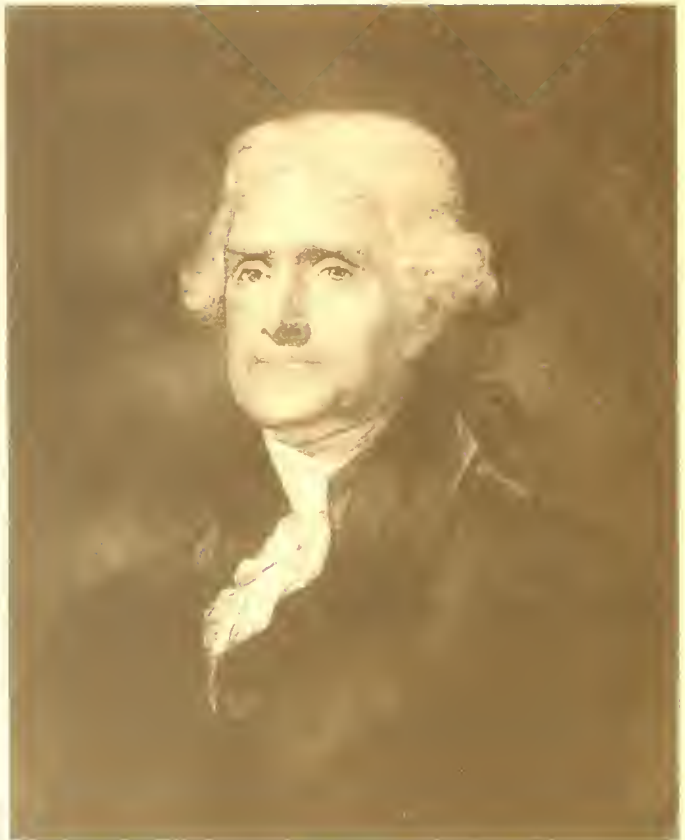




Autograph Letters and Autographs
of the SIGNERS of the DECLARATION of
INDEPENDENCE





Autograph Letters

AND

Autographs

OF THE

SIGNERS *of*
the DECLARATION *of*
INDEPENDENCE

IN THE POSSESSION OF
GEORGE C. THOMAS



PHILADELPHIA

Printed for Private Circulation

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1910
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O. P. A.

In the preparation of the brief biographies prefacing the letters in this volume the compiler has availed himself of many sources of information, both early and modern. Among others he has derived help from "Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence" by William Brown and Charles Peters; "The Centennial Book of the Signers" by W. Brotherhead; and from a pamphlet, "Graves of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence from Pennsylvania," published by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1906.

A. H. R.

January 2, 1908.



Preface

SO MANY eulogies upon the Declaration and its Signers have been pronounced and written by men renowned in oratory or in literature, that it seems impossible to give utterance to one new thought upon so great a subject, but the Declaration itself and the men who made it, its composition and some of the incidents which went to make up its birth, must always interest even the casual reader; and with that thought in mind this preface is offered.

At a Meeting of the Continental Congress, held on Saturday, June 8th, 1776, it was resolved that the resolutions respecting Independence be referred to a Committee of the whole Congress. These resolutions were considered until Tuesday, June 11th, 1776, at which time it was resolved that the committee for preparing the Declaration be appointed to consist of five, to wit: Messrs. Thomas Jefferson; John Adams; Benjamin Franklin; Roger Sherman and R. R. Livingston.

In pursuance of these resolutions, Mr. Jefferson wrote the original draft while lodged in the house of a Mr. Gratz

situate at what is now the Southwest corner of Seventh and Market Streets, Philadelphia. Writing to Dr. James Mease on September 16th, 1825, Mr. Jefferson said: "At the time of writing that Instrument (The Declaration) I lodged in the house of a Mr. Gratz, a new brick house three stories high, of which I rented the second floor consisting of a parlor and bed-room ready furnished. In that parlor I wrote habitually and in it wrote this paper particularly. So far I state from original drafts in my possession. The proprietor Gratz was a young man. I think he was a brick-layer and that his house was on the South side of Market Street probably between Seventh and Eighth Streets, and if not the only house on that part of the street I am sure there were few others near it."

On Monday, July 1st, 1776, it was resolved in Congress: "That this Congress will resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the resolution respecting independency and that the Declaration be referred to the said Committee." This Resolution and the further consideration of the Declaration took up the Second, Third and Fourth days of July, and on the evening of the Fourth, the Committee arose and Harrison reported the Declaration as having been agreed upon. It was then adopted. Congress on the Nineteenth day of July ordered that the Declaration passed on the Fourth be fairly engrossed &c., and on the Second day of August the Instrument having been engrossed, was signed.

Mr. Jefferson used to relate that the final adoption of the Declaration was hastened by a very trivial cause: There was a livery stable near Independence Hall from which swarms of flies came into the open windows and attacked with much vigor the silk stockinged legs of the distinguished

members of Congress. Handkerchief in hand they lashed the flies but the annoyance became at length so great as to render them impatient of delay and they made haste to bring the business before them to a conclusion.

