Eastern Department
 subject to your Warrants for the purpose
 of paying the Bounties & Defraying
 the Expenses of Raising the New Levies
 in the Eastern Department — One
 hundred thousand Dollars are sent to
 the State of Connecticut, & One hundred
 thousand Dollars to the State of New
 Hampshire by this Oppor^y. for the
 same purposes —

You will please to give
 the necessary orders for the payment
 of the Money sent to my Brother,

I have the Honour to be
 with Sentiments of Esteem,

Sir

Yours very hum^l Serv^t
 John Hancock Esq^r

To The Hon^{ble}.
 Major General Ward, Commanding the Troops
 in the Eastern Department.

of the money sent to the Eastern Department
for the purpose of paying the Bounties & Discharging
the Expenses of Raising the New Levies
in the Eastern Department - One
hundred thousand Dollars are sent to
the State of Connecticut, & One hundred
thousand Dollars to the State of New
Hampshire by this Express for the
same purposes

You will please to give
the necessary orders for the payment
of the Money sent to my Brother

I have the Honour to be
with Sentiments of Esteem,
Sir

Yours very humbly
John Hancock

To the Honble
Major General Ward, Commanding the Army
in the Eastern Department

12)

Major General Benjamin Lincoln in 1777 to Signer of the Declaration of Independence Elbridge Gerry: "General Washington is filled with the most painful apprehensions from a consideration of the weakness of his several posts"

Lincoln despairs the loss of confidence among the long suffering soldiers and the loss to the nation from: "...the frequent calls for militia, the waste and destruction spread in the states of New York and the Jersies, and from a queer sort of despair in some arising from a belief that the game is up..."

He gives a clear and thorough exposition on the economy, the needs of supplying the army, yet also the necessity of having farmers and businessmen produce their products

"I am apprehensive unless husbandry is attended to we shall soon feel the ill consequences of it, not only with regard to supplies of provisions but also with regard to the article of clothing."

Sold by Charles Hamilton in 1956 and in a private collection since that time

After the American victories at Trenton and Princeton in January 1777, Washington avoided a direct large-scale battle but positioned his comparatively small army in the hills around Middlebrook and nearby posts. From there, Continental and militia forces effectively hemmed in British troops under General William Howe, restricting their movement, harassing foraging parties, and making it dangerous for them to move far into the countryside. The British technically held key towns, but much of inland New Jersey had slipped from their control.

After the victories at Trenton and Princeton, Washington's regular Continental force was still dangerously small. To maintain pressure on the British in New Brunswick and nearby posts, he relied heavily on short-term militia from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Benjamin Lincoln served as a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Lincoln was involved in three major surrenders during the war: his participation in the Battles of Saratoga contributed to the surrender of a British army under John Burgoyne, he oversaw the largest American surrender of the war at the 1780 siege of Charleston, and, as George Washington's second in command, he formally accepted the British surrender at Yorktown.

Congress commissioned Benjamin Lincoln a major general in the Continental Army on February 14, 1777.

Lincoln's first command was that of a forward outpost at Bound Brook, New Jersey, only 3 miles from British sentries outside New Brunswick. He established his headquarters at the nearby Van Horne House.

Elbridge Gerry was a senior member of the Massachusetts delegation to the Continental Congress and a prominent signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Autograph letter signed, General Benjamin Lincoln, Bound Brook, March 14, 1777, to Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Continental Congressman from MA Elbridge Gerry, with Gerry's docket, and a portion of the address panel present.

"Before you receive this the congress will have the state of our small army who are now encircling the British troops; and information that notwithstanding General Washington is filled with the most painful apprehensions from a consideration of the weakness of his several posts, and the ill consequences that would attend their loss, the Massachusetts militia are leaving the camp. I hope this will not be considered as arising from a want of spirit and zeal either in officers or men. I presume it will not be, when it is known and considered that Massachusetts has now in service of their militia near six thousand; that the state has passed a law to fill up their proportion of the continental army by a draught on the inhabitants, which is now carrying into execution; that a great proportion of the militia in service are farmers and men of property; that they have served the longest time for which they engaged; that the spring will be considerably advanced before they can reach their homes, some having more than four hundred miles to march; that if the husbandman loses the benefit of the spring, he in a great degree will lose the advantages of the summer also, which will not only involve many families in distress and want but be very injurious to the public; for it is evident to every observer that great attention must be paid to our husbandry as well as our arms; for notwithstanding we have a country capable of producing all kinds of necessary provisions in great plenty, yet from the large number of men taken from the

field into the Continental Army and marine service, the frequent calls for militia, the waste and destruction spread in the states of New York and the Jerseys, and from a queer sort of despair in some arising from a belief that the game is up, as they express it, and therefore nothing is to be done but what mere necessity requires.

"And from many other causes, I am apprehensive unless husbandry is attended to we shall soon feel the ill consequences of it, not only with regard to supplies of provisions but also with regard to the article of clothing. Therefore the increase of our sheep and the culture of flax are objects which I think demand the public attention; for admitting that all the ports in Europe were now open to us, what have we to give in exchange for the articles usually imported? That surplusage of men who were employed in the cod and whale fishery, manufacturing of iron, potash, naval stores, &c. &c. &c. are now either in the land or sea service of the states.

"Had we a full supply of wool and flax, which we might easily obtain in all parts of the United States, we could, at this time, carry on the woollen and linen manufacture more successfully than we ever before had it in our power to do; for it may be easily demonstrated, that by the loss of men already in the present war, and by the absence of so many from their homes, who in all probability would otherwise have married, we have a number of unmarried women sufficient by common industry to manufacture clothing for the whole army together with their own, who in all probability had the states remained in peace would have been married, and instead of manufacturing clothing for the army, would have been employed in that necessary and honourable business of bearing and nursing children. Besides, if we raise our own flax and wool, which may be done with few hands compared to what it would take to prosecute trade, and have it so manufactured among ourselves, we make a great saving of men. Moreover, was there a full supply of those articles, all the clothing necessary for the states would be easily made and the people quieted; for instead of finding any inconveniences from the high price of goods, they would reflect with great satisfaction that necessity had taught them to live.

"I don't mean to discountenance trade, 'tis said to be the wealth of a people; only wish we may not by our own neglect be reduced to the necessity of prosecuting it in violation of that known principle of good policy in trade, of preserving the balance of it in our own hands. I therefore most ardently wish the congress would take up the matter so far at least as to recommend to the several states, by bounty or other-wise, to encourage the raising of flax and increasing their stocks of sheep; for although many individuals assent to the utility of the measure, yet too few attempt to carry it into execution further than as it relates to their own private consumption.

"Please to present my best regards to our members of congress. And believe me to be with great truth and sincerity your's affectionately."

Lincoln has underlined several words and phrases; Gerry has docketed the verso and also written at the top of the first page "The printer will not regard the lines underscored but use the same type for all," indicating that he had this printed for some purpose, either to show Congress or as an expo-facto publication.

A remarkably long, important and candid letter, such as one rarely sees on the market.

Sold by Charles Hamilton in 1956 and in a private collection since that time. Irregularity at edges, visible in scans. Longer sheet reflecting two separate sheets attached by Lincoln himself.



The printer will not regard the lines underscored but use the same
letter for all
Bound books the March 1777 -

Before you receive this, the congress will
of our small army, who are now in
information, that notwithstanding
the most painful app
al posts.

in Congress
Maine brook letter
General Lincoln
Mar 16 - 1777
and Apr 20

(The former will not regard the bias, understood but see the same)
type for all

Round book, 1777.

When you receive this, the congress will have
 the state of our present army, who are now encircling the battle
 lines and information that within the standing, General Sir Peter
 has been filled with the most paroxysm apprehensions, from a confidence
 here of the weakness of his present posts, and the ill consequences that
 would attend their loss. The Massachusetts militia are leaving their
 camp in - I hope this will not be considered as arising from a want of
 spirit & zeal, either in officers or men - I presume it will not be,
 when it is considered that the militia have now inferior officers
 with them, for the purpose that the state has passed a law to give
 them a proportion of the continental army by a draft on the
 inhabitants, which is now carrying into execution - that a great
 proportion of the militia are farmers & men of property
 that they have found the longest term in which they engaged - that
 the spring will be considerably advanced before they can reach their
 homes being more than four hundred miles to march - that if
 the husbandman loses the benefit of the spring he in a great degree
 will lose the advantage of the summer sowing, which will not only in-
 volute many families, in distress and want, but be very injurious to
 the public, for it is evident to every observer, that great attention must
 be paid to our husbandry, as well as our arms - for without husbandry
 we have a country, as fertile, producing all the sorts of necessaries
 upon great plenty, yet from the large numbers of men
 from the field, into the continental army, and moreover from
 the frequent calls for militia, the waste and dissipation, found in
 the states of New York and the Jerseys, and from a great part of Massa-
 chusetts, arising from a belief that the game is up, as they express it,
 and therefore to be done, but what more necessarily requires - and
 has many other causes. I am a freeholder, unless husbandry is
 attended to, we shall soon feel the consequences of it, not only with regard
 to supplies of provisions, but with regard to the article of clothing, these
 are my thoughts.

Received of the Honble
 the Continental Congress
 the sum of 100 Dollars
 for the use of the
 Continental Army
 1777

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 the Continental Congress
 the sum of 100 Dollars
 for the use of the
 Continental Army
 1777

13)

Colonel Light Horse Harry Lee in 1777 Prepares to Counter Attack After the Surprise at Washington's Continental Army Headquarters

"The general [Benjamin Lincoln] still detains me. His reason, I believe, is an attempt meditated against the Hessian picquet. It will be executed on Saturday night."

War date letters of Lee are very rare. We found only 3 going back 40 years. This was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1956

The Battle of Bound Brook was a surprise British attack fought on April 13, 1777, at Bound Brook, New Jersey, during the tense campaign between George Washington's Continental Army and British forces occupying New Brunswick after the American victories at Trenton and Princeton. British and Hessian troops under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis launched a predawn assault against the American outpost commanded by Major General Benjamin Lincoln, including the 5th and Johnstons, hoping to trap and destroy the garrison guarding the Raritan River crossings. Although the British nearly surrounded the town and captured artillery and supplies, most of the Continental force escaped after sharp fighting and confusion in the streets and surrounding roads. The action exposed the vulnerability of Washington's advanced positions and intensified American concerns over shortages, pay disputes, desertion, and exhausted troops. The battle formed part of the broader maneuvering campaign in New Jersey that preceded the British move toward Philadelphia later that year.

In the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Bound Brook, Washington's army remained tense and exposed along the Middlebrook–Bound Brook line while British forces continued probing operations out of New Brunswick. Although the Continental troops avoided destruction, the surprise attack deepened existing problems within the army: officers struggled to reorganize scattered detachments, settle overdue pay accounts, retrieve enlistment papers, and stop a growing wave of desertion caused by shortages of clothing, blankets, and money.

Washington seemed intent on concentrating troops in Bound Brook in the short term. He and Hamilton set about urgently gathering information on the state of troops, requesting returns from the various commanders, among them Light Horse Harry Lee.

Henry Lee III served as the ninth Governor of Virginia and as the Virginia Representative to the United States Congress. However, his service during the American Revolution as a cavalry officer in the Continental Army earned him the nickname by which he is best known, "Light-Horse Harry". He was a member of the Lee Family of Virginia and the father of Confederate general Robert E. Lee.

With the outbreak of war at Lexington and Concord in 1775, Lee became a captain in a dragoon detachment in the Colony of Virginia, which was attached to the 1st Continental Light Dragoons.

In June 1776, Theodorick Bland accepted a commission as captain in Virginia's cavalry. He rose quickly to Colonel and commanded the 1st Continental Light Dragoons, often cited as "Bland's Virginia Horse" in Revolutionary dispatches and correspondence. In the latter capacity Bland reported directly to General Washington. A major figure in the formation of the new United States government, Bland represented Virginia in both the Continental Congress and the United States House of Representatives (until his death in office), as well as served multiple terms in the Virginia House of Delegates representing Prince George County, which he also represented in the Virginia Ratification Convention.

Autograph letter signed, Bound brook, April 25, 1777 to Bland.

"Dear Col., I cannot but blush when your letter to Captain Harrison reminds me of my neglect in [not] sending up the pay-roll of my troop for the present month. I have no excuse to plead, but the incessant duty with which I have been occupied, by order of General Lincoln. It is inclosed in this letter. As it will arrive at the paymaster's quarters before Captain Dandridge's possibly can, the real damage will be none; but the example is injurious to order, and unpardonable.

"On receiving the late regimental orders, by which my troop was ordered to Chatham, I acquainted General Lincoln of my removal.

"He required me to tarry a day or two till he could hear from Col. Bland, to whom he intended to write. The purport of his letter was to request my detention with him. I thanked the general for his politeness, though did not require his intercession with you on that head, fearing lest I might be accused of local partiality, which I conceive improper in any officer. On your answer's coming to hand, I set out my quarter master sergeant, with his supernumeraries, this morning, expecting to follow this day with my troop.

The general still detains me. His reason, I believe, is an attempt meditated against the Hessian picquet. It will be executed on Saturday night. On Sunday I hope to arrive at my station.

"I have mentioned these matters to you, that you may know the real cause of my tarrying here, and not be induced to judge me as acting with impropriety."

War date letters of Lee are very rare. We found only 3 going back 40 years. This was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948, and it comes with a letter of her stating *"I have secured a honey of a war ALS of Lighthouse Harry Lee"... He is very scarce in that form..."*

On May 12, Washington reported to John Hancock: "On Saturday, a smart skirmish happened with a Detachment of our Troops, who attacked a Number of the Enemy near Piscataway, in which our Men behaved well & obliged the Enemy to give way twice, as reported to me, with loss. The Enemy receiving a Strong reinforcement, our people retreated to their post. I cannot give the particulars, as they have not been sufficiently ascertained. Their pickets were also attacked yesterday by some of our parties from Bound Brook & forced within their lines."

Wound-brook April 25th 77

Dear Sir:

I cannot but blush when your letter to Capt. Harrison remind me of my neglect in sending up the pay roll of my troop for the present month. I have no excuse ~~to~~ to plead, but the incessant duty with which I have been occupied by ord. of Gen. Lincoln. This inclosed in this letter, as it will arrive at the paymaster's quarters before Capt. Sandridge possibly can, the real damage will be none, but the example is injurious to order, & unpardonable. On receiving the late regt. ord. by which my troop was ordered to Chatham, I acquainted Gen. Lincoln of my removal, he required me to tarry a day or two till he could hear from Col. Bland to whom he intended to write. The purport of his letter was

To request my detention with him, I thank
 the Gen^l for his politeness, tho' did not
 require his intercession with you on
 that head, fearing least I might be
 accused of local partiality, which
 I conceive improper in any officer.
 On your answer^s coming to hand
 I set out my M^{rs} with her
 supernumeraries this morn^g ex-
 pecting to follow this day with
 my troop. The Gen^l still detains
 me, his reason I believe is an
 attempt meditated against the
 Spanish success, it will be exe-
 cuted on Saturd^y night. On
 Sunday I hope to arrive at
 my station. I have mentioned
 these matters to you, that you may
 know the real cause of my tarry-
 ing here, ~~and~~ & not be induced
 to judge me as acting with im-
 propriety. Your most affec^ted
 & affect^d Serv^t D. M. P.

14)

Richard Kidder Meade, Aide to Camp to George Washington, Directs the Movements of the General's Cavalry Heading Into the Spring Campaign of 1777, Including the Escort of General de Borre from France

General Preudhomme De Borre was the first arrival from France to earn a Continental Officers Commission and here Meade mentions his journey to claim that commission from Washington

"His Excellency desires me to inform you that... the party sent for last as an escort to the French Gen.l as far as Coriel's Ferry, was likewise intended to be detached from the whole."

Acquired last from Mary Benjamin in 1948

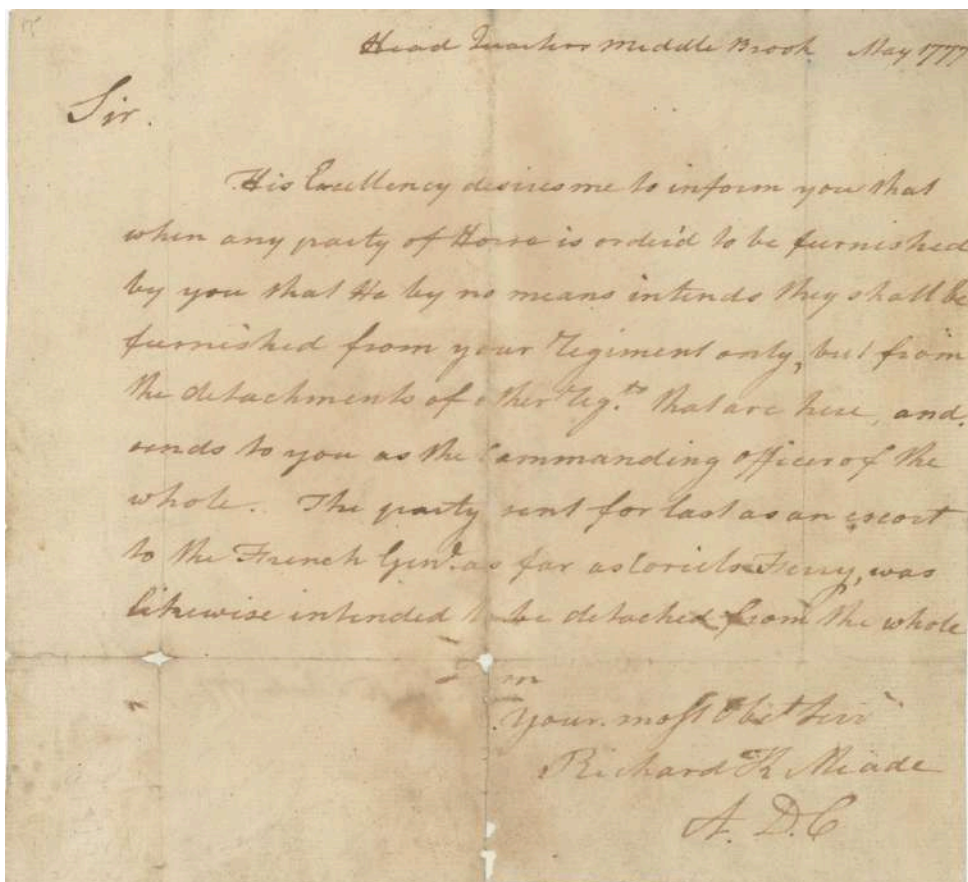
General Preudhomme De Borre disembarked from the *Mercure* at Portsmouth, New Hampshire on March 17, 1777. He made his way to Morristown, New Jersey where on May 17 George Washington presented him with a brigadier general's commission back-dated to December 1776. On May 5, Major General William Heath wrote to Washington, "General De Borre sets out to morrow to join your Excellency," evidently to accept his commission.

In March 1777, General Washington appointed Richard Kidder Meade one of his aides-de-camps, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Meade was frequently used to deliver important dispatches and orders. Alexander Hamilton did the "head work" for Washington while he did the riding. He was with Washington during all of the major battles between 1777 and 1780, and supervised the execution of Major John Andre. In November 1780, Meade left Washington's staff to get married for the second time. While in Virginia he aided General von Steuben in repelling an attack of British forces under Benedict Arnold.

Theoderick Bland, a physician and planter from Prince George County, Va., was appointed captain of a troop of light horse by the Virginia convention in June 1776, and on December 4 the general assembly named him

major commandant of the state's six troops of light horse, which were ordered about that time to join GW's army. Bland's regiment of light horse reached GW's headquarters at Morristown, N.J., in early January. On March 31, 1777 Washington promoted Bland to colonel.

Autograph letter signed, Richard Kidder Meade, Middle Brook, May 1777, to Colonel Theodorick Bland, Jr. *"His Excellency desires me to inform you that when any party of Horse is ordered to be furnished by you that He by no means intends they shall be furnished from your Regiment only, but from the Detachments of other Reg.ts that are here, and sent to you as the Commanding Officer of the whole. The party sent for last as an escort to the French Gen.l as far as Coriel's Ferry, was likewise intended to be detached from the whole."*



15)

Archive: The Fight Against the British and for Money and Supplies. A Rare High Level Revolutionary War Archive Offers Firsthand Accounts of Battle and Leadership Between Colonels from the Camp at Bound Brook

It shows the concern General Washington and other American leaders had for their men, as they articulate worries about soldiers' pay and supplies; includes a copy of Washington's general orders

8 separate pieces, including a description of a battle

Praising the quality of American troops, and comparing them favorably to the British: "This Morning I had the honor of commanding a Division from this post composed of as likely, brave, & determin'd Men as Britain can boast of. I form'd them into a Column & marched towards Brunswick as far as the Hessian Picquet, near wch place, I was join'd by another Column under the command of Col. Spotswood."

"You mention in your letter, you cannot get Blankets for the Men — 'tis extremely hard soldiers should be obliged to do the severe Duty incident to a Camp contiguous to the Enemy, when they are so much neglected, not only as to Blankets Clothing &c but Pay...The amazing Desertions from us to the Enemy, are totally occasion'd by the neglect shewn the Men — they can be accounted for on no other Principles."

A contemporary copy of an original General Orders of Washington, attesting to the necessity of the lack of money and supplies: "The most punctual Obedience must be paid to this Order, No excuse for Delay will or can be admitted."

This archive of 8 pieces, sent to leading Patriot Lt. Col. Persifor Frazer in 1777, was last sold by Charles Hamilton in 1958 and has been in the same private collection since that time. Hamilton at the time described it as a “remarkable collection.”

The Fifth PA regiment of the Fourth Battalion was largely manned and officered by veterans of the 4th Battalion. Shortly after the new regiment was formed, Col. Anthony Wayne was promoted, and command was given to Col. Francis Johnston, a friend of Wayne, who had been Lt. Col. of the battalion. Col. Johnston commanded the regiment during the entire span of its existence. His Lt. Colonel for a while was Persifor Frazer who would later be captured by the British. Frazer was a leading anti-British figure who had been a delegate to the Pennsylvania provincial convention in 1775 and captain in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment at the beginning of 1776. Captured by the British shortly after the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777, Frazer escaped from confinement in Philadelphia in March 1778. Congress named Frazer a General in July 1779, but he declined the appointment.

The Battle of Bound Brook was a surprise British attack fought on April 13, 1777, at Bound Brook, New Jersey, during the tense campaign between George Washington’s Continental Army and British forces occupying New Brunswick after the victories at Trenton and Princeton. British and Hessian troops under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis launched a predawn assault against the American outpost commanded by Major General Benjamin Lincoln, including the 5th and Johnston, hoping to trap and destroy the garrison guarding the Raritan River crossings. Although the British nearly surrounded the town and captured artillery and supplies, most of the Continental force escaped after sharp fighting and confusion in the streets and surrounding roads. The action exposed the vulnerability of Washington’s advanced positions and intensified American concerns over shortages, pay disputes, desertion, and exhausted troops. The battle formed part of the broader maneuvering campaign in New Jersey that preceded the British move toward Philadelphia later that year.

In the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Bound Brook, Washington’s army remained tense and exposed along the Middlebrook–Bound Brook line while British forces continued probing operations out of New Brunswick. Although the Continental troops avoided destruction, the surprise attack deepened existing problems within the army: officers struggled to reorganize scattered detachments, settle overdue pay accounts, retrieve enlistment papers, and stop a growing wave of desertion caused by shortages of clothing, blankets, and money.

Reinforcements were rushed forward, recruiting officers were recalled from Pennsylvania, and commanders feared another British movement at any moment. The correspondence of Colonel Francis Johnston from Bound Brook in late April and May 1777 vividly captures this atmosphere of exhaustion and uncertainty, describing severe duty near the enemy, constant complaints from unpaid soldiers, administrative confusion, and repeated attempts to consolidate the Pennsylvania companies before the expected renewal of campaigning.

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, John Christy to Frazer, April 4, 1777.

“Agreeable to Col. Johnstons order I let you know that all my papers concerning my company Mr McClintock has got. By applying to him you may know all about them. He likewise can Inform you of all the Deserters that belong to my Company. There was Eight Deserted from our Regiment one Night since we came here among which was two of mine, one Rayter & Doberman. Perhaps upon search by Mr McClintock may finde them. You would Oblige me much if you would hurry Mr Scophel on here for our Duty. Is so hard here that I cant Possibly Do without an officer. we are one Day off and another on Both officers and men.”

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, Captain James Taylor to Frazer, April 25, 1777.

“Dear Sir, By Col. Johnston I am informed that you were not acquainted that the accounts of my company with my books were left in Chester, which surprised me much as I depended upon Mr Kimmel to inform you and likewise assist in settling of them be being fully acquainted with the nature of my accounts; if Mr. Kimmel has not delivered them to you I would be glad you would call on him for them, and likewise convey them (as soon as a settlement can be made to me — Your company is much desired here together with the other of your regiment in hopes of your soon joining.”

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, Col. Francis Johnson to Frazer, April 27, 1777.

“Dear Colonel,

Since I wrote you last, a strong Reinforcement has arrived at this Place; In consequence of which my officers are in some degree eased from Duty, so that they have nearly compleated their Accounts.

“Tomorrow, I expect to forward them to you with this Letter.

”Inclos’d I send you a Copy of Genl Orders, wch must be strictly attended to, no excuse for Delay, will be admitted.

“You will direct the Paymaster to carry these Orders into practice immediately— & as soon as the Abstracts are finished he must wait on the Paymaster Genl for the Money & then join the Regiment. Those men who are not recruited must be first settled with, so that it will be necessary for ye Paymaster to keep their Recpts separate.

“Perhaps you can draw Money in Philada to pay off the two Companies under your Command & likewise the Men who have not engaged again.

“Write to Capt. Oldham as soon as possible, Order him to come to Chester with his Company, leaving two active officers to recruit.

“Order in the several Recruiting Parties & send on their Recruits to me as soon as you can, one Recruiting Officer from each Company will answer at this time, as Congress have granted leave to enlist Servants & Apprentices.

“The Light Infantry Caps to be sent on by the first Detachment, if you will likewise send on as many Hats as you can, some shoes & shirts &c.

“Dr Colo, We live exceedingly well but do severe Duty... Please to forward every letter to my Wife, as soon as you can, the few things I left at Chester you will endeavour to send to my Father, together with my furniture, when you have leisure.

*My Complts to your Lady, Mrs Whaley
& all friends.*

Ps.

“Call on My worthy friend Mr Blair McClenaghan, give my Complts to him, & bring from him the Case of Pistols he has made a present of to me.

“As Lt. Williamson has never deliv’d me an account of the Clothing he delivered to Captn Moore’s Men, nor never accounted for 504 Dolls he drew from Genl Wayne at Ticonderoga (for Recruiting however).

“You will therefore call him to an acct immediately, and if he refuses, pray inform the Council of Safety, & they will call him before them”

Along with the original general orders received from Washington’s camp.

General Orders, April 25, 1777

“Colonels and Commanding Officers of Corps must cause their Regimental Paymasters to make up their Pay Abstracts to the 1st of this Month, and order them to attend at the Paymaster General’s for the Money; proper attention to the General Orders of this Nature issued on the 21st last Month, would not only have removed the Complaints of the Soldiers for want of their Pay, too frequently made to the Commander in Chief, but would have saved them much trouble in settling their Accounts for Money drawn on Account.

The most punctual Obedience must be paid to this Order, No excuse for Delay will or can be admitted.

Geo Washington., Commander in Chief”

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, Capt. James Taylor to Frazer, April 30, 1777.

“Dear Colonel, I am sorry to trouble you with such confused acc[oun]ts but at present it is out of my power to avoid it as my Enlistments are in Different hands. I send you the Inlistment with a Roll of the Dates of Inlistments with the subsistance Due and the time they came into Quarters affixing no particulars. I am uncertain what is allowed by Congress for Recruiting. I have likewise paid Each man in that Roll his full Bounty and have sworn all except those Deserted within the six Days there being no magistrates in the Country at that time. I wish I could have my Books conveyed as soon as possible to me that I might know how my accompts stood. I send you the amount of all the money Mr Boude & myself Drew for the recruiting (exclusive of what I drew from you) which is 3194 Dollars. my pay rolls will testify how much I drew for the company — I have never Drawn any of the augmented pay so that I expect fifteen pounds pr month from the Date of the Resolve. Sir, I long for a settlement and adjustment of the Different Detachments of our Regiment and can only at present wish you great Success and a quick settlement

“I would Just recommend those whom I would be Sergeants & Corporals with their Rank.

“Sergeants — Nathan McGill, John Speer, William McDonald and Thomas Benderman

“Corporals - Paul Gilmorem, Arthur Patteson, John Sharp & John Griffy

“Drummer - John Connally

“If any person appears here should appear for McElhatton stop £6..15..3 on account of Wm Noble, Robt, Thompson and James Brown as I have his notes for the money.”

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, Col. Francis Johnson to Frazer, April 30, 1777.

“Since I wrote you last, the inclosed Letter arrived here from Genl Washington to Genl Lincoln (a copy of which I have sent you for your perusal.)

“Agreeable to these Orders, the Officers are now making out their Acc[oun]ts as nearly as may be, of the sums due to their respective Companies. Tomorrow, I intend to set out with these Accounts to Head Quarters, where I expect to receive Money sufficient to stop the Clamours of the Men, as well those on this Ground, as those who are absent belonging to these Companies.

“This Maneuvre of mine must not hinder the Paymaster from drawing Money for & settling with the two Companies under your Command, nor must it hinder him from giving money to those Men belonging to the Companies I have here, in case any of them should be with you, & should any money be due to them.

“Nor must this prevent the Paymaster from making out the Pay Abstracts for the Regiments, as His Excell’y is determined to call all officers to account for expenditures of Publick Money, as soon as the several Regiments join —

“In order to enable the Paymaster to make out the several Accounts and form an Abstract, I have transmitted by Mr McHenry the Accounts remaining here, the Enlistment Papers &c &c...

“You would be astonished to hear of the number of Desertions from us to the Enemy on account of the defrauding of pay.

I am Dr Colo

Yours &c

Fr. Johnston”

Autograph letter signed, P. Scull at Morristown to Col. Francis Johnson at Boundbrook, who has forwarded it to Frazer, May 3, 1777.

“Dear Sir, I am desir’d by Col. Connor to beg you would take such steps as you think will be most effectual to apprehend & bring back the Officers from your County who lately broke their Parole & escaped from New York.

“Their names are Cap. McClure & Lt. Anderson & third all of Colo. Montgomery’s Regimt. of the Flying Camp.

“Colo. Connor forgot to mention those circumstances when he had the pleasure of seeing you & as he is now extremely busy I take the liberty at his request of doing it”

Johnston has written: *“This letter to be left with Col. Frazer who is desired to make diligent search for the within named officers and to bring or send them to Head Quarters.”*

Autograph letter signed, Boundbrook, Col. Francis Johnson to Frazer, May 6, 1777.

“I rec’d yours of the 3d inst by the Hand of my Paymaster Mr Kimmell & am astonish’d beyond measure, to find that, notwithstanding the repeated hints our superiors have rec’d regarding the notorious omissions and neglects, in certain Departments in the Army, yet those Abuses are not redress’d.

“You mention in your letter, you cannot get Blankets for the Men — ’tis extremely hard soldiers should be obliged to do the severe Duty incident to a Camp contiguous to the Enemy, when they are so much neglected, not only as to Blankets Clothing &c but Pay —

“The amazing Desertions from us to the Enemy, are totally occasion’d by the neglect shewn the Men — they can be accounted for on no other Principles —

“I have not experienced, since I left you, so happy a circumstance as the arrival of Mr Kimmell — This inst. have put into his hands 12,000 Dollars, to distribute among the Men, but even this will not prove satisfactory to them, nor will any thing short of a final settlement — I must beg (for God’s sake) that you will immediately transmit by the bearers all the Books & Papers, Pay Rolls & &c relating to the respective Companies, now in your Hands, as it will otherwise be impossible to come to a final settlement with the Men — I have sent Lt. North to you for no other purpose.

"I wish you had waited on Genl Schuyler, to have obtain'd Liberty to march on the two Companies from Bristol to this place — As his Excell'y seems desirous of having Regts together, I make no doubt Genl Schuyler on proper application made to him, will grant liberty to send on the two Companies —"

"You express a desire of joining the Regt as soon as possible; you cannot desire it more than I do — and as the two Companies are now at Bristol, you may without doubt, come on to me immediately, leaving an active officer behind to send on the Recruits —"

"Dear Col., I am almost weary of commanding Troops, who have such cause of complaint as mine have, & who are perpetually ringing in my Ears, Want of Money & want of Necessaries —"

"This Morn.g I had the honor of commanding a Division from this post compos'd of as likely, brave, & determin'd Men as Britain can boast of. I form'd them into a Column & march'd towards Brunswick as far as the Hessian Picquet, near wch place, I was join'd by another Column under the command of Col. Spotswood."

"We drove in their Out Sentries one by one, & then challeng'd their main Body to a fair fight, they declin'd it, however tomorrow we expect to hear from them —"

"The Enemy will assuredly approach us in the course of three Days, or decamp — which of the two I know not, certain I am they are preparing to move somenhere —"

"Send to Mr Robinson's at Neaman's Creek, for the Major's Papers &c — present my love to the family — if my Dear little Girl is there, kiss her for me —"

"I am really sorry to hear of your Lady's Illness, I hope she is likely to recover —"

"Pray do not neglect to procure the Articles I mention'd in my last..as much of it as you can purchase, send on immediately —"

"My Confusion in consequence of this Days fatigue, is such that I cannot remember the respective Articles I require —"

"p.s. Lt. North at all events must bring on the Men belonging to the Companies here."

Dear Col^l—

Round Brook May 6. 1777

I rec^d yours of the 3rd inst^o by the Hands of my Paymaster (Mr. Kimmel) & am astonish'd beyond measure, to find that, notwithstanding the repeated Prints our Superiors have rec^d, regarding the notorious omisions and Neglects, in certain Departments in the Army, yet those Abuses are not redress'd.

You mention in your Letter, you cannot get Blankets for the Men 'tis extremely hard, Soldiers shou^d be oblig'd to do the severe Duty incident to a Camp contiguous to the Enemy, when they are so much neglected, not only as to Blankets Cloathing &c but pay—

The amazing Desertions from us to the Enemy, are totally occasion'd by the neglect shewn the Men - they can be accounted for on no other Principles —

I have not experienced, since I left you, so happy a Circumstance as the arrival of Mr. Kimmel — At this inst^o have put into his Hands 12,000 Dollars, to distribute among the Men, but even this will not prove satisfactory to them, nor will any thing short of a final Settlement — I must therefore (for Gods sake) that you will immediately transmit by the bearer Lieut^t Nath, all the Books & Papers, Pay Rolls &c. relating to the respective Companies, now in your Hands, as it will otherwise be impossible, to come to a final Settlement with the Men — I have sent Lieut^t Nath Express to you for no other purpose —

I wish you had writted on Gen. Schuyler, to have
 obtain'd Liberty to march on the two Companies
 from Bristol to this place — As His Excellency seems
 desirous of having Regts together, I make no doubt
 Gen. Schuyler on proper application made to him, will
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As you express a desire of joining the Regt as soon
 as possible, you cannot desire it more than I do. and
 as the two Companies are now at Bristol, you may
 without doubt, come on to me immediately, leaving an
 active Officer behind to send on the Pursuits —

I. Col. I am almost weary of commanding
 Troops, who have such cause of Complaint as mine have,
 & who are perpetually, singing in my Ears, Want of Money,
 & want of Necessaries —

This Morn. I had the honor of commanding
 a Division from this Post, compos'd of as likely, brave,
 & detemind men as Britain can boast of — I form'd
 them into a ~~strong~~ Column & march'd towards Brunswick,
 as far as the ~~English~~ Picquet, near w. place, I was join'd
 by another Column under the Command of Col. Spotswood;

We drove in their Out posts one by one, & then
 challeng'd ^{a Main Body} them, to a fair field fight, they declin'd it,
 however tomorrow we expect to hear from them —

The Enemy will assuredly approach us in the course of three
 Days or decamp — w. of the two I know not, certain
 I am they are preparing to move somewhere —

Send to Mr. Robinson's at Naaman's Creek, for
 the Major's Papers &c — present my Love to the family —
 If my Dear little Girl is there, kiss her for me —

I am really sorry to hear of your Lady's Illness,
I hope she is likely to recover —

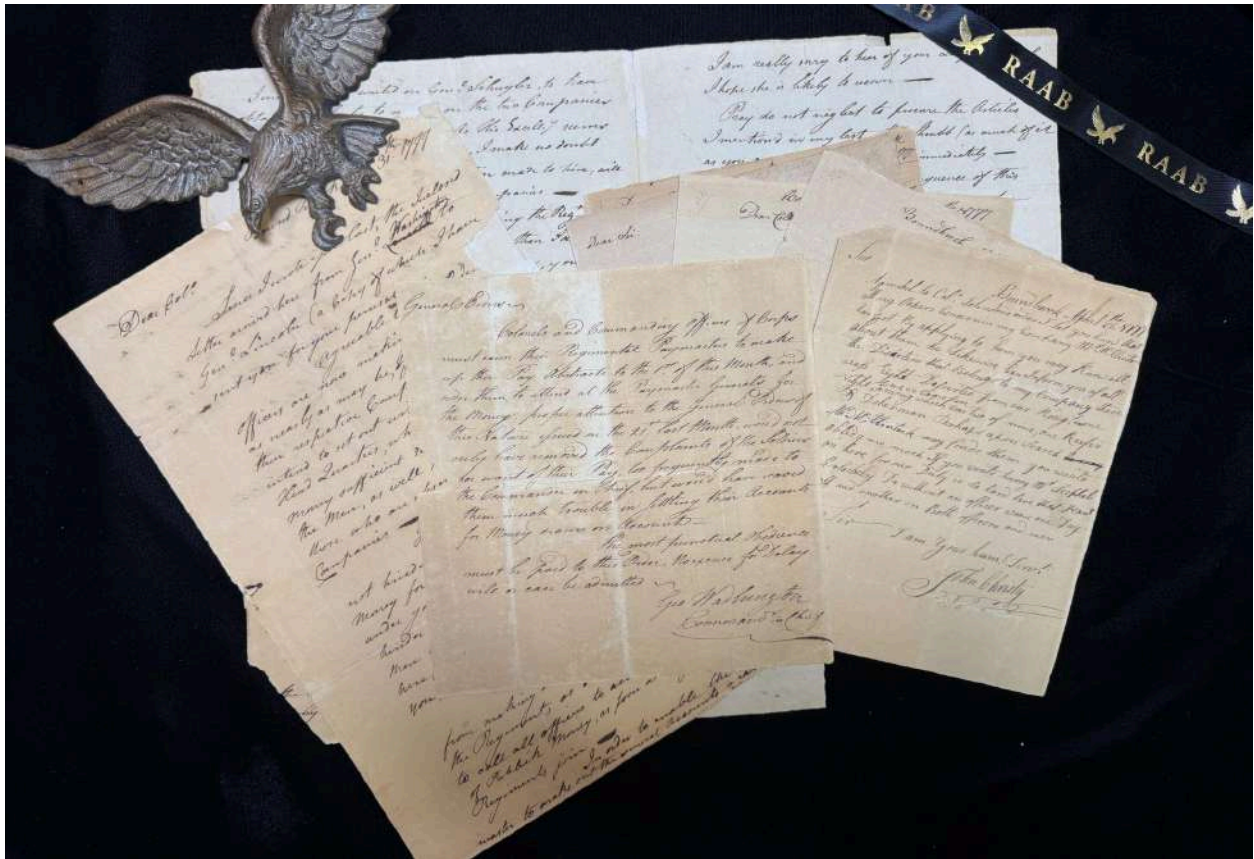
Pray do not neglect to procure the articles
I mention'd in my last, the Shrub (as much of it
as you can purchase) send on immediately —

My Confusion in consequence of this
Days fatigue, is such, that I cannot remember
the respective articles I enquire —

I am D^r Col^o

Ever Yours^o &c.
J. Johnston

L^d North at all Events
must bring on the Men
belonging to the Companies here —



16)

**Washington, Morris, Hamilton: George Washington Writes Robert Morris,
Sending a Letter from the Captured General Charles Lee Received by Flag of
Truce**

Signed by Washington, with the body of the letter in the hand of Alexander Hamilton

Last sold in 1947 at Gimbel Brothers

"I transmit you the inclosed from General Lee which I have just received by a flag."

A rare letter connecting George Washington, Robert Morris, and Alexander Hamilton

The letter Washington was sending to Morris bemoaned Congress's rejection of a private meeting to mediate a peace and praised Lee's treatment of the British General Howe

Charles Lee began the war as Washington's second in command but was quick to criticize his superiors actions, most harshly after the defeat at Fort Mifflin in 1776. Lee was captured by the British on December 13, 1776, found at a tavern several miles from his own troops — an embarrassing end to his insubordination. He was held by the British as a prisoner until exchanged in 1778. During the Battle of Monmouth later that year, Lee led an assault on the British that miscarried. He was subsequently court-martialed and his military service brought to an end.

There is some speculation that Lee abandoned the American cause while a prisoner in New York, as he wrote several notes to General Sir William Howe on the best manner to defeat the Americans. This was unknown to the American camp at the time of his return, and Lee was reinstated at his previous rank.

During the Spring of 1777, while still in captivity, he worked feverishly to convince Congress, through its President, John Hancock, its General, George Washington, and his friend and intermediary, Robert Morris, to deputize 2 or 3 men to come speak with him about ways to end the war, possibly a ruse to gather information or some other nefarious act.

In early December 1776, Washington's army was forced to retreat across the Delaware River and into Pennsylvania, and most members of Congress temporarily left Philadelphia. Robert Morris, financier during the Revolution and delegate to the Continental Congress, was one of few delegates to remain in the city, and Congress appointed Morris and two other delegates to "execute Continental business" in its absence. Morris frequently corresponded with Washington, and he provided supplies that helped enable the Continental victory at the Battle of Trenton.

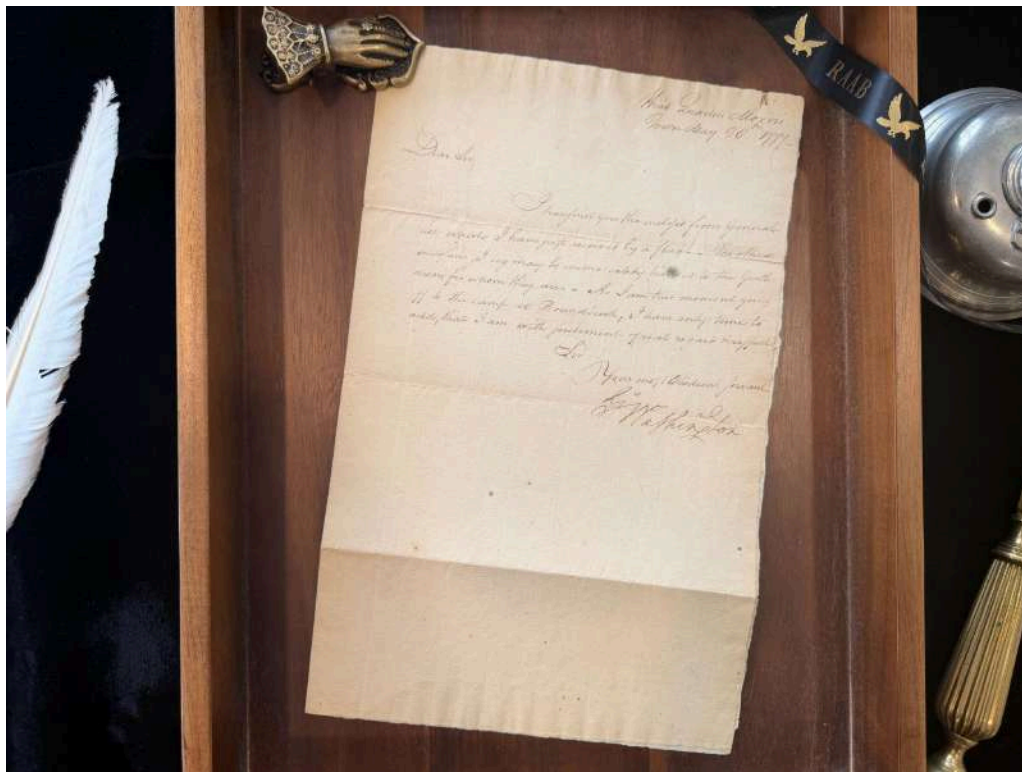
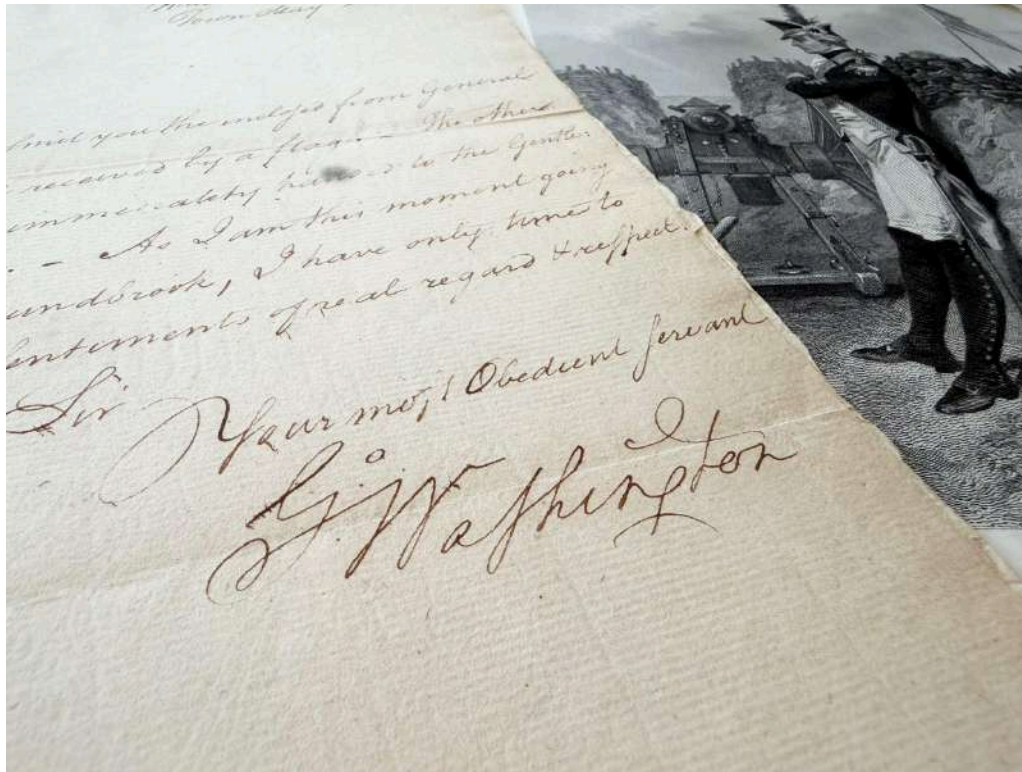
On May 19, Lee wrote Morris: "It is very unfortunate that the Congress shou'd have conceiv'd that the Conference which the Gentlemen who were deputed were to have had with me was to have been in the presence of a British Officer—but as I had no notion that they wou'd entertain such an idea it never enter'd my head to assure 'em of the contrary—it would for several reasons have been highly improper to have open'd the business by letter—which if I have the pleasure of seeing you you will be convinc'd of—the two small bills remain as yet unpaid but I have no occasion for money at present as my table is very handsomely kept by the General, who has indeed treated me in all respects with kindness generosity and tenderness." In other words, Congress rejected his mediation offer because they assumed it would be supervised and monitored by the British.

Letter signed, George Washington, to Robert Morris Head Quarters, Morris Town, May 28, 1777, the body in the hand of Alexander Hamilton.

"Dear Sir, I transmit you the inclosed from General Lee which I have just received by a flag. The other inclosures, I beg may be immediately handed to the Gentlemen for whom they are. As I am this moment going off to the Camp at Boundbrook, I have only time to add, that I am with sentiments of real regard & respect, Sir Your most Obedient servant." The Washington papers notes that he was evidently sending that May 19 letter to Morris.

A rare letter connecting George Washington, Robert Morris, and Alexander Hamilton, last sold in 1947. It is also unusual to find reference to a letter that came through the lines under a flag of truce.





17)

June 1777: "Genl. Mifflin arrived here last Saturday but set off next to return to Philadelphia as it is expected the Enemy will move in a few Days & very probably attempt that Place."

The Deputy Quarter Master General, Jonathan Mifflin, stationed at headquarters with Washington, announces that the rebels expect the British to move against Philadelphia

This rare letter from the seat of Washington's Continental Army was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

By June 1777, the Revolutionary War had entered a moment of enormous uncertainty as the British under General Sir William Howe maneuvered in New Jersey while General George Washington tried to shield both his army and Philadelphia, the seat of the Continental Congress. Washington held a strong defensive position at Middlebrook in the Watchung Mountains, frustrating Howe's efforts to lure the Continental Army into open battle. After clashes such as the Battle of Short Hills, Howe withdrew toward New York, leaving Americans unsure whether the British intended to move against the Hudson Valley, reinforce General John Burgoyne from Canada, or strike Philadelphia directly. At the same time, Congress and army officers were increasingly alarmed by financial instability, inflation, supply shortages, and the immense cost of sustaining the war, concerns that appear repeatedly in correspondence from the summer of 1777.

The uncertainty ended in late August when Howe's army, having sailed south from New York, landed at Head of Elk in Maryland and advanced toward Philadelphia through Pennsylvania. Washington moved to block the invasion, but on September 11 the British outflanked the Americans at the Battle of Brandywine, forcing Washington to retreat despite fierce resistance. Additional fighting followed, including the Battle of Paoli, before the British entered Philadelphia on September 26. Although the city fell, Washington preserved the Continental Army, allowing the Revolution to continue. The campaign unfolded simultaneously with Burgoyne's northern offensive that ended in the American victory at Battles of Saratoga only weeks later, a turning point that helped secure French alliance and transformed the wider war.

Thomas Mifflin was deeply connected to the crisis atmosphere surrounding the Philadelphia campaign of 1777 because he stood at the center of the Continental Army's supply and financial problems just as Howe began moving against the American capital. A Philadelphia merchant and early supporter of the Revolution, Mifflin had served as the Continental Army's first Quartermaster General, responsible for obtaining wagons, tents, horses, food transport, and military stores. By 1777 the supply system was in near chaos: Congress lacked money, inflation was worsening, transportation networks were weak, and Washington's army constantly complained of shortages. Mifflin became a controversial figure because critics believed the Quartermaster Department had been inefficient and poorly organized during precisely the months when Washington needed mobility and supplies to counter British movements in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

On June 8, 1777, General Washington, then in Middle Brook, wrote to President of Congress John Hancock, "Whether they will move by Land or Water or by both, cannot be ascertained, nor is their destination precisely known: but every circumstance points out Philadelphia as their Object. Being of this Opinion, I have directed the Return of Genl. Mifflin." Jonathan Mifflin at the time was Deputy Quarter Master General and was with Washington at Middle Brook, which then served as HQ for the Continental Army.

Autograph letter signed, Jonathan Mifflin, as Deputy Quarter Master General, June 10, 1777, Middle Brook, to Major James Abeel, quartermaster on Washington's staff.

"Dear Major, The Bearer Mr. David Vanderwoort informs me there is a large Qty. of Wheat in Orange County on the Banks of the North River which he says lies within the Enemies Reach. You will please to consult with him as to the Propriety of purchasing & having it moved to a Place of Security

"P.S. Genl. Mifflin [Thomas, Quartermaster of the Army] arrived here last Saturday but set off next to return to Philadelphia as it is expected the Enemy will move in a few Days & very probably attempt that Place."

His expectation about the enemy's intentions proved accurate. The British occupied Philadelphia from September 26, 1777 until June 18, 1778. The occupation of Philadelphia did little for the British war effort. The American government survived, as the Continental Congress fled the city. Washington's army survived the harsh winter at Valley Forge. Relations between the British and Loyalists in Pennsylvania worsened. Worse, Howe had lost a vital opportunity. By failing to meet Burgoyne in New York, he had thrown away the best chance the British would have to conquer New England.

Dear Major
 Camp Middle Brook
 June 10. 1777

The Bearer Mr. David Vanderwoort
 informs me there is large Q^{ty} of Wheat in
 Orange County on the Banks of the North
 River which he says lies within the Enemies
 Reach you will please to consult with
 him as to the Propriety of purchasing &
 having it moved to a Place of Security

I am D^r Sir

Your Obed^t Serv^t

Jonathan Mifflin
 D^r M^y

P^o Gen^l Mifflin arrived
 here last Saturday but
 set off next to return to Philad^a as it
 expected the Enemy will move in a few
 Days & very probably attempt that Place

J. M.

15th

18)

William Palfrey, Scribe for the Sons of Liberty and Washington Aide, Writes Signer of the Declaration Elbridge Gerry in June 1777 in Despair for the State of the Army and a British Attack

"The Chest is now nearly exhausted. The whole Army is two Months in Arrears, and part of them must starve."

He predicts an attack but is confident the Americans can come out on top: "The Enemy it is said have retreated to Staten Island. Perhaps they intend to visit our Country again. I should be exceedingly sorry it should again become the Seat of War, but I think we can fight them there as well as in any part of the Continent."

Docketed by Gerry himself; This letter last sold with Charles Hamilton in 1956

Documents signed by William Palfrey during the war are very rare; he died before the war's end

William Palfrey often served as the scribe for the "Sons of Liberty" in Boston and maintained a correspondence with the radical John Wilkes on behalf of the group. Moreover, he would call upon like-minded leaders when he travelled to the port cities of North America and England on business.

In the Massachusetts spring of 1775, the tenuous situation between the citizens and the government of the crown came to a head at Lexington and Concord. The united colonies began to prepare for war and, on July 16, 1775, William Palfrey was appointed an aide-de-camp to Major General Charles Lee. In this role, he increasingly came into the notice of General George Washington, who was impressed with his "conduct and activity".

There were growing fears of both men like George Washington and congressional leaders such as Elbridge Gerry, who recognized that the Revolution's greatest danger might not come from British arms alone, but

from internal financial collapse and administrative disorder. Congress possessed little reliable taxing authority and relied heavily on unstable paper currency and inconsistent state support, while inflation, supply shortages, and bureaucratic confusion crippled the army's ability to function. As British forces maneuvered for the 1777 campaign that would soon bring the fall of Philadelphia, American leaders increasingly understood that the survival of the Revolution depended as much upon sustaining public credit and military finance as upon victory on the battlefield.

Leaders were especially alarmed about the financial straits in Spring and Summer 1777 because they stood at the opening of a major campaign season while the Continental Army was already strained nearly to collapse. George Washington had rebuilt his army after the disasters around New York in 1776 and the winter campaigns in New Jersey, but maintaining that force in the field required enormous quantities of cash, food, clothing, transportation, and supplies that Congress struggled to provide. At the same moment, British commander William Howe was preparing a major offensive—though Washington did not yet know whether the target would be Philadelphia, the Hudson Valley, or elsewhere. The uncertainty forced the Americans to keep large forces mobilized and ready to move quickly, dramatically increasing expenses.

Financially, the situation had become dangerous by mid-1777 because Congress had no effective national taxation power and relied primarily on printing Continental paper currency and requesting funds from the states. Inflation was accelerating, public confidence in the currency was weakening, and military departments such as the commissary, quartermaster, and paymaster systems were increasingly disorganized. Officers and soldiers had gone unpaid for months, suppliers hesitated to accept depreciating paper money, and shortages of food and equipment became chronic. Men like William Palfrey, former Washington aide de camp and Paymaster General, feared not merely inconvenience but systemic failure: if the army could not be paid or fed during the 1777 campaign, desertion, collapse in morale, and military defeat could follow. Thus June 1777 represented a moment when the Revolution's military fate and its financial survival appeared inseparable.

Autograph letter signed, William Palfrey, Camp near Middlebrook, June 29, 1777, as Paymaster General of the Continental Army, to Elbridge Gerry, delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

"I wrote about ten days ago to the President [John Hancock], acquainting him with the state of the Military Chest, and the necessity I should soon be under for another supply of Cash. I have received no answer to my application and the Chest is now nearly exhausted. The whole Army is two Months in Arrears, and part of them must starve. The demand at Peeks Kill is also

very great, particularly in the Quarter Masters department. I must therefore beg you to forward me a large Supply as soon as possible.

"I was in hopes before this time I should have received the Determination of Congress on the Report of the Board of Treasury relative to my department. The difficulties I have encountered, and those I am now daily labouring under for want of a proper arrangement, and an establishment where I can do my Business in quiet, are become so great, that unless an alteration very soon takes place I must give it up, as I can no longer risque my Interest and reputation in the way I am now in.

"We are expecting every moment to remove from this place. The Enemy it is said have retreated to Staten Island. Perhaps they intend to visit our Country again. I should be exceedingly sorry it should again become the Seat of War, but I think we can fight them there as well as in any part of the Continent."

The docket is in Gerry's hand.

A fascinating letter from the Continental Army Paymaster General mentioning John Hancock, exhibiting concern for his army's supplies and lack of funds, while at the same time showing confidence in its military prowess.

47
Dear Sir

I wrote about ten days ago to the President, acquainting him with the State of the Military Chest, and the necessity I should soon be under for another supply of Cash - I have receiv'd no answer to my application and the Chest is now nearly exhausted. The whole Army is two Months in Arrear, and part of them much more - The demand at Fort Mifflin is also very great, particularly in the Quarter Master's department - I must therefore beg you to forward me a large Supply as soon as possible -

I was in hopes before this time I should have receiv'd the Determination of Congress on the Report of the Board of Treasury relative to my department - The difficulties I have encounter'd, and those I am now daily labouring under for want of a proper arrangement, and an establishment where I can do my Business in quiet, are become so great, that unless an alteration very soon takes place I must give it up, as I can no longer risque my Interest and reputation on the way I am now in.

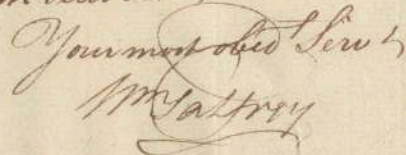
We are expecting every moment to remove from this place. The Enemy it is said have retreated to Staten Island - Perhaps they intend to visit our Country again. I should be exceeding sorry it should again become the Seat of War, but I think we can fight them there as well as in any part of the Continent.

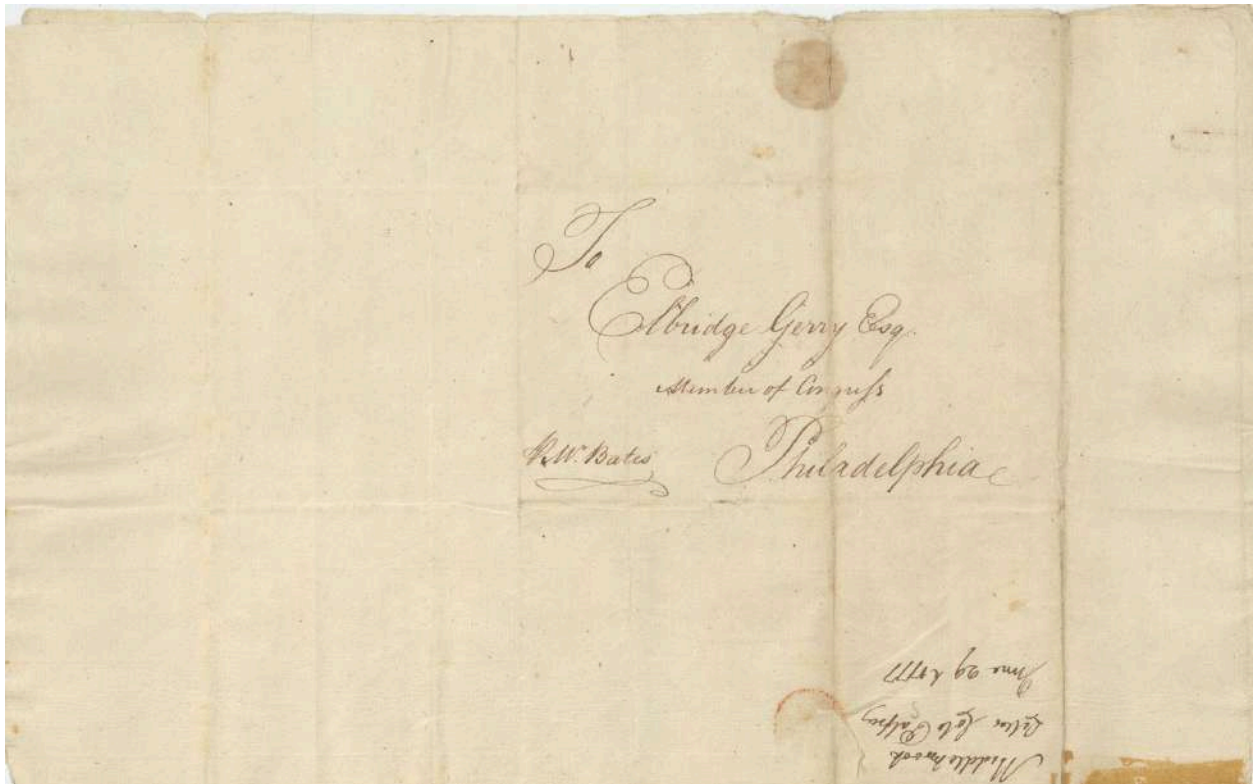
I mean this letter only for your private information -

Camp Middle Brook

29 June 1777.

I am dear Sir

Your most obed Serv^t




19)

General Israel Putnam, Hero of Bunker Hill, Responds to General Washington's Call for Immediate Reinforcements to Defend Against the British Move to Cut the Colonies in Two

With the army not prepared, Washington urged an immediate move by the militia to meet the enemy threat until the Continental Army could assist

"The General [Washington] seems assured that the Enemy will attempt these Posts immediately."

Very rare quality war-date letter of Putnam, and mentioning Washington specifically

Written to George Clinton and referencing Jonathan Trumbull

Upon learning of the outbreak of hostilities in Massachusetts in 1775, Putnam abandoned his plough in the field to raise the local militia. He then rode for Boston without bothering to change his clothes and made the 100-mile journey in just eight hours. By the time he arrived, the British had garrisoned themselves in Boston to occupy the city.

Putnam met with General Artemas Ward at the council of war and was appointed to the rank of major general. He is most commonly associated with the Battle of Bunker Hill, where he is often credited with the iconic order "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes". Bunker Hill was a defining point in Putnam's wartime career. His actions in Charlestown won him a reputation for courage under fire. He also served at the Siege of Boston and in 1776 at the Battle of Long Island.

In May 1777, General Putnam was tasked with preventing any British incursions from New York City up the Hudson River, and put in charge of American defenses in the Hudson Highlands, including Forts Montgomery and Clinton. He was stationed at Peekskill. British activity in that region was expected at this time.

On July 1, Washington wrote an alarming letter to George Clinton: "there can be as little room to doubt, that General Howe will cooperate with the Northern army, and make a sudden descent upon Peek's Kill, in order, if possible to get possession of the passes, before the troops to defend them can be reinforced by this army. Indeed I am at this moment informed that all the enemy's tents were struck to day at eight o'clock, and 'tis supposed they have all embarked, as the ships have all sailed out from Prince's bay where they lay—So that you may probably have a very hasty visit. The urgency of the occasion and the necessity of employing all our resources to baffle the first attempts of the enemy, obliges me to request in the strongest terms, that you will exert yourself to call forth a respectable body of the militia of your state to strengthen the force already at Peek's-Kill and its appendages, 'till circumstances will permit this army to be brought to their assistance."

Washington's greatest fear was that Burgoyne pushing south from Canada and Howe sailing north up the Hudson River would link up and physically cut the colonies in two. New England would be severed from the middle and southern states.

Letter signed, Headquarters, Peekskill, July 2, 1777, to Brig. Gen. George Clinton, seeking to rally the New York and Connecticut militia to defend against Howe and Burgoyne. His reference to "His Excellency" refers to George Washington. *"Dear Sir, I observe by his Excellency's Letter to you (which came open) that he has desired you to rally the Militia of this State with all possible Expedition. I shall rely on you entirely for this. I have wrote to Govr. Trumbull, to beg his immediate Assistance with the Militia of Connecticut. The General Seems assured that the Enemy will attempt these Posts immediately. I am Dr. Sir Affectionly Yours, Israel Putnam."* With the address leaf still present.

Howe in spite of this urgency confounded everyone — rather than cooperating with Burgoyne, he sailed south toward Philadelphia, leaving Burgoyne to his fate. Burgoyne's army was surrounded and surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777, bringing France into the war on the American side.

The mention of coordinating with Governor Trumbull of Connecticut and defending "posts" indicates this was written when imminent British activity was expected. The British did in fact move into that region.

The forts that Putnam was assigned to defend fell to the British In October 1777, when with three thousand troops, British General Sir Henry Clinton utterly befuddled Putnam's undermanned defenses. Clinton faked an invasion on the east side of the river and then landed his main army below Forts Clinton and Montgomery, executing a march to attack the forts from the west. Clinton quickly overran the forts before Putnam could send reinforcements. Having failed to prevent Clinton from capturing Forts Clinton and Montgomery on

October 6 and from burning the town of Kingston on the 16th, Putnam retreated to the hills east of the river and left valuable stores in the Continental Village which were destroyed by the British.

In the aftermath Putnam was brought before a court of inquiry for these losses. Ultimately, the court cleared him of any negligence or malfeasance, determining the defeat was due to a lack of men. He was, however, removed from active command. He had a stroke and retired in 1779.

Putnam's war-date letters are scarce.

Head Quarters, Pickswill 2 July 1777

Dear Sir

I observe by his Excellency's
Letter to you which came open that
he has desired you to rally the Militia
of this State with all possible Expedition
I shall rely on you entirely for this
I have writt to your Friend Mr. Furbull, to
beg his immediate Assistance with
the Militia of Connecticut.

The General fears a point
that the Enemy will attempt
these Posts immediately.

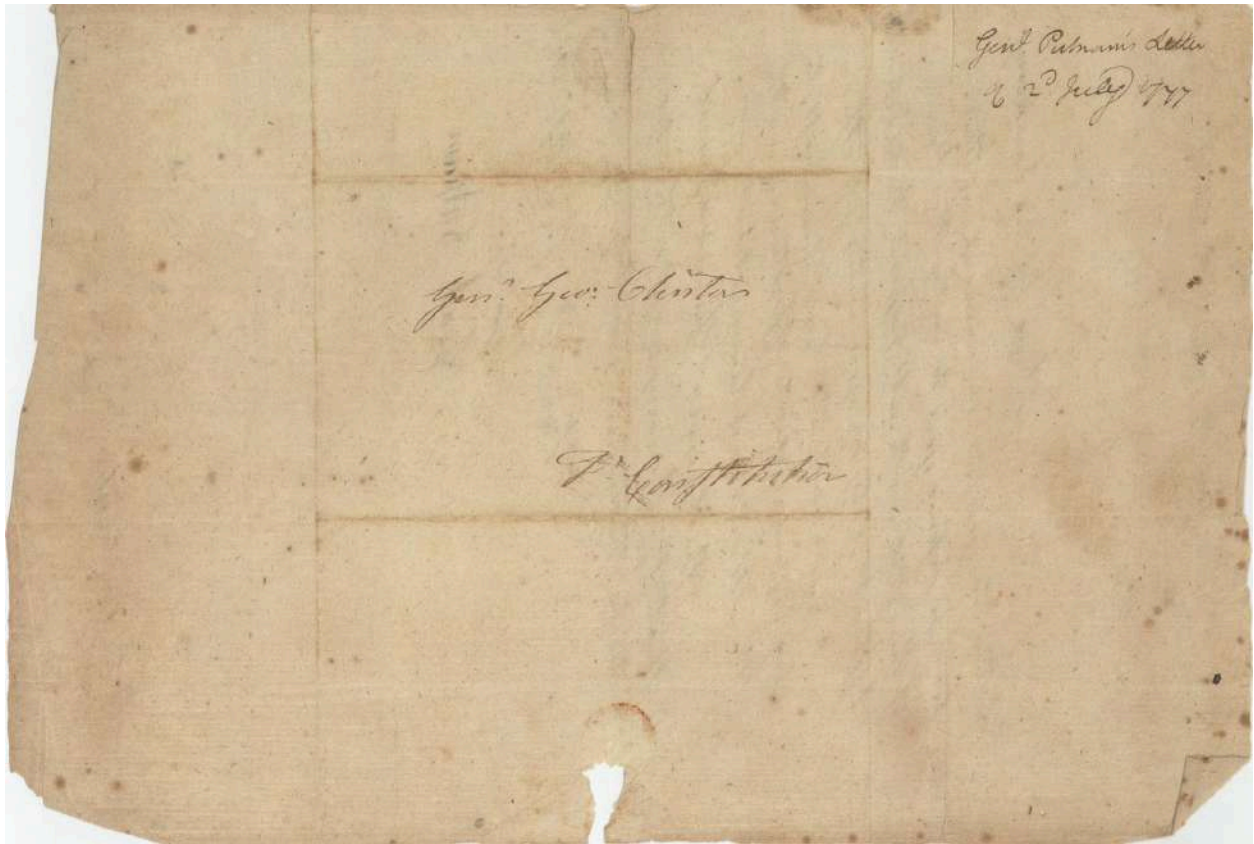
I am D^r Sir Affectionately

Yours
Israel Putnam

A 1646

46

By G. Geo. Clinton



20)

**A Sharecropper Provides a Vivid Firsthand Account of How His Landlord
Forced Him to Provision General Howe and the British Army After the Battles
of Germantown and Brandywine**

**The landlord may well have been Dr. John Morton, son of the Signer of the
Declaration of Independence**

**The farmer describes how Morton made him help the British "friends" while
Washington and his army starved**

*"First he [Hon. Morton] sent me word, when the Brittish come here From Brandywine, I must bring a cart
load of Potatoes for my friends and General How, beating Washington, and when the English came at
Germantown then they struck their lines a good peace from the place."*

*The plea, filed in the immediate aftermath of the war, is an effort to paint him as a patriot and friend to the
Revolution in spite of this; he was forced to do it*

"They [the Colonists] found me true to the Cuntry."

In September 1777, the Continental Army lost the Battle of Brandywine and was forced to retreat before a strong British force led by Lord William Howe. The victorious British then occupied Philadelphia, forcing Congress to flee the city. After another unsuccessful engagement at Germantown the next month, the Americans went to Whitemarsh, a town northwest of Philadelphia. This position proved untenable, and Washington determined to move his army to Valley Forge, a more defensible location from which he could keep an eye on the foe. After an exhausting march from Whitemarsh via Gulph Mills, the American force of 8,000 Continentals and 3,000 militia arrived at Valley Forge on December 19, 1777, and they were in a

miserable state (just four days later nearly 3,000 men were reported sick or incapable of duty). The winter came on and the men suffered badly from the cold.

Meanwhile, Howe's army that occupied Philadelphia and garrisoned Germantown in the autumn of 1777 was, from its first day in Pennsylvania, an army in chronic need of food. The British government compelled Howe to obtain his hay and oats in America rather than shipping them from England, forcing him to depend on local foraging from the moment the campaign began. The countryside between Brandywine and Philadelphia became, in effect, a larder to be emptied. As Howe's forces moved through the region, British and Hessian troops seized grain, hay, livestock, and provisions from farms along their route, burning and looting homes that resisted. Once Philadelphia was taken, the problem intensified: American forts on the Delaware River blocked the Royal Navy from supplying the city by sea, forcing the garrison to rely entirely on overland provisioning from the surrounding countryside. The result was a systematic stripping of the farms within reach of British lines. Washington was forced to post militia specifically to prevent farmers from voluntarily carrying their goods into Philadelphia to sell to the British, who paid premium prices in gold

Autograph document, signed in the third person, Daniel Rice, dated on the back March 1784. *"Notice to your Honour — How John Morton Served Me Daniel Rice in the year 1777 when I lived on his place which I had for halves, so I want to know, if he could give my goods away to the Brittish as he did. First he sent me word, when the Brittish come here From Brandywine, I must bring a cart load of Potatoes for my friends and General How, beating Washington, and when the English came at Germantown then they struck their lines a good peace from the place. After that he orderd that the Brittish cut me Down, 11 Akers Indian Corn for fear he said the Rebels will come behind that corn & defeat the Brittish & after that he orderd that The Brittish made the Line, that his house came in the line that he could go out & in without to be stopt of the guard. After that he gave all what I had free to the Brittish. Namely 8 tuns of hay & 3 acres of Potatoes and 7 acres of buckwheat & my butter he forced me to sell for 1 shilling a pound because he said they are my friends & I lost — 85 shocks of oats, & 209 shocks of wheat from which I got about 20 Bushel, and after the Battall at Germantown then he said to me stay on the place I will pay you, I am sorrow for you. & so I did stay, & saved his house, & I was obliged to buy all my winter store, out of my own oocket. Sir take this in consideration.*

"Because I Saved his hous that our people should not destroy it — And I Did Save it — Because they found me true to the Cuntry." So he claims that, despite turning over the produce to the British, he was known as a patriot and that saved the Morton property from becoming a casualty of war.

The practice of *"farming to halves"* was well established in England and carried directly into colonial America, and it worked like this: the landowner contributed the land, and often the tools, seed, and housing; the tenant

contributed his labor and management; and at harvest, the crop was divided equally between them — half to the landlord as rent, half to the farmer as his living.

That Rice describes Morton as "*Hon.*", supplemented by the fact that the Morton's did in fact have to flee their home at this time raises the real possibility that the "*Hon. John Morton*" who stripped Daniel Rice of his crops, hay, and butter in the autumn of 1777 was none other than Dr. John Morton, son of John Morton, the Pennsylvania delegate who cast the deciding vote for American independence in the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776. The signer of the Declaration of Independence had died of tuberculosis on April 1, 1777, just five months before the events Rice describes, leaving his estate in Ridley Township effectively leaderless. His widow Ann, faced with Howe's army advancing from Brandywine, fled across the Delaware River with what valuables she could carry, leaving behind a son — Dr. John — who had not yet enlisted and was very much present on the family land. Surrounded by the loyalist neighbors and relatives who had already turned against his father for voting for independence, the young Morton may have accommodated the British occupation. He would later enlist in the American service and die on a British prison ship.

We speculate that the entity addressed by Rice was The Supreme Executive Council, headed by John Dickinson, which received petitions directly from citizens and could act on them politically, but it was not a court. It could recommend, refer, or order action.

By 1784, Pennsylvania had established mechanisms for recording and compensating war losses, and New Jersey had its own damage claims process. That Rice itemizes his losses suggests he wants compensation. Rice ends not with a demand but with a declaration: "I Did Save it — Because they found me true to the Cuntry." He wants it on the record that he was a loyal Patriot. In 1784 this mattered practically as well as morally. Loyalty was the basis for compensation claims, pension eligibility, and legal standing in the new republic.