As to the Signers themselves, a few particulars may not be uninteresting. They came from almost every walk in life; twenty-four were Lawyers, fourteen Farmers, nine Merchants, four Doctors, one Minister of the Gospel, and one Manufacturer; and they were long lived too for three of them lived to be over ninety, ten to be over eighty, and eleven to be over seventy years of age. These men well knew what would follow their execution of such a paper as the Declaration, but they were utterly unmoved by any thought of self. When Carroll signed the Declaration, some friend fearing that the cause of Independence would be defeated, and knowing Carroll's wealth, remarked: "There go a few millions," whereupon Carroll turned and said: "That being the case, I will let King George know where to find me," and he signed "Charles Carroll of Carrollton," a form which he used in future. Stephen Hopkins's hand shook when he signed the Document and John Adams offered to guide the pen for him. "No," said Hopkins. "If my hand trembles my heart is firm." John Morton gave the casting vote for Pennsylvania, a vote which would either confirm or destroy the unanimity of the Declaration. His vote in favor of it cost him many a friend but never a regret. On his deathbed he sent this message to his friends: "Tell them they will live to see the hour when they shall acknowledge it to have been the most glorious service I ever rendered to my Country."

As to this particular collection of the "Signers" letters little need be said. They are all worth reading and few of

them are merely signatures without interesting subject matter. Characteristic in many respects of the men themselves and of the time, they show in almost every instance something of the writer's personality. Year by year the acquirement of a set of autograph letters such as these becomes more difficult. Some of them are now practically unobtainable, and it must be that in a short time a complete set of the "Signers" will be an autograph collector's "Ultima Thule"; but be that as it may some of their letters will always be procurable, and the possession of even one will recall more than any words the great deed which brought into being our Country.

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett, M.D.

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BORN in Amesbury, Massachusetts, November, 1729. Died May 19, 1795. Commenced the practice of medicine in Kingneaten and was deprived, because of his zealous advocacy of Whig principles, of various appointments he had received from the Royal Governor. As a delegate to the Continental Congress he was the first who voted for the Declaration and the first after the President to sign it. In 1779 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and in 1788 became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

CONCORD, January 17th, 1790.

DEAR SIR:—

I congratulate you on your reappointment as member of Congress for this State, a Certificate is made out and forwarded with this which I hope will come safe to hand, Mr. Smith is the other person appointed. The General Court is now setting here. Are upon a revision of the laws which will take a considerable time, have nothing material to communicate to you. I have receiv^d your favor of the 9th ult^o including a newspaper, wish you to inform me as often as convenient of the transactions of Congress. And am Sir your friend &c., &c.,

JOSIAH BARTLETT

Hon^{ble} NICHOLAS GILMAN Esqr.
Philadelphia.

William Whipple

BORN at Kittery, Maine, 1730. Died November 8, 1785. In early life engaged in sea-faring, which he abandoned in 1759, about which time he engaged in mercantile pursuits at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. After the adoption of the Declaration he became in 1777 a Brigadier General in the Continental Army, participating in the battles at Stillwater and Saratoga. In 1782 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court in the State of New Hampshire.

ALBANY 21 Oct 1777

SIR,

I did myself the pleasure to advise you a few days ago that a Capitulation was Negotiating between Gen^l. Gates and General Burgoyne. This business was happily concluded the 16th Inst. and on ye 17th the British Army marched out of their Encampment and laid down their Arms. I beg leave most heartily to congratulate you and my Country on this happy event. General Gates has given the Volunteers of New Hampshire an honorable dismissal, the two Regiments who engaged till ye last of November still remain here. I am directed by the General to attend M^r Burgoyne to Boston. Nothing could have been more Seasonable than our Success over Burgoyne. An Army of 3 or 4000 men from New York are endeavoring to make their way up this River, their design being to reinforce Burgoyne but fortunately for us they are too late and if the weather does not prevent General Gates getting his Heavy Artillery down I am in great hopes M^r Vaughn who commands the Plunderers from New York will soon be in the same situation with M^r Burgoyne. Measures are taking if possible to prevent his retreat, which no doubt he will endeavor to effect so soon as he hears of Burgoyne's fate.

I expect to start out tomorrow but as I shall escort M^r B— to Boston it may be 10 or 12 days before I get home.

The great hurry the Army has been in since M^r B's capitulation has prevented my getting an exact Return of the Military Stores but such as I have been able to obtain I do myself the honor to enclose you. Col. Langdon who set out ye 17th Inst. took with him a copy of the

Capitulation which no doubt he will send you before this comes to your hand.

I have the honor to be with every Sentiment of Respect
Sir,

Your Most Obed: Serv^t

W^m WHIPPLE

HON. MESHECK WEARE.
(President of New Hampshire)

SIRS

Enclosed is an order for one bbl. of Powder for the Brig. Friendship which you will please to deliver immediately to Mr. Fitzsimons that he may apply to the Commissary for the same as the Brig only waits for the powder in order to sail.

You'll please to observe that it is the resolve of the Committee that this Brig take no more than four 4 pounders 4 swivills & 6 muskets, the remainder to be left in your custody till called for by the Committee. You'll take the Captain or owner's receipt for these warlike stores delivered him.

In secret Committee at
Baltimore 22nd Feb.
1777.

RICHARD HENRY LEE
WM. WHIPPLE
FRANCIS LEWIS

TO MESS. CURVIANCE

Mathew Thornton

BORN in Ireland about 1714. Died Newburyport, Massachusetts, June 24, 1803. Studied medicine under Dr. Gruet of Leicester, Massachusetts, and served ably as Surgeon in the expedition against Cape Breton in 1745. September 12, 1776, he was appointed by the House of Representatives a delegate to represent for one year the State of New Hampshire in Congress. He was successively Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and Judge of the Superior Court of New Hampshire and retired in 1780 to a farm he had purchased on the banks of the Merrimack.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, John McCurdy of Londonderry, in the County of Rockingham & State of New Hampshire, Yeoman, For and in Consideration of the Sum of One hundred pounds, Lawful money of said State to me in hand paid before the delivery hereby by Robert McCurdy of the Town, County and State aforesaid, Yeoman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have given, granted, bargain'd sold and released and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey and confirm to him the said Robert McCurdy, his Heirs and Assigns, All my right, Title & Possession I have or may Claim of in & to that tract of land which I purchased from the heirs of the late Alexander Kelso, Lying in that tract which Thomas Packer sold to Jeremiah Smith and Nelson,—reserving my right which I purchased from said heirs in that tract which I now dwell on which the late Alexander Kelso dwelt on at the time of his Decease.

To have and to hold the said granted premises with the Appurtenances thereof to him, the said Robert McCurdy, his Heirs and Assigns to his and their proper use, benefit and behoof forever. hereby engaging to warrant and defend the said granted premises against all Claims or Demands of any Persons claiming by, from or under me.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Eighth Day of June, Ann. Domini 1778.

Signed, Sealed and delivered
in the presence of us

ROBERT MCFARLAND
MATHEW THORNTON

JOHN MCCURDY (L.S.)

Rockingham S.S. the 8th Day of June, 1778. Then the above named John McCurdy personally appearing acknowledged the above written Instrument to be his voluntary Act and Deed, before me,

MATHEW THORNTON
Justice Peace.

Massachusetts

John Hancock

BORN in Quincy, Mass., January 12, 1737, died there October 8th, 1793. Graduated at Harvard College in 1754 and was employed in the Counting House of an uncle, John Hancock, who, dying in 1764, left him a large fortune. He was chosen a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1766, and it was the seizure of his vessel "The Liberty" in 1768 by Custom House officers which occasioned the riot in that year. Afterwards he became a member of the Provincial Congress at Concord and in 1774 its President. He became President of the Continental Congress in 1775 and remained President during 1776. The Declaration of Independence was accompanied in its first publication by the signature of Mr. Hancock alone. In 1777 he returned to Massachusetts, was chosen first Governor in 1780, to which office he was annually re-elected until his death.



PHILADELPHIA, June 10. 1775

SIR:

By order of the congress I transmit you the inclosed resolutions passed by the congress this morning. The necessity of the present emergency requires a speedy compliance with the first respecting the supply of powder to the army, and I need not inform you that the nature of the service requires it to be done with as much secrecy as possible. If there are any supplies of powder to be purchased in your colony you will readily see the propriety of engaging it for the use of the continental army, and informing the general of the army thereof, as well as

Sir

Your most obed^t humble servant

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Samuel Adams

BORN in Boston, September 27, 1722. Died October 2, 1803. Was chosen in 1765 one of the three representatives in the General Court of the Town of Boston, and at the time of the "Boston Massacre" in March, 1770, took a most prominent part in the stirring events of that time. In June, 1774, at a meeting of the general court, it was proposed that a Continental Congress assemble in Philadelphia, and he was chosen one of the five delegates. He was prominent by his energy and ability not only in this Congress but in the formation of the State Constitution of Massachusetts. He was the author of many pamphlets and state papers and a clear and forcible speaker.

BOSTON, May 1766.

DEAR SIR:—

I was very much disappointed in not receiving a letter from you by the last Post. I assure you I am very sollicitous about your happiness & shall always rejoice to hear that you succeed in every purpose that has a tendency to promote it.

You are seeking it in the Marriage State. Allow me to tell you that you will entirely miss of it there, or find it in its greatest Perfection in this Life. There is indeed nothing that will secure happiness to us in any state but virtue, or to speak in the too much exploded language Christianity. By this we are taught to believe upon solid ground, that every circumstance of our Life, tho perhaps not agreeable to our own plan, is wisely ordered for our Good.—To the Christian what are called Misfortunes are Blessings in Disguise, but the wicked in every enjoyment feels a sting, even his Table and his friends around it are a Snare to him. We may search for happiness as for an hidden treasure, & never find it. Gold, even the pure gold saith it is not with me. The favor of the great, tho I have not yet experienced it, I believe is deceitful, and the beauty of the fair, however captivating will soon fade. We know to what Solomon likens the Laughter & Mirth of gay Fools—But “Religion only yields substantial Joy which Fortune cannot marr, nor chance destroy.”