Notice to your Honour — Hon John Norton Served
 Me Daniel Rice in the year 1777 When I Lived on his Place which
 I had for halfs, so I want to know, If he could give my Goods away to
 The Brittish as he did first he sent me word, when the Brittish came here
 From Bradeywine, I must bring A Cart Load of Potatoes for my friends and
 General Howe, beating Washington, and when the English came at Germintown
 then they struck their Lines a Good Peace from the place, after that he ordered that
 The Brittish cut me Down, 11 Acres Indian Corn for fear he said the Rebels
 Will come Behind that Corn I Defeat the Brittish & after that he ordered that
 The Brittish Made the Line, that his house came in ~~between~~ the Line
 that he could go out & In Without to Be Stopt of the guard after that he
 Gave all what I had = ~~Rice~~ to the Brittish Namely 8 tons of hay & 3 acres
 of Potatoes and 7 acres of Buckwheat & my Butter he forced me to sell
 for 1 Shilling a pound Because he said they are my friends & I Lost
 85 Shocks of oats, & 209, Shocks of Wheat from which I got about 20,
 Bushel, and after the Battall at Germintown then he said to me stay
 On the Place I Will pay you, I am sorry for you = & so I did stay, & saved his
 House, & I was obliged to buy all my winter Store, out of my own Pocket
 -- So Take this In Consideration
 Because I saved his hous that our People should Not Destroy it.
 And I did save it -- Because they found me true to the Country.

Ann. Rev ✓
 2 50 100
 700 45 200 48

21)

Revolutionary War General Jabez Huntington Rejoices at News of the Historic American Triumph Against Burgoyne at Saratoga

"The present state of public affairs are big with most Important Events."

"This day we have a further account in a Letter that came from Genl. Wolcot dated last Saturday, giving an account that Our Army had gained further advantages of the Enemy, that the two Armies was then in Battle that our Forces was in the Front & Rear of Burgoins Army and appeared a good prospect of a Total Defeat. endorsement. May God grant success to our Armies..."

"May God grant success to our Armies in the various Departments, and proper Temper of mind to the Inhabitants of the Independent States for all want of his Providence."

A remarkable and rare letter from a senior figure showing how victory against Burgoyne spread excitement throughout the colonies

The letter also mentions George Washington

This letter last sold in 1948 by iconic dealer Mary Benjamin and has been in a private collection since that time

The Saratoga campaign was the decisive turning point of the American Revolution, ending British General John Burgoyne's attempt to cut New England off from the other colonies by advancing south from Canada. The campaign's major engagements were fought at Freeman's Farm on September 19, 1777, and Bemis Heights on October 7, where American forces under Horatio Gates and officers such as Benedict Arnold stopped and then shattered Burgoyne's advance. Surrounded near Saratoga with dwindling supplies and no realistic hope of rescue, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army on October 17, 1777, in one of the greatest

American victories of the war. The triumph electrified the colonies and convinced France that the United States could successfully resist Britain, leading directly to the Franco-American alliance of 1778, which transformed the Revolution from a colonial rebellion into a global war and ultimately made American independence possible.

Jabez Huntington was one of Connecticut's leading Revolutionary officers. A veteran of the French and Indian War, he became a brigadier general in the Continental Army and played a major role in organizing and supplying New England troops. Though not at Saratoga himself, he was deeply connected to military intelligence and correspondence networks and was active on the Committee of Safety. In October 1777 he was first major general of the CT Militia.

Oliver Wolcott was present with the army at Saratoga and had sent news to Huntington.

Autograph letter signed, Hartford, October 13, 1777 to his son Joshua.

"Dear Son, Conclude you have heard of Maj ____ & Majr West who returned from the Northern Army last week the success of our Army against Genl Burgoin. This day we have a further account in a Letter that came from Genl Wolcott dated last Saturday, giving an account that Our Army had gained further advantages of the Enemy, that the two Armies was then in Battle, that our Forces was in the Front & Rear of Burgoin's Army and appeared a good prospect of a Total Defeat. May God grant success to our Armies in the various Departments, and proper Temper of mind to the Inhabitants of the Independent States for all want of his Providence. The present state of public affairs are big with most Important Events.

"Nothing Material from Genl Washington or Genl Putnam has come to hand since the 8th Instant...Your affectionate parent."

Letters such as this are very uncommon today. This one has been off the market for nearly a century.

22)

General William Heath Pays Col. Henry Jackson for Recruitment in the Early Spring of 1778

Heath would write to Washington that Jackson “an Honest man and worthy Citizen and Good Officer.”

Jackson's troops would see action at the Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Rhode Island

William Heath was Washington's General in command of the Eastern Department.

Henry Jackson commanded the 16th Massachusetts Regiment, which was actively recruiting in early 1778 right after the brutal winter at Valley Forge, when the Continental Army desperately needed men.

Document signed, Boston, April 10, 1778, by General William Heath, Seth Loring, Secretary, and by Col. Henry Jackson, the top torn or cut affecting 4 words on top line, evidently at some point part of a larger piece.

"Pay Col. Henry Jackson Three Hundred & Sixty Eight Dollars in full of the above amount of premium for Enlisting 276 Men by his Officers in the Regiment under his Command, for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant."

The 16th Massachusetts Regiment, also known as Henry Jackson's Additional Continental Regiment would see action at the Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Rhode Island.

Just two weeks later, Heath would write directly to Washington commending Jackson and calling him: “an Honest man a worthy Citizen and Good Officer.”

Sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Pay Col: Henry Jackson three hundred & seventy seven
Dollars in full of the above amount of premium for En-
-listing 276 men by his Officers in the Regiment under his
Command, for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant

Given at Head Quarters
Boston April 10th 1778.

By the Generals Command
Seth Soule Secy

W. Heath
Agent

3.50
751.48

Received the Contents

FRONT STATION Col:

Henry Jackson
Duke 477

5473

23)

Revolutionary War Hero Francis Barber, Who Died Young, Requests Axes and Other Supplies for the Coming Winter Encampment

Barber was acting in his capacity as aide to General Lord Stirling

In the autumn of 1778, Lord Stirling's urgent requisition of axes, shovels, spades, and pickaxes reflected the intense pressure to fortify and prepare the Continental Army's position in northern New Jersey. Following the Battle of Monmouth that June — the last major engagement in the northern theater — the British had withdrawn to New York City, and Washington's army had settled into a defensive posture across New Jersey. Elizabethtown was a particularly vulnerable point, sitting directly across the water from British-held Staten Island and subject to frequent enemy raids, making the strengthening of local defenses a pressing priority. At the same time, the army was moving toward its winter encampment, which required soldiers to clear land, dig earthworks, and construct huts — all labor that demanded exactly the kind of heavy tools Stirling was requesting. The terse note that wagons could not be spared to transport the supplies only underscores how stretched the Continental Army's resources were at this moment, even as the strategic situation had begun to stabilize following the entry of France into the war earlier that year.

Colonel Francis Barber served in the Revolution with distinction, having engaged in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. Barber served as adjutant general under Sullivan during the expedition against the Indians, and was sent to quell the mutiny of New Jersey and Pennsylvania troops in 1781. Barber died at the age of 33.

Autograph letter signed, F. Barber, Head Quarters Elizabethtown, November 2, 1778 to Col. Abeel, Deputy Quartermaster General.

"I am directed by Gen. Lord Stirling to desire you to find to this Post two hundred Axes, one hundred Shovels, one hundred Spades and one hundred pick axes. You will please to despatch the above Articles with all Speed. Waggon's cannot be spared from this place to convey them."

W 138
 Sur
 Wagon
 Nov: 2: 1778
 No: 11778

I am directed by Gen: Lord Stirling to
 desire you to send to this Post two hundred
 Axes, one hundred shovels, one hundred
 Spades and one hundred pick axes.

You will please to dispatch the above
 articles with all speed.

Waggon's cannot be spared from this
 place to convey them.

I am, Sir, your very humble
 Servant

Colo: Abeck

F. Barber Adj. Gen

24)

General William Smallwood Writes Governor Thomas Johnson Announcing That George Washington Has Advanced Him \$10,000 to Induce "such of our Nine months men as may inlist" in the Continental Army

His troops "have suffered extremely in the late snow storms and severe weather when on the March over the Mountains from the Neighbourhood of New Windsor and Fort Clinton, near which they had been posted to guard the passes over the Mountains to prevent desertion, cover the rout and escort of Burgoyne's Army"

Smallwood himself would go on to serve as VA governor

Sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

William Smallwood served throughout the Revolutionary War as one of Maryland's most important military commanders, rising from colonel to Major General. He first distinguished himself at the Battle of Brooklyn in August 1776, where his "Maryland 400" made their legendary sacrificial stand to cover Washington's retreating army, earning him a promotion to Brigadier General. He went on to fight at White Plains, Brandywine, and Germantown, and spent the winter of 1778-79 at Camp Middlebrook wrestling with the constant challenges of re-enlistment, supplies, and troop morale — exactly the period captured in this letter. His final major action came at the Battle of Camden in 1780, where his brigade was one of the few units to hold firm when Gates' army collapsed around them, earning him his promotion to Major General. He resigned from the Continental Army in 1783 as the highest-ranking Marylander to have served in the war.

When British General John Burgoyne surrendered his army of roughly 6,000 men to American General Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York, a major logistical problem arose — what to do with thousands of prisoners. Under the terms of what was called the "Convention of Saratoga," Burgoyne's troops were supposed to be marched to Boston and shipped back to England with a promise not to fight again in America. However, Congress grew suspicious that Britain would simply redeploy these men elsewhere, and

repeatedly delayed and obstructed the arrangement. As a result, Burgoyne's army — known as the "Convention Army" — ended up being marched from upstate New York all the way through New England and eventually down through the mid-Atlantic states, requiring a continuous American military escort to guard thousands of prisoners on the move. This was an enormous drain on American manpower.

Smallwood's Maryland and Delaware troops were among those tasked with this escort duty, which is why they were still near New Windsor and Fort Clinton rather than already settled into winter quarters at Middlebrook — they arrived late and exhausted, having spent months shepherding British prisoners across the countryside in harsh winter conditions.

In addition to these issues, Smallwood was worried that Virginia's offer of compensation might eclipse that of the Continental army and Washington, something that concerned him and Washington. "Nine months men" refers to soldiers who had enlisted in the Continental Army for a term of only nine months, rather than for longer periods like three years or "for the duration of the war." This was one of the central and recurring headaches of the entire Revolutionary War. From the very beginning, Washington desperately wanted a professional, long-term army of soldiers who could be properly trained and relied upon year after year. But recruiting men for long terms was extremely difficult. Men were reluctant to leave their farms, families, and livelihoods for years at a time, and states found it much easier to fill their quotas by offering shorter enlistments.

Autograph letter signed, William Smallwood, Camp Middlebrook, January 1, 1779 to Governor Johnson of Maryland. "I have since we joined the army at this Post obtained an order from his Excellency General Washington for Ten Thousand Dollars and his promise for such further sums as may be necessary to be advanced to such of our Nine months men as may inlist, who I shall use every endeavour to engage tho they seem with reluctance to enter, but paying the full Bounty of Sixty dollars, and giving them four months Furlough may be an inducement, as the latter will relieve them from the apprehension of the Evils resulting from Hutting, the rigour of the season and their duty, which has damped their spirits much.

"This step I was induced to take to prevent their inlisting with the Virginians who are now reinlisting their men at One Hundred and fifty dollars & two Hundred acres Land Bounty, which great encouragement (as many of our Nine months mens time is near expiring) I was fearfull might influence them, unless anticipated.

"As I have engaged to the General that the State Bounty of Forty dollars shall be refunded as early as Possible, which I was led to promise from your letter of the 12th August last, would be glad you would signify your Approbation or disapprobation of the measure, and if Approved the time when the money could be refunded, before I enter too deep in it.

"In my two last letters to you I urged the want of Blankets and Officers Clothing, the two Brigades have had about Eleven Hundred Blankets and want as many more, we are in expectation of getting a few more shortly but I would still urge the expediency of the States procuring and having a stock on hand to remedy any deficiency here, as they are an Article more Subject to loss than any other, and the want of them cannot be dispensed with without risking the lives of many good Soldiers a loss at this juncture not readily repaired, and which I am persuaded you will see the Necessity of a little Attention to prevent.

"I am told our State has voted a liberal Allowance to its Officers to purchase clothing which must intitle them to their warmest Acknowledgements, but perhaps a supply of Clothing would have been more Suitable to their present Necessities as Articles of this Nature are scarce and Adventurous and Mercenary People are daily Availing themselves of Public Necessities, and the depreciation of our Money.

"Our Soldiers are generally healthy, warm, and well clad & I hope in a few days will be comfortably butted, tho' they have suffered extremely in the late snow storms and severe weather when on the March over the Mountains from the Neighbourhood of New Windsor and Fort Clinton, near which they had been posted to guard the passes over the Mountains to prevent desertion, cover the rout and escort of Burgoyne's Army which may account for their late arrival and being later in butting than the other troops at this post."

A rare fascinating warfare letter from Washington's encampment showing the complex interplay between Generals, soldiers, governors and weather.

Camp Middlebrook January 1st 1776

Dear Sir

I have since we joined the army at this Post obtained an order from his Excellency General Washington for Ten Thousand Dollars and his promise for such farther sums as may be necessary to be advanced to such of our Nine months men as may enlist, who I shall use every endeavour to engage tho' they seem with reluctance to enter, but paying the full Bounty of sixty dollars, and giving them four months Furlough may be an inducement, as the latter will relieve them from the apprehension of the evils resulting from Fighting, the rigour of the season and their duty, which has damp'd their spirits much —

This step I was induc'd to take to prevent their enlisting with the Virginians, who are now reenlisting their men at one Hundred and fifty dollars & ~~only~~ two Hundred Acres Land Bounty, which great encouragement (as many of our Nine months mens time is near expiring) I was fearfull might influence them unless anticipated —

As I have engag'd to the General that the State Bounty of Forty dollars shall be refunded as early as possible, which I was led to promise from your Letter of the 12th August last, would be glad you would signify your Approbation or disapprobation of the measure (and if approved the time when the money could be refunded) before I enter too deep in it

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Our Soldiers are generally healthy, warm, and well clad &
 I hope in a few days will be comfortably settled, tho' they have suffered ex:
 tremely in the late snow storms and severe weather when on the March
 over the Mountains from the Neighbourhood of New Windsor and Fort
 Clinton, near which they had been posted to guard the passes over the Moun:
 tains to prevent ^{the} desertion, cover the rout and escort of Burgoyne's Army
 which may account for their late Arrival and being later in settling than
 the other troops at this post.

I remain with sincere regard

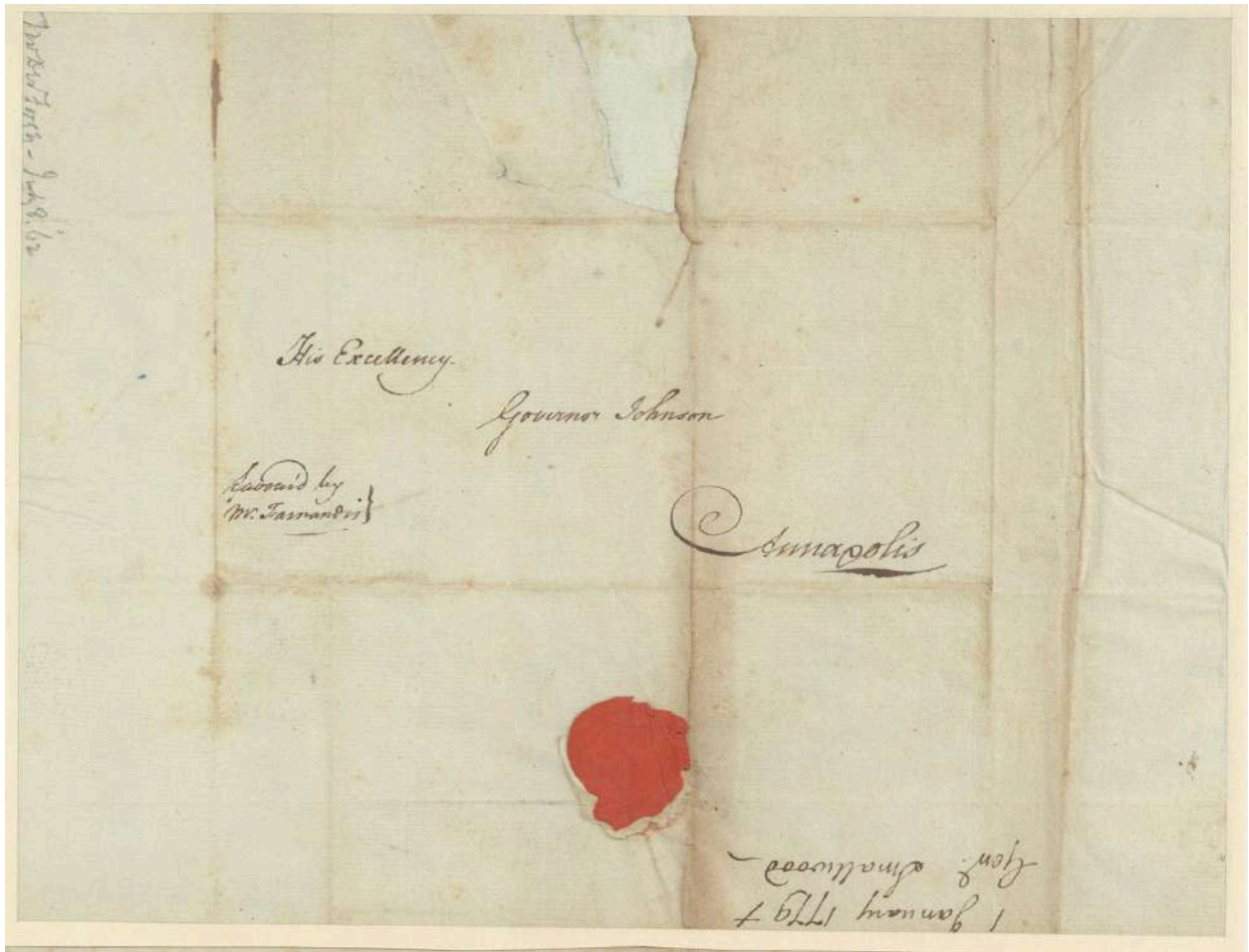
Yr

Yours very Obedt^l Able Serv^t

W. Wallwood

P.S. Please signify the Allowance made by our
 State, to Officers in our Regiments, for enlisting men —

Governor Johnson



25)

In the Hand of James McHenry: George Washington's Camp Issues Orders for the Marching of the POW Convention Army Heading for Charlottesville

The Convention Army was composed of British soldiers captured at Saratoga in the great American victory there

This copy, created by Washington's Aide de Camp and Future Secretary of War Dr. James McHenry, was evidently sent to Washington in Philadelphia the same day to apprise the General

Lord Stirling, who authored the letter, was in charge of Headquarters during Washington's absence in Philadelphia, and McHenry was left as Washington's representative

Stirling penned the letter under Washington's authority, and McHenry created a copy for Washington

This letter last sold at Parke Bernet in 1944 and then again through Mary Benjamin in 1948

Washington was absent from his Middlebrook headquarters from December 21, 1778 to February 5, 1779, having gone to Philadelphia to discuss plans for the new campaign with Congress's committee of conference. During Washington's absence, the general orders continued to be issued at Middlebrook by Major General Stirling, whom Washington had left in command of the troops there. Washington was accompanied to Philadelphia by his secretary Robert Hanson Harrison and his aides-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens, Richard Kidder Meade, and Tench Tilghman. His assistant secretary James McHenry remained at Middlebrook, from whence he forwarded correspondence and other information to Washington.

In late 1778/early 1779, Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell led a British expedition that sailed from New York with troops (including Hessians and Loyalist units) and captured Savannah, Georgia on December 29, 1778 — a major British victory that opened up the Southern campaign. William Bingham would report on February 6: "It appears by Letters dated at New York the 13 Jany, taken on board a Prize, which has been

brought into this Port, that there are Accounts received there of a Successfull Enterprize against Savannah in Georgia, by a Detachment of British Troops who embarked at New York in the Month of November with a Design of reducing the southern Colonies."

The surrender of General Burgoyne to General Gates at Saratoga, N.Y. on October 18, 1777, placed nearly 6,000 British and Hessian prisoners of war in the hands of the Continental Congress. According to the terms of their surrender, written in a document entitled the "Convention of Saratoga," the prisoners were to be marched to Boston and then shipped back to Great Britain. When they arrived at Boston, a dispute arose between the Americans and Burgoyne, and on the 8th of January 1778, Congress resolved to suspend the terms of the Convention and keep the prisoners in custody. Late that year the decision was made to relocate them to Charlottesville, Virginia, where they could be more closely watched and better supplied. Many of the British and Hessian officers had their wives and children with them, and wagons were provided for their transportation. British General Philips and the genial Hessian General von Riedesel led the march southward. They reached Charlottesville, 700 miles from Boston, in January 1779, exhausted by a long journey during an inclement season and arriving to find their barracks unfinished and their supplies insufficient. Moreover, the local population was alarmed to have introduced into their presence so many enemy soldiers.

Autograph letter signed, Middle Brook, Jan. 3, 1779, from Lord Stirling to Major General Phillips, copy in the hand of Washington aide de camp James McHenry.

"His Excellency Genr Washington being at Philadelphia, your letter by Mr. Noble your aide de camp was put into the hands of Doctor McHenry, one of his Secretaries, to be forwarded to his Excellency. By Mr. Noble I have the honor of transmitting you two letters from Genr. Washington. This Genr had thoughts of waiting his Excellency's return, least there should be something in his letter which required a particular answer but upon further consideration he has determined to join you.

"You will find by the enclosed instructions to Captn. Bliss, that he is fully empowered to call upon the quarter master, forage masters, and commissaries departments for such assistance as may be necessary in your journey to Charlotte Ville. I hope there is nothing omitted which could in any measure contribute to your ease or convenience. If so I have certainly fallen short of his Excellency's intentions. I have expressed the convention route to Capn. Bliss from an opinion that the best accomodations may be found on that road, but I do not mean that you should be restricted by it in case better conveniences are to be had on any other leading to Charlotte Ville."

You will find by the inclosed instructions to Capt. Whisp, that he is fully empowered to call upon the quarter master - forage master and commissaries departments for such assistance as may be necessary, in your journey to Charlotte Ville. — I hope there is nothing omitted which could in any measure contribute to your ease or convenience. — Yes. I have certainly fallen short of his Excellency's intentions for this purpose.

I have expressed the convention route to Capt. Whisp, from an opinion that the best accommodations ~~would~~ be found on that road. — but I do not mean that you should be restricted by it, in case ^{of} ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~convenience~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~had~~ ~~on~~ ~~any~~ ~~other~~ ~~provisions~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~procured~~ ~~on~~ any

~~any other tract leading to Charlotte~~
ville - leading to Charlotte ville

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obt. Ser.

Stirling

May. Gen. Philips

26)

General Lord Stirling Writes to Brigadier General Hand, Promising to Send Along Intelligence to General Washington and Congress in Philadelphia

A rare war-date letter from General to General mentioning Washington, last sold in 1949 by the Rosenbach firm

Edward Hand, usually referred to as Brigadier General Hand, played an important role in the 1779 Sullivan–Clinton Campaign against the Iroquois Confederacy during the Revolutionary War. The campaign itself was ordered by George Washington in response to frontier raids carried out by Loyalist and Iroquois forces after the Wyoming and Cherry Valley massacres of 1778.

The Battle of Chemung took place on August 13, 1779, near the Chemung River in present-day New York, close to modern Elmira. Hand commanded one of the light corps or advance elements attached to Major General John Sullivan's army. As Sullivan advanced northward from Pennsylvania into Iroquois territory, Hand's troops were frequently used for reconnaissance, skirmishing, and screening the main army.

On January 15, Hand wrote to General Washington, "Since my letter to your Excellency of the 10th I recd the Inclosed intelligence from the Susquehanna it justifies your Excellys doubts of the Success of an Attempt on Chemung at this Season. tho I have reason to think from Intelligence from an Other quarter, as much to be depended on, that the Strength of Chemung is greatly exaggerated. The Strong parties that infested our frontiers—the last Summer & Fall did not Properly belong to that place—and are now generally return'd to their different Castles." He had written to Washington on the 10th and 5th as well asking about, among other things, Casimir Pulaski's regiment of cavalry and infantry.

General Lord Stirling was a prominent hero of the American Revolution who commanded Washington's favor and trust. For the winter of 1778-1779, Washington chose to return to Middlebrook, New Jersey, for the army's encampment. Troops began arriving here at the end of November, and continued to arrive over the next weeks. Washington himself would not arrive until December 11; he made his headquarters at the Wallace House in Somerville. Washington and the army remained in Middlebrook well beyond the winter; the encampment remained here until June 3, 1779. However, he did leave the Middlebrook Encampment from

December 22 until February 5 to meet with the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. General Lord Stirling was left in command of the Middlebrook Encampment in Washington's absence.

Autograph letter signed, Lord Stirling, Middlebrook Camp January 21, 1779 to Brigadier General Hand.

"Dear Sir, I received your letter directed to His Excellency General Washington. As it chiefly relates to matters without the limits of my command I shall forward it to him at Philadelphia, where he will have opportunity of consulting the committee of Congress on the subject." Affix on one side to a mat.

Washington responded on February 7 from Philadelphia: "Count Pulaski's Legion being ordered by a Resolve of Congress of the 2d instant (Copy of which you have inclosed) to repair to South Carolina, be pleased to direct the Officer commanding the Infantry of the Legion to march immediately by the shortest Route to Lancaster, where he will meet orders for his future destination... Although all thoughts of an Indian expedition are laid aside for the Winter, I do not know—but we may be induced to prosecute one in the Spring, should circumstances demand it, and the situation of Affairs on the Sea Coast admit of it.) I would therefore have you be making every possible enquiry in the Course of this Winter, of those who are best informed, of the different Routes leading to the Country of the Six Nations by Land and Water—having particular regard to the distances—face of the Country and kind of navigation."

91
Middle brook Camp Jan 21. 1779

Dear Sir

94

I received your letter directed to
His Excellency General Washington, as it chiefly
relates to matters without the Limits of my Command
I shall forward it to him at Philadelphia, where he
will have opportunity of consulting the Committee
of Congress on the Subject. I am

your Most Obedient &
Most Humble Servant

Hirling,

Brigadier General Hunt.

Received of
John Hunt
1779

27)

Aide de Camp to George Washington James McHenry Reports on the Fate of the British Forces Headed from New York to Savannah to Open the Southern Theater

"I observe in his Excy's last letter to Lord Stirling, he speaks of the new levies [British] as having sailed [from NYC toward Savannah]. My letter (if you will look back) only said that they were about going somewhere but not that they were gone.

By the time McHenry wrote this, Savannah had already been taken

He also sends to the General confidential papers and an enigmatic "Key" to a "Closet" which contains "Much Scarce Reading"

The information was sent to Washington through another aide, Tench Tilghman, who had left headquarters with Washington to visit Congress in Philadelphia

A rare example showing Washington's aides communicating with the General through each other

This letter was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1949

Washington was absent from his Middlebrook headquarters from December 21, 1778 February 5, 1779, having gone to Philadelphia to discuss plans for the new campaign with Congress's committee of conference. During Washington's absence, the general orders continued to be issued at Middlebrook by Major General Stirling, whom Washington had left in command of the troops there. Washington was accompanied to Philadelphia by his secretary Robert Hanson Harrison and his aides-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens, Richard Kidder Meade, and Tench Tilghman. His assistant secretary James McHenry remained at Middlebrook, from whence he forwarded correspondence and other information to Washington.

In late 1778/early 1779, Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell led a British expedition that sailed from New York with troops (including Hessians and Loyalist units) and captured Savannah, Georgia on December 29, 1778 — a major British victory that opened up the Southern campaign. William Bingham would report on February 6: "It appears by Letters dated at New York the 13 Jany, taken on board a Prize, which has been brought into this Port, that there are Accounts received there of a Successfull Enterprize against Savannah in Georgia, by a Detachment of British Troops who embarked at New York in the Month of November with a Design of reducing the southern Colonies."

Autograph letter signed, James McHenry, Middlebrook, February 1, 1779, to Tench Tilghman.

"Sir, By an express which went this forenoon from Lord Stirling's (while I was there) I designed to have forwarded the private letters to his Excellency which I now transmit, and for this purpose desired Mr. Colfax in a note to send them under cover. — But the express thro' some mistake or other, proceeded to Philada. without calling. Now as the note contains the key of the closet in the room in which we sleep — and the closet contains books — which books contain much scarce reading — you will therefore be pleased to take care of the key.

"I observe in his Excy's last letter to Lord Stirling, he speaks of the new levies as having sailed. My letter (if you will look back) only said that they were about going somewhere but not that they were gone. The only grammatical error I made in that letter was putting the ablative case for the genitive — I leave you to find out the place."

A rare example showing Washington's aides communicating with the General through each other and an important moment in the war, the attack on the South. McHenry would play a prominent role throughout the war and go on to be Secretary of War.

This letter was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1949.

Middlebrook 1st Feby. 1779

My Sir.

By an express which went this forenoon from Lord Stirling (whom I then was) I designed to have forwarded the private letters to his Excellency which I now transmit (and for this purpose desired Mr. Colfax in a note to send them under cover. — But the express thro' some mistake or other, proceeded to Philada^a without calling. Now as the note contains the key of the closet in the room in which we sleep — and the closet contains books — which books contain much scarce reading you will therefore be pleased to take care of the key —

— I observe in his Excellency's last letter to Lord Stirling, he speaks of the new Lewis &c as having sailed — my letter (if you will look back) — only said that they were about going somewhere — but not that they were gone. The only grammatical blunder I made in that letter was putting the ablative case for the primitive — I leave you to find out the place
 your very sincerely JAMES W. HURRY.

28)

Prelude to Treason: General Benedict Arnold to Governor George Clinton, February 1779: "A most cruel and villainous attack on my Character since I left the City, by the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania, obliges me to return"

He schemes to acquire loyalist land as an alternative to military duties and eventual treason but fails

A remarkable letter showing Arnold struggling at the inflection point; we have not seen an earlier referencing the events in and around his path to scandal and treason, this being just days after the charges of corruption were aired

Last sold by the Rosenbach firm in 1951 and since then in a private collection; we found only one other letter referencing these events having reached the market in the past many decades

When the British withdrew from Philadelphia in June 1778, Washington appointed Arnold military commander of the city. Historian John Shy states: Washington then made one of the worst decisions of his career, appointing Arnold as military governor of the rich, politically divided city. Few could have been less qualified for the position. Arnold had amply demonstrated his tendency to become embroiled in disputes, as well as his lack of political sense. Above all, he needed tact, patience, and fairness in dealing with a people deeply marked by months of enemy occupation.

Arnold began planning to capitalize financially on the change in power in Philadelphia, even before the Americans reoccupied their city. He engaged in a variety of business deals designed to profit from war-related supply movements and benefiting from the protection of his authority. Such schemes were not unknown among American officers, but Arnold's schemes were sometimes frustrated by local politicians such as Joseph Reed, who eventually amassed enough evidence to publicly air charges of corruption against him.

The charges stemmed from allegations that Arnold employed wagons in Continental service to transport private property in September and October 1778. Pennsylvania's Joseph Reed wrote to Congress on January 25, 1779, formally requesting Arnold be detained and that he "forbear exercising any farther command in this city until the charges against him are examined."

In February 1779, Reed, President of the Executive Council, brought multiple charges against Arnold for shady business dealings and abuses of power. The charges, which included favoritism, using state-owned wagons to transport his own goods, and using his military position for personal financial gain, were debated by a special committee of Congress. They absolved Arnold of all charges other than a few, but nonetheless recommended that the case be turned over to the Army.

Sir William Johnson was one of the largest landholders and wealthiest settlers in British America, a pioneer in the Mohawk Valley whose service as colonial superintendent of Indian affairs was largely responsible for keeping the Iroquois neutral and even friendly to the British during the struggle with France. By the time of his death, Johnson had accumulated about 170,000 acres and was one of the largest landowners in British America, surpassed only by the Penn and Van Rensselaer families. Johnson died in July 1774, on the eve of the Revolution, and all members of his fractured family sided with Britain — like so many Loyalists, they lost everything. By the Acts of Attainder passed by the New York Legislature, Sir John and Guy Johnson and others loyal to the Crown had their property declared forfeit to the people of the State of New York.

Arnold's defection came after a long series of perceived grievances coupled with a need for money. By late January 1779, Arnold was preparing to leave the military. Becoming a land baron in New York might be the way to acquire the wealth and prestige that he had always craved and that his fiance Peggy and her family expected.

Arnold actively pursued that plan — trying to acquire 130,000 acres of forfeited Loyalist land and settle families on it for profit after the war. It was his attempt to solve his financial crisis through legitimate means, exploiting his military reputation and connections in New York where he was still admired.

But Reed's allegations and Arnold's sullied name made this dream impossible. Arnold needed money fast. In March 1779 he took out a loan and bought a mansion to impress Peggy's father before their wedding. He delivered an unresolved expense claim to Congress on April 27, 1779, received a deeply unsatisfying response, and a week later began his treasonous correspondence with the British.

But in early February Arnold had decided to journey to New York, stopping to visit Washington at his headquarters in New Jersey. Fearing that Arnold might escape to New York before he could be brought to justice for his sins in Philadelphia, Reed hurriedly put together a list of eight charges, most of them based on rumor. Given the pettiness of many of the charges (which included being ungracious to a militiaman and preferring loyalists to patriots), Reed appeared to be embarked on more of a smear campaign than a trial. By this time, Arnold felt abused and unappreciated.

Letter signed, Camp Rariton, February 8, 1779, to Governor George Clinton of New York, laying out his plan to obtain forfeited lands and develop them. This was the final financial plan before his treason.

"When I left Philadelphia, I expected the Honor of paying my Respects in Person to your Excellency. The excessive badness of the Roads, and a most cruel and villainous attack on my Character since I left the City, by the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania, obliges me to return & deprive me of that Pleasure. I have sent your Excellency by Express, five Letters & a bundle of Money received from the President of Congress, said to contain 1480 dollars. The Letters will in part, intimate my Intentions in visiting the State of New York, which was in expectations of obtaining a Grant of Lands on the Mohambe River, with View of forming a Settlement after the War; One Tract of Land I had in View was the Kings Land Grant, to Sr. W.m Johnson which I am told contains 130,000 Acres; to every Thousand Acres obtained, my Proposal would have been to settle a Family by giving them such Part of the Land in Fee simple, and such other Encouragements as would induce them to settle the Lands in the Course of three or Four Years after the War.

"If your Excellency can inform me of the Sentiments of your Assembly with Respect to the Sales of forfeited Lands, and the Price they would probably expect for Land granted on the Terms I mention, you will confer on me a particular Favor."

A remarkable moment showing Arnold at his inflection point. He would make a decision shortly after this, a fateful one.

Camp Bariton 5th Feb^r 1779

Sir

When I left Philad^a I expected the Honor of paying my Respects in Person to your Excellency, the excessive badness of the Roads, and a most cruel and villainous attack on my Character since I left the City, by the President and Council of the State of Pennsylvania, oblige me to return & deprive me of that Pleasure. I have sent your Excellency by Express, five Letters & a bundle of Money received from the President of Congress, said to contain 1480 dollars. The Letters will in part, intimate my Intentions in visiting the State of New York, which was, in expectation of obtaining a Grant of Lands on the Moshawke River, with a View of forming a Settlement after the War; One Track

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If your Excellency can inform me of the Sentiments of your Assembly with Respect to the Sales of forfeited Land, and the Price they would probably expect for Land granted on the Terms I mention, you will confer on me a particular Favor

I am with great Respect and Esteem

Sir

His Excellency
 Governor Clinton

Your Excellency's most ob^d. humble^t.

B. Arnold

...stand, my Report would have been to fill
...lands by giving them just part of the land
...the people, and such the Encouragement, as would
...induce them to settle the Lands in the course of
...time after the War.

If your Excellency can inform
...of the extent of your Excellency with Respect to
...value of popule Lands, and the Price they would
...probably expect for Lands granted on the Terms
...mentioned, you will confer on me a particular
...I am with great Respect and Esteem
...Sir
...Your Excellency's most obedt. servt.
...B. Amott

His Excellency
...Governor Clinton

29)

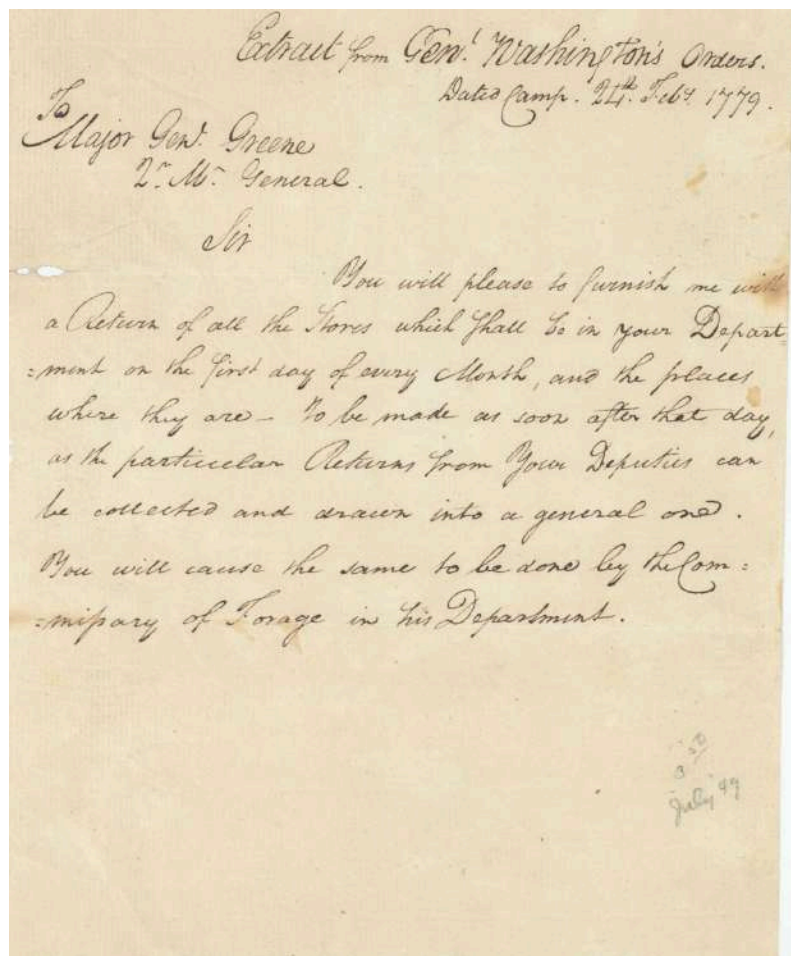
Contemporary Copy of Orders from George Washington to Nathanael Greene

This order is dated to Washington's own birthday

When Nathanael Greene took over in 1778 as QMG, he inherited a mess. Congress, shocked by a report that 1779 supply expenses would exceed \$200 million, resolved that the states launch investigations into the financial dealings of everyone in the Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments. This put enormous pressure on Greene and his deputies — including Claiborne — to demonstrate tight, documented accountability over every transaction and troop count.