Tell your charmer, tho perhaps she knows it already, that a female Pen wrote these lines. The polite and friendly terms in which she mentions me & my Betsy are very obliging, and pray make our *sincere* complements to her, or if that seem a little paradoxical assure her of our Friendship

for her. I know she is the center of your affections. I want much to be acquainted with her. I wish her happiness with the same Sincerity that I do yours & my own.—
Adieu

SAM^L ADAMS.

I wish you w^d let me know who the
Person from Boston was & will
keep it an impenetrable Secret
if you desire it.

To MR. WILLIAM CHECKLEY at Newport.

John Adams

BORN Braintree, Massachusetts, October 19, 1735. Died July 4, 1826. Graduated from Harvard, 1755, and took charge of the Grammar School at Worcester for a short time. He subsequently removed to Boston and was one of the five delegates sent to the Continental Congress in 1774. He was one of the warmest supporters of the Declaration in the debate. In 1777 he was appointed Commissioner to France and was appointed subsequently Commissioner to treat with Great Britain for peace and commerce. In 1782 he negotiated a loan of \$2,000,000 with the Dutch, also a treaty of commerce. After serving as Minister to the Court of St. James he became, upon the election of Washington, Vice President, and was after Washington's retirement chosen President by a small majority. He served in 1820 as a delegate to the Convention called to revise the Constitution of Massachusetts.

QUINCY near Boston, Sept 12, 1796.

MR. STOCKDALE

I embrace with pleasure the opportunity by my sons of presenting you many Thanks for your kind Letter and obliging Present of an elegant Sett of your new Edition of The History of Republicks.

I know not whether Experience of the Evils physical moral and political of Simple Government, will recommend to the public my poor Speculations in favour of moral forms, so at to give you a Profit by the Sale of the Book: but I know the Devil ought to have Mankind if they dont soon put a stop to the Progress of Cleons & Clodius's Rienzis, and Wat Tylers.

I have written since I came to America Discourses on Davild. You may make a fourth Volume of them if you will under the Same Title with the other three. With compliments to your family,

I am, your
friend and servant

JOHN ADAMS

MR. STOCKDALE

Bookseller, Piccadilly
London.

Robert Treat Paine

BORN Boston, March 11, 1731. Died May 11, 1814. Graduated from Harvard and studied theology, acting in 1755 Chaplain of the troops on the Northern Frontier. He afterwards studied law and having acted in 1768 as delegate from Taunton to the Convention called in Boston, was chosen in 1774 representative from Taunton to the General Assembly in Boston and delegate to the Continental Congress. He served as representative in 1776, 1777 and 1778. In 1780 he was Attorney General and in 1790 Judge of Supreme Court. He resigned that office in 1804 on account of failing health.

TAUNTON, Sept. 22, 1769.

DEAR SIR

I have been in great anxiety for you ever since I left you. The appearance of a settled fit of sickness & a faulting constitution have filled me with very disagreeable apprehensions. I rely upon it therefore you will by the first opportunity let me hear of your Welfare, That if your Disorder was as slight as your Friend hoped it was I may enjoy the Satisfaction of knowing it, or whatever your situation may be, that I may exercise that Sympathy which closely attends you in all your Circumstances. Mr. McWhorter the Bearer hereof keeps at Brackett and will return this week With complements to your Dear Spouse & all Friends, I am your

humble servant,

R. T. PAINE

To JOHN ADAMS, Esq.
Living in Cole Lane
Boston.

Elbridge Gerry

BORN in Marblehead, Massachusetts, July 17, 1744. Died in Washington November 13, 1814. Engaged in mercantile pursuits and in 1772 was elected representative to the General Legislature of his State. In January, 1777, he was elected delegate to the Continental Congress and was Chairman of the Committee of the Treasury. In 1798 and in 1801 he ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Massachusetts, having been nominated by the Democratic party. In 1810 he was elected to the office and was re-elected in 1811, and in 1812 was elected Vice President of the United States.

CAMBRIDGE, 20th May, 1801

DEAR SIR —

Enclosed is a letter from Capt. Nath^l Fellowes, a firm republican & one of the wealthiest merchants of Morton, being the copartner also of Mr. Brown, who received an appointment under the present government. Capt. Fellowes I am acquainted with but am a stranger to the gentlemen mentioned in his letter: The former of them indeed, Mr. Cushing, has called on me, & stated, that in a conference with yourself, he had received the promise of your interest for his appointment to the consulate of the Havannah, when vacant, that his present circumstances render it ineligible on his part, and that Mr. N. Fellowes friend is well qualified as a merchant to fill the office. From the facts stated & with others as your station will enable you to attain, you will be enabled I presume, in case of a vacancy & a competition for the office, to judge of the relative merits & pretensions of the several applicants.