Manuscript, in an unknown hand, Contemporary copy of Washington's orders to General Greene. "Extract from Gen'l Washington's Orders. Dated Camp. 22d. Feb'y 1779. To Major Gen'l Greene"

"You will please to furnish me with a Return of all the Stores which shall be in your Department on the first day of every Month, and the places where they are — To be made as soon after that day as the particular Returns from Your Deputies can be collected and drawn into a general one. You will cause the same to be done by the Commissary of Forage in his Department."



30)

Aide de Camp Tench Tilghman, on Behalf of General George Washington, Accepts the Resignation of a Surgeon Who Served at the Valley Forge, a Russian National Fighting for the Patriot Cause

John Rose, born Baron Gustav Heinrich Johann de Rosenthal, had an enigmatic story in America

Baron Gustav Heinrich Johann de Rosenthal was a German-Baltic nobleman born around 1753–54 in Estonia (then part of the Russian Empire), educated at a prestigious academy in Reval (modern Tallinn). In 1774–75, while at the Imperial Court in St. Petersburg, he killed a man in a duel — apparently defending an elderly uncle's honor. Facing potential execution or banishment, he fled Russia entirely.

As he escaped, he adopted the alias "John Rose" — anglicizing his father's name Johann and shortening Rosenthal. He made his way to Nantes, then sailed to Baltimore in early 1776, where he studied surgery under a Dr. Wiesenthal (who ran a surgical school there) and joined the Continental Army as a surgeon. He was an enigmatic and fascinating man who came from Catherine the Great's Russia to fight along side the patriots - the only such Russian national to do so.

Doctor John Rose of the 7th PA regiment had a remarkable military career. He served at the Battles of Brandywine, Paoli and Germantown in 1777. He was present and active at the Valley Forge encampment and then was at Monmouth in 1778.

Tench Tilghman was one of General Washington's most trusted aides de camp. In March 1779, Washington was getting ready for the coming spring campaign.

Autograph document signed, March 1, 1779, from Headquarters, Middle Brook (Washington's winter encampment in New Jersey). *"John Rose Esq: Surgeon of the 7th Pennsylvia. Regt. having desired liberty to quit the Service and having produced Certificates that his public Accounts are Settled and that another Surgeon is appointed to the Regiment, his Resignation is hereby accepted. By His Excellency Commdr."*

At some point, he struggled with his duties and is threatened with court martial, although he appears later on the staff of General Irvine. There is some debate that, shamed by the court martial, he changed his name yet again to Gustavus Henderson.

This last sold with Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Head Quarters Middle Brook 1st March
1779

John Rose Esq: Surgeon of the 7th Pennsylv^a
Reg^t having desired liberty to quit the service
and having produced Certificates that his public
Accounts are settled and that another Surgeon
is appointed to the Regiment, His Resignation
is hereby accepted.

By His Excellency's Command
Genl. Tilymoran
Appl^d Jan 7
Lt. Col.

31)

**The Continental Army Seeks to Standardize the Troops Returns Under
Nathanael Greene, Enclosing a New Version to Be Printed and Distributed**

**Part of an effort to standardize and professionalize the operations of the Continental
Army**

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948 and since then in a private collection

When Nathanael Greene took over in 1778 as QMG, he inherited a mess. Congress, shocked by a report that 1779 supply expenses would exceed \$200 million, resolved that the states launch investigations into the financial dealings of everyone in the Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments. This put enormous pressure on Greene and his deputies — including Richard Claiborne — to demonstrate tight, documented accountability over every transaction and troop count.

Autograph letter signed, Richard Claiborne, Deputy Quarter Master, Middle Brook, March 22, 1779 to Col. James Abeel, Deputy Quartermaster General.

"Sir, Inclosed is a form [not present] of a Brigade Return for the Quarter Master General's Department — You will please direct the printer to strike off five hundred of them as soon as possible, and forward them to this Office by Express. You will please also to direct the Printer not to draw his lines so near the foot of the Return, but leave room for the signer's Name."

Quarter Master Genl's Office
Middlebrook
March 22^d 1779.

Sir

Inclosed is a form of a Brigade Re-
-turn for the Quarter Master General's Department -
You will please direct the Printer to strike off five
hundred of them as soon as possible, and forward them
to this Office by Express.

You will please als to direct the
Printer not to draw his lines so near the foot of the Re-
-turn, but leave room for the signers Name.

I am
Most sincerely
Yours
Richard Claiborne
D^y General.

Col. James Abell

32)

Alexander Hamilton, aide-de-camp to General Washington, Hopes the Continental Army and Artillery Chief General Henry Knox Will Benefit from an Experienced French Artillery Officer

"If he really is what he pretends to be I imagine such a man might be made very useful."

The French officer, Lewis Garanger, had first been recommended by Benjamin Franklin from Passy in 1777 and was an artilleryist in Du Coudray's unit, captured and released by the British

A rare war date ALS of Hamilton and to a prominent General, showing the American reliance on French know how and support

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1951

The Spring of 1779 was a challenging time in the American camp, the HQ of which was Middle Brook. Congress had resolved that there should be an offensive operation against the Indian tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nations, who had been conducting troublesome raids along the frontier for several months. Washington appointed Maj. Gen. John Sullivan to command the proposed expedition. At the same time, Washington received intelligence from Philip Schuyler and others relative to possible routes of march into Iroquois territory. And just months earlier, the British had taken the fight to the South, attacking and occupying Savannah. Nathanael Greene was actively regularizing the quartermaster's department and working with Henry Knox to ensure General Knox had the supplies he needed.

Born in Saint Kitts and Nevis and raised in the West Indies, Hamilton arrived in the Americas as a student in 1773. Following the first rumblings of the Revolutionary War, Hamilton joined the New York militia in 1775; just two years later, he was General George Washington's aide-de-camp. He was Washington's choice as the First Secretary of the Treasury.

In March 1779, Alexander Hamilton was serving as the principal aide-de-camp to General George Washington.

In 1776, the diplomat Silas Deane came to France to recruit skilled military talent, particularly engineers, for the colonial cause. Impressed by du Coudray, whom he described as the "first engineer" of the French military establishment, Deane agreed to hire du Coudray into the Continental Army with the rank of major general and command of the Continental Army's artillery and engineering corps. Du Coudray was to recruit engineers in France, and deliver 200 French cannons to the American forces.

One of the men with Du Coudray was Lewis Garanger, a French artillery officer and volunteer who had arrived in America with recommendations from Benjamin Franklin. Garanger was captured by the British and released in November, 1778, after a year in prison. Once out, he sought an appointment with American artillery chief Henry Knox.

Hamilton, acting as a liaison for Knox, reviewed Garanger's military petitions, and requests for funding and supplies from the Continental Congress and military leaders to execute specialized artillery experiments. Specifically, Garanger wanted Congress to allow him to improve the manufacture of saltpeter (for gunpowder) because, in his opinion, it was "for want of Directors sufficiently acquainted with the Theory and Practice of Chymistry" that "the Manufactories of Saltpetre have not yet fully answered the Publick expectation."

With skilled volunteers, Hamilton wrote to Knox in the hopes that Garanger might prove useful to the American cause.

Autograph letter signed, Head Quarters at Middlebrook, March 26, 1779, to General Henry Knox, making suggestions about Garanger. *"This will be delivered you by Mr. Garanger who comes to pass through a probation with you. He stands upon this footing. He is to give you just proofs of his knowledge in the theory & practice of Artillery as you shall deem as satisfactory. He will on your certificate of the Same recommended to Congress for an appointment as Precept to the artillery or something of that kind with the honorary rank of Capt. &c. as you proposed at Philadelphia. If he really is what he pretends to be I imagine such a man might be made very useful. I am Sr Your most Obed Servant, Alex Hamilton, Aide De Camp."*

Expertly repaired tear affecting Hamilton's title and a couple letters of signature.

On June 2, 1779, pursuant to this trail with Knox, Garanger requested that Congress grant him on account two thousand dollars for his service and "misfortunes" he had suffered, as well as an additional sum to enable him "to go to camp and to stay in it," where he would be "in the park of artillery in which ... I will continue

to execute the orders of the Generals and expect patiently the time where his Excellency General Washington will propose to the honorable congress, under what title, and to what functions he will think the most useful to appoint me in the service of the united states”.

On June 10, 1779, Congress granted him fifteen hundred dollars on account and ordered “That Mons. Garanger...proceed to the grand army, there to exhibit such proofs of his talents and merit as may be deemed necessary to enable the Commander in Chief to certify to Congress the propriety or inexpediency of retaining him in the service of the United States, and in what rank, if he shall entitle himself to a favorable certificate from General Washington.” Washington endorsed this proposal and in September, 1779, the Board of War approved the arrangement. He did not, however, exhibit proofs of his talents. So on April 28, 1781, Knox issued him a certificate of service and granted him permission to return to France.

Letters of Hamilton from the Revolutionary War are uncommon. This last sold with Mary Benjamin in 1951.

D. General

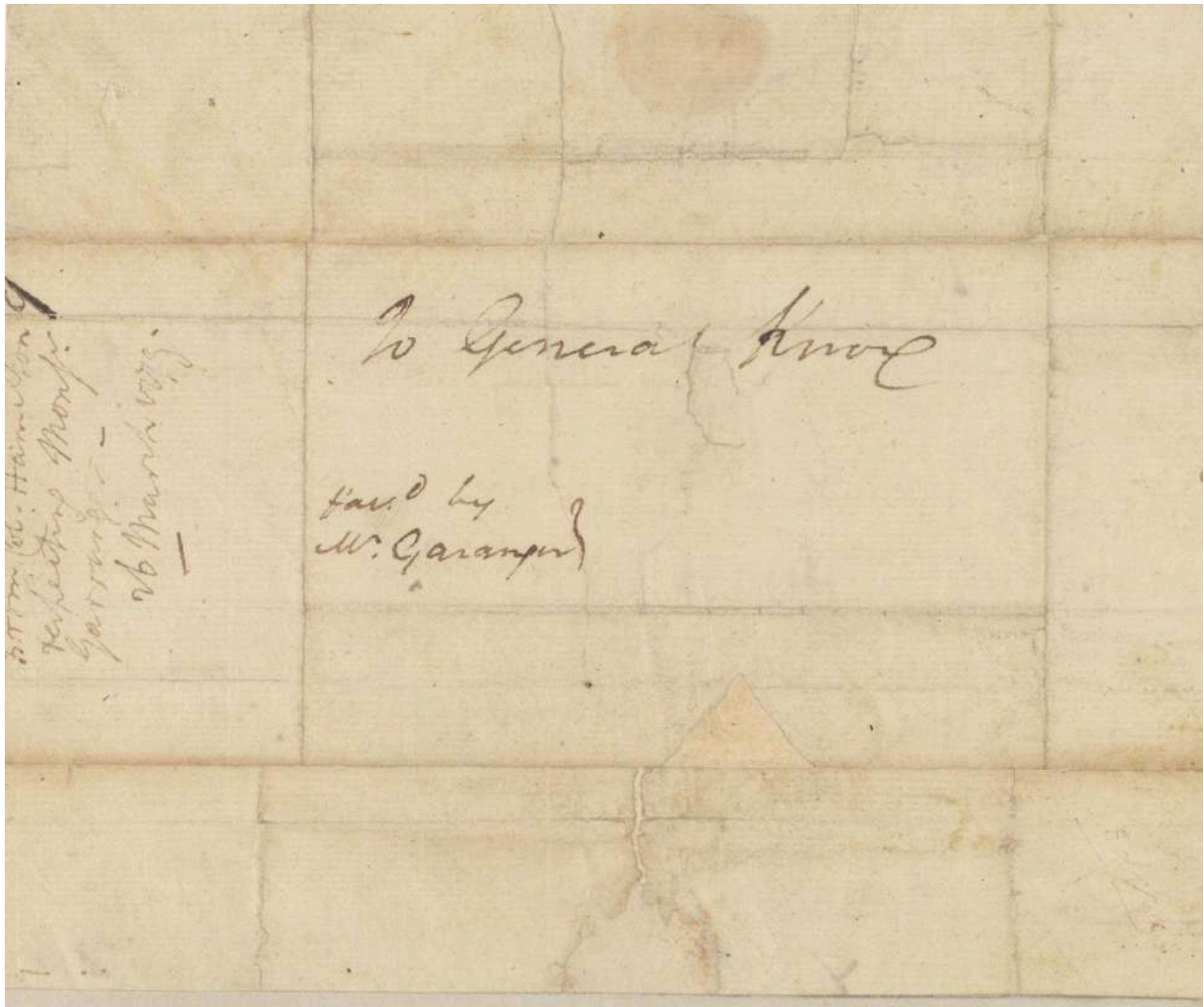
This will be delivered you
 by Mr Garanger who comes to pass
 through a probation with you —
 He stands upon this footing —
 He is to give you such proofs
 of his knowledge in the theory
 & practice of Artillery as you
 shall ~~and~~ deem satisfactory & he
 with on your certificate of
 the same be recommended to Congress
 for an appointment as Preceptor
 to the Artillery or something of
 that kind with the honorary
 rank of Capt. as you proposed

at Philadelphia — If he really is
what he pretends to be I imagine
that a man might be made very
useful — Jam: C

Your most Obedient
Chap: Hamilton

Head Quarters
March 26-79

Miss M. M. M.





33)

Nathanael Greene, Through His Aide de Camp, Seeks to Standardize the Forms Used to Report Supplies Back to Main Headquarters, as the Continental Army Prepared for the 1779 Campaign

A glimpse into the way that Greene and his aides worked to standardize reporting and distribution of supplies in the middle of war time

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1949

When Nathanael Greene took over in 1778 as Quartermaster General, he inherited a mess. Congress, shocked by a report that 1779 supply expenses would exceed \$200 million, resolved that the states launch investigations into the financial dealings of everyone in the Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments. This put enormous pressure on Greene and his deputies — including Richard Claiborne — to demonstrate tight, documented accountability over every transaction and troop count.

At the same time, at Middle Brook, Washington and the Continental Army, along with Greene, were organizing the army, creating detailed inventories of supplies and preparing for the spring and summer campaigns. Within a few months, British General Henry Clinton would make a move toward the Hudson to draw Washington out into battle.

James Abeel served as deputy quartermaster general, working from Morristown, New Jersey. In March 1778, Greene made Abeel superintendent of stores, putting him in charge of purchasing camp equipment for the entire army.

George Olney served as auditor of accounts in the Quartermaster General's Department at army headquarters, under General Nathanael Greene.

Autograph letter signed, George Olney, Camp Middle Brook, April 5, 1779, to James Abeel.

"I am directed by the Quarter Master General [Greene] to request you would immediately get printed at Chatham, two hundred sets of the inclos'd Form of a Return; and send them to him as soon as they are done.

"You will furnish the Paper for this purpose, which ought to be larger than that on which the form is made; It must be thicker, and such as will bear to be scratch'd in case of mistakes in making out the Returns.

"You will please to direct the Printer, that should the great number of Articles, in either of the Departments, oblige him to crowd them in getting them all into one column, to continue it in the next (as I have in Iron Mongery) leaving some little space at the bottom to insert any Articles, not printed, which it may be necessary to return; in doing which, (to keep as many of the Departments in distinct columns as possible) he may transpose or change any of them.

"You will observe that one half Sheet is to be printed on both sides, to make room for such Articles as Iron, Steel &c. which require broad columns; If therefore all the Articles, now in that page, cannot conveniently be got into it on printing, the Printer must be careful to insert such of them in the next as may suit the narrow columns."

Sir

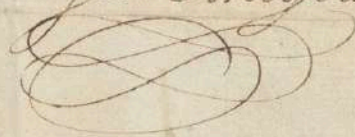
Camp Middle Brook 5th April 1779.

I am directed by the Quarter Master General to request you would immediately get printed at Chatham, Two hundred sets of the inclos'd Form of a Return; and send them to him as soon as they are done. — You will furnish the Paper for this purpose, which ought to be larger than that on which the form is made; — it must be thicker, and such as will bear to be scratch'd in case of mistakes in making out the Returns.

You will please to direct the Printer, that should the great number of Articles, in either of the Departments, obligeth him to crowd them in getting them all into one column, to continue it in the next (as I have in Iron Mongery) leaving some little space at the bottom to insert any Article, not printed, which it may be necessary to return; in doing which, (to keep as many of the Departments in distinct columns as possible) he may transpose or change any of them. — You will observe that one half Sheet is to be printed on both sides, to make room for such Articles as Iron, Steel &c. which require broad columns; — if therefore all the Articles, now in that page, cannot conveniently be got into it on printing, the Printer must be careful to insert such of them in the next as may suit the narrow column.

I am Sir

Your Most Ob. Serv^t
Geo. Olney Secy.



James Abel Esq.



34)

Captain Antoni Selin Certifies the Return of a Prominent German American Regiment Under John Paul Schott

This was accomplished as it prepared to join the coming Sullivan Expedition

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

The Sullivan Expedition under the command of General John Sullivan lasted from June to October 1779, against the four British-allied nations of the Iroquois (also known as the Haudenosaunee).

The campaign was ordered by George Washington in response to the Iroquois and Loyalist destruction of American settlements in the Wyoming Valley, and Cherry Valley. The campaign had the aim of "the total destruction and devastation of their settlements." Four Continental Army brigades carried out a scorched-earth campaign in the territory of the Iroquois Confederacy in what is now central New York.

The expedition was largely successful, with 40 Iroquois villages razed and their crops and food stores destroyed.

Ottendorf's Corps was a specialized, German-American light infantry and rifle unit of 160 men raised in Pennsylvania on December 5, 1776, for the Continental Army. Commanded by Nicholas Dietrich, Baron de Ottendorf, they functioned as hunters/skirmishers and fought at Brandywine and Germantown before being reorganized under Armand in 1778.

Company No. 2 of Ottendorf's Corps was commanded by Capt. Antoni Selin. This Independent Company of Foot was composed of light infantry and rifles (hunters). He served alongside Capt. John Paul Schott, who commanded Company No. 3.

Document signed, Antoni Selin, April 12, 1779, "*A Return of the Independent Corps of Foot Commanded by Captn. John Paul Schott, April 12th 1779*", a tabular strength report with columns for Commissioned Officers,

Non-Commissioned Officers, and Rank & File, tracking: Captains, 1st Lieutenants, 2nd Lieutenants, Sergeants, Adjutants, Drummers/Fifers, Present fit for Duty, Sick Present, Sick Absent, On Command, On Furlough, and Total: 49.

The bottom notes: John Paul Schott, Captn. Commd't, Head Quarters Middle Brook and Conrad Lalom, 2nd Lieut. Signed by Antonio Selin, Captn. Commanding at the post.

Just days later, Schott and Selin would be ordered to march as part of the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779.

A Return of the Independent Corps of Foot Commanded by Capt. John Paul Schott April 12. 1779

Whole Corps	Given present fit for Duty		Non		Rank and File					Total	
	Commission'd	Commission'd	Commission'd	Commission'd	Drummers	Fifers	present fit for duty	Sick present	Sick absent		On Command
	1	1	1	6			30	6	4	2	49

*John Paul Schott Capt. Commd't Head Quarters Middle Brook
Conrad Lalom 2nd Lieut. Adj't Col. Schott*

Antonio Selin Capt. Commanding at the post

35)

Nathanael Greene's Deputy Quartermaster Works to Bolster Supplies in Anticipation of the Summer Campaign

Jacob Weiss served for the first company of the Philadelphia Volunteers under Captain Cadwalader. He was then appointed acting Quartermaster-General by General Mifflin. After only serving one tour of duty, he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster-General and served under General Nathanael Greene of the Continental Army.

In the spring of 1779, Washington was readying for the coming campaign and needed supplies sent to headquarters.

Autograph letter signed, Deputy Quartermaster Jacob Weiss to Deputy Quartermaster James Abeel, Camp Middle Brook, April 21, 1779.

"Enclosed you have a Memorandum of Sundry Stores, part of which are, and will be much wanted very Shortly, and would have you to forward (the sooner the better) for this Place.

"Should like to know what you may have done in regard to the Cloathing affair.

"The Books and Paper, with the Knapsack, have sent per first Opportunity. And you'd much oblige."

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Dr Sir,

Camp Middle Brook April 21st
1776

I enclosed you have a Memorandum of
Sunday Shoes, part of which are, and will be much
wanted very shortly, and would have you to forward
(the sooner the better) for this place.

I should like to know what you may have done in
regard to the Cloathing affair.

The Books and Paper, with the Knapsacks, have
sent off. with Opportunity. And you'd much
oblige

Your Very Humble Serv^t

Wm. Mifflin

Col. Abel D. M. G.

36)

General George Washington Writes Chief of Artillery Henry Knox, Ordering Him to Urgently Supply Arms for Defense of the Hudson River, and for Containing British Troops in New York

“I wish you to take the most immediate measures on this occasion in your department to have these and all the [arms] deficiencies in the troops stationed on the other side of the North [Hudson] River supplied from Springfield...”

This letter sold around 1950 by the Rosenbach firm

In 1775, General George Washington inspected a rampart at Roxbury designed by a 25-year old former bookbinder named Henry Knox and was impressed with the younger man’s abilities. Self-educated in engineering and military strategy, Knox soon became Washington's chief of artillery and eventually rose to the rank of Major General. Knox’s Revolutionary War accomplishments include leading the expedition to transfer sixty tons of captured British cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, directing Washington’s famous Delaware River crossing, and taking charge of the placement of the artillery at Yorktown. He also formed the Continental Army’s first facility for artillery and officer training, which was America’s first Military Academy. Knox’s service to the new nation particularly is distinctive in that he was both the last secretary of war under the Articles of Confederation and the first secretary of war under the United States Constitution.

The Spring of 1779 was a busy time in the American camp. Congress had resolved that there should be an offensive operation against the Indian tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nations, who had been conducting troublesome raids along the frontier for several months. Washington appointed Maj. Gen. John Sullivan to command the proposed expedition. At the same time, Washington received intelligence from Philip Schuyler and others relative to possible routes of march into Iroquois territory. On May 12, he entertained a delegation of Delaware Indian chiefs at headquarters and pumped them for information about frontier geography. He felt confident enough in his knowledge of the frontier to issue detailed instructions to Sullivan on May 31. On May 1 the French minister to the United States, Conrad-Alexandre Gérard, and the

Spanish agent to the United States, Juan de Miralles, arrived in camp with much fanfare. Washington deliberated with his visitors about plans and operations for the coming campaign.

General Samuel Holden Parsons was commissioned Colonel of the 6th Connecticut Regiment in 1775. In June of that year he was ordered to lead his regiment to Boston, where he fought at Bunker Hill. He remained in Boston until the British evacuated the city in March 1776. In August 1776 Congress appointed Parsons Brigadier General in the Continental Army; he later rose to the rank of major general. Parsons was ordered to New York with his brigade of about 2,500 men. Parsons, under Lord Stirling, was in the thick of the fighting against the British at Battle Hill on August 27, 1776. He then fought in the battle of White Plains. In January 1777, he returned to Connecticut to help recruit the Connecticut Line to bolster depleted Continental forces. He led raids on Loyalist enclaves on Long Island, and took part in efforts to defend Connecticut towns against raids by British forces. In the winter of 1777–78, Parsons took command of West Point and began building its fortifications. He spent the harsh winter of 1778–1779 in winter quarters in Redding, CT commanding the Connecticut Brigade. Part of his assignment was containing British troops in New York.

Established in early 1777 at the recommendation of General Henry Knox and approved by George Washington, the Continental Arsenal at Springfield, Massachusetts, served as a vital strategic supply depot for the Continental Army. The location was chosen for its strategic positioning on the Connecticut River, safely distanced from vulnerable, British-patrolled coastal ports.

In 1779, the defense of the Hudson River was a supreme strategic priority of the Revolutionary War. In the spring of that year, Washington and Knox were grappling with how to counter British forces in the Middle States and protect critical fortifications (such as West Point) in the Hudson Valley. Parsons brigade was ordered to march, fully equipped for action, to increase American strength on the North River [known as the Hudson River today]. But he was short on arms and accoutrements, and needed Washington's intercession to get them supplied from Springfield.

Parsons wrote Washington from Redding on April 25, 1779. "I have receiv'd Information that about the 22d Inst. a large Number of Empty Wagons came up to Fort Washington; the Enemy for about a fortnight past have Prohibited all Passing over King's Bridge and observe the greatest Secrecy in their Transactions at that Post...I shall Strictly comply with your Excellency's Orders communicated in your last Letter, and hope the Movements of the Army which depend on the Readiness of this Division will not be disconcerted by any Delay on our part: The Returns of Arms, Accoutrements, Tents and Camp Utensils necessary to our taking the Field, I am informed has been made, that of Arms & Accoutrements is now herewith forwarded again to

your Excellency as these are to be Supplied from Springfield and can only be furnish'd by your Excellency's Order. I must request your Excellency's early Attention to the Subject." Thus, he had to wait for the arms & accoutrements to proceed.

Letter signed, Head Quarters Middlebrook, May 4, 1779, to General Henry Knox, ordering him to have arms sent to General Parsons and others from the Springfield supply depot. *"Dear Sir, I inclose you a return which I received a few days ago from General Parsons—of arms and accoutrements wanted for the troops at Reading [Redding, CT]. I wish you to take the most immediate measures on this occasion in your department to have these and all the deficiencies in the troops stationed on the other side of the North River supplied from Springfield; having respect at the same time to the supplies which may be necessary for the other parts of the army, and proportioning the distribution accordingly. I am D. Sir Your most obedient and hble servt. Go: Washington."* The text of the letter is in the hand of James McHenry. Interestingly, Washington wanted to be sure that not only Parsons was supplied, but also other actions in the works, like that against the Indian tribes.

A few days later Parsons reported to Washington, "My Men are ready to march, and I hear the Horses &c. are on the Road; when they arrive I will march the Brigade but they cannot march with their Baggage & Artillery according to your Excellency's Order before that Time."

Just weeks later, it became clear why defense of the Hudson area was to be critical. On May 31, British General Sir Henry Clinton sailed up the Hudson with 6,000 men and captured Stony Point and Verplanck's Point—the crucial crossing at King's Ferry. Clinton heavily fortified Stony Point, a 150-foot rocky peninsula jutting into the river. Seeking to break the British hold, General Washington orchestrated a daring midnight counterattack on July 16. General Anthony Wayne led light infantry troops up the hill using only bayonets. The Americans successfully overran the fort in under 30 minutes, securing a major morale victory. Lacking the manpower to permanently garrison it, Washington removed the artillery and destroyed the outpost before abandoning it.

Letters of Washington to Knox are uncommon, this being our first.

4
 Head Quarters Middlebrook
 4th May 1779.
 I enclose you a return
 which I received a few days ago from
 General Parsons - of arms and acc-
 outrements wanted for the troops
 at Reading.
 I wish you to take the most
 immediate measures on this occasion
 in your department, to have these,
 and all the deficiencies, in the troops
 stationed on the other side of the North
 River supplied from Springfield;
 having respect at the same time
 to the...

to the supplies which may be
necessary for the other parts of the
army, and proportioning the
distribution accordingly.

I am Sir

Your most obedient

and able servt.

G. Washington

Majr Genl: Knox



37)

Brig. Gen. William Maxwell, Leader of “Maxwell’s Brigade” During the Revolutionary War, Requests a Saddle "for the use of my servant" Before Leaving on the Sullivan Expedition

Basic supplies were scarce, and Maxwell makes this request “provided it is agreeable to the resolutions of Congress”

Brig. Gen. William “Scotch Willie” Maxwell emigrated to America, settling in northwest New Jersey around 1747. He proved himself a worthy fighter and leader in the militia during the French and Indian War.

At the start of the Revolution, Maxwell offered his experience to the Continental Army. In 1775, he received a commission as a Colonel of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment, which went to Quebec under General John Sullivan in early 1776. In October of that year, General George Washington promoted Maxwell to Brigadier General. “Maxwell’s Brigade,” as it came to be called, largely acted independently from the rest of the Continental Army, using guerrilla tactics to ambush and harass the British.

Maxwell commanded men in New Jersey during the winter of 1777 and at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. The wartime correspondence between Maxwell and General Washington demonstrates their close, productive working relationship.

As supplies were scarce throughout the war, requests for necessary items could only be made to the Quartermaster’s department according to directives or resolutions from Congress. General Washington and Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene issued urgent appeals from the Elizabeth, New Jersey, area. They requested resolutions from Congress and the states to procure critical military supplies such as wagons, horses, tents, and other necessities.

Maxwell was a key figure in the Sullivan Expedition of 1779, one of the most consequential American military campaigns of the Revolutionary War. Personally requested by General John Sullivan, Maxwell commanded the 1st Brigade as part of a force of roughly 4,500 Continental soldiers organized into four brigades. The

expedition began on June 18, when the army marched from Easton, Pennsylvania, though it had originally been planned to begin in May but was held up due to a lack of supplies and the need to construct military roads through the wilderness. The expedition's objective was to neutralize the Iroquois Confederacy, which, under leaders like Joseph Brant and allied with British forces, had been conducting devastating raids on frontier settlements in New York and Pennsylvania. Maxwell led his men through Iroquoia, systematically destroying towns and burning fields of crops as the army pushed deep into the frontier. The campaign's only major battle was fought at Newtown, where Maxwell and his fellow commanders routed the combined Iroquois and Loyalist forces. When General Sullivan fell ill during the expedition, Maxwell assumed command of the entire force, demonstrating the trust his superiors placed in him.

James Abeel served as the Deputy Quartermaster General for the Continental Army, stationed largely in Morristown, New Jersey. Abeel was responsible for the logistics of supplying troops with food, clothing, and equipment during pivotal encampments, including Valley Forge, Middlebrook, and the 1779-1780 winter encampment at Jockey Hollow.

Autograph letter signed, William Maxwell, May 8, 1779, to Col. Abeel, requesting a saddle and bridle for his servant as he prepared to join the 1779 Sullivan Expedition in upstate New York that summer.

"Sir you will please to deliver to Mr. Wilkison for the use of my Servant one Saddle & Bridle provided it is agreeable to the resolutions of Congress given at Elizabeth Town. 8th May 1779. Wm. Maxwell B.G. [Brigadier General]

*"Col. Abeale [James Abeel] DQMG [Deputy Quarter Major General]
N.B. The Barer will Bring the Saddle & Bridle if you will please to send it.
Wm. Maxwell"*

A significant achievement of Maxwell would come at the Battle of Connecticut Farms in New Jersey in early June 1780, for which General Washington praised "the Conduct and Bravery of the officers and Men of Maxwell's brigade in annoying the Enemy." Maxwell was also involved in the successful defense at the Battle of Springfield on June 23. But frustrated by military politics, unproven accusations regarding his drinking habits, and inter-officer conflicts, Maxwell tendered his resignation to George Washington on July 15. Days later, Maxwell regretted his decision and attempted to withdraw his resignation. However, it was too late; the Continental Congress officially accepted it on July 25, 1780.

Sir You will please to deliver to M^r Wilkison
for the use of my servant one Saddle & Bridle
provided it is agreeable to the resolutions of
Congress Given at Phy^lth Town on the 1st May 1779

W^m M^orris

Col. Abial D. M. G.
The Board will
bring the Saddle & Bridle
if you will please to send it
W^m M^orris

38)

Henry Knox Directs the Delivery of Tents to His Winter Headquarters and Military School, Tents Ordered for Him By QMG Nathanael Greene

Knox established there the Continental Army's first school for artillery and officer training, a precursor to the United States Military Academy at West Point

Documents signed by Knox in this period of the war are particularly uncommon. This was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Henry Knox and the artillery established a winter cantonment from 1778 to 1779 at Pluckemin (a hamlet of Bedminster, New Jersey). There Knox established the Continental Army's first school for artillery and officer training. This facility was the precursor to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

At the same time, at Middle Brook, Washington and the Continental Army, along with Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene, were organizing the army, creating detailed inventories of supplies and preparing for the spring and summer campaigns. Within a few months, British General Clinton would make a move toward the Hudson to draw Washington out into battle.

James Abeel was a Deputy Quartermaster General.

Autograph document signed, George Olney, Middle Brook, May 11, 1779, requesting on behalf of Nathanael Greene that six Ticking and Bell tents be sent for General Knox.

Below that, Knox has written his own Autograph Document Signed, Pluckemin, May 12, 1779, to Col. Abeel.

"I will thank you to deliver the above tents to line my marque to the bearer. There were six of them one which you first brought over from the meeting house to shew me. The gentleman whom you afterwards sent over to count the others reported four and one that has been a little used in the loft over your office Send them all my dear Sir."

Documents signed by Knox in this period of the war are particularly uncommon. Notch at the bottom affecting one letter of signature. This was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Camp Middle Brook 11th May 1777.
 Gen. Greene requests you would deliver
 Gen. Knox Six Ticking Bell Tents.
 Your Hum. Serv.
 Geo. Olney Aud.
 Col. Abel - S. M. G.

Plunkemin 10th May 1777.

Sir I will thank you to deliver the above
 tents to be in my charge, there were
 six of them, one, which you first brought
 over from the meeting house to show me,
 The Gentlemen whom you afterwards sent
 over to count the others reported four, and
 one, that has been a little used in the
 lost over your office. And thus all my
 Col. Abel - Dear Sir
 H. Knox

39)

General Philip Schuyler in 1779 "fears a scarcity of arms prevails."

"After the surrender of Genl. Burgoyne the troops moved off with such precipitation that many arms were left on the ground uncollected, which were carried off by the people in the country"

He advises that Congress buy them directly from the Citizenry and he has advised Philip van Rensselaer to forward a proper return to Congress and the Board of War

This letter sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948 and has been in a private collection since that time

The Saratoga campaign was the decisive turning point of the American Revolution, ending British General John Burgoyne's attempt to cut New England off from the other colonies by advancing south from Canada. The campaign's major engagements were fought at Freeman's Farm on September 19, 1777, and Bemis Heights on October 7, where American forces under Horatio Gates and officers such as Benedict Arnold stopped and then shattered Burgoyne's advance. Surrounded near Saratoga with dwindling supplies and no realistic hope of rescue, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army on October 17, 1777, in one of the greatest American victories of the war. The triumph electrified the colonies and convinced France that the United States could successfully resist Britain, leading directly to the Franco-American alliance of 1778, which transformed the Revolution from a colonial rebellion into a global war and ultimately made American independence possible.

Following the surrender of John Burgoyne at Saratoga, large numbers of British and German muskets were left scattered across the battlefield and retreat routes, many of which were gathered by civilians in the surrounding countryside. By 1779, amid persistent shortages of arms in the Continental Army, American officials sought to recover these weapons for public use. Continental authorities would attempt to buy back battlefield arms from local inhabitants as part of the broader wartime struggle to equip the American army.

As a member of the Continental Congress, an influential New Yorker, and an experienced officer, Philip Schuyler was given the rank of major general on June 19, 1775, making him third in command under George

Washington and commander of the Northern Department of the Continental Army. In the summer of 1777, as British forces overwhelmingly swept down the Champlain and Hudson Valleys, Schuyler was blamed for the loss of Fort Ticonderoga and the American Army's retreat. Despite his shrewd tactics to impede the British advance, Congress replaced Schuyler with General Horatio Gates on August 19, 1777, one month before the Battles of Saratoga. Notwithstanding this personal setback, Schuyler helped the army from his mansion in Albany by forwarding supplies and encouraging reinforcements northward. He remained in active contact with Washington and frequently sent him intelligence and counsel.

Philip Van Rensselaer was Continental commissary of stores at Albany. As General Washington readied for the 1779 campaign, he feared a lack of supplies across the board, arms and nourishment.

Autograph letter signed, Albany, May 13, 1779, to James Duane of the Continental Congress. Duane served as a delegate to the First Continental Congress, the Second Continental Congress and the Congress of the Confederation, a New York state senator, the 45th Mayor of New York City, the 1st post-colonial Mayor of New York City and a United States district judge of the United States District Court for the District of New York. Duane was a signatory of the Continental Association and the Articles of Confederation.

"Dear Sir yesterday I saw a letter from the board of war to Mr. Philip Van Rensselaer. From its general tender I apprehend a scarcity of arms prevails.

"After the surrender of Genl. Burgoyne the troops moved off with such precipitation that many arms were left on the ground uncollected, which were carried off by the people in the country and I am informed that the people on the Grants, Cambridge, White Creek, the Eastern part of Saratoga district &c have a considerable number which they are unwilling to sell. Many doubtless belong to the public, but as it would be difficult to ascertain the facts would it not be best to procure them by purchase. I have advised Rensselaer to procure an account of what could be got, that they may be more easily collected should he receive orders for the purpose.

"Should our main army be obliged to move eastward I fear a scarcity of flour. What measures are taken to procure a supply?