I have the honor to remain, Dear Sir

with the highest esteem and respect

Your friend & very humble servant

H. GERRY

Honorable Mr. Madison
Secretary of State, France, &c.

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins

BORN in Scituate, Rhode Island, March 7, 1707. Died in Providence, July 13, 1785. Having served successively as member of the General Assembly and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, was in 1755 elected Governor of the State, which position he filled with the exception of four years until 1768. He represented the State in the Continental Congress in 1774, 1775 and 1776, and was for many years a Chancellor of Brown University. Mr. Hopkins married the lady to whom the following letter is addressed.

NEWPORT, Sept. 2, 1754.

MY DEAR

While I am here employed in the drugery of following vice and fraud through the lurking places of craft and design, you are peacefully pursuing the paths of peace and contemplating the laws and designs of Heaven; go on ever in those happy courses and enjoy that happiness that is attendant thereon. Your prayers will endeavour to preserve me from the snares incident to the station I am placed in. Mine shall attend you in your journey which I hope may be very agreeable as your returne will be to him who with truth subscribes himself

Now and ever yours

STEPHEN HOPKINS.

MRS. ANNE SMITH
Smithfield.

William Ellery

BORN in Newport, Rhode Island, December 22, 1727. Died there February 15, 1820. Graduated from Harvard College in 1747 he engaged in mercantile pursuits in his native place until 1770, when he began the practice of law in Newport. In May, 1776, he took his seat in Congress of that year as one of the delegates from Rhode Island and remained in Congress with the exception of two years (1780-82) until 1786. He was in 1790 appointed Collector of Newport and filled that office until the time of his death.

NEWPORT, June 21st, 1800.

DEAR SIR

I received your letters of the 16th of this month on the 19th P.M., and my son the Depy. Coll. soon saw Col. Crary's son who is in company with his father, and produced the orders it inclosed, and requested payment of them. He replied that his father had sent a due bill to Genl. Knox which expressed the exact sum due, and that it was expected that he would return the due bill with the orders he might draw;—but that he would see me the next morning at the Custom house at nine o'clock. I attended in season, but he did not appear nor has his father or he been there or at my house. The afternoon of this day I went in quest of them and saw the Col. in the evening, who told me as his son had told mine, adding that this mode of a due bill was necessary to keep his accounts with the Public regulars, that it would not do for him to pay the orders and leave the due bill standing out against him, and that he supposed by this time the due bill was sent to you. When that bill is sent to you I presume Genl. Knox will make the contents of it payable to your order.

I should have answered your letter by the returning post, had not young Crary disappointed me. I shall with pleasure serve you on this or any other occasion; for I am with esteem

Sir your obed. servant

WM. ELLERY.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, ESQ.
Collector for the District of
Boston & Charlestown
State of Massachusetts.

Connecticut

Roger Sherman

BORN in Newtown, Massachusetts, April 19, 1721. Died in New Haven, Connecticut, July 23, 1793. Was a shoemaker in early life but was in 1745 appointed surveyor of lands for New Milford. He was successively Judge of Common Pleas and Assistant of the Upper House in the Legislature. He was appointed to Congress in 1774 and was elected to the Senate in 1791. He was Mayor of New Haven from 1784 until the time of his death. He was a prominent member of the Continental Congress, and was for several years Treasurer of Yale College. His assistance in codifying the laws of Connecticut was most important and valuable.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19, 1776.

SIRS

The enclosed paper contains several resolutions of the Congress and an Act of the Assembly of Connecticut. Col. Dyer informs me that he sent copies of the resolves of Congress immediately after they were passed to you and to the Magistrates in the County of Northumberland. We have had an account of an attack on our people by some of the Pennsylvanians who were repulsed with the loss of two men killed, but have heard nothing from the Connecticut people relative to that action or whether they sustained any loss. There is a report here that your people have given some disturbance to the Settlers under Pennsylvania. I should be glad of a particular account from you of the situation of affairs relative to that unhappy controversy which tends to weaken the union of the Colonies at the present alarming crisis. I hope you will do all in your power to prevent any disturbances being given to the Settlers under Pennsylvania by our people and that the resolutions of the Congress be duly observed. You will observe that the Assembly of Connecticut have shortened the western limit of Westmoreland. I would advise that no jurisdiction be exercised over the Settlers under Pennsylvania within the limits of P. Town if any be contrary to their mind. Col. Dyer and Mr. Dean have left Congress the time they were appointed for being expired, and Oliver Wolcot and Samuel Huntington Esqrs. are now attending in their stead. You will observe that the Congress have recommended that all the effects taken and detained from any persons on the controverted land be restored, it will be proper to apply to the Magistrate who took cognizance

of that matter for or restitution to the Sheriff who had the goods in custody, and if they are not restored that the case be represented to the Congress and if anything hath been taken from the people of Pennsylvania by the Connecticut people that the same be restored.