"If the enemy are quiet in this quarter I propose to pay you a visit in the latter end of July unless the legislature appoints a delegate in my stead." Set in at the edges of a sheet or paper.

Although there was no immediate eastward movement, there was little quiet, and a state of supply shortage persisted. A fascinating glimpse into the activity by Schuyler during the war.

Albany May 13th 1779 49

Dear Sir

Yesterday I saw a letter from the board of war to Mr. Phelan, War Secretary, from the General tender I apprehend a scarcity of arms provided after the Surrender of Gen. Burgoyne the troops moved off with such precipitation that many arms were left on the ground uncollected, which were carried off by the people in the country and I am informed that the people in the Grants, Cambridge, and other parts the Eastern part of Saratoga district do have a considerable number which they are willing to sell, many doubtless belong to the public, but as it would be difficult to ascertain the facts would it not be best to procure them by purchase, I have advised the Secretaries to procure an account of what could be got, that they may be most easily collected should be we were ordered to

The Secretary

U.S.V.D.
33-20
Wm. V. V.
18

50

The purpose, —

Should our main Army be obliged
to move Eastward I fear a scarcity
of Flour, what measures are taken
to procure a Supply?

If the Enemy are quiet in this
Quarter I propose to pay over a
visit in the latter end of July unless
The Legislature appoint a Delegate in
my stead. —

Yours Dear Sir

Respectfully

& Sincerely Yrs

Most Obedt. Servant

Ph. Schuyler

Gen: James Duane Esq

40)

General George Washington at the Crossroads: He Gives a Sweeping Assessment of the State of Both Armies and Aims at the "advancement of the common cause and for the honor & interest of the American Arms"

He fears for augmenting the American fighting force by recruitment, stating, "I fear our prospects are very inconsiderable."

Washington gives a full assessment of the fighting forces of the American and the British and analyzes British goals for the coming campaign and possible coming reinforcements

"Their number at New York Staten and Long Island, supposing the detachment which went to Virginia to consist of... about 9000 Men. At Rhode Island their strength is about 5 or 6000. Their remaining force in these States is in Georgia and Virginia... Their whole influence is exerted to stimulate the Indians from one end of the Western frontier to the other against us, and reinforcements are expected from Europe. But what may be their precise destination or amount is uncertain."

He then strategizes, asking his generals their opinion on how next to proceed

As the winter of 1778-9 waned, with the Battle of Stony Point a month or so away, and the enemy moving simultaneously against the South (Savannah had fallen months earlier) and the North (Clinton sailed with a force of 6,000 British troops 40 miles up the Hudson River to capture the major crossing at King's Ferry), the camp at Middle Brook and the Continental Army were in a difficult position. Washington's main force in the Jerseys numbered a mere few thousand men, half-starved, unpaid, and with uniforms in tatters after a particularly harsh winter encampment. The enlistments of many were about to expire. The northern outposts too were thinly manned, and any spare troops had been sent to aid the Americans besieged in Charleston. Washington's discouragement was palpable. He would issue orders on May 31 to General Sullivan to march against Iroquois and Loyalists, the Sullivan Expedition.

Letter signed by Washington, text in the hand of James McHenry, Head Quarters Middle Brook, May 28, 1779, to Major General St. Clair, promoting the “common cause”, informing them of their own strength, giving details of what they are up against, and asking their opinion on how next to proceed: to *"favor me with your opinion of the plan of conduct which it will be proper for us to pursue at this juncture."*

"The knowledge you have of the general situation of the enemy makes it unnecessary I should enter into any further detail than barely to inform you.

"That their number at New York Staten and Long Island—supposing the detachment which went to Virginia¹ to consist of two thousand men, agreeable to the accounts I have received—amounts according to the best estimate I have been able to form to about 9000 Men. At Rhode Island their strength is about 5 or 6000. Their remaining force in these States is in Georgia and Virginia. In addition to these, their whole influence is exerted to stimulate the Indians from one end of the Western frontier to the other against us, and reinforcements are expected from Europe. But what may be their precise destination or amount is uncertain. The current of intelligence points to New York and to at least 5000 Men.

"Our own force and present disposition are pretty well known to you; but to give you a more exact idea, I shall observe, that, besides the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia troops now in this Camp and the North Carolina troops at Paramus, there are three Brigades of Massachusetts troops and one of Connecticut on the North River, one of the latter at Danbury and about 2500 Continental troops at Rhode Island. You will be able to form a sufficiently accurate judgment of the collective strength of these corps; but if you should wish for more precise information, you can obtain it by applying to me. The rest of our force except about 6 or 700 on the Ohio will be employed to the Westward against the Indians.

"I can say scarcely any thing of the reinforcements we have reason to expect. The measures pursuing by the several States to augment their battalions and the success with which they are attended have as yet come but partially to my knowledge. I fear our prospects are very inconsiderable.

"Under this concise account of matters and taking a comprehensive view of our affairs in general, particularly the state of our supplies and the depreciation of our currency, I am to request you will favor me with your opinion of the plan of conduct which it will be proper for us to pursue at this juncture for the advancement of the common cause and for the honor & interest of the American Arms; in doing which, I shall be obliged by a very free and full communication of your sentiments." Sixteen of the seventeen generals responded with their advice.

This is one of the most significant war date Washington letters we have seen, promoting the "advancement of the common cause and for the honor & interest of the American Arms", containing a full report on troop strength of both sides, asking his generals for advice on how best to proceed, and showing his concern for the cause because of recruitment and financial difficulties.

Head Quarters Middle

 Brook May 28th 1779

Sir,

The knowledge you have of the general

 situation of the enemy makes it unnecessary I should en-

 ter into any further detail than barely to inform you -

That their number at New York Sta-

 tion and Long Island - supposing the detachment which

 went to Virginia to consist of 2000 men, agreeable to the

 accounts I have received - amounts according to the

 best estimate I have been able to form to about

 9000 men. At Rhode Island their strength is about 5

 or 6000. Their remaining force in these States is in

 Georgia and Virginia - In addition to these, their whole

 influence is exerted to stimulate the Indians from one

 end of the Western frontier to the other against us, and reinforce

~~accounts are expedited from Europe.~~ But what may be their

 precise destination or amount is uncertain - The cur-

 rent of intelligence points to New York and to at least

 5000 men.

Our own force and present disposition

 are pretty well known to you, but to give a more exact idea

 I shall observe, that besides the Pennsylvania, Maryland

 and Virginia troops now in the Camp and the North

 Carolina troops at Paramus, - there are three Brigades

 of Massachusetts troops and one of Connecticut on the

 North River - one of the latter at Danbury and about

 2500 Continental troops at Rhode Island. You will

 be able to form a sufficiently accurate judgment of

 the collective strength of these Corps, but if you should

 wish for more precise information, you can obtain

 it by applying to me. The use of our force except about

about 6 or 700 on the Ohio will be employed to the Westward
against the Indians —

I can say scarcely any thing of the reinforcement
we have reason to expect — The measures pursuing by the
several States to augment their battalions and the suc-
cess with which they are attended have as yet come but
partially to my knowledge. I fear our prospects are
inconsiderable.

Under this concise account of matters and tak-
ing a comprehensive view of our affairs in general —
particularly the State ^{of} our supplies and the depreciation
of our currency — I am to request you will favor me with
your opinion of the plan of conduct which it will be
proper for us to pursue at this juncture for the advance-
ment of the common cause and for the honor & interest
of the American Army, in doing which, I shall be obli-
gated by a very free and full communication of your sen-
timents —

Your Most Obedt. Servant

G. Washington

Major Gen. St. Clair

41)

Nathanael Greene, Through His Aide to Camp, Orders Last Minute Supplies for the Troops Just 2 Days Before George Washington and the Continental Army Broke Camp for the 1779 Campaign

Jacob Weiss: "I would advise your Exertion in that way to the utmost of your power, that I may be able to supply the Troops."

"The Brigades are actually on moving Orders."

Washington used the area around Middlebrook and much of central Somerset County as a cantonment site, known as the Middlebrook Cantonment, during the winter of 1778–1779. He brought about 8,000–10,000 troops to the area between November 30, 1778 and late January, 1779, arriving himself in early December. The cantonment ended on June 3, 1779 when Washington led his army north to Highlands, New York and General John Sullivan began the 1779 summer campaign against the Iroquois Nation.

Jacob Weiss served for the first company of the Philadelphia Volunteers under Captain Cadwalader. He was then appointed acting Quartermaster-General by General Mifflin. After only serving one tour of duty, he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster-General and served under General Nathanael Greene of the Continental Army.

Autograph letter signed, Jacob Weiss, Camp Middle Brook, June 1, 1779 to James Abeel, Deputy Quarter Master at Morris Town.

"I find by your Return of the 21st Inst. to General Green, four Markees [large tents] said to be on Hand. Should be glad if they are still in Store, and not intended for any particular use you would have them forwarded to me without delay. I perceive there are from twelve to fifteen Markees still wanting to compleat the Brigades lying here including the Park of Artillery (according to the General's Plan) of allowing one Markee for the Officers of each Regiment. I have mentioned the matter to Col. Cox, who is in Camp and sets off for Philadelphia in the Morning and expect he will order what there may be at Philadelphia to come on, and likewise have more made, in the mean time would request of you to let me know in particular what Markees, Horsemans Tents,

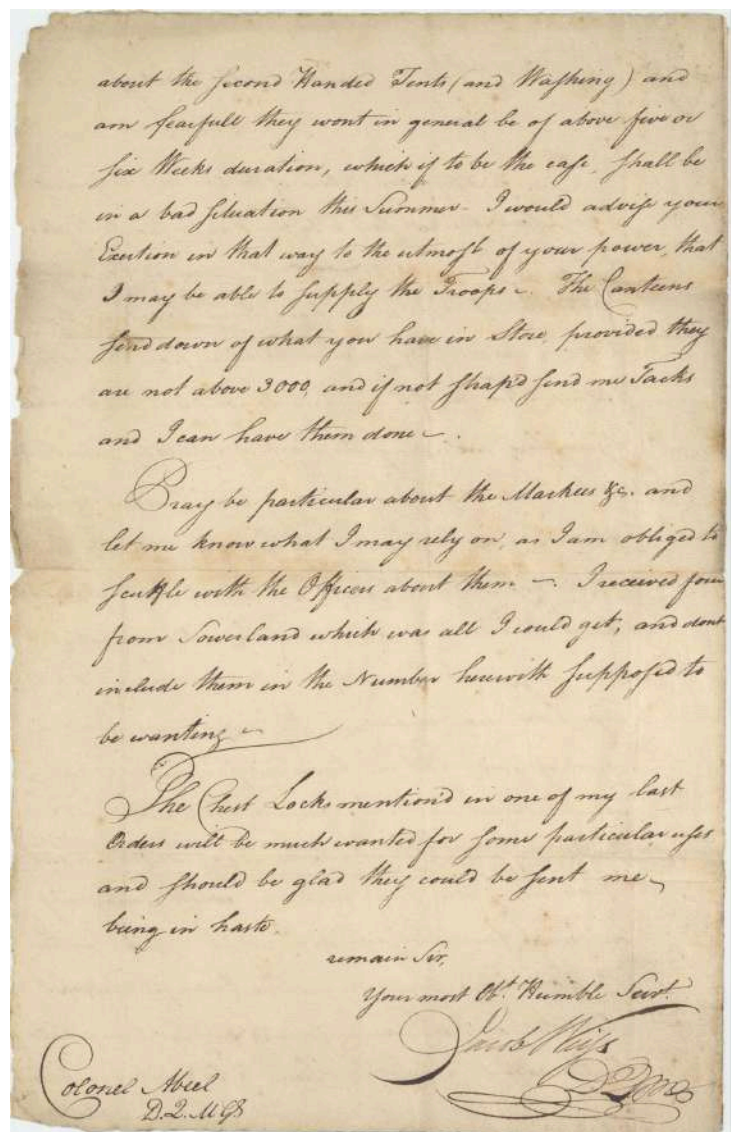
Common Tents, and Wall Tents, you may have at Morris, and if no Horsemans Tents, nor Wall Tents on Hand, when I may rely on being furnished, and with what Number, as the Brigades are actually on moving Orders, and which I suppose you have been informed ere this time would be the case. I find there seems to be much complaint about the Second Handed Tents (and Washing) and am fearful they wont in general be of above five or six Weeks duration, which if to be the case, Shall be in a bad Situation this Summer. I would advise your Exertion in that way to the utmost of your power, that I may be able to supply the Troops. The Canteens send down of what you have in Store, provided they are not above 3000, and if not Shaped send me Tacks and I can have them done.

"Pray be particular about the Markees &c. and let me know what I may rely on, as I am obliged to Settle with the Officers about them. I received four from Sowerland which was all I could get, and dont include them in the Number herewith Supposed to be wanting.

"The Chest Locks mentioned in one of my last Orders will be much wanted for some particular uses and should be glad they could be sent me, being in haste.

"N.B. The loose Cloathing that was sent you first, please to send to Col. Hay for the use of his Department agreeable to the Generals Request, and the Cloathing and Store marks for Col. Morgan Lewis, that have or may come to you, please to forward him. If you find the Box with Stockings not marked for Col. Lewis, you will then Send abt. 300 pr. of them to Col. Bay likewise."

An interesting and detailed letter in which Greene seeks to gather the supplies needed for the upcoming campaign.



42)

Aide-de-Camp Alexander Hamilton Sends George Washington's Orders to Supply General John Glover During the 1779 Summer Campaign

A rare letter of Hamilton during the war mentioning Washington, just 2 weeks after the successful Battle of Stony Point

"You will take immediate measures to have the troops with him supplied in proportion to the rest of the army."

After American spies confirmed Stony Point was held by 600 British troops and 16 cannon, Washington and Anthony Wayne planned a night bayonet assault. On July 15-16, 1779, Wayne's Light Infantry stormed the post, taking over 500 prisoners at a cost of fewer than 100 American casualties. The Americans withdrew three days later, but the raid was successful in that it forced British General Henry Clinton to abandon his Connecticut raids and shift to a defensive posture.

When Culper Ring spy Robert Townsend reported to the American leadership that Clinton planned to resume the offensive once British reinforcements arrived, Washington called a council of war on July 26 — his generals recommended staying defensive, but Washington kept probing. On August 19, Major Henry Lee raided the British fort at Paulus Hook, New Jersey in a similar bayonet attack, netting over 150 prisoners. The two raids kept Clinton off-balance and reacting, even as the Continental Army avoided the large pitched battle it wasn't ready to fight.

John Glover, a wealthy merchant in Marblehead, Mass., became a military leader and served on the town's committee of correspondence from 1772 to 1774. An experienced militia officer, he was named colonel of a Massachusetts battalion raised in May 1775, and later that year, Washington charged him with outfitting armed vessels for Continental service. Glover assumed command of the 14th Continental Regiment in January 1776 and served as its colonel until his promotion to brigadier general in February 1777. It was Glover who Washington entrusted to help ferry him and the Continental Army across the Delaware on Christmas 1776.

While Anthony Wayne was storming Stony Point on July 15-16, and General Lee was raiding Paulus Hook on August 19, Glover was simultaneously holding the Connecticut theater to make sure Clinton's coastal raids didn't have the effect of pulling the American army away from the Hudson. Three different generals, three different assignments, all part of Washington's broader effort to keep Clinton off-balance across multiple fronts at once. All needed supplying.

Autograph letter signed, as aide de camp, July 29, 1779, to "Mr. Fitch, Commissary of Issues with the army, integral address leaf present. *"The General [Washington] orders me to send you the inclosed extract of a letter from General Glover and to direct that you will take immediate measures to have the troops with him supplied in proportion to the rest of the army."* Although the letter from Glover does not survive, its subject is clear: he needed supplies. Tone of a couple letters of Hamilton's signature affected by a once-present seal but all letters present.

Glover wrote to Heath on July 29. Heath's reply to Glover on the 30th reads, "Your favor of yesterday is this moment handed to me, am much Obliged by the intelligence you have favored me with." This confirms Glover wrote to Heath on July 29 — and Hamilton, writing on Washington's behalf that same day, was likely forwarding an extract of that Glover letter to Heath.

An extraordinary rarity: a war date letter of Hamilton mentioning Washington and conveying orders from him.

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1970.

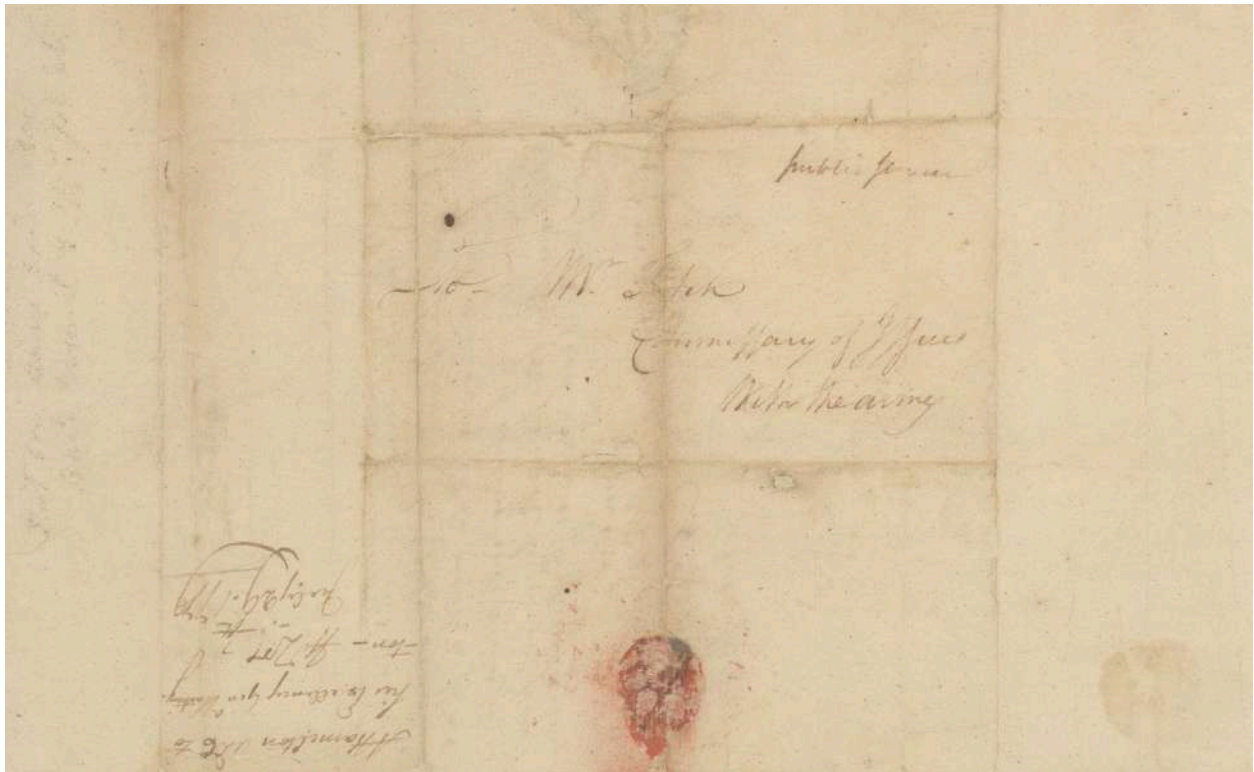
Dr

The General orders me to find you
the enclosed extract of a letter from
General Glouern and to direct that
you will take immediate measures
to have the troops with him supplied
in proportion to the rest of the army

I am Sir

July 29 1779

Wm. Mifflin
A. Hamilton
Aide. De Camp



43)

A Revolutionary War Intelligence Report: Militia Intelligence Agent Robert Henry Warns of the Embarkation of Queen's Rangers Ahead of Simcoe's Raid

"Simcos foot embarks... said to be 5000 bound to Penobscot."

We have never before seen a contemporary intelligence report like this, let alone one mentioning a noted event

Identified by Walter Benjamin and sold by Mary in the 1940s

On October 28, 1779, British Major John Graves Simcoe ferried 87 Queen's Rangers troops from Staten Island in New York to Perth Amboy in New Jersey, with Somerset County loyalist Jim Stewart guiding his men along the Raritan River. A unit of British regulars landed at South Amboy to prepare an ambush in coordination with Simcoe's rangers, planning to capture a Continental Army Major, ambush New Jersey militia, and burn boats at Raritan. Simcoe and his men posed as Henry Lee's dragoons, as both units wore green jackets, and Simcoe passed himself off as a patriot when they met a band of armed militia at the Frelinghuysen Tavern in Bound Brook. However, a bystander recognized Simcoe as a Tory and sent a rider to warn Governor William Livingston in New Brunswick. Simcoe's men did not find the Continental Major at the Van Horne house as planned, and they decided to continue on to Raritan, where they blasted 18 flatboats with grenades and set them on fire, preventing George Washington from attacking Staten Island. Simcoe also had his men burn down the 58-year-old Dutch Reformed Church in Finderne, as the Continentals stored additional equipment there. On the night of the 28th, the British raiders rescued three loyalist prisoners from Somerset Court House on the Millstone River. Simcoe had the court house burnt down, and two adjacent houses were also set on fire. Militia around New Brunswick found out about the location of the loyalists from the fire, and militiamen under Charles Armand Tuffin ambushed Simcoe under on the morning of the 29th. Simcoe was unhorsed and knocked unconscious, and three loyalists and one patriot militiaman were killed. Simcoe was held as a prisoner in New Brunswick, and security had to be increased around him to prevent angry townspeople from lynching him.

Intelligence of Simcoe's movements reached Washington. On October 26, Lord Stirling announced, "From the intelligence that I have received, I have sufficient reason to believe that the Enemy have invaded this State. A party of their horse were this morning at Quibble Town and it is said, are Six thousand in Force at Amboy. This justifies me in ordering you immediately to march the Virginia Division to Springfield, where I shall meet you".

Likewise, on the 27th, General Anthony Wayne wrote to Washington, passing along information information, which, according to the papers of George Washington, "likely involved communications with Major General Stirling or Brig. Gen. William Woodford."

Washington wrote to John Sullivan, a New Jersey commander, that same day: "I have this moment received advice that the enemy (said to be 5000) landed yesterday at Amboy and were advancing towards Brunswick. Their intent yet unknown but I think a forage or the interruption of our stores from the Southward is most probable. The Virginia division and the light infantry who were near Kakeyate marched this morning at Sun rise to Paramus, from whence they will proceed as circumstances may require. From the situation of matters I think it will be advisable for you to direct your march towards morris town instead of the route which I pointed out in mine of yesterday. By sending some gentlemen of the Jersey Brigade forward you will be able to learn from Lord Stirling, or if he is not well enough to join, from the commanding officer real situation of affairs, and should you find that the⟨re⟩ is occasion to fall even lower down than Morris town, you can do it. Should you hear that the enemy have retired you may again turn your course to Sufferans."

The below is the first ground floor Revolutionary War reconnaissance or intelligence document we recall seeing on the market. It is remarkable for being connected to a specific event and mentioning Simcoe. Mentioned also is Abraham van Buskirk, prominent Loyalist officer from New Jersey during the Revolutionary War who was involved with Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers. Note the language of size "said to be 5000" is identical to that used by Washington. It is possible since Washington wrote it more than once and his information seems to have originated with Stirling, possibly from this document, that the Stirling letter was either mistranscribed or that the information was soon corrected.

Autograph document, no date but likely October 25 or 26, 1779, identified on the verso by Walter Benjamin as in the hand of New Jersey Secret Agent Robert Henry, in a more common script and using more common grammar and spelling. The stilted structure and spelling are largely retained and a couple words are difficult to determine:

"Simcos foot embarks but not his Horse, Lt. infantry & Gard of the army 24th, 29th done new Regmt with Rodney one company from Bartons and Buskerks. Said to be 5000 bound to Penobscot, 7 horse boats each and ten stalls.

"A number of scows above the ship yards fit for bridges only.

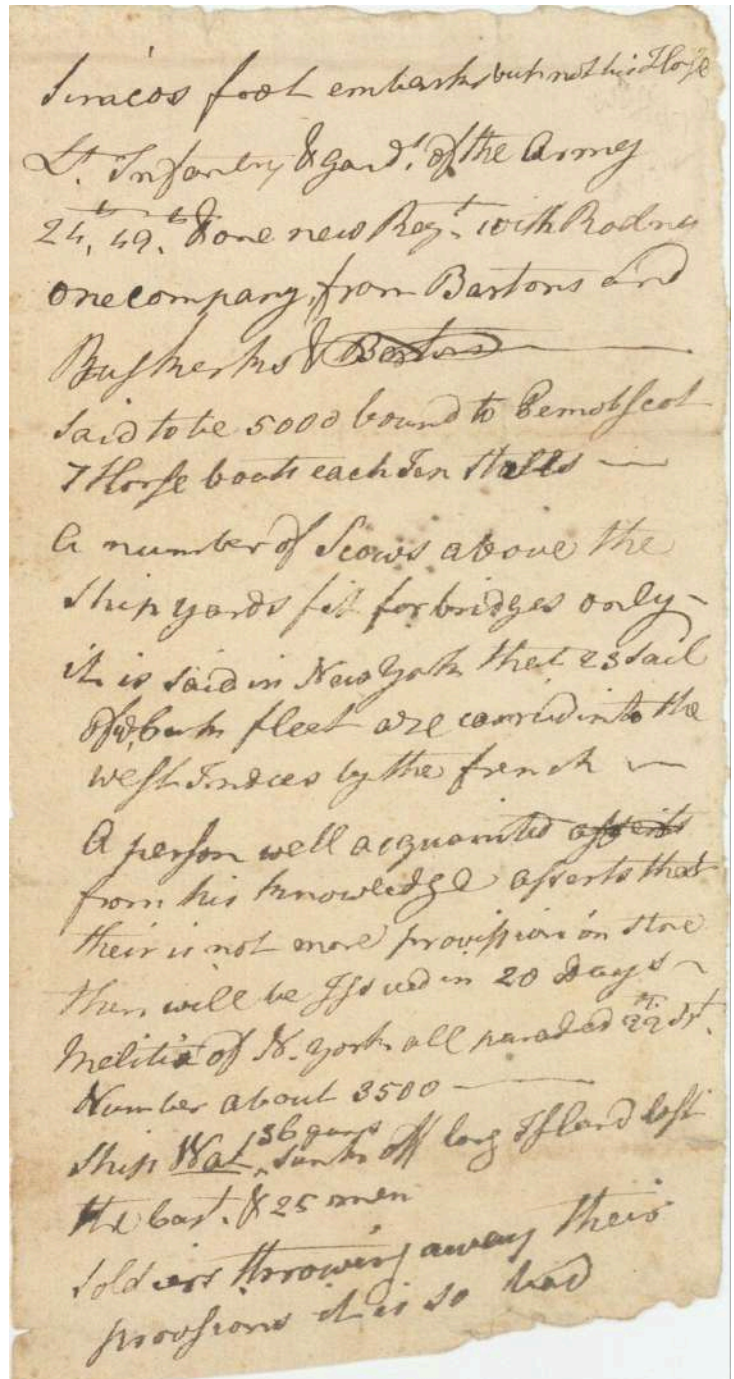
"It is said in New York that 23 sail of ye _____ fleet are carried into the West Indies by French.

"A person well acquainted from his knowledge asserts that there is not more provision in store then will be issued in 20 days.

"Militia of New York all paraded 22nd _____. Number about 3500.

"Ship _____ 36 guns sunk off Long Island lost the captain 25 men.

"Soldiers throwing away their provisions it is so bad."



Simcos foot embarks but not his horse
 Lt. infantry & Gard of the Army
 24, 29. Done new Regt with Rodney
 one company from Bartons and
 Buskerks
 Said to be 5000 bound to Penobscot
 7 horse boats each and ten stalls
 A number of scows above the
 ship yards fit for bridges only -
 it is said in New York that 23 sail
 of ye _____ fleet are carried into the
 west Indies by the french
 A person well acquainted asserts
 from his knowledge asserts that
 there is not more provision in store
 then will be issued in 20 days
 Militia of N. York all paraded 22nd _____.
 Number about 3500
 Ship _____ 36 guns sunk off Long Island lost
 the capt. & 25 men
 Soldiers throwing away their
 provisions it is so bad

44)

General Nathanael Greene, Through His Aide de Camp, Summons Clement Biddle to Fix the Winter Quarters for the Continental Army

"I imagine the position at "Jockey Hollow" will be fixed on, but Gen'l Greene will not determine the matter 'til Gen'l Washington arrives."

This encampment would be even deadlier than the one at Valley Forge, with Washington saying "the situation with respect to supplies is beyond description alarming"

In November of 1779, General Washington needed to find a camp to house his tired Continental Army. The location needed to be carefully chosen and he wanted a meeting of some of his senior officers for this purpose at his headquarters in Morristown. Nathanael Greene made arrangements to gather the men who would be consulted.

The location of Jockey Hollow, in Morris County, NJ, far enough from New York, with access to supplies, at a higher elevation, was eventually chosen but the final choice would belong to Washington.

Autograph letter signed, Ichabod Burnett, Aide de Camp to Nathanael Greene, to Clement Biddle, Commissary General of Forage, Morris Town, November 28, 1779. With the integral address leaf, *"On the service of the United States."*

"Dr. Sir, The General desires me to acknowledge yours of the 27th. He wishes you to meet him tomorrow at this place. His Excellency is expected here this Evening. I imagine the position at "Jockey Hollow" will be fixed on, but Gen'l Greene will not determine the matter 'til Gen'l Washington arrives.

"I am with compliments to Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Wilkinson Yours in haste."

After marching into Morristown in December 1779, Washington's troops settled at Jockey Hollow, where Continental soldiers cut down thousands of acres of timber to construct a "log house city" of more than a

thousand wooden structures, each accommodating about twelve men. The site also included parade grounds and officers' quarters.

An estimated 10,000–12,000 soldiers camped there, though desertions and deaths reduced that to about 8,000, and Washington claimed as many as one third were unfit for duty. Conditions were actually worse than Valley Forge.

In a Circular Letter to the States in December 1779, Washington wrote that "The situation of the Army with respect to supplies is beyond description alarming," noting the army had been on half allowance for five or six weeks and feared it would "infallibly disband in a fortnight."

Monro Town

Novemb: 28. 1779.

Sir

The General desires me to acknow-
-ledge yours of the 27.th -

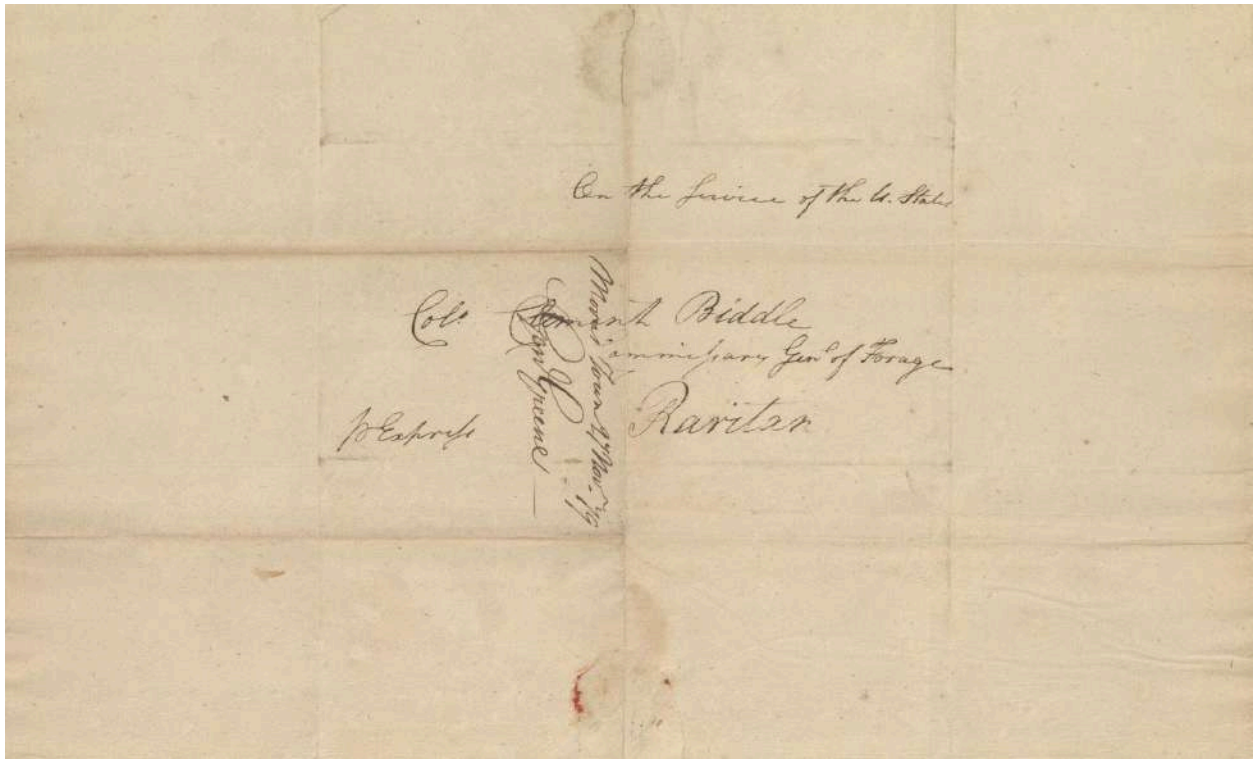
He wishes you to meet
him tomorrow at this place - His Excellency
is expected here this evening - I imagine
the position at Jockey hollow will be fixed
on, but Gen^l. Greene will not determine
the matter till Gen^l. Washington arrives.

I am with compliments to Mrs. Biddle and
Mrs. Wilkinson Yours in haste

J. BURNETT

Aides de Camp





45)

**Major General and Aide-de-Camp to George Washington Arthur St. Clair
Writes the Governor of Pennsylvania for a New Commissary at Morristown
After the Devastating Winter of 1779-1780**

The winter in Washington's Morristown encampment was harsh, worse than Valley Forge, so the unexpected absence of the previous Commissary came at a crucial moment for the Continental Army stationed there

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Arthur St. Clair had a long military career beginning with the Seven Years' War and continuing in the Continental Army, rising to the rank of Major General and aide-de-camp to General George Washington.

A Scotsman by birth, St. Clair married Phoebe Bayard and purchased land in Pennsylvania. During the Revolutionary War, he was stationed in Trenton, New Jersey, to assist in the training of troops. He crossed the Delaware with the Continental Army and saw action at the Battle of Trenton. He is also believed to have helped strategize the American victory at Princeton.

Perhaps in response to that success, St. Clair was given command of Fort Ticonderoga in April of 1777. Three months later, Fort Ticonderoga fell to the British during the Saratoga campaign. St. Clair then joined General Washington's staff as an aide-de-camp.

During the Revolutionary War, a state commissary was essentially the military supply and procurement officer for a state's forces. By 1780, the system was under severe strain and was in near-collapse. Congress had overhauled the Continental Commissary Department in 1777–78, shifting to a state-based supply system, but this created coordination problems. States competed with each other for the same supplies, the currency was nearly worthless, and suppliers refused to sell. Washington's army at times went days without food as a result.

State commissaries were constantly scrambling, improvising, and leaning on personal relationships with local suppliers to keep armies in the field.

In March of 1780, St. Clair was with Washington during the second encampment in Morristown, New Jersey. During this bitter winter, St. Clair wrote to Pennsylvania Governor Joseph Reed regarding a needed reassignment in the state commissary office. Captain Ziegler, who had fought in pivotal campaigns from Long Island (where he was severely wounded) to Brandywine and Monmouth, and endured the winter at Valley Forge, was in poor health. They needed someone to take over his responsibilities, if only temporarily, and St. Clair suggested Andrew Lytle, an officer in the Pennsylvania military.

The winter in Washington's Morristown encampment was harsh, worse than Valley Forge. Ziegler's illness at this time came at a crucial moment for the Continental Army stationed there.

Joseph Reed served as President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, the equivalent of Governor, from 1778-1781, and as aide-de-camp to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Reed is credited with having been the first to expose the treason of Benedict Arnold. After the war, Reed, a lawyer and jurist, was elected to the Continental Congress, where he signed the Articles of Confederation. He also served as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court.

Autograph letter signed, General St. Clair, Morris Town, March 4, 1780 to Governor Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania. *"The State of Capt. Zeegler's Health obliging him for some time to decline acting as State Commissary, it will be necessary that some other Person should be appointed in his Room. Mr. Lytle is a Person that is agreeable to the officers and I believe will execute that Business with Fidelity, and if it should be agreeable to the Council it will be perfectly so to me that he should be appointed pro tempore. I mention this because I believe Capt. Zeegler will be willing to continue in the Office if he recovers his Health, and I know no other Officer who is so capable."* Set on a board.

The letter must have been effective because correspondence kept at the American Philosophical Society shows Lt. Lytle directing supply transports only three weeks after this letter.

St. Clair would go on to serve at the Battle of Yorktown and then with Nathanael Greene successfully clearing the remaining British outposts in Georgia and the Carolinas. Later he would be appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory. War date letters of General St. Clair are not common.

1780
Morris Town March 4th 1780

Sir

The State of Cap^t. Juglers Health obliging
him for some time to decline acting as State
Commissary it will be necessary that some other
Person should be appointed in his Room — Mr.
Lytle is a Person that is agreeable to the Officers
and I believe will execute that Business with
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Council it will be perfectly so to me that he
should be appointed pro tempore — I mention
this because I believe Cap^t. Jugler will be
willing to continue in the Office if he recovers
his Health, and I know no other Officer who
is so capable.

I have the Honour to be

Sir
your most obedient
humble Servant

A. S. Blair

His Excellency
Governour Reed

46)

British Commander Lord Cornwallis, Writing Victorious to his Mother From Charleston in 1780, Gives His Motivation for Fighting: He Will Use All His Power for the Good of His Country

This just after his great victory at Charleston, and days before he took command of all British forces in the South

"I may safely call on God to witness that I have no other rule for my conduct but the good of my country, which I am determined to contribute all in my power to save, in spite of our foreign & domestic enemies."

A remarkable statement by Cornwallis from America on service to country

"I have the vanity to think that if I had been left to manage this Province my own way, I should have had the satisfaction of being loved by the friends & feared by the enemys of our country"

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

May 1780 was the climactic month of the British southern campaign. Cornwallis's role was as Sir Henry Clinton's second-in-command, but he carried out the operations that actually closed the trap on the Americans. Cornwallis would take over full command of British forces on June 5.

Clinton had landed an army of roughly 14,000 in South Carolina back in February 1780, methodically pushed up the peninsula, and by early April had General Benjamin Lincoln's American army bottled up inside Charleston. The crucial gap in the British encirclement was the land approach from the north, across the Cooper River — as long as that escape route stayed open, Lincoln could in theory slip out and save his army. Clinton sent Cornwallis across the Cooper with about 1,500 troops in mid-April to close it. Cornwallis spent late April and early May methodically sealing off that northern side. On April 14, Banastre Tarleton -

operating under his command - surprised General Isaac Huger's American cavalry in their bivouac at Monck's Corner, scattering the only mounted force that might have screened Lincoln's retreat. Through early May Cornwallis's troops pushed out to take Lenud's Ferry, and May 6 Tarleton routed remaining American cavalry under William Washington. The British then occupied the ground that made an American breakout impossible. By the time the siege lines reached their final stage, Charleston was completely surrounded.

The city surrendered on May 12, 1780, in what was likely the peak of British fortunes in the war. General Lincoln handed over roughly 5,000 Continentals and militia, plus arms, artillery, and warships — the largest American capitulation of the entire conflict, and a catastrophe from which the southern Continental Army would not really recover until Nathanael Greene's arrival the following winter. Cornwallis was present at the surrender ceremonies, though Clinton, as commanding general, took the formal honors.

After the fall of the city, Clinton detached Cornwallis with around 2,500 troops to push north into the interior and run down what remained of organized American resistance in South Carolina. The most notorious episode came on May 29 at the Waxhaws, near the North Carolina border: Tarleton, again operating under Cornwallis's command, caught Colonel Abraham Buford's roughly 350 Virginia Continentals retreating northward. Buford's men attempted to surrender, but Tarleton's troopers continued the slaughter; the result was about 113 Americans killed and many more wounded, with very light British losses.

Throughout the month of May Cornwallis was also dealing with the political fallout of victory: drafting parole terms for captured rebels, issuing proclamations, and beginning to think about how to administer a province. He was 41 years old, recently widowed (his wife Jemima had died in February 1779, which is part of why he had come back to America at all - he had asked for service to distract himself from grief), and operating as Clinton's deputy with the understanding that he would inherit the southern command when Clinton returned to New York. This Clinton did on June 5, leaving Cornwallis in command with roughly 8,000 troops. Cornwallis was afterwards reporting nominally to Clinton in New York but actually operating with wide latitude. Cornwallis went from being a corps commander to being, in practical terms, the British leader in the entire South.

Autograph letter signed, Charleston, South Carolina, July 1st 1780, just weeks after the British captured the city, to his mother, disclosing his motive for fighting and stating he would use all his power to try to achieve victory. In it he mentions his brother, Captain William Cornwallis of the Royal Navy, who had helped beat French Admiral Toussaint-Guillaume Picquet de la Motte at sea in April.

“Dear Madam, I am first to wish you joy of William's very successful & reputable action with La Motte Piquet in April. I had heard several vague reports of it, but I had the satisfaction of receiving a letter from William on the 26th of last month giving a full account of it. I think it must raise his credit very high as an officer & a seaman. I then am to wish you joy of his going home with the Convoy that is to sail in the beginning of August. I wish him a Copper bottom [ship], but cannot help regretting his leaving the Jamaica station; He has so many friends that are out of humour at home that it frightens me about him - don't let him take offense at the Admiralty and get out of commission. The nation cannot go to war again to give him fortune & honour, to both of which he seems now to be in the high road.

“I have had of late a great deal of civil as well as military business, I have the vanity to think that if I had been left to manage this Province my own way, I should have had the satisfaction of being loved by the friends & feared by the enemys of our country: as it is I must do the best I can. I may safely call on God to witness that I have no other rule for my conduct but the good of my country, which I am determined to contribute all in my power to save, in spite of our foreign & domestic enemies.

“I have not heard from England since Brodrick left me. Gen.l Robertson [General James Robertson, the British military governor of New York] sent me from New York some newspapers that came by the April packet but would not send my letters as he thought the conveyance an unsafe one. My remaining in the Southern Provinces will make the communication with England much more uncertain, I will however often send letters to New York, to take the chance of the Packet. Pray tell my Children when you see them that I will write to them soon, this letter will probably get to you in Mary's [his daughter's] Holidays. I am Dear Madam, your Most Affectionate Son, Cornwallis.”

Most of June 1780 Cornwallis spent in Charleston dealing with civil administration - exactly the *"civil as well as military business"* he mentions in this letter. He was also setting up a network of inland garrisons (Camden, Ninety Six, Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Georgetown, Cheraw) to hold the backcountry, parceling out commands to officers like Lord Rawdon, Patrick Ferguson, and Banastre Tarleton, and trying to organize Loyalist militia. He also had to navigate the wreckage of Clinton's June 3 proclamation, which revoked the paroles granted to captured rebels and demanded they take active oaths of loyalty to the Crown. Cornwallis privately thought this was a disaster — it forced fence-sitters to choose, and many chose rebellion — and he spent June trying to manage the resulting mess. Meanwhile, the war in the backcountry was already turning ugly. The Waxhaws Massacre (Tarleton's destruction of Buford's Virginians, May 29) had inflamed partisan feelings. Through June, American leaders — Thomas Sumter, Francis Marion, Andrew Pickens — were beginning the partisan war that would define the southern campaign. Small actions like Ramseur's Mill (June 20) in North Carolina, where Loyalist militia was crushed by patriot militia, signaled that British control of the interior was much shakier than the map suggested.

By July he would move inland to Camden to take personal command in the field; in August his roughly 2,200 men had shattered Horatio Gates's American army of about 3,700 at Camden in one of the war's most lopsided British victories. South Carolina seemed pacified. The logical next step was to push the war into North Carolina, recruit loyalists there, and use that province as a springboard into Virginia. So in early September Cornwallis put his army on the road north. Then, on October 7, came the disaster that defined the season: the Battle of Kings Mountain. Major Patrick Ferguson, who commanded the Loyalist militia screening Cornwallis's western flank, was caught on an isolated hilltop near the North Carolina border by about 900 frontier riflemen - the "Overmountain Men" who had crossed the Appalachians from what's now Tennessee specifically to hunt him down. Ferguson was killed, his entire force of roughly 1,100 men was killed or captured in about an hour, and Cornwallis's left flank ceased to exist. So at the end of November 1780 we see Cornwallis, having won the biggest battle of the year, then lost a fifth of his army to a militia ambush, retreated out of the province he had just invaded, and now faced a brand-new opponent - General Nathanael Greene - who was about to fight the war very differently. Strategically, the fall of 1780 was when the southern campaign tipped — even if the final resolution was not until the following October at Yorktown.

To his Mother

JYY

MS. A. 9. 2. 15

Charlestown July 1st 1780

Dear Madam

I am first to wish you joy of William's
 very successfull & reputable action with La Motte
 Piquet in April, I had heard several vague reports
 of it, but I had the satisfaction of receiving a
 letter from William on the 26th of last month giving
 a full account of it. I think it must raise his credit
 very high as an Officer & a Seaman. I then am to wish
 you joy of his going home with the Convoy that is to
 sail in the beginning of August, I wish him a Copper
 bottom, but cannot help regretting his leaving the
 Jamaica Station; he has so many friends that are out
 of humour at home that it frightens me about him,
 don't let him take offence at the Admiralty and get
 out of commission. The nation cannot go to war
 again to give him fortune & honours, to both^d which

he seems now to be in the high road. I have had of
 late a great deal of civil as well as military business,
 & have the vanity to think that if I had been left
 to manage this Province my own way, I should have
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 on God to witness that I have no other rule for
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 make the communication with England much
 more uncertain, I will however often send letters

to New York, to take the chance of the Packet.
Pray tell my Children when you see them that
I will write to them soon, this letter will
probably get to you in Mary's Holidays.

I am Dear Madam
Your Most affectionate Son
Cornwallis

47)

As He Prepares to Enter the Southern Campaign in 1780, General Baron von Steuben Orders Payment to Another Foreigner Who Had Joined the Patriot Cause

Rare war-date letter of Steuben and fascinating connection showing the global reach of the American Independence movement

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Friedrich von Steuben came to the United States bearing European references in December 1777. Joining Washington at Valley Forge in February 1778, he quickly proved his value to the Continental Army as an instructor in discipline and tactics, his “blue book” – Orders and Discipline of the Troops of the United States – becoming the manual of instruction in the U.S. Army for many years. On May 5, 1778, he was appointed inspector general of the army with the rank of major general.

On August 16, 1780, the American army had suffered a catastrophic defeat at the Battle of Camden, South Carolina, under General Horatio Gates. It was one of the worst defeats of the entire war. After General Gates' defeat at Camden, Steuben was placed in command of the district of Virginia with special instructions to collect, organize, discipline and expedite the recruits for the Southern army. In October 1780, Steuben accompanied Greene in order to aid in the restoration of the army in the South at Washington's insistence.

Michel Antoine Garoutte was born in April 1750 in the Castle Garoutte in Marseille, Kingdom of France, to the Admiral of the Royal French Navy, Antoine Garoutte. At the age of 25, inspired by the American cause, he sailed from Marseille commanding two ships to the colonies to fight for American independence. His privateer activities involved overtaking British merchant vessels and British Navy vessels, taking the seized goods to Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey, where the goods would be sent across the river through the Delaware and to Valley Forge to supply General Washington's military forces. He was in the Battle of Chestnut Neck where the British burned down his ships in the Mullica River, New Jersey. Shortly after, he was ambushed by 7 Hessians who stabbed him with a bayonet and left him for dead. He was found by a

Quaker innkeeper named John Smith who was secretly aiding the revolutionaries, and he later married Smith's daughter Sophia.

In October 1780 Steuben was in Annapolis organizing troops and supplies for the Southern campaign. Garoutte, as a French-speaking fellow, would have been a natural courier and trusted associate for Steuben, who arrived in the United States speaking French but not English. The \$300 payment was likely for services rendered — possibly as a courier, supplier, or privateer contractor.

Autograph letter signed, Steuben, as Major General, Annapolis, October 9, 1780, to Robert Smith, Merchant.

"I Shall be very much obliged to you for paying the Bearer, Antoine Garoutte, the Sum of three hundred Continental Dollars for which I shall be accountable.

"Received Phil.a November 15, 1780 of Robert Smith, Three Hundred Dollars in full of the above Order 300 Drs, Antoine Garoutte."

Addressed on the verso to: "Mr Robert Smith, Merchant, at Mrs. Bartrams, in Second Street, near the City Tavern, Philadelphia".

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Annapolis October 9th 1780

Sir

I shall be very much
obliged to you for paying the
Bearer, Antoine Garoutte, the
sum of three hundred Continental Dollars
for which I shall be accountable.

I am Sir

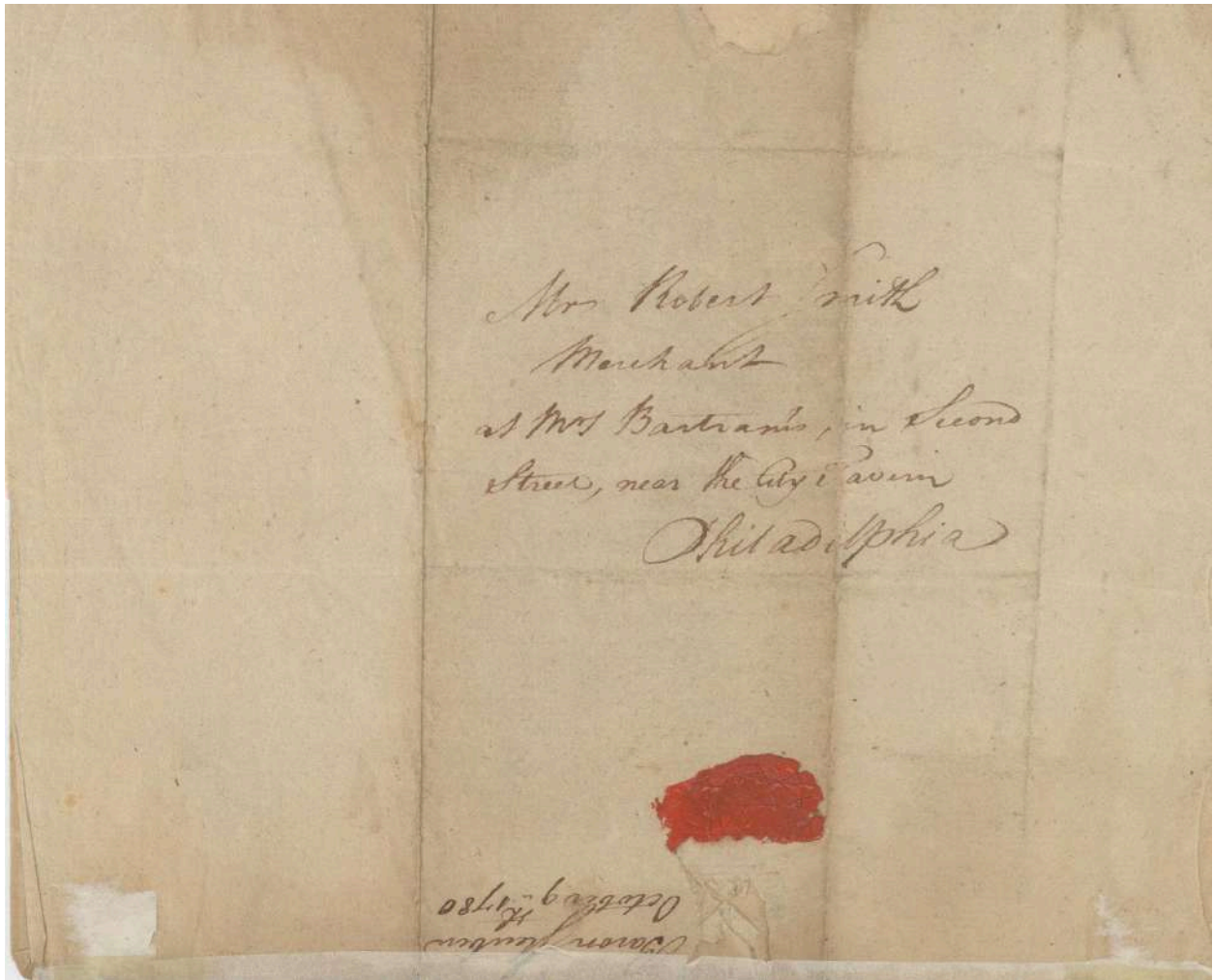
Your most obed^t servant
Stephen
Maj: Garoutte

Received Phil^a November 15th 1780 of Robert Smith
Three Hundred Dollars in full of the above Order

300 D^{rs}

Antoine Garoutte

Mr Robert Smith



Mrs Robert Smith
Merchant
at Mrs Bartrams, in Second
Street, near the City Prison
Philadelphia

Common Pleas
October 1780

48)

Printed Address of George Washington on His Victory at Yorktown

"While I confess that it is extremely pleasing to me, to know that my conduct, in the late successful enterprise against the enemy in Virginia, meets the approbation of my fellow citizens...that great part of the merit of that important event was owing to the assistance I derived from the good conduct and bravery of the officers and men under my command."

From the Connecticut Courant: The Grateful Nation Honors General Washington After the Defeat of Cornwallis

The Report of the Issuing of the Thanks of Congress to Washington and Rochambeau

"Resolved, that the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, for the eminent services which he has rendered to the United States, and particularly for the well concerted plan against the British garrisons in York and Gloucester, for the vigor, attention and military skill with which that plan was executed, and for the wisdom and prudence manifested in the capitulation."

The Connecticut Courant was the most widely circulated patriot newspaper in America during the Revolution, and the only major patriot paper to publish continuously in the same location throughout the entire war. It survives today as the Hartford Courant, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States.

The Connecticut Courant and Weekly Intelligencer. Hartford: printed by Hudson and Goodwin, December 18, 1781. No 882. Among the many articles of news:

The Thanks of Congress Is to Be Generals Washington, Rochambeau and Others and the Erection of a Statue to Honor the Victory:

"THAT the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, for the eminent services which he has rendered to the United States, and particularly for the well concerted plan against the British garrisons in York and Gloucester, for the vigor, attention and military skill with which that plan was executed, and for the wisdom and prudence manifested in the capitulation. That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, for the cordiality, zeal, judgment and fortitude, with which he seconded and advanced the progress of the allied army against the British garrison in York. That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled be presented to his Excellency Count de Grasse, for his display of skill and bravery, in attacking and defeating the British fleet off the bay of Chesapeake, and for his zeal and gallantry in rendering, with the fleet under his command, the most effectual and distinguished aid and support to the operations of the allied army in Virginia. That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to the commanding and other officers of the corps of artillery and engineers of the allied army, who sustained extraordinary fatigue and danger in their animated and gallant approaches to the lines of the enemy. That General Washington be directed to communicate to the other officers and the soldiers under his command, the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, for their conduct and valour on this occasion.

Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States, and his Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to his Excellency General Washington, commander in chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his Excellency Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his Most Christian Majesty in America, and his Excellency Count de Grasse, commanding in chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeake."

George Washington's **address** to the people of Pennsylvania: *"Gentlemen, I esteem myself highly honoured by the Address of so respectable a body as the Representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met. While I confess that it is extremely pleasing to me, to know that my conduct, in the late successful enterprise against the enemy in Virginia, meets the approbation of my fellow citizens; I think it a duty incumbent upon me to declare, that great part of the merit of that important event was owing to the assistance I derived from the good conduct and bravery of the officers and men under my command.*

"The powerful succours which we received from the land and sea forces of our great, good and generous ally, ought to, and I am sure does, make the most grateful impression upon the heart of every true American.

"In return for your warm expressions of personal regard, permit me most sincerely to assure you, that I wish nothing more ardently, than the peace and prosperity of the State which you represent."

Signed in type by Washington.

A fascinating and rare newspaper in the wake of Yorktown, filled with important articles, such as conveying the thanks of Congress to George Washington.

The Connecticut Courant

AND

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1781.

(No. 882.)

HARTFORD: PRINTED BY HUDSON AND GOODWIN, NEAR THE GREAT BRIDGE.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Worcester, November 30, 1781.

In conformity to an order of the General Court, and an order of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the county of Hampshire, will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the 2d of January next, being the fourth Tuesday in said month, for much of the real estate of the Rev Jonathan Huntington, late of said town, deceased, as shall be sufficient to raise the sum of three hundred and twenty-seven pounds ten shillings, lawful money; the sale to be held upon the premises, and to begin at one o'clock P. M. and to be continued until the whole be completed. The estate which will be offered for sale, consists of one half of a good Saw-Mill, newly built and standing upon a fall and constant stream in Cheshirefield, within forty rods of Worthington line. Also, for much of the land of the deceased as will raise the remainder of the proposed sum, which land is part of the excellent farm on which the deceased lived, and has its front upon the great road from Connecticut to Newington, through Westfield. The proposed sale will contain an exceeding good farm for a husbandman or tavern keeper, being well watered and the greater part cleared and under improvement, suitable for mowing, plowing and pasturing with a due proportion of wood land. Good and sufficient water will be given to the purchasers; one third of the money will be expected in hand, and obligations upon good security taken for the remainder, one half to be paid in three months from the time of sale, and the other half within a year.

At the same time and place will be sold, unless previously disposed of as private sale, one good yoke of fat Oxen, two Cows with their Calves, and one yoke of pearting Steers; also, sundry articles of farming, neatly for which ready money will be expected.

SARAH HUNTINGTON, Administratrix.
JOHN LYMAN.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform his customers, that the neglect of work at the Stocking business, has been owing to the necessities of journeymen; but he has now procured one that proves faithful—Those gentlemen and ladies, that will still continue to favour him with their custom, may depend on punctual performance, and the thanks of their humble servant.

DEODAT WOODBRIDGE.

N. B. All those who have been upon hand more than a fortnight, are desired to fetch away their Stockings. East-Hartford, December 3, 1781.

The Printers of this Paper once more most earnestly request those indebted to them to pay up their several balances. Those whose accounts are more than one year standing and unpaid, may depend that their News Papers will be stopped at the close of this year, unless prevented by a settlement, and the most summary and effectual measures taken to enforce a payment.

Those Papers delivered the Post-Riders from this Office will likewise be discontinued at the same time, unless their accounts are discharged. As this line of conduct has ever been the dictate of prudence, and is now more strongly enforced by necessity, it will (though with reluctance) be invariably adhered to, by

THE PRINTERS.

Just Published, and now Selling by the Printers hereof, and by the several Post-Riders from this Office,

An *Astronomical Ephemeris, Calendar, or ALMANACK,*
For the Year of our L O R D,

Containing all things necessary to such a Composition. The Astronomical parts performed by N. S. Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Yale-College.
Great Allowance to those who buy to sell again.

CASH given for clean Cotton and Linen Rags by the Printers hereof.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 24.

The following are exact Copies of Letters found on board the Lord Lorth Packet, taken on her passage from Charlestown to England by Capt. L'Alieumont, from Capt. Charlestown, S. Carolina, 6th October, 1781.

S I R,

I WROTE you a very long full letter under the 9th August last, by our friend Captain Clark in the Charlotte Packet; and to pay my debt to you, sent eight wedges of silver, weighing 200 az. 13 dwt. which I calculated would something more than balance my account—the packet is unluckily taken by the grand French fleet of Virginia, and my silver I suppose lost, but there was one chance in its favour, as soon as I know whether or not it fails, shall as occasion may require, remit you a bill, in case I am not able to send you a pair of shoes, made large by my pattern.—The fate of America and the dominion of Britain over any part of it, depends much on the said French fleet, its success must be fatal to us, and hitherto I am sorry to say it has been too successful, in an engagement with our fleet also it a month ago; we came off, not in a manner I would wish an English fleet to take leave of an enemy. Reinforcements are expected by us when they arrive we are taught to believe that great matters will be done, and we are here in daily expectation of hearing at least that something is done—mean while in this province our army though numerous, is a body without a head, and in a late action, had the American General Greene but followed his blow with the same vigour it was at first made, the whole must have been cut off; as this, we call it a victory, but Providence, who so rarely fought for us on this occasion, guard us from such another victory, which would entirely destroy us.—Whether the commander in chief is playing at pull pin, or some other such mean employment, I know not; but unless a diversion, little to be hoped for from his activity or ability, is made, the truly great Lord Cornwallis is in the most critical situation, exposed I fear to more than he will be able to bear up against.—I know you will call this picture one of my own drawing, a mere cynical representation; but when all is at stake, and that trifled with daily, in a manner obvious to the most superficial observer, who can forbear complaining! My most sanguine wish is that I may shortly have foundation to write you better things: mean time give me leave to refer you to Mr. Kinlock, who has undertaken to deliver this letter, for a true and particular state of this province, and when you have heard him, thank your good fortune that you are not in it, and at least wish me and all your friends out of it.

With the most perfect esteem I remain, Sir, your most obedient and most faithful servant,
JOHN STOFTON.

Robert Lewis, Esq; at the house of Mess. Greenwood and Higginson, merchants, London.
Charlestown, S. Carolina, October 7, 1781.

I HAVE wrote a number of letters to dear Miss Wells, and also one to Mrs. Wells, but as we have an account that most if not all the vessels that went from this place, are taken, I cannot expect that you have received any of my letters since June. Mr. Ruffel and many others went in the William Henry Packet, which we hear is taken and carried to Boston. I wrote you by Dr. Spence, who went in the flag that carried Governor Chelster from Pexacoela, who had per-

million to stop here; the Governor left his secretary here and took Major Benson, (who married Miss Gardner) as his secretary, and we hear the flag is taken in consequence of Major Benson's being on board: I was in hope his letters would have got safe, as flags are reckoned sacred; but when there is a breach of faith on one side the other will take the advantage of it. I am sorry for the trouble it gives Mrs. Gaudin who was loth to part with her daughter.

Miss Philp you have heard married a Captain Camel, who uses her father, mother, and herself most cruelly.

I suppose you will have a particular account of the state of things in this province. The action at Eutaw between Colonel Stuart of the guards, and General Greene, though the former at last, by the assistance of Colonel Cruger, got the victory; it does not recound much to Stuart's credit; the numbers of the dead and wounded are not known—an officer was heard to say in 1780, another such victory would ruin their army, I suppose you will hear the particulars first in England: The British army certainly had a most providential escape, which in fact may be attributed to the rum which the Americans found in the British camp, and the timely arrival of Colonel Cruger, with five hundred men from a foraging party: The dying officers that were brought to town spoke hard things of their Colonel. People in general seem dissatisfied, they think there is not that countenance and protection given to the royalists as they had a right to expect, many who had taken protection are gone to the Americans, not altogether from choice but necessity; they were threatened by the Americans in the country, if they did not join them they would destroy their property, and those who had families and no way of subsisting them but upon their plantations, went with them rather than have their families starve, as the Americans at present have the command of the country and can go where they please. The army that was at Eutaw are now at Platts, twelve miles beyond Eutaw. Gen. Gould with some men, are gone up; he is to have the command, being higher in rank than Stuart; whether he will do any great good is a doubt, his character is not the most amiable, his conduct does not promise much. The plan of the Howe's seems to have prevailed too much in America; at New-York they cannot stir twenty miles from the city, and here we cannot go five miles with any certainty of safety; John Linning was taken from his plantation last week, three miles below our Atlixey river. Mr. Skottow at Mr. Billinger's was obliged to lie the greatest part of a night in the marsh at the landing.

You cannot, my dear Miss, form an idea of this place think what we must have endured this summer which is a remarkable hot one, in this small dirty town, so fruit but water melon and musk melons, both extravagantly dear: I have not seen a tolerable peach, Strawberry or apple this year, and it is very disagreeable walking from the sites of the burnt houses, which almost choke one. Happy are all that are in England, let them be truly thankful and not complain for trifles.

Mr. Saxby, I hear, has lost thirty of his best negroes who are dead, his crop remained at the plantation when his attorney Mr. Godfrey went to Bermuda, but as both armies have been there it is reasonable to think that he has lost some. When the British left George-Town, the Americans sold what they found in it for 25,000. Res-

ling. There is no communication between Lord Cornwallis and this place, neither is there any certainty where he is. There has not been any accounts from New-York for some time. The American privateers kept on this coast, and took almost every vessel going and coming; we have frequently seen vessels taken in sight of the town, and the Blonde, commodore Berkly, who guarded the harbour on the inside, he had with some gentlemen, to pay his respects to Lord Lincoln when he came here, Berkly was the first that was sea sick on board the schooner. After the coast was clear he went to fetch General Leslie from Virginia, he took the Carisfort with him, we hear they are both in New-York. A complaint from the merchants went home against Berkly, but unfortunately it was on board the Queen Charlotte packet, which, with many others is taken by the French fleet. Lord Rawdon, Major Doyle and his lady, and Mrs. Clarke, were on board. I had almost forgot to tell you Mr. Champney, is married to the Widow Wilson, Harvey's daughter, John Tanno is to be married to Miss Rose, John Mills has taken to himself a wife.

I am obliged to you on my girls account for the fashions. Your letters and mine are quite on different subjects: yours are the right and pleasing side, mine the dark and gloomy. However such as it is I hope you will receive it among the many I have sent. Mr. B. has been extreme ill but is now better, he and my girls join me in compliments to yourself and whole family.

Yours sincerely, H. B.

Dear Miss,

After I had sealed my letter, I opened it to mention what Mr. B. had desired me to do, and which I had forgot; he desires his compliments to your papa, and acquaints him he had wrote to him by Mr. Ruffel, and would have wrote now, but hopes he will excuse him, as he is obliged to attend the Board of Police that has not met for some time past, and what little time he has to spare has been employed in writing public letters. He feels much pain at times from his disorder, now especially after sitting long at writing.

Mr. Irvin has been exceeding ill but is now better. It is just reported that Col. Brown of Yorkshire is taken by the American militia; he was going to Savannah in a gun-boat inland with sixty men on board.

Miss Wells,
Salisbury-Court, Fleet street.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1.
Head-Quarters, Continental Village, Nov. 17.
S I R,

ON the morning of the 13th inst. Lieut. De Forest of the Connecticut line, who had been detached by Major-General Parsons, with 25 regular troops, and Capt. Lockwood of the militia, with 15 volunteers, including Lieuts. Hull and Meade of the Connecticut State troops, formed a design of boarding a sloop of 10 carriage guns, then at anchor in East-Chester bay; and having taken a small sloop of about 30 tons in East-Chester creek, they embarked and fell down the creek to the bay. Upon being hailed by the sloop, they answered, that "the rebel boats were down and they had pushed out of the creek to anchor under their protection." With this deception they laid her on board, but found themselves disappointed in the strength of the vessel, her nettings being about twelve feet above the gunwale. Here the assailants prevailed after four minutes conflict with bayonets and lances only; they cut the nettings so as to admit one man to enter: Lieut. Meade boarded (and received a wound, supposed to be mortal) he was followed by the rest, who, in a short time carried the vessel. She had 25 men on board; at the same time a part of the detachment made after the wood fleet, six of whom were taken. The vessels were brought to Stamford. About forty prisoners were taken, twenty-five of whom are soldiers. We had none killed: Lieut. Meade and three men wounded, the former dangerously. The enemy had none killed; the Captain of the armed sloop and four men were badly wounded. This enterprize was conducted with much address and great gallantry. I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

W. HEATH.

His Excellency
the President of Congress.
Published by order of Congress.
CHARLES THOMPSON.

Yesterday the Speaker, accompanied by several Members of the House of Assembly, waited upon his Excellency General Washington, and presented the following ADDRESS.

To his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States of America.

S I R,

THE representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met, with to express their sincere joy on your Excellency's arrival in this city.

The very great events that have lately taken place in Virginia, under your command, have fully justified the expectations, formed by your country, of your abilities and patriotism; to add to her esteem for you was impossible.

Humbly depending on the protection of Providence, we entertain the strongest hopes, that your distinguished qualities—the wife and generous exertions of our illustrious ally—the glorious behaviour of his forces, and the gallantry and good conduct of the American armies, will bring the present contest to such a conclusion, as will establish the freedom, independence, and prosperity of the United States, on a permanent foundation.

That, amidst the public happiness, to which you have so essentially contributed, and the grateful praises and affections which you have so well deserved, you may enjoy every private felicity, is one of the first and warmest wishes of our hearts.

(Copy) Signed by order of the House,
FREDERICK A. MÜHLENBERG, Speaker.
To which his Excellency was pleased to return the following ANSWER.

Gentlemen,

I ESTEEM myself highly honoured by the Address of so respectable a body as the Representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general assembly met. While I confess that it is extremely pleasing to me, to know that my conduct, in the late successful enterprise against the enemy in Virginia, meets the approbation of my fellow citizens: I think it a duty incumbent upon me to declare, that great part of the merit of that important event was owing to the assistance I derived from the good conduct and bravery of the officers and men under my command.

The powerful discourses which we received from the land and sea forces of our great, good and generous ally, ought to, and I am sure does, make the most grateful impression upon the heart of every true American.

In return for your warm expressions of personal regard, permit me most sincerely to assure you, that I wish nothing more ardently, than the peace and prosperity of the State which you represent.

With all possible respect,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. WASHINGTON.

The honorable the Speaker and Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met. (Copy.)

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS
Assembled, October 29, 1781.

Resolved,

THAT the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, for the eminent services which he has rendered to the United States, and particularly for the well concerted plan against the British garrisons in York and Gloucester, for the vigor, attention and military skill with which that plan was executed, and for the wisdom and prudence manifested in the capitulation.

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his Excellency the Count de Rochambeau, for the cordiality, zeal, judgment and fortitude, with which he seconded and advanced the progress of the allied army against the British garrison in York.

That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled be presented to his Excellency Count de Grasse, for his display of skill and bravery, in attacking and defeating the British fleet off the bay of Chesapeake, and for his zeal and gallantry in rendering, with the fleet under his command, the most effectual and distinguished aid and support to the operations of the allied army in Virginia.

That the thanks of the United States in Con-

gress assembled, be presented to the commanding and other officers of the corps of artillery and engineers of the allied army, who sustained extraordinary fatigue and danger in their animated and gallant approaches to the lines of the enemy.

That General Washington be directed to communicate to the other officers and the soldiers under his command, the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, for their conduct and valour on this occasion.

Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States, and his Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to his Excellency General Washington, commander in chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his Excellency Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his Most Christian Majesty in America, and his Excellency Count de Grasse, commanding in chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeake.

Resolved, That two standards of the colour taken from the British army, under the capitulation of York, be presented to his Excellency General Washington, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That two pieces of field ordnance, taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented, by the commander in chief of the American army, to Count de Rochambeau; and there be engraved thereon a short memorandum, that Congress were induced to present them from considerations of the illustrious part which he bore in effectuating the surrender.

Resolved, That the Secretary of Foreign Affairs be directed to request the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Most Christian Majesty, to inform his Majesty, that it is the wish of Congress, that Count de Grasse may be permitted to accept a testimony of their approbation, similar to that to be presented to Count de Rochambeau.

Resolved, That the Board of War be directed to present to Lieut. Col. Tiplin, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled, a horic, properly caparisoned, and an elegant sword, in testimony of their high opinion of his merit and ability.

November 7.

Resolved, That the Secretary of Foreign Affairs be directed to prepare a sketch of emblems of the alliance between his Most Christian Majesty and the United States, proper to be inscribed on the marble column to be erected in the town of York, under the resolution of the 29th day of October last.

Resolved, That an elegant sword be presented, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled, to Col. Humphry, Aid de Camp of General Washington, to whose care the standards taken under the capitulation of York, were consigned; as a testimony of their opinion of his fidelity and ability; and that the Board of War take order thereon.

Extract from the Minutes,
CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

IN pursuance of the request of the proprietors of Fifteen Acres in the township of FAIRFIELD, in the State of New-Hampshire, I do hereby notify and warn a meeting of the proprietors of said township, to be holden at the house of Elizabeth Alden, innholder, in Lebanon county of Windham and State of Connecticut, on the second Tuesday of January next, at one o'clock, afternoon, then and there to take such measures as shall be judged necessary to promote the further settlement of said township; and so cause to be done and performed the duties required by the charter and grant thereof:—To choose proper agents or committees to carry into execution what shall be agreed on for the purposes aforesaid, and to instruct them accordingly:—To assess and raise such monies on each right, and make such grants as shall be necessary; and to transact any business, and come into any regulations relating to the premises, which shall be proper and reasonable. The proprietors are requested to take notice thereof, or they may have reason to regret their neglect.

THOS WILLIAMS, Prop. clerk.

Lebanon, Dec. 3, 1781.

WHERE the Soldiers being appointed Commissioners, by the Hon. court of Probate, for the district of Hartford, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors of the Estate of Roswell Hodges, late of East-Windsor, deceased, represented insolvent, do hereby give notice that we shall attend said business, at the late dwelling house of the deceased, in said East-Windsor, on the first Tuesday in January, February and March next, from one o'clock in the afternoon until six on each of said days.

JOSEPH ALLEN,)
JOSEPH STOURGTON,)
December 4, 1781.)

49)

Richard Henry Lee, Who Made the Motion in Congress to Declare Independence From Britain and Signed It, Fears the Superior Arms Sent to Yorktown Campaign Have Left the Virginia Homefront Open to British Pirates and Marauders

"These comprehended the arms supplied by order of Gen. [George] Weedon, which being of a better kind than those formerly furnished to us, were all delivered to the detachment that went to Gloucester... not one of which returned"

He wrote the Commissioner of the Virginia War Office about the shortage of arms, and his strategy for distributing them: "The return of our number of Militia will show you that this last supply amounts not to a full arming of our men... We have however placed them in the hands of the people most contiguous to the water, that they may be readily employed against the piratical attacks."

"The pirates who infest our river are without that weapon, which would give us a decisive advantage over them in case of action"

A very uncommon letter of Lee, our first in 15 years

Richard Henry Lee was a key political figure during the American Revolution. It was Lee who, at the Second Continental Congress in 1776, made the motion to declare independence from Britain. He was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence, alongside fellow Virginian Thomas Jefferson. Lee had served as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. He then represented Virginia at two Continental Congresses (1774–1779, 1784–1787) and served as president of Congress in 1784. From 1780 to 1782, Lee paused his national congressional service to focus on Virginia's internal political matters, defense, and post-war recovery as a member of the state's House of Delegates. In the 1782 session, he actively guided legislative processes, and served as Chairman of the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

In 1782, Lee corresponded with Virginia Governor Benjamin Harrison and Colonel William Davies, Commissioner of the Virginia War Office, regarding military supplies. Davies, tasked with supply procurement and managing troop levies, regularly wrote to Lee regarding reorganizing regiments, supply shortages, and the desperate need for troops, arms, and hard currency in the state. Davies had informed Lee that he ordered Mr. Dick of Fredericksburg to supply the county with 100 stand of arms, a figure Lee lamented as being short of their defense needs. As Cornwallis had already surrendered, British naval and privateer activity along the Chesapeake and its tributaries remained a real threat.

General Weedon served in the Continental Army, and was with George Washington at Trenton and Valley Forge. He then went on to lead the Virginia militia, and was present at Yorktown. Charles Dick was a key figure in the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory, which played a role in arming Virginia's troops, but was having financial problems because of depreciation of the currency and closed in 1783.