I am Sir, with due regards

Your humble servant

ROGER SHERMAN

To ZEBULUM BUTLER, Esq.
at Wyoming.

Samuel Huntington

BORN Windham, Connecticut, July 3, 1732. Died Norwich January 5, 1796. He held prior to 1775 the office of King's Attorney and Associate Justice of the Superior Court of Connecticut, and was elected to the Continental Congress in January, 1776. He became President of Congress in September, 1779, and remained in office until July, 1780. He returned to Congress from May to June, 1783, and the following year was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Connecticut. Having been elected Lieutenant Governor in 1785, he succeeded Roger Griswold as Governor in 1786 and held that position annually until his death.

NORWICH, 20th April, 1776.

SIR

Enclosed you have my account in the Case of Mr. Cogswell vs Town of Plainfield, which I forgot to give you when at Norwich.

Am Sir with Esteem your humble servant

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

FOR Major JEDIAH ELDERKIN, Esq.,
Windham

per CAPT. TRUMBULL.

NORWICH, November 25, 1788.

SIR

In justice to Lieut. John Pratt, the officer employed on the Recruiting Service in this State for sometime past, I have thought proper to acquaint you that his conduct as a faithful, vigilant & active officer while on that service so far as hath come within my knowledge & observation, merits entire approbation,

With Sentiments of Esteem & respect

I am, Sir

Your humble servant

S. HUNTINGTON

GEN'L. HARMAR

William Williams

BORN in Lebanon, Connecticut, April 8, 1731. Died there August 2, 1811. Was graduated from Harvard College in 1751 and, being attached to the Staff of Colonel Ephraim Williams, made a campaign in 1755. He became a prominent member of the Council of Safety and a representative to Congress in October, 1775. For many years he served in the State Legislature, filling a large number of offices of trust, and was also a member of the Convention of his State which adopted the Federal Constitution.

SIR

This certifies That We, the subscribing Civil Authority and select men of the Town of Lebanon, have carefully inspected the rate or Tax Bills in the hands of Capt. Elijha Hutchinson, containing several viz seven Taxes due and payable from the Inhabitants of this Town to the Treasurer of this State on their general list for the year 1782, of which B. Hutchinson is Collector & have considered the circumstances of the persons on whom they are severally assessed & have abated and do hereby abate on & in part of said several taxes, viz

On the March	1st	taxes to the amount of	£	15-10-6	½
On the March	2nd	taxes to the amount of	£	31-1-1	
On the April	2nd	taxes to the amount of	£	186-9-27	½
On the Aug.	2nd	taxes to the amount of	£	31-1-1	
On the Dec.	6th	taxes to the amount of	£	93-4-7	½
On the Jan'y.	7th	taxes to the amount of	£	108-15-2	
On the March	8th	taxes to the amount of	£	124-5-8	½

Being two twentieth parts of each of said taxes & have carefully applied the same to the relief of the most indigent & such as stand in the greatest need of abatement & to the benefit of such only as we judge unable to pay said taxes & parts of taxes, which we have abated to them respectively as the Law directs.

And you will please to receive & allow the same in favor of said collector, in settlement with him on said taxes.

Your most obedient humble Servants

WM. WILLIAMS, Assessor

JABEZ CLARK Justice of Peace

Lebanon 25th November 1785.

JOHN LAWRENCE Esq.,

Treas'r. of the State of Connecticut &c.

Oliver Wolcott

BORN Connecticut November 26, 1722. Died December 1, 1797. Graduated at Yale and received a Captain's commission from the Governor of New York. Became Sheriff of Litchfield County in 1751 and in 1774 a member of the State Council. He filled the position of Judge of Probate Court, was one of the Commissioners of the Indian affairs, and in 1776 commanded frontier Connecticut Regiments organized to assist the Army of New York, and in that year took his seat in Congress. Serving as Lieutenant Governor of the State from 1785 to 1796, he was elected Governor in the latter year and filled that position until his death.

LITCHFIELD 14th Aug 1776

SIR/

I have been Favoured with Two Letters from you since my return Home, and which I should have sooner acknowledged had I been Situated in the usual Road of Conveyance I hope your disagreeable apprehensions respecting what may be the effects of our Treaty with France will be removed when you shall consider the advantages which have already resulted from them, and shall hereafter find that National Benefit and Security which I flatter myself will be derived from this convention. For altho I have no great Dependance upon the Justice of any Nation, (Abstractly considered) yet such is our coincidence of Interests and so few are our obligations that I apprehend We have but little to fear from this alliance. French Honour I believe is equal to that of any other nation. Their Interest in the Independency and in cultivating peace with this country is clear in my View—And I hope that Nation considers the Subject in the same Point of Light.

We shall feel some Impatience till We hear the Result of the Island Expedition—Our Troops make good their landing there last Monday—the weather since I believe has been pretty unfavourable for the Interprize—altho I hope there is but little Danger but it will succeed—The Expedition is I think a very good one, well planned—and not like that before projected, which if it had been successful no advantage would have accrued from it. . . .

As to News except of the Domestick kind, I shall not attempt to give you any as your Intelligence must be earlier and more perfect than any I can communicate. I suppose you have before now seen the motion of the D. of Richmond to address his B. Majesty on the State of the Nation

—This as I suppose it is a true so is gives a fuller representation of the affairs of that Nation than any I had before seen. The Ridiculous King of G. B. and his ridiculous Ministers must (if capable of it) have most exquisite sensations by this Time.—But it matters not or to us what they either feel or think, let them continue the curses to that Nation who are willing to bear them. . . .

Our Superior Court have just ended there Sessions here, they have not ordered anybody to be hanged, altho probably enough sundry may have deserved it.

You will I believe receive a Letter from Mrs. Adams by which you will be informed of the Wellfare of your Family.

You will please Sir to favour me with every material Intelligence, and will also present my Compliments to Mrs Sherman and Mr. Hosmour—I am with respect Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

OLIVER WOLCOTT

ANDREW ADAMS Esqr.

HARTFORD, 14th May, 1781.

SIR:—

I am at this place attending our Legislature. The last week the election of the Governor and Council of the State was consummated. The appointments are the same as they were the last year except that two gentlemen are newly chosen to supply that number of vacancies in Council. The election of members for Congress is the same as it was the last year except that Mr. B. Huntington is chosen in the room of the late Mr. Hopmore.

We have no late news except what has been brought by the French Frigate in which the Admiral came who is to take the command of the French Fleet at Newport. The intelligence brought by this ship you will receive. If the Czarina has recalled her Ambassador from the British Court, as is said, and shall the Dutch heartily enter into the War against G. Britain, we may hope for some further important events in our favour.

The old continental money is very reluctantly rec'd in the State. I believe that our Assembly will limit the duration of its circulation. Publick credit here as in every other state is in a very low condition. How we shall be able to comply with the extensive demands made upon this State, I cannot say. I hope that every effort will be made to support every necessary publick measure. Had we believed as we ought to have done that the supplies must be furnished by our own exertion, the requisitions would perhaps have been more seasonably made and more proper regulations adopted.

People here are much chagrined at the positive orders given Cap't Harding to come into the Port of Philadelphia, which seems to have occasioned the loss of that Frigate

and her valuable and necessary cargo. It seems that we are yet to learn that we never did nor never I believe shall keep one secret. I perceived before that I left Philadelphia that it was well known in the City that the Confederacy was to return into that Port, the time when she was expected, and her loading. It is very strange that such positive order should be given and it ought to be more strange that after they were given that they should be published. But it is only a single instance of our want of common discretion.

I have taken the liberty Sir to enclose a Letter to Mr. Marshall which I beg your favour to send to him.

I am Sir with real regards

Your most obed. Servant

OLIVER WOLCOTT

FOR ARTEMAS WARD.

Member of Congress
Philadelphia.

New York

William Floyd

BORN in Suffolk County, New York, September 17, 1774. Died in Western August 4, 1821. Early in the controversy between Great Britain and the Colonies he became conspicuous for the energy with which he championed the popular cause. In consequence of this he was in early Revolutionary times appointed a delegate to the first Continental Congress and in 1775 was again appointed delegate, which position he filled for eight years. He became Senator for New York in 1774, and was presidential elector in 1801, in which year he was chosen a member of the Convention to revise the Constitution in the State of New York.

MIDDLETOWN, October 29th, 1780.

SIR:

The note which you gave to Daniel Downs, dated 3rd of June, 1775, soon came into my hands which I suppose you was acquainted with. I imagine it would be more agreeable to you to pay the money than to let the interest run upon you as it now does, and as I am in want of the money, I have given Mr. John Ingraham an order to receive it for me. The whole amount to the 3rd of November next is 265 Pounds, York money, and his receipt on the back of the order shall be your discharge for whatever sum he may so receive.

Your compliance in paying the above mentioned order will oblige

Sir, your humble servant

W. FLOYD

TO MR. JAMES DOWNS.
Southhold.

Francis Lewis

BORN in Llandoff, Glamorganshire, Wales, March, 1713. Died in New York December 30, 1803. He came to New York when 22 years of age and was engaged in commercial pursuits until the war broke out in 1775. Elected to the Continental Congress, he took his seat in that body in May, 1775, as a delegate from New York, and remained a member of Congress until 1779 with a very short interval of a few months.

GENTLEM.

I had the honor to write you the 31st Ult. & 7th Instant, of which you have Copys herewith, as also all the necessary accounts relative to the Montgomery Prizes, by those accounts you'll find a Ballance resting in my hands of £4978,4,6 due the Captors & due to the State of New York £4951,3,9 Total £9929,8,3. The Registers Bill of Costs on the Libells agt. the Minerva & Cargo, I have not been able to obtaine, as the Register is out of Town, I would advise the retaining abt. £30 out of the Captors moiety towards discharging that cost, especially as I have been informed by the Marshall that the Claimants intend to sue my Bond given for 4000 doll'rs to prosecute the appeal, as they allege damages they have sustained by detention of the Vessells and expenses of Witnesses.