Gloucester Point, directly across the York River from Yorktown, was where British General Tarleton's cavalry and a British garrison were stationed. American and French forces under General de Choisy (with Weedon commanding the Virginia militia component) besieged and contained that force while Washington and Rochambeau pressed Cornwallis at Yorktown itself. The Northern Neck militia, from Lee's region, called up by Weedon and positioned in Gloucester, returned home as participants in the decisive victory of the Revolution, but without many of their best arms.

Autograph letter signed, Richard Henry Lee, Chantilly, VA, August 5, 1782, to Colonel Davies in Richmond, expressing Lee's concern about the inadequate supply of arms. *"I was honored with your favor of July the 14th by express, at a public meeting from home, where time and other circumstances prevented me from answering by that opportunity. Previous to the receipt of your letter, and therefore before I knew that fixed ammunition was lodged at Fredericksburg for the militia of this county, we had dispatched a Wagon to that place for the Arms that you had been pleased to inform me an order was lodged for.*

"Mr. Dicke sent us one hundred muskets which arrived safe, but without bayonets, which latter circumstance I lament the rather because the pirates who infest our river are without that weapon, which would give us a decisive advantage over them in case of action. The Arms formerly sent to this county were put into the hands of the militiamen (and receipts taken for them) as will appear by the returns of the Captains made to me Sept. 4th 1781, which then amounted collectively to 259 Muskets fit for use, and 51 unfit. These comprehended the arms supplied by order of Gen. [George] Weedon, which being of a better kind than those formerly furnished to us, were all delivered to the detachment that went to Gloucester. From the best return that I can procure

One hundred & Sixty stands of Arms went with that detachment, not one of which returned. The return of our number of Militia will show you that this last supply amounts not to a full arming of our men even with Muskets. We have however placed them in the hands of the people most contiguous to the water, that they may be readily employed against the piratical attacks. I am, with much esteem, Sir your obliged and obedient Servant, Richard Henry Lee."

An important letter.

Lee went on to serve in the United States Senate.

Sir,
 Chantilly August 5th 1782

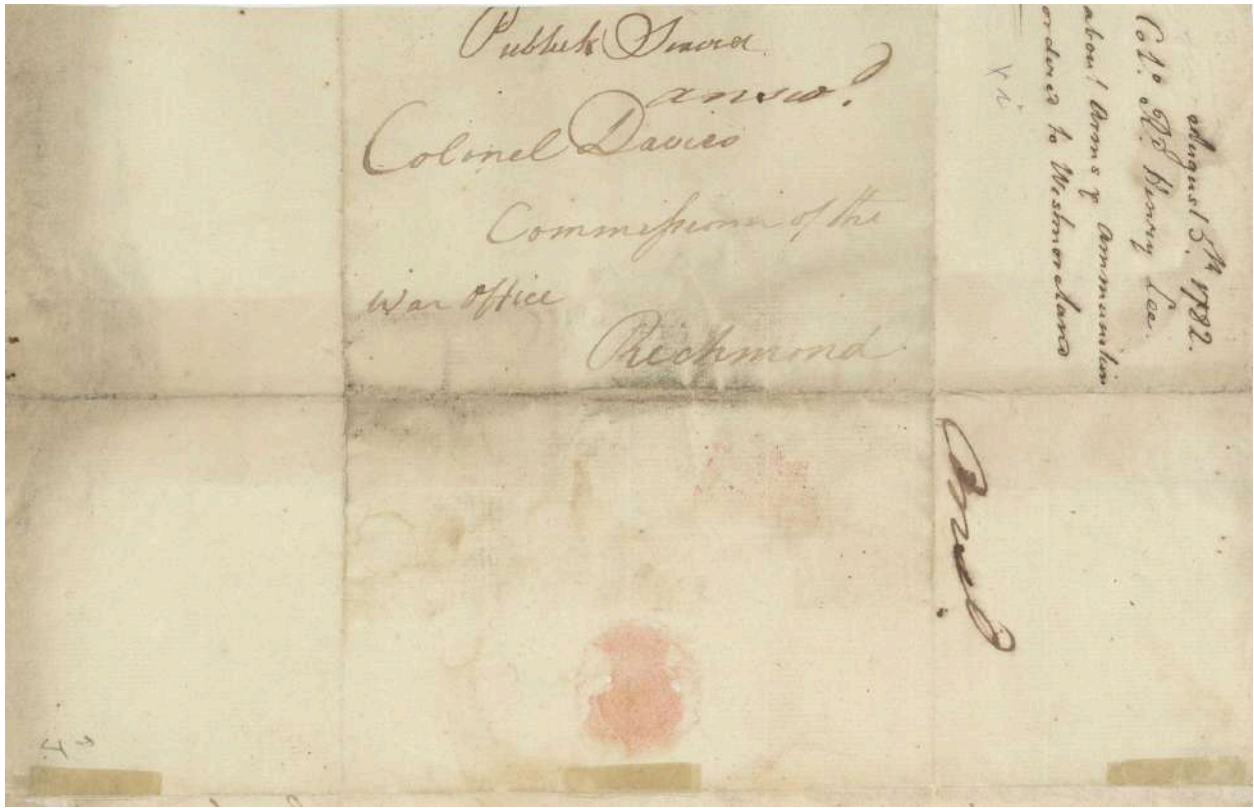
I was honored with your favor of July
 the 14th by express, at a public meeting from home, when
 time and other circumstances prevented me from
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 of your letter, and therefore before Johnson that fixed
 ammunition was lodged at Fredricksburg for the
 militia of this county, we had dispatched a Waggon
 to that place for the Arms that you had been pleased
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 sent us one hundred muskets which arrived safe,
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 lectively to 250 Muskets fit for use, and 51 unfit.

These

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I am, with much esteem, Sir your
Obliged and Obedient servant

Richard Henry Lee



These are the same soldiers by order of the
General who have been ordered to the detachment
to be sent to the west - from the fact that you
have two hundred thirty three of them with
that detachment and one of which is returned - The
return of our number of Troops will show you that this last
supply amounts not to a full company of our men even with
the others - We have however placed them on the hands of the
people most contiguous to the coast, that they may be
ably employed against the piratical attacks.
I am, with much esteem, Sir your
and most Obedient Servant
Richard Henry Lee

Secretary of War Benjamin Lincoln Helps Outfit America's Largest Warship with Hessian POWs

The controversial vessel would be captured just 2 months later

Benjamin Lincoln served as a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Lincoln was involved in three major surrenders during the war: his participation in the Battles of Saratoga contributed to the surrender of a British army under John Burgoyne, he oversaw the largest American surrender of the war at the 1780 siege of Charleston, and, as George Washington's second in command, he formally accepted the British surrender at Yorktown. Lincoln served from 1781 to 1783 as the first United States secretary of war.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, South Carolina's patriot leaders grew increasingly concerned about vulnerability to naval attack. In response, local officials established a state navy, the centerpiece of which was the frigate *South Carolina* — the largest warship under American command during the entire conflict. An imposing vessel, she stretched 168 feet in length and 47 feet across, was armed with forty guns, and required a crew of 550 men.

To acquire such a formidable ship, the state dispatched Commodore Alexander Gillon to Europe in 1778. Gillon was well suited for the mission: a prosperous merchant by trade, he was fluent in both French and Dutch, had spent considerable time at sea, and had forged strong ties to Charleston's most influential families through marriage.

Available warships were hard to come by, but Gillon learned of a nearly finished French frigate — *L'Indien* — sitting in Amsterdam. Leveraging his personal contacts, he negotiated a three-year lease on the vessel in 1780, though the ship did not set sail until August 1781. When the *South Carolina* finally reached Charleston in December, she found the city firmly in British hands. Gillon redirected the ship to Havana, where Spanish authorities provided badly needed supplies. In gratitude, he joined the captain-general of Havana in a successful assault on New Providence in the Bahamas in May 1782. Following a falling-out among allies over the captured spoils, the frigate sailed north to Philadelphia, where she underwent refitting through the autumn of 1782. She departed on her second cruise in December — only to be seized by three British warships at the mouth of the Delaware River.

Reading was the site of a major Hessian POW camp.

Autograph letter signed, War Office, October 8, 1782, to "*Officer commanding the guard at Reading.*"

"The bearer is an Officer belonging to the Frigate South Carolina; he comes authorized to engage [crossed out] fifty German prisoners to serve on board that frigate for a term not exceeding three years, for which the same sum is to be paid as for those who serve in the country. You will please to give the Officer all the countenance and assistance he may need."

An uncommon letter, just our second in all these years. Silked.

Ward Office Oct. 8 1782

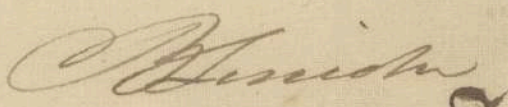
Sir

The bearer is an Officer belonging
 to the Frigate South Carolina he comes
 authorized to engage ~~some~~ fifty
 German prisoners to serve on board
 that frigate for a term not exceeding
 three years for which the same sum
 is to be paid as for those who serve in
 the country. — You will please
 to give the Officer all the countenance
 and assistance he may need.

I am Sir your humble
servant

Officer command
 the guard at leading

N. B


 The money is to be paid

51)

Washington and Lafayette: General Washington, Awaiting News of Definitive Peace in 1783, Recommends a Traveler to Governor Clinton of New York on the Urging of the Marquis de Lafayette

Lafayette's unique relationship with George Washington was vital to America's victory in the American Revolution

Letters of Washington mentioning Lafayette by name are uncommon; this one last sold in 1954

From the Marquis's influential letters urging France to join the Patriots' cause to his personal support and his gifts as a battlefield leader, Lafayette was a crucial part of Washington's accomplishments. Washington saw in Lafayette the son he never had, and Lafayette found in Washington the father he never knew. The importance of his touching relationship to Lafayette is demonstrated by a warm story of an incident that occurred the night after the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. General Nathanael Greene went looking for Washington, and he found the commander in chief asleep on his cloak spread on the ground. Lafayette lay curled up beside him, also asleep on the general's cloak.

In time Lafayette would gift to Washington the keys to the Bastille, taken at the start of the French Revolution and now hanging at Mount Vernon.

While General Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown on October 17, 1781 was decisive, it did not end the Revolutionary War. The British government had to receive word of the surrender and accept the meaning of the result, which took a number of months. By early 1782 the British Army began withdrawing some troops from America, and Loyalists started fleeing to Canada. Peace talks in Paris began in April between Richard Oswald representing Great Britain and the American Peace Commissioners Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and John Adams. Negotiations were far along when the last battle of the Revolution was fought on November 10. The American negotiators were joined by Henry Laurens just after that, and the preliminary articles of peace were agreed upon and signed on November 30, 1782. They recognized American independence and established borders for the new nation.

On February 4, 1783, Great Britain announced a cessation of hostilities. When word of the fact crossed the Atlantic, the Continental Congress followed suit on April 11; this ended the fighting from the American point of view. At the end of May Congress passed a resolution to furlough the Continental Army, and with men already leaving, on June 13 Washington gave the military order for the Continental Army to be furloughed. As “A Brief History of the Continental Army” states, the bulk of the army “simply faded away during the first half of June.” It continues, “In mid-November after the receipt of unquestionable confirmation of the final treaty with Great Britain being signed, these [remaining] men were discharged.”

The American Revolution officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783, and on November 1 the Pennsylvania Packet newspaper reported the recent arrival of the exciting news that the “definitive treaty” had been signed. Anticipating this, on October 18, Congress proclaimed the discharge (rather than just furlough) of men enlisted for the war, and to permit officers on furlough to retire from service.

Count Tomasz Kajetan Węgierski was a Polish poet and traveler making a grand tour of America. Anne-César de La Luzerne, known as the Chevalier de La Luzerne, served as French Minister to the United States from 1779 to 1784, succeeding Conrad Alexandre Gérard de Rayneval.

Letter signed, Rocky Hill, October 8, 1783, just days before the discharge order, to Governor George Clinton of New York.

"Dear Sir, I have been extremely anxious to hear from you since your late illness from which I hope this will find you completely recovered. Count Wengiersky, a Polish Gentleman on his travels, will have the honor to deliver this to your excellency. He comes recommended to me by the Marquis de Lafayette and by the Minister of France, and he proposes making a tour to the Northward. I take the liberty to request the favor of your civilities to him should he pass your way.

Mr. Vernon, an English Gentleman lately arrived, accompanies the Count in this tour and will I doubt not say share in the Civilities paid him."

Letters of Washington mentioning Lafayette are very uncommon.

Dear Sir
 Rocky hill ^H 8 October 1783

I have been extremely anxious
 to hear from ^{you} since your late illness from
 which I hope this will find you perfect-
 ly recovered

Count Wengiersky, a Polish
 Gentleman on his travels will have the
 honor to deliver this to your Excellency,
 he comes recommended to me by the
 Marquis de la Fayette and by the Minister
 of France and as he proposes making
 a tour to the Northward I take the
 liberty to request the favor of your
 civilities to him should he pass
 your way

M. Vernon, an English
 Gentleman lately arrived accompanies
 the
 His Excellency Governor Clinton

The Court in this town and will I
doubt not have in the attention
paid him -

With the greatest regard

I have the honor to be

Dr Sir

Your Obedient

Prof: Obed: Lumble

Sevast

G. Washington

52)

**Lafayette Writes to Signer of the Declaration Of Independence Elbridge Gerry,
Bidding Farewell to Him, the Country, and the State After His Triumphal
Return Tour of 1784**

**He wishes good prospects to the new nation and to Gerry: "Best wishes for your
Continental, State, and private welfare"**

The letter bears the docket of Gerry himself

In 1784, the Marquis de Lafayette returned to the United States for the first time since the Revolutionary War, visiting old comrades, meeting with leaders like George Washington and James Madison, and solidifying French-American ties. He also received honorary citizenship from Congress and several states, and participated in various negotiations, solidifying his legendary status as a hero of liberty who helped birth the new nation.

Lafayette arrived in New York on August 4, 1784, and shortly went to Mount Vernon to spend time with Washington, arriving on August 17. There he was received with great affection by Washington and his wife Martha, and the momentous event marked the first time Washington and Lafayette could enjoy each other's company without the immense pressures of war. Lafayette wrote his wife about his visit to Mount Vernon on August 20.

Lafayette had stopped in Baltimore while he was traveling north to negotiate with the Iroquois in New York state, and after meeting Madison, invited Madison to join him, which Madison did. Thus began a decades-long friendship and correspondence that continued through Lafayette's 1824-25 Farewell Tour, when he visited Madison at Montpelier. On September 29, 1784, Lafayette and Madison arrived at Fort Stanwix in New York to be involved in the negotiation of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix. There, Lafayette played a significant, though unofficial, role, arriving as a respected figure to influence negotiations between the newly formed U.S. and the Iroquois Confederacy. He advocated equitable treatment for the Iroquois, and a less punitive treaty than the U.S. commissioners intended. The resulting treaty forced major land cessions from

the Iroquois, but established Lafayette as a Native American advocate. Madison observed and reported on the negotiations, describing them as contentious in a letter to Thomas Jefferson.

Lafayette then went via Albany to Boston, and in early October stayed several days there. In Boston, he was warmly welcomed with processions, and lodged with John Adams, while also being honored by Harvard. Madison did not accompany him on this leg of the trip and headed South. Lafayette then departed from Boston in early November by frigate to meet George Washington in Virginia. They reunited in Richmond, and Lafayette accompanied Washington from Richmond for a second visit to Mount Vernon. In December, Lafayette visited Trenton, then the temporary U.S. capital, to bid farewell to the Congress. At that time Congress granted him honorary American citizenship, with states like Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts following suit. Lafayette sailed back to France aboard the frigate *La Nymphé* on December 24, 1784.

Among the delegates for the MA delegation was Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Elbridge Gerry.

Autograph letter signed, New York, December 19, 1784, in English, to Elbridge Gerry of the MA delegation to the Continental Congress, with Gerry's docket on the back.

"Dear Sir, Before I embark for Europe, give me once more to present my Respects to you, and your Colleagues in the Delegation — it is a Circumstance truly distressing to me that I cannot this time pay a second visit to my friends in Boston.

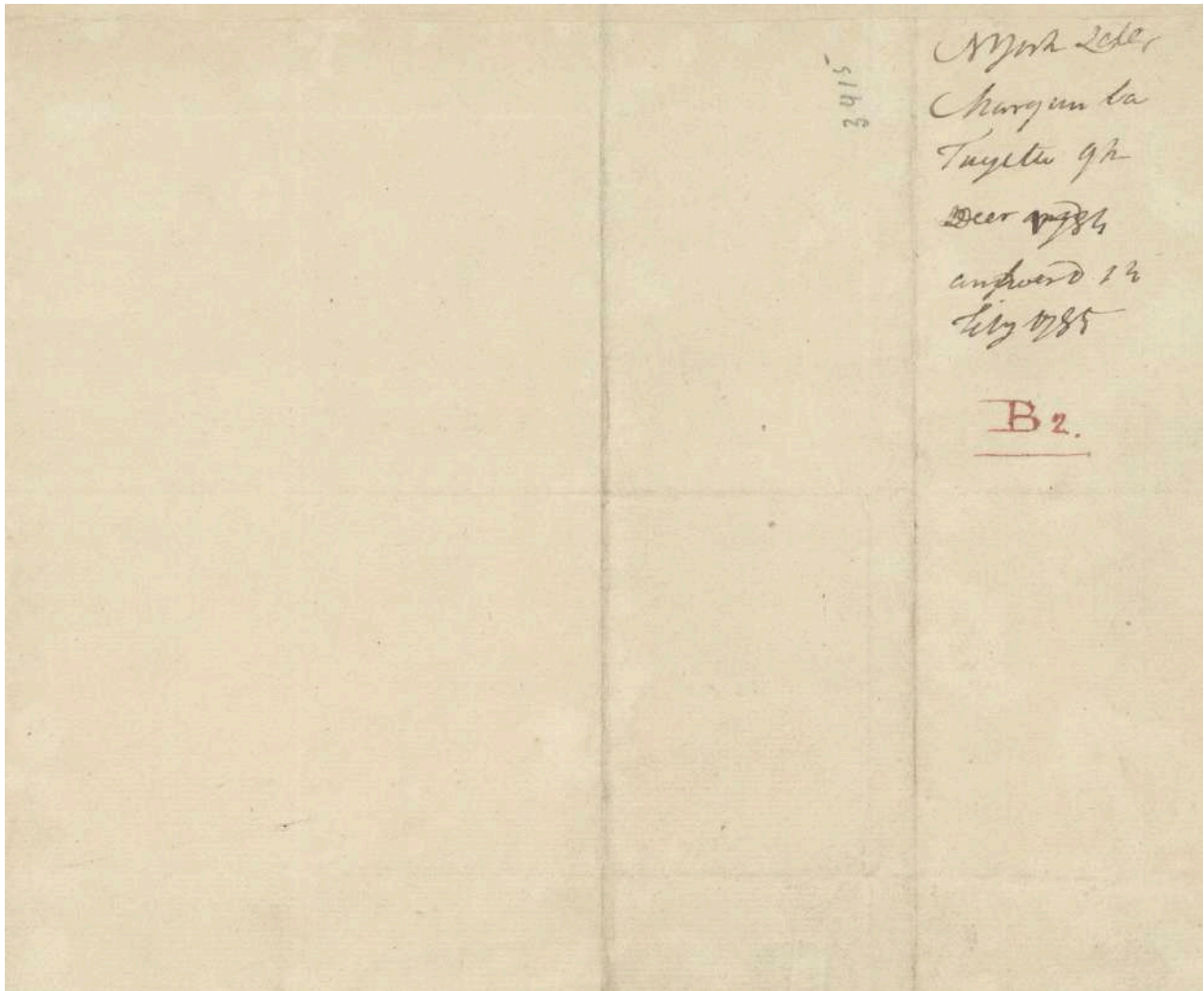
"The pleasure of hearing from you will be received with gratitude, and with my best wishes for your Continental, State, and private welfare I have the Honor to be very respectfully and affectionately."

New York December the 14th 1784

Dear Sir

Before I embark for Europe, give me ^{once} more to present my respects
 to You, and your Allegues in the Delegation - it is a Circumstance only dictating
 to me that I cannot this time pay a second visit to my friends in Boston -
 the pleasure of Hearing from You will be received with gratitude, and with
 my best wishes for your Continental, State, and private Wellfare I have
 the Honour to be very respectfully and affectionately
 Yours
 Wm. Lafayette

To Wm. Lloyd Garrison



3415

Mrs. Leger
Chargun la
Tuyette qh
Deer 1784
answered 12
July 1785

B2.

53)

Brigadier General Lachlan McIntosh, Who Killed Button Gwinnett in a Duel, Receives His Pay for Negotiating the Boundary Between Georgia and South Carolina at the Treaty of Beaufort

McIntosh served throughout most of the war, including at the Valley Forge winter encampment

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

By 1770, Lachlan McIntosh had become a leader in the resistance movement in Georgia. In January 1775 he helped organize delegates to the Provincial Congress from the Darien District of St. Andrew Parish. On January 7, 1776, McIntosh was commissioned as a colonel in the Georgia Militia. He raised the 1st Georgia Regiment of the Georgia Line, organized the defense of Savannah, and helped repel a British assault at the Battle of the Rice Boats in the Savannah River. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Continental Army, charged with defense of Georgia's southern flank from British incursions from Florida, by then a British possession. On October 22, 1776, McIntosh ordered his brother William to construct a fort on the Satilla River to protect Georgia from Florida. The fort was the first to be named Fort McIntosh.

McIntosh then engaged in the duel that killed Signer of the Declaration of Independence Button Gwinnett. After the Gwinnett duel fallout, Washington sent McIntosh to Valley Forge, where he commanded North Carolina troops through the brutal winter of 1777–78.

He was then given command of the entire Western frontier, based at Fort Pitt. He built several forts — including Fort Laurens and Fort McIntosh — and planned an ambitious attack on British-held Fort Detroit, but the expedition failed before reaching its target. He was replaced as western commander in early 1779.

Washington then sent him south, where he fought at the Siege of Savannah. After that defeat he fell back to Charleston, which fell to the British in May 1780. McIntosh was taken prisoner and spent nearly two years in captivity before being exchanged in 1782 — just in time for the war to end in 1783.

On June 9, 1732, King George II chartered the Colony of Georgia setting the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina as "the most northern part of a stream or river there, commonly called the Savannah." The precise location of segments of the boundary, however, proved to be a matter of continuing dispute between South Carolina and Georgia. Much of the controversy originally concerned navigation rights on the river. The colonies squabbled – and when the colonies became states they squabbled -- about the precise boundary.

Three commissioners from each state met in Beaufort on April 28, 1787 "to establish and permanently fix a Boundary between the two states." Charles Pinckney, Andrew Pickens, and Pierce Butler represented South Carolina, while John Houstoun, James Habersham, and Lachlan McIntosh represented Georgia. This according to the South Carolina Encyclopedia. The result was the Treaty of Beaufort, and it was ratified with the following provisions: the Savannah River served as the common boundary with navigation equally free to citizens of both states; the area between the Tugaloo and Keowee Rivers was guaranteed to South Carolina; and all islands in the Savannah River belonged to Georgia.

Autograph document signed, Lachlan McIntosh, Georgia, September 6, 1787.

"The State of Georgia To Lachlan McIntosh Dr.

"To my attendance twice in Savannah, and once to Beaufort in Carolina on the business of Settling the boundary of the two States. Specie.

"26 days at 4 Dollars p[er] Day - - - - £,24.5.4

"Received the sum of Sixteen pounds fifteen shillings and four pence half penny Specie (or Sixty seven pounds one shilling and six pence paper Currency which was exchanged at four for one, being the current rate) in part of the above account.

"£,16.15.4½"

The border continued to be a source of controversy until the Supreme Court weighed in during the 20th century. Affixed at the edges to a sheet.

The State of Georgie To Lachⁿ. M. Fortash D^r.
 To my attendanc twice in Savannah, and
 once to Beaufort in Carolina on the business
 of settling the boundary of the two States specie
 26. days at 4 Dollars of Day ----- £ 24. 5. 4
 Received the sum of sixteen pounds fifteen shilling and
 four pence half penny specie (or sixty seven pounds one
 shilling and six pence paper currency which was exchanged
 at four for one, being the current rate) in part of the
 above account. September 6, 1787. — Lachⁿ. M. Fortash
~~£ 16. 15. 4~~
 24. 5. 4
 16. 15. 4
 7. 9. 0

54)

Major General Philemon Dickinson Writes to Baron von Steuben Urging the Prompt Settlement of the Accounts of Diplomat Thomas Barclay, Returned from Negotiating a Treaty with the Sultan of Morocco

The agent conducting the audit was a former aide of Steuben during the war

"The public accts of Thomas Barclay Esq are committed to Col. Walker to report on. This circumstance affords him the utmost satisfaction"

Letters of Dickinson are uncommon

Working with minister Benjamin Franklin during the last years of the war, most of Barclay's time was spent in Dutch and French ports arranging the shipment of blankets, clothing and other supplies for General George Washington's troops. A year after his arrival, the Continental Congress also appointed him commissioner to settle America's public accounts in Europe since 1776. At about the same time he agreed to be the agent in Europe for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In August 1784 Thomas Barclay welcomed to Paris John Adams, with whom he had worked in Holland, and Thomas Jefferson. They had been sent to negotiate treaties of friendship and commerce with the maritime states of Europe and the Barbary powers of Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Libya in North Africa. Jefferson succeeded Franklin as minister to France in late spring of 1785, and from that time on Barclay worked closely with him on trade and other matters.

In the fall of 1785 Jefferson proposed sending Thomas Barclay to negotiate a treaty of friendship and commerce with the sultan of Morocco, Sidi Muhammad ibn Abdullah, also known as Muhammad III. Thomas Barclay arrived in the Moroccan capital of Marrakesh in June 1786, after five months of overland travel and a sea voyage from Cádiz to the Moroccan port of Mogador. After two audiences with the sultan, the draft treaty he had brought from Paris was accepted with only minor changes. When the question of

future presents or tribute was informally raised he made it clear that there could be no question of either, or he would have to leave without a treaty. The matter was dropped and Barclay obtained for America a rare treaty with a North African power without promise of tribute — large annual payments and/or delivery of military or other goods of value.

On July 22, The Commissioners of the Treasury wrote to Jefferson, "We have the honor of transmitting to you enclosed, a certified Act of Congress of the 18th. Inst., relative to the papers belonging to the late Office of the Commissioner of Foreign Accounts... Amongst the papers belonging to Mr. Barclay's Office, we consider all such as may have been delivered to him by Dr. Franklin, or any of the servants of the United States in Europe, although they may not relate to accounts actually settled by Mr. Barclay."

A native of London, Benjamin Walker had immigrated to America before the American Revolution and settled in New York City. During the war he had served as aide-de-camp to Baron von Steuben. In 1786 he was appointed commissioner to settle the accounts of the hospital, marine, and clothing departments, and in following years he served as naval officer of New York and as a director of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures.

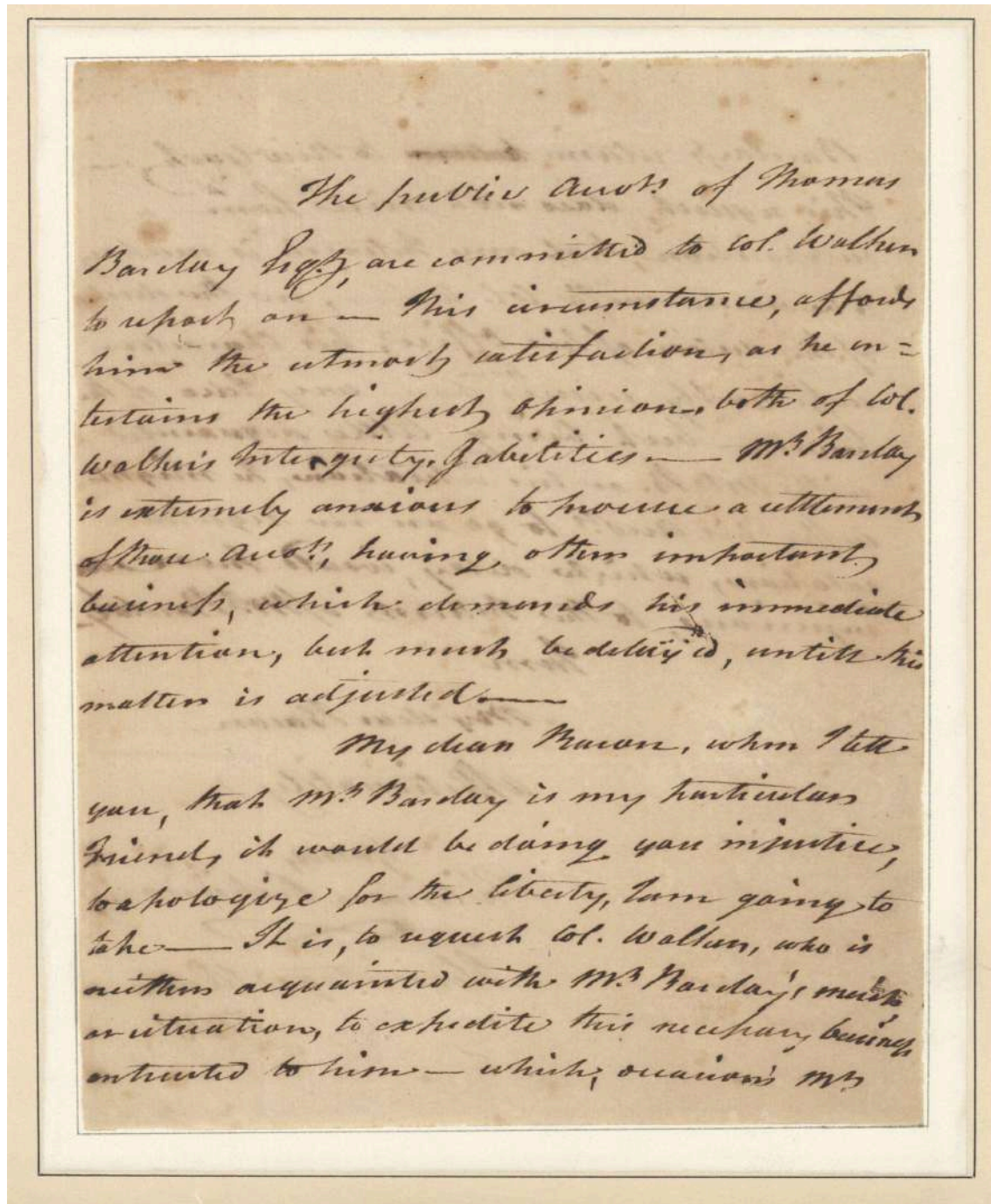
During the Revolutionary War, Philemon Dickinson rose to the rank of Major General commanding the New Jersey militia, playing a notable role at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778 and working in close coordination with Washington throughout the conflict. His military reputation and political connections made him one of the most trusted figures in the state.

Autograph letter signed, Hermitage, October 1, 1788, to Baron von Steuben. "The public accts of Thomas Barclay Esq are committed to Col. Walker to report on. This circumstance affords him the utmost satisfaction, as he entertains the highest opinions both of Col. Walker's integrity & abilities. Mr. Barclay is extremely anxious to procure a settlement of these accts, having other important business, which demands his immediate attention, but must be delay'd, until the matter is adjusted.

"My dear Baron, when I tell you, that Mr. Barclay is my particular friend, it would be doing you injustice, to apologize for the liberty I am going to take. It is, to request Col. Walker, who is neither acquainted with Mr. Barclay's merits or situation, to expedite this necessary business entrusted to him. Which occasions Mr. Barclay's return to New York. This request, does not come from a supposition, that any Interest is necessary to be made with Col. Walker, in the discharge of the duties of his Office; his character sufficiently secures him from every Idea of that kind. But being little acquainted with Mr. B. or his situation, he

might suffer his acts to go on in regular rotation, which delay, would prove as injurious, to the Interests of Mr. Barclay."

Mounted in a light sheet at the edges.



Barclay's return ~~to~~ to New York. —
 This request, does not arise from a
 suspicion, that any Interest is necessary
 to be made with Col. Walker, in the discharge
 of the duties of his Office; his Character
 sufficiently ^{him} recommends him every Idea of the
 kind — but being little acquainted
 with Mr. B. or his situation, he might
 suffer his Acc^{ts} to go on in regular
 rotation, which delay, would prove
 injurious, to the Interests of Mr. Barclay
 I am

My dear Baron

Affectionately

Yours,
Philonis Dickinson

Hermitage 1 October

1788

Baron Heubner.

55)

Oliver Wolcott, Jr. Announces the Death of John Wyllys During the Harmar Defeat at the Hands of the Native Americans

He incorrectly hears that the mission goes well nonetheless: "Accounts have been rec'd that though General Harmar has succeeded in effecting the objects of his expedition, he has lost about one hundred and eighty men and that our excellent friend Maj. Wyllys is among the slain."

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

In 1790 Oliver Wolcott Jr. was Auditor but would later serve as Secretary of the Treasury under President George Washington.

In the autumn of 1790, General Josiah Harmar led a U.S. Army expedition into the Northwest Territory to subdue a confederation of Native American nations. The campaign culminated in a series of battles between October 19–22 near the Miami village of Kekionga, where the Native Americans won decisively. The whole episode is remembered as Harmar's Defeat and stands as a significant early chapter in the broader Northwest Indian War.

General Harmar had gathered 320 regulars of the First American Regiment, organized into two battalions commanded by Major John Doughty and Major John Wyllys, and 1,133 militia from Kentucky and Pennsylvania, for a total of 1,453 men.

After a series of defeats, he organized another group led by Wyllys to stop the slide. Major Wyllys's attack fell apart through a combination of ambush and poor coordination. His force was caught off guard crossing a river when hidden warriors suddenly emerged on the opposite bank. A cavalry charge into the woods was immediately repulsed and Fontaine was killed, leaving his men leaderless. As Wyllys tried to regroup, the Native warriors used a classic tactic — firing and falling back — which lured the militia under McMullan to chase them northward, leaving Wyllys and his regulars completely isolated. Wyllys was killed.

James Watson was a close friend of Wolcott and served in the Revolution. He also served in the New York State Assembly, was Speaker in 1794, then served in the New York State Senate, and was eventually elected as a Federalist to the U.S. Senate in 1798, before resigning to become Naval Officer of the Port of New York under President John Adams.

Autograph letter signed, Philadelphia, December 14, 1790, to James Watson. Watson was a New York merchant and Federalist politician who served in the New York State Senate and briefly as a United States Senator from New York. He was later a business associate of Wolcott.

"It is with extreme concern that I inform you that official accounts have been rec'd that though General Harmar has succeeded in effecting the objects of his expedition, he has lost about one hundred and eighty men and that our excellent friend Maj. Wyllys is among the slain.

"I most sincerely mingle my tears of condolence with those of your family for this afflicting event. We enjoy however the consolation that he fell like a brave man in the faithful discharge of his trust and that his memory is respected and his fate lamented by his country.

"Our son has nearly recovered from the small pox. Betsy is well & sends her love to all your family. Mrs. Watson's articles have been sent by Capt. Bayleys vessel from whom you will receive them."

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

Phil^a Dec. 14. 1790

Dear Sir

It is with extreme concern that I inform you that official accounts have been rec^d that though General Harmar has succeeded in effecting the objects of his expeditions. he has lost about one hundred and eighty men and that our excellent friend Maj. Wyllys is among the slain.

I most sincerely mingle my tears of condolence with those of your family for this afflictive event. We enjoy however the consolation that he fell like a brave man in the

faithful discharge of his trust and
that his memory is respected and
his fate lamented by his country.

Our sons has nearly recovered
from the small pox - Betty is well
& sends her love to all your family -
Mrs Watsons articles have been sent
by Capt. Bayles vessel ~~from~~ whom
you will receive them.

I am yours with great
sincerity
Oliver Wolcott

Oliver Wolcott
Letter Dec. 14

1790

Mr. James Watson

56

Governor John Hancock Orders the Payment of Salary of His Commissary General, the Man Who First Alerted Paul Revere that the British Were on the Move

Signed by both patriots

On March 4, 1789, the First U.S. Congress under the U.S. Constitution met in New York. It achieved a quorum on April 1, and on April 30 George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States.

On April 6, 1789, John Hancock was reelected Governor.

Richard Devens was a prominent Massachusetts patriot and civic leader whose public career spanned the colonial, revolutionary, and early national periods. A longtime selectman of Charlestown and frequent representative to the Massachusetts legislature, he became deeply involved in the colonial resistance movement as a member of the Committee of Safety in the tense months leading up to the outbreak of war. On the night of April 18, 1775, it was Devens who first alerted Paul Revere that British troops were on the move — making him an unsung but critical link in the chain of events that launched the Revolution. That same year he was appointed Massachusetts Commissary General, a post he would hold for nearly two decades, overseeing the procurement and distribution of arms, provisions, and supplies for the state's military forces through the Revolutionary War, the post-war years, and the suppression of Shays' Rebellion in 1786–87.

Document signed, Boston, March 11, 1791, signed by Hancock as Governor and endorsed by Devens, ordering to *"pay unto Richard Devens Esq.r Commissary General the Sum of Thirty Seven pounds ten shillings in full for one quarters salary."*

COMMONWEALTH }
OF }
MASSACHUSETTS. }

By his Excellency the
GOVERNOUR.

YOU are by and with the Advice and Consent
of COUNCIL, ordered and directed to pay unto

Richard Devereux Esq. Commissary General

the Sum of *Thirty seven pounds ten shillings in*
full for one quarters salary ending the 1st instant - agreeable
to establishment

for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

V GIVEN under my Hand at BOSTON, the *11th*
Day of *March* 1781 in the *15th*
YEAR of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

£ 37. 10
By Order of the GOVERNOUR, with
the Advice and Consent of COUNCIL.

John Hancock
Secretary;

To *Alex. W. Gordon Esq.* Treasurer.

Received in full
 the sum of 37.10.0
 Paid to John Hancock
 By Order of the Governor, with
 the Advice and Consent of Council.
 Year of American Independence. 1791
 Day of March 1791 in the 13
 GIVEN under my Hand at Boston, the 13
 Secretary
 Treasurer

COMMONWEALTH
 OF
 MASSACHUSETTS

YOU are by and with the Advice and Consent
 of Council, ordered and directed to pay unto

Entered Blotter No. 11
 March 20 1791

By his Excellency the Governor
 March 11 1791

Paid to John Hancock
 the sum of 37.10.0

57)

Senator Aaron Burr Announces That the Senate Has Begun Secret Debate on the Jay Treaty

"We have resolved in secrecy. How long it will be thought necessary cannot be said."

A practicing lawyer in New York, John Jay (1745-1829) was an ardent supporter of Independence who served as a delegate to both the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress. His talent for diplomacy secured him an ambassadorship and made him one of America's top foreign diplomats. As of 1789, he was also the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In 1794, President Washington appointed Jay special envoy to Great Britain at a moment when Anglo-American relations had become dangerously unstable. Jay traveled to London in April of that year with instructions to seek compensation for American maritime losses, press Britain to fulfill outstanding obligations, establish clearer protections for neutral trade, and, if possible, secure a broader commercial agreement—all while preserving a tenuous peace.

Making matters worse, Europe was at war. The French Revolution had triggered a series of military conflicts across the continent. The most important for U.S. interests came in February 1793 when France declared war on Britain. The French declaration put President George Washington in a difficult position. The United States had won its independence in good part because of its military alliance with France. But alliances run both ways. The French now expected Americans to return the favor. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson urged Washington to do just that, arguing that fulfilling the alliance obligation was a matter of honor and interest. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton countered that going to war with Britain would be suicide for the young nation. Not only was Britain America's largest trading partner, war would bring British attacks on American shipping, a possible invasion from Canada, and raids across the northwestern frontier by Native American tribes allied with Britain.

Washington sided with Hamilton and opted for neutrality. The decision hardened the emerging dividing line in American politics between Federalists, who favored a stronger national government and reconciliation with

Great Britain, and Republicans, who feared centralized national power and saw the French Revolution as fulfilling the promise of the American experiment.

Jay, who was at the time Chief Justice, spent nearly a year on this task in London. Through many hundreds of official meetings and unofficial visits, Jay brokered the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, now known as the Jay Treaty. It was the first international treaty under the new Constitution. It now went to the Senate.

Fearing public reaction, Washington kept the terms of the treaty secret, while waiting for the Senate to reconvene for a special session in early June. (Congress had adjourned just days before the ship carrying the treaty arrived.) When the Senate debate eventually began, critics first moved to force publication of the treaty's terms. They calculated—for the same reasons Washington had—that making the terms public would derail Jay's handiwork. After that move was defeated, the debate turned to Article 12. Aaron Burr would propose shelving the treaty and directing Washington to renegotiate its terms. In this and opposing simple passage, Burr's defiance of the Federalist position and alignment with Republicans became more pronounced.

Autograph letter signed, Aaron Burr, Philadelphia, June 1795, to an unknown recipient.

"We have resolved in secrecy. How long it will be thought necessary cannot be said. I think however that in the course of ten days or a fortnight, something will be known of the Treaty. Mr. Jay is here, and is extremely useful and convenient, by furnishing arguments and obviating objections, in private interviews. I much fear that we shall be here the whole of this month, for beside the Treaty, we have the matter of a different nature that may detain us some days. It will be a great Consolation to have now & then a letter from you."

The Treaty eventually passed but not without dissent and objection.

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1974.

Philad^a. 17 June 1795

Dear Sir,

We have resolved on secrecy - How long
 it will be thought necessary, cannot be said. I think
 however that in the course of ten days or a fortnight,
 something will be known of the Treaty - Mr Jay is
 here, and is extremely useful and convenient, by furnishing
 arguments and obviating objections, in private interviews.

I much fear that we shall be here the whole
 of this month; for beside the Treaty, we have ~~the~~
 matter of a different nature that may detain us
 some days. It will be a great consolation to
 me to have now & then a letter from you, being
 with great esteem & attachment

Y^r friend & opp^r

Benjamin Franklin

58)

To Fulfill the Treaty of Amity With the Dey of Algiers and Strengthen American Firepower, Secretary of War James McHenry Wants Stronger Arms for the American Military

Specifically, he wants to augment the quality of "Iron Cannon for the use of the United States."

This was the subject of ongoing conversation between McHenry, Treasury Secretary Oliver Wolcott and President Washington

Washington's address to Congress, submitted less than 2 months later, included estimates for Cannon for the Dey of Algiers using Wolcott's and McHenry's work

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

By the end of 1793, Algerian corsairs had captured ten American merchant ships and had taken 105 prisoners. Seeking to liberate these men and ships, and end future attacks, on September 5, 1795, the United States and Algerian Dey Hassan Bashaw signed a treaty of peace. Under the treaty, the United States agreed to a one-time payment of \$600,000, an additional \$200,000 payment for the release of the prisoners, as well as another \$21,000 in annual tribute. By the spring of 1796, however, following several delays in payment, the Dey had become irritated and gave the United States 30 days to make payment, otherwise he would declare them in violation of the treaty and would resume attacks on its commerce. To buy more time and appease the Dey, American negotiators offered a gift of a 36-gun frigate in exchange for a three-month extension, which the Dey accepted.

Designed by Josiah Fox and constructed by John Hackett, who both oversaw the construction of the original six frigates for the new United States Navy, the frigate going to Algeria was just the seventh U.S. frigate built for naval purposes. The Algerian frigate was named the Crescent by Secretary of War James McHenry. Initial

confusion over which executive department should oversee the ship's construction led President Washington to write to McHenry in early July 1796 to voice his concern over the lack of progress, stating firmly to him "to execute promptly & vigorously. And not to put things off until the morrow which can be done, and require to be done, to day." A letter from McHenry to Washington on July 18 included plans for the frigate, indicated that progress was already under way, and that the initial departmental confusion had been overcome.

The Secretary of Treasury was responsible for supplying Washington and Congress with the estimated costs, including those of the ship and its contents. His report, submitted by Washington to Congress on January 7 1797, begins: "The Secretary of the Treasury in obedience to directions from the President ... respectfully makes the following representation respecting the application of the Fund destined for the execution of the Treaty with Algiers." Wolcott estimated upwards of \$642,000 as the amount to be paid to Algiers. That sum would cover "Payments stipulated at the time of closing the Treaty," such as those for the dey, his officers, consular presents, and other expenses. Wolcott's report attached an estimate, dated 29 Dec. 1796, "of the probable Cost of Articles for the Algerine Treaty." These included powder, lead, 20,000 "Cannon Ball," 50 masts, 200 barrels of tar, and numerous other items. The total cost amounted to \$124,413. An appended copy of an estimate, dated 26 Dec. 1796, of the funds required to "Build and Equip" the 36-gun frigate for the dey, included carpenters' work "for building the Hull" and other parts of the ship, and recorded the expenses for the cannon and other items. The projected cost of the frigate was \$99,727."

Prior to that, on September 14, McHenry had requested a meeting with Washington and enclosed a copy of the twelve conditions he listed when he wrote Secretary of the Treasury Oliver Wolcott, Jr., on September 13 regarding cannon for "the frigate destined for the Mediterranean."

"If you have a few minutes to spare," he wrote to Washington, "I could wish you to examine the within conditions for a new contract for cannon. The old contract was too defective to serve as a model or guide in any one respect. The public must be a considerable loser by it; and the cannon which we shall be obliged to receive by no means to be relied on."

In March 1794, the New York State Legislature appointed Matthew Clarkson, a Revolutionary War veteran, to a newly formed commission for the purpose of purchasing "field-artillery, arms, accoutrements, and ammunition," to be used by the state militia. It is not entirely clear in what capacity he was helping McHenry but clearly it was not insignificant.

Letter signed, Secretary of War James McHenry, War Office, November 9, 1796, to Matthew Clarkson.

"I have been favoured with your letter of the 2 instant.

"The enclosed copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit the proofs [what he sent to GW on September 14] which have been thought requisite for the verification of Iron Cannon for the use of the United States.

"These proofs which may be applied to Brass Cannon, have in view to ascertain, by appropriate instruments, whether there are cavities in the gun which might weaken it; and whether the metal itself is of a thickness and tenacity to resist the impression of the powder in a course of actual service.

"In France, in 1732, pieces of Cannon were proven by three successive discharges, with a ball of their caliber and a quantity of powder equal to half the weight of the Ball. In 1744, they were required to stand five discharges viz the two first with a ball of their caliber and two thirds weight of the Ball in powder, the remainder with the ball and one half the weight of the Ball in powder. Since 1791 the proof has been lessened. In particular Brass eight pounders are subjected to five successive discharges with three pounds of powder and one Ball; and Brass four pounders to a like number of discharges with two pounds of powder and one ball. The powder is to be lodged in Cartridges with a wad upon it, and another wad over the ball and each rammed down four times.

"If the metal of your Cannon is of a good quality I would advise the proof by powder to follow the French regulation of 1791; but should there be any reason for distrusting it, I would prefer that of 1744, or that directed in the letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

"You will be pleased to observe that the Cannon to be tried must be carefully verified by the instruments used on such occasions; for if the cavities exceed those laid down in the table, it would be unsafe to accept of them. In examining their calibers the light of the Sun may be thrown into their bore by a looking glass, by which the cavities may be more perfectly discovered.

"In making your experiments it will be necessary to attend to the diameter of the Balls used, so that the windage be neither too little nor too much. The Ball should be about one tenth and half a tenth of an inch less than the caliber a bore, and besides ought to be round and have no cavities or cracks.

"It is essential also to know the strength of the powder. That which has experienced humidity or coalesced into small parcels is to be rejected, and that only employed, three ounces of which will throw out of a small mortar a Sixty pound ball to the distance of fifty fathom at least"

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

JM
The
War Office November 9 1796

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 2 instant.

The inclosed copy of a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit the proofs which have been thought requisite for the verification of Iron Cannon for the use of the United States.

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In making your experiments it will be necessary to attend to the diameter of the Balls used, so that the windage be neither too little nor too much. The Ball should be about one tenth and half a tenth of an inch less than the caliber or bore, and besides, ought to be round and have no cavities or cracks.

It is essential also to know the strength of the powder. That which has experienced humidity or coalesced into small parcels is to be rejected, and that only employed, three ounces of which will throw out of a small mortar a Sixty pound ball to the distance of fifty fathom at least —

With great respect

I am Sir

Your obed. Servant

James M'Henry

Matthew Clarkson Esq

59)

A Long, Private, Important Letter from Inspector General Alexander Hamilton to Secretary of War James McHenry on the Duty and Sacrifice of Public Service and Family, and His Work Building the Modern American Army

Among the finest letters of Hamilton we have ever seen on the market; On forgoing his legal income to return to public service: "It will be disagreeable to be exposed to the dilemma of compromising my reputation and that of the government by not producing the results to be expected from the department, or of ruining myself once more in performing services for which there is no adequate compensation."

On the goal of his work with Washington as de facto head of the army: "You recollect that, shortly after my first appointment, I was desired to turn my attention to a system of regulations for the tactics and discipline of the army. From that moment I have devoted much of my time to the preliminary investigations"

On having earned just compensation based on past service: "My pecuniary sacrifices already to the public ought to produce the reverse of a disposition everywhere to compel me to greater than the law imposes."

On his role as caregiver to wife, child and home: "It is always disagreeable to speak of compensations for one's self, but a man past forty, with a wife and six children, and a very small property beforehand, is compelled to waive the scruples which his nicety would otherwise dictate."

He also wants McHenry to send to Secretary of Treasury Wolcott the results of his work with Washington on reorganizing the army

This letter was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Alexander Hamilton and George Washington developed one of the most consequential political and personal relationships of the American founding era. Hamilton first came to Washington's attention during the Revolutionary War through his brilliance as an artillery officer and writer, and in 1777 Washington brought the young officer onto his staff as an aide-de-camp. For four intense years Hamilton became Washington's closest military secretary, drafting letters, shaping strategy, and handling delicate communications with Congress and foreign allies. Though the two briefly quarreled in 1781 after Hamilton felt slighted by Washington, mutual respect endured, and Washington later relied heavily on Hamilton in both the Constitutional movement and the new federal government. As President, Washington adopted many of Hamilton's financial and constitutional ideas, appointing him the first Secretary of the Treasury and backing his ambitious program to stabilize the nation's finances, fund the national debt, and strengthen federal authority. Washington valued Hamilton's intellect, energy, and loyalty, while Hamilton revered Washington almost as a paternal figure and national symbol, defending him publicly even after retirement. Their partnership helped define the structure and authority of the early United States government.

Alexander Hamilton was a member of Congress from 1782-3, and began the practice of law in New York after the British left on November 25, 1783, and continued in practice when not in government office for the rest of his life.

Washington wanted Hamilton to remain active in public life and to continue to help him. So at Washington's insistence, Hamilton served as inspector general of the United States Army from July 18, 1798, to June 15, 1800. Because Washington was unwilling to leave Mount Vernon unless it were to command an army in the field, Hamilton was the de facto head of the army, to President John Adams's considerable displeasure. If full-scale war broke out with France, Hamilton argued that the army should conquer the North American colonies of France's ally, Spain, bordering the United States. Hamilton was prepared to march the army through the Southern United States if necessary.

Immediately after his acceptance of the position of Inspector General, Hamilton went about not only putting the army on war footing but establishing a system of regulations to support the growth and maintenance of an active army. He consulted McHenry on this subject extensively.

During President Adams's administration, McHenry continued as Secretary of War, as Adams had decided to keep the newly established institution of the presidential cabinet intact. Adams gradually found that three members of the cabinet repeatedly opposed him: McHenry, Secretary of State Timothy Pickering, and Treasury Secretary Oliver Wolcott Jr. They appeared to listen more to Alexander Hamilton than to the

president and publicly disagreed with Adams about his foreign policy, particularly with regard to France. Instead of resigning, they stayed in office to work against his official policy.

Autograph letter signed, New York, December 16, 1798, to Secretary of War McHenry, reflecting on his work done to date to ready the army and also fearing his lack of compensation, to which he felt his wartime and other public service entitled him. The address panel is present with McHenry's docket.

At the end, he also sends to McHenry the results of his deliberations with Washington on the subject of army preparedness.

"I regretted that I was detained to the last moment of being in time for the stage in which my baggage had been previously sent, and thereby prevented from calling upon you before my final departure from Philadelphia.

"If the recruiting service is to be confided to me, I ought, as soon as possible, to be definitely apprised of it, and in the meantime I shall be glad to have the instructions heretofore prepared for that purpose [the 1798 edition of the War Department printed pamphlet Rules and Regulations Respecting the Recruiting Service], that I may endeavor to obtain, for your final decision, new lights from officers who have had experience in this branch of the service. My own was very limited, and it is of great importance to proceed upon a right plan.

"You recollect that, shortly after my first appointment, I was desired to turn my attention to a system of regulations for the tactics and discipline of the army. From that moment I have devoted much of my time to the preliminary investigations, and I shall devote a much larger proportion, if I am to consider myself as now in service, and entitled to the emoluments of the station; for, to be frank with you, it is utterly out of my power to apply my time to the public service without the compensations, scanty enough, which the law annexes to the office. If I were to receive them from the day of the appointment, I should be at least a thousand pounds the worse for my acceptance. From the time that it was fully known that I had re-engaged in military life, the uncertainty of my being able to render services for which I might be retained drove away more than one half of my professional practice, which I may moderately estimate at four thousand pounds a year. My pecuniary sacrifices already to the public ought to produce the reverse of a disposition everywhere to compel me to greater than the law imposes. This remark, I am well aware, is not necessary for you personally.

"Again, If I am to discharge with effect the duties of my present office, I must make frequent journeys from one part of the army to another. Everybody knows that the expenses of such journeys would quickly eat out the narrow allowances of a major-general.

"It will be disagreeable to be exposed to the dilemma of compromising my reputation and that of the government by not producing the results to be expected from the department, or of ruining myself once more in performing services for which there is no adequate compensation.

"The precedent of the last war is a full comment on the propriety of an extra allowance to the inspector-general. It is indeed indispensable, if he is to be useful.

"It is always disagreeable to speak of compensations for one's self, but a man past forty, with a wife and six children, and a very small property beforehand, is compelled to waive the scruples which his nicety would otherwise dictate.

"P.S. — I imagine it may be of service to communicate to Wolcott the two letters received from the Commander-in-Chief containing the results of our deliberation."

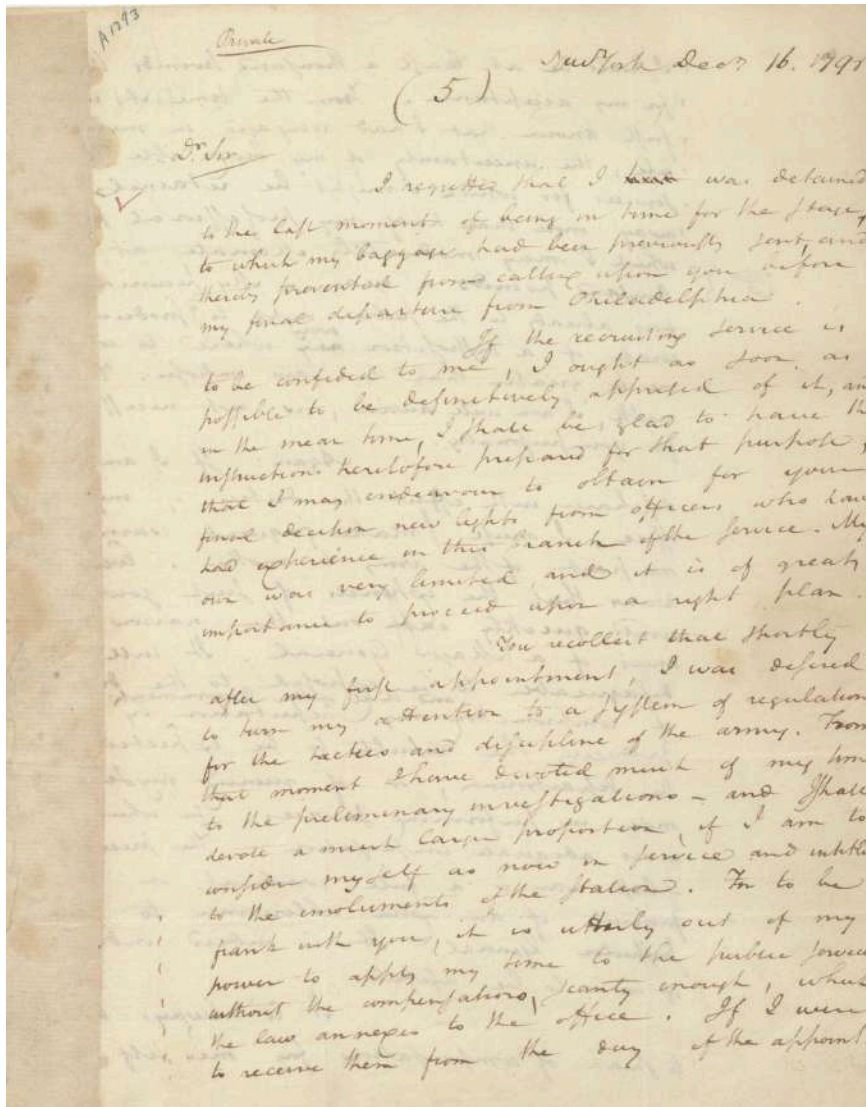
The two letters he references are nominally from Washington but drafted in part by Hamilton.

In one, George Washington advises Secretary of War James McHenry on how the United States should organize and prepare its military during the growing crisis with revolutionary France in the period of the Quasi-War. Washington argues strongly against delaying the expansion of the army authorized by Congress. He maintains that although the immediate danger of French invasion may have lessened somewhat, the instability of Europe and France's continued hostility toward American commerce required the United States to pursue a steady and vigorous military policy. Much of the letter concerns the practical organization of the new army.

In the other, Washington expands on his vision for creating a professional and efficient American military establishment during the Quasi-War crisis with France. Washington focuses heavily on military organization, proposing detailed reforms to the structure of infantry, cavalry, and artillery regiments. It shows Washington's concern about America's military preparedness and technical weakness. He laments that the United States had failed during peacetime to develop qualified engineers and artillery officers, warning that modern war required highly trained specialists who could not be improvised quickly. He recommends recruiting experienced European officers, particularly from Austrian or Prussian service, to help build American expertise. Washington further advocates preparation for a much larger wartime army, including rifle corps equipped with advanced Ferguson rifles, and stresses the importance of arsenals, supplies, and professional administration.

Overall, the letters presents Washington's mature philosophy of military organization: a disciplined, centralized, professional force designed not for aggressive militarism, but to ensure national security, stability, and independence in an unstable Atlantic world.

A fine letter of Hamilton on his duties and responsibilities of aiding George Washington as Inspector General of the Army, and his need for compensation for that service. It was last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948 and has been in a private collection since that time.



I should be at least a thousand pounds the work
 for my acceptance. From the time it was
 first known that I had resigned in military
 life, the uncertainty of my being able to render
 services for which I might be retained drove
 away more than half my professional practice,
 which I may moderately estimate at four
 thousand pounds a year. - My pecuniary fac-
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 Inspector General. It is indeed indispens^{able}
 if he is to be useful.

It is always disagreeable
 to speak of compensations for ones self but

a man has to with a wife and six children
and a very small property before-hand, is compelled
to waive the pleasures which he might otherwise
with great effort & regard

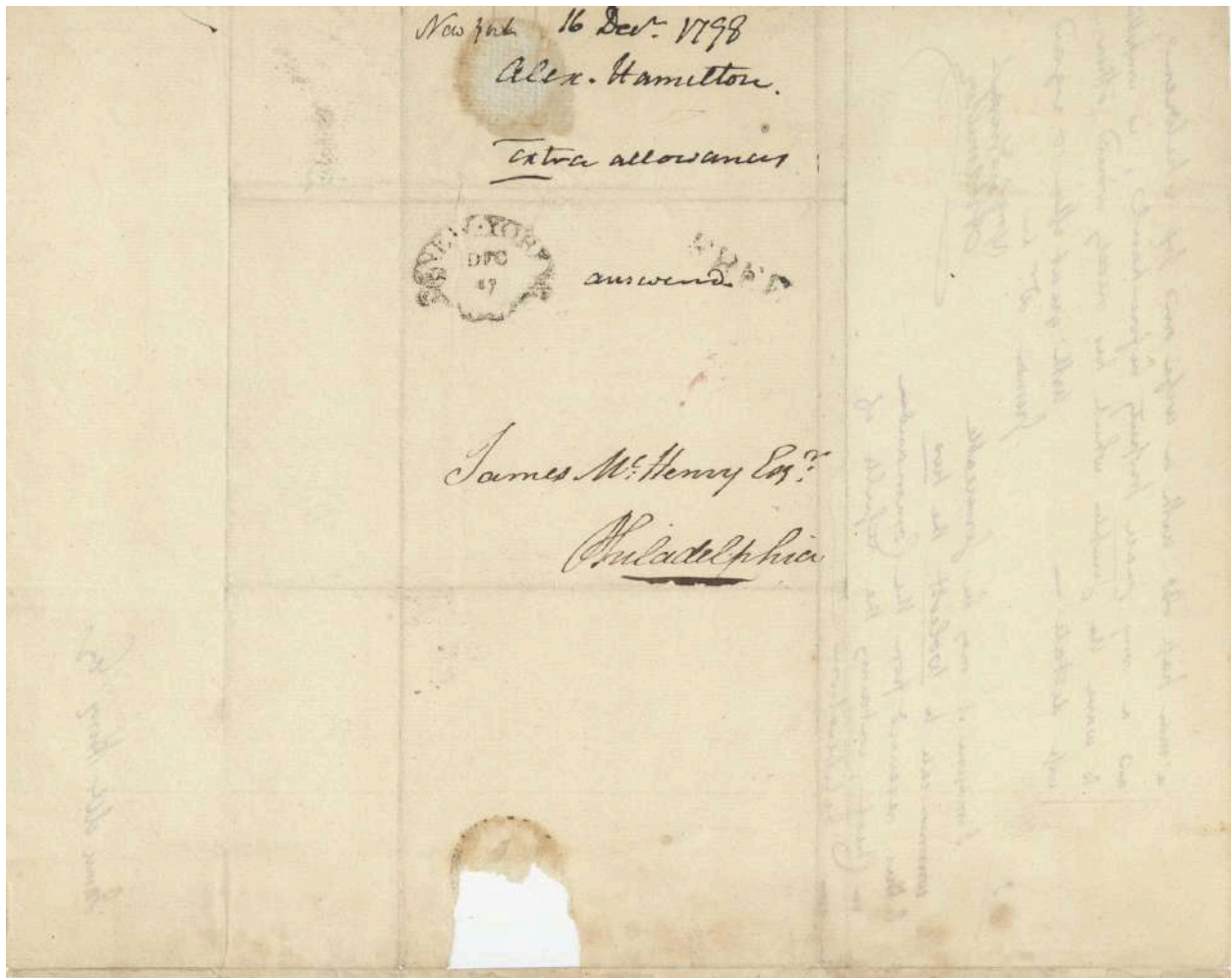
Yours truly
James D. G.

Wolcott
Admiral

01
I imagine it may be desirable
to communicate to Wolcott the two
letters received from the Commandant
in Chief, containing the results of
our deliberations

[Faint vertical handwriting and circular stamps on the back of the letter]

James D. G.



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 first known that I had resigned or able to sit
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 chiefly have

Again: If

a man has to do with a wife and six children
 and a very small property before-hand, is compelled
 to waive the surplus which he necessarily would other-
 wise dictate -

with great esteem & regard
 Yours D. C.

Wolcott the two
 for the Commandant
 containing the results of
 how

Wolcott
 D. C.

60)

Only Weeks Before the 1804 New York Governors Election, and Just Months Before the Death of Alexander Hamilton, Former Treasury Secretary Oliver Wolcott Assesses the Prospects of His Preferred Candidate, Aaron Burr

Wolcott, a Hamilton protege, mentions Hamilton by name and calls Jefferson derisively "The Philosopher"

It was this very election that led to the duel that ultimately led to Hamilton's demise

To James McHenry: "Col. Burr is from attraction and necessity the Enemy of the Enemies of good Men."

He also discusses the prospects of the Merchants Bank and the machinations of the Clintonians

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948

Oliver Wolcott was a staunch Federalist, former Treasury Secretary under Washington and Adams, but by 1804 the Federalist party was in serious decline after Jefferson's landslide in 1800. Wolcott was essentially a man without a viable political vehicle.

The Merchants' Bank was a Federalist-aligned institution in New York City that operated without a state charter, which gave Republicans — who dominated the rival Manhattan Bank — both a political and legal reason to oppose it. When the bank sought a formal charter from the legislature in 1804, the fight became a full partisan battle, with petitions flying on both sides. The legislature ultimately passed a compromise measure that allowed the Merchants' Bank to keep operating temporarily, alongside the Republican-leaning Mercantile Company of Albany, kicking the charter question down the road. The Merchants' Bank finally got its charter in 1805.

The rivalry between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr was one of the most bitter in early American political history, stretching back more than a decade before the fatal duel. It began in 1791 when Burr defeated Hamilton's father-in-law, General Philip John Schuyler, for a U.S. Senate seat, earning Hamilton's lasting enmity.

Eight years later, Hamilton helped engineer Burr's defeat in the presidential election of 1800, advising his fellow Federalists to vote for Thomas Jefferson instead. That election nearly tore the young republic apart, as Burr tied with Jefferson in the Electoral College and chose to vie for the top office, only losing after Hamilton's influence swayed his fellow Federalists on the House floor.

By 1804, with Jefferson having frozen him out of the administration and his renomination as Vice President off the table, Burr switched parties from the Republican to an Independent and sought the governorship of New York. Some Federalists, like Wolcott evidently, felt he was the better of two evils. And once again Hamilton used his influence to block him, this time by circulating private criticisms that became very public. The breaking point came when a newspaper published a letter in which Dr. Charles D. Cooper reported that Hamilton had called Burr "a dangerous man" and expressed a still more "despicable opinion" of him at a dinner party. In late April 1804, Burr was defeated by the Democratic-Republican candidate Morgan Lewis in a historic landslide. Burr blamed Hamilton for the stinging defeat.

Feeling profoundly dishonored and desperate to redeem his name, Burr demanded that Hamilton apologize for all of his insults throughout their fifteen-year rivalry. A duel was inevitable and it took place July 11, 1804. Hamilton died the following day. The event ultimately destroyed Burr's political career and cemented Hamilton's legacy as a martyr.

Autograph letter signed, New York, April 9, 1804, to James McHenry, also a former Washington cabinet member and Federalist. Wolcott thought at the time that Burr might prevail, but that proved illusory.

"I have rec'd your favour of Mar. 31 & have spoken to Genl. Hamilton who has promised to reimburse the fee you paid to Mr. Martin.

"The good wishes and affectionate concern of my friends, among whom I rank you in the first class, are more than an equivalent for all the evils which I have experienced from the vindictive spirit of my political adversaries. It affords me a high consolation to reflect that I have not deserved this treatment and I firmly believe that it will not be in the power of the Philosopher [Jefferson] &

all his minions to break my Spirit or starve my family. They shall certainly find that I am no Quaker in politicks, and that I mean steadfastly to resist Oppression.

"The opposition to the Merchants Bank, which at first originated in the private views of a few Stockholders of other Banks, at length assumed a different aspect and finally degenerated into a party question. The Merchants Bank, really was not a political association — being opposed however by a number of wealthy men, chiefly Federalists, the Clintonians hoped by crushing the Bank, to divide the Federal Party. In conducting their opposition, they have however divided their own Party, and have reluctantly been compelled to pass a Bill, which on the whole will be favourable to our Interests.

"This State is agitated to its center, with intrigues and schemes, calculated to produce an influence on the approaching Election. I can give no opinion what the result will be, but it is said to be most probable that Col'o Burr will succeed. It is certain that he commands a numerous & intrepid party who are not to be intimidated, or subdued. In our present distracted situation, few men look forward to ultimate consequences — it is sufficient to decide most men, — that all confidence in the prevailing faction is lost, and that Col'd Burr is from attraction and necessity the Enemy of the Enemies of good Men." It's interesting that Wolcott had such a high opinion of Burr. But that didn't last. When Hamilton was killed, Wolcott wrote to his wife that the community's grief was "agonized beyond description."

Last sold by Mary Benjamin in 1948.

M 437

New York Apr. 9: 1804

My Dear Sir.

I have rec^d your favour of Mar. 31. & have spoken to Genl. Hamilton who has promised to reimburse the fee you paid to Mr. Martin.

The good wishes and affectionate concern of my friends, among whom, I rank you, in the first class, are more than an equivalent for all the wils which I have experienced, from the vindictive spirit of my political adversaries. - It affords me a high consolation to reflect, that I have not deserved this treatment and I firmly believe that it will not be in the power of the Philosopher & all his minions to break my spirit or starve my family: - they shall certainly find that I am no Quaker in politics, and that I mean steadfastly to resist Oppression.

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 intrigues and schemes, calculated to produce
 an influence on the approaching Election:—
 I can give no opinion what the result will
 be, but it is said to be most probable that
 Col^o Barr will succeed:— It is certain that
 he commands a numerous & intrepid party
 who are not to be intimidated, or subdued:—

In our

In our present distracted situation, few men look forward to ultimate consequences:— it is sufficient to decide most men;— that all confidence in the prevailing faction is lost, and that Col. Burr is from situation and necessity the Enemy of the Enemies of good Men.

I remain Dear Sir, with sincerity
your faithful Friend.

Wm. Watson

James W. Henry Esq.

James W. Henry Esq.
New York

61)

During Napoleon's Blockade, King George III Grants a Royal License to a Merchant Firm Looking to Carry Goods Between Spain and London, and Allows it to Sail Even Under an American Flag

The document specifically references the orders in council drawn up to respond to Napoleon's continental system and promise of seizure

Napoleon's Continental System began with the promulgation of the Berlin Decree of November 21, 1806, which, among other things: a) declared the British Isles "to be in a state of blockade;" b) required the imprisonment of certain British subjects found in foreign ports; c) prohibited the trade of any British goods; d) authorized that any vessel engaged in the above should be seized and its cargo taken; e) provided that these terms be strictly enforced throughout the Empire; f) and placed regional ministers in charge of enforcement. The British followed suit soon thereafter, though U.S. Secretary of State James Monroe was informed that no action would be taken against any vessels from neutral nations. Napoleon's Milan Decree of November 1807 was designed to enforce his measures by arming French and allied vessels with a broader power of seizure of cargo and of ships. Because the Milan Decree dictated that any vessel engaging in commerce with Britain, or any which allowed itself to be inspected by the British, was thereafter denationalized and subject to seizure, the line of neutrality was being blurred. Napoleon's Bayonne Decree of April 17, 1808 went even farther. It ordered the seizure of American ships in European ports, resulting in over ten million dollars in United States goods and ships being confiscated.

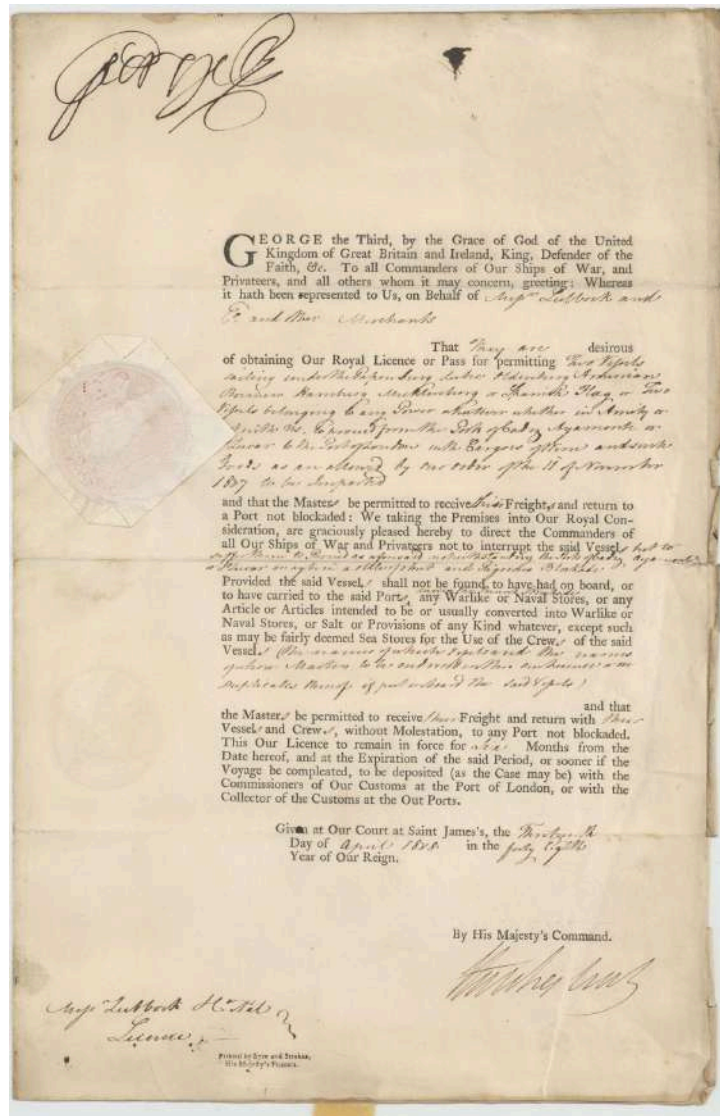
The Orders in Council of November 11, 1807 were Britain's response to Napoleon's Berlin Decree (1806) and Milan Decree (1807), which had established the Continental System — Napoleon's attempt to blockade Britain economically by forbidding European nations from trading with her.

The November 11 Order in Council essentially declared that:

- Any ship trading with French-controlled ports was subject to seizure

- Neutral ships (including American ones) had to stop at a British port and pay duties before trading with Europe

Document signed, April 13, 1808, King George III, "To all Commanders of Our Ships of War and Privateers," etc., giving a royal license for Messrs Lubbock and Co and their merchants, permitting two vessels sailing under a variety of flags, including American and Spanish, of "any power whatever whether in Amity or not with us, to proceed from the ports of Cadiz, Ayamante or St. Lucar to the Port of London.... Allowed by our order of the 11th of November 1807 to be imported."



62)

Eliza Hamilton, Widow of Alexander Hamilton, Manages Her Real Estate Inheritance

Letter to her relative Cornelius van Rensselaer

When Johannes Van Rensselaer died in 1783, Claverack (a massive estate of about 34,000 acres in the Claverack Manor area of Columbia County) was divided among his children, one of whom was Catherine — Mrs. General Philip Schuyler — Eliza's mother. That inheritance would have passed down to Eliza and her siblings, creating ongoing land transactions, deed transfers, and rent payments among the extended family.

Cornelius Van Rensselaer was one of those children as well. This land had been leased to tenants under a semi-feudal system that defined most of the Van Rensselaer family's business dealings

Autograph letter signed, Elizabeth Hamilton, November 11, 1831, to Cornelius van Rensselaer, presumably dealing with this estate.

"My friend I have executed the Deeds and forwarded them to you. As soon the payments are made it will be agreeable to me to have them remitted, with the Statement when the remainders are to be made and by whom. I am much Obligated by the attentions you have given. I hope your little boy is doing well and that Mrs. Bleeker's Health is resolved." Water damage.