When I left Phila. Mr. Ph. Livingston promised me he would endeavor to procure an application from Congress to the Governor of Virginia permitting salt to be purchased there for the State of New York, upon my receiving the application I shall send down my son to Virginia for the purpose. . . . last night a small Vessell arrived here with 100 bus. salt from Hampton Virginia which was purchased at North Carolina by a Trader of this Town & sent by land to Hampton. Five men of War besides Tenders being at the Capes the navigation into this Bay is at present entirely blocked up. and by the last advice from Jersey we are informed that the British Troops were at Somerset Court House on their march to Delaware, so that if salt can be procured in these parts the transportation must be hazardous. I have the honor to be

Gentlem.

Your Obed' Humble. Servt.

FRA. LEWIS

Baltimore 20th June 1777.

[OVER.]

P. S. since writing the foregoing I have been furnished with the Admiralty Court's Costs on the Libell agt. the Brig. Minerva 57,19,5 also for 2 Tons Pig Iron taken by Capt. Rogers for Ballast omit'd, 33,0,0—£90,19,5 To be deducted from the Nett pCeeds exclusive of the £31 for 31 Galls. of Rum, for the payment of the Rum shall waite your orders.

The Honble. Council of Safety
for the State of New York.

Philip Livingston

BORN in Albany, New York, January 15, 1716. Died York, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1778. Graduated at Yale College in 1737 he was engaged in commerce in New York City. Appointed to the Colonial House of Assembly in 1758 he continued to serve as a member of that body until 1760. He served as a member of the first and second Continental Congress, later in the New York Provincial Congress, in the State Assembly and in the Senate. He died when serving as a delegate from New York to the Continental Congress then sitting in York.

NEW YORK, the 5th May, 1775.

MY DR KATEY

You have no doubt been very uneasy at the melancholy news from Boston, which has occasioned the greatest confusion and anxiety here, the Town is however now pretty quiet, how long that will continue God only knows. We are in the greatest state of uncertainty whether any Troops are coming here from England or not, if they do I am very fearful it will occasion disturbances of a very serious nature.

People here are determined not to submit to the oppressive Acts of Parliament and to give New England all the assistance they can. I shall leave this place for Philadelphia next Monday to attend the continental Congress, where it is very probable steps will be taken from the necessity of the times, that every good man would wish could be avoided. But in such times the strictest Union of Councils is necessary and I believe and doubt not but the Congress will unite like one man in every measure necessary for the common safety.

The Boston Delegates came to town this afternoon, the account of that battle is much as we heard it; the King's Troops began first, they lost 112 men and 167 wounded, the Provincials lost 37 men. Boston is surrounded by about 10,000. men who are in high spirits and think themselves an overmatch for all the troops that General Gage has there and expects to have. God grant them success.

Send Stephen down that he may be at school. Elizabeth Town is safe enough. I see you have let the Island. You must agree with the tenants to pay taxes, not to plant more than 30 acres of corn in one year nor nearer together

than common, and not two years following in one place. To keep at least 30 acres in mowing ground. To repair the building at their own expense. To cut no trees on or near the Bank of the River. To plant a sufficient quantity of willows at the north part of the Island. Not to sow more than 5 acres of hemp. Nor to take any dung off the Island but all that is made to be made use of on the same to the best advantage.

I remain, Dr Katey

Your affectionate father,

PHIL. LIVINGSTON

I sent last week to the care of Wm. Dinch Gen. Broceh 6 trunks which you will please send for and keep at your house. I could wish that few people knew that they belonged to me.

P. L.

MESS. BAYNTON, WHARTON & MORGAN
Merchants at Philadelphia,

NEW YORK the 28th Nov. 1767.

MESSRS. BAYNTON, WHARTON & MORGAN
GENT.

I received yours dated 17th inst. advising me of the state of your affairs. You may be fully assured that the first accounts of that affair gave me great concern, not on my own account but for you and your families any man of the least humanity cannot help feeling on such occasions. It gives me real pleasure to find you are still of opinion that after paying all your debts, something handsome will be left & heartily & sincerely wish it may prove so. You are most undoubtedly mistaken in telling Mr. Hicks that you had no concern with Mr. Ver Plank. The Kettles I bought of him for your account & on your credit entirely & I did not mean to charge you any commission on the same as I wrote to you, but you insisted on it & then I did charge it, but to putt that matter out of all dispute & to evince in the clearest manner how it was understood between Mr. Verplank and me I send you at foot a copy of Mr. Verplanks original bill parcells wherein he charges you & I have your letter directing me to buy of him so that I was only an Agent for you & as such I had an undoubted right to charge a commission for my trouble without making myself at all liable for the debt which I would however not have charged had you not insisted on it. A commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would hardly tempt me to buy goods payable at a distant period & to insure the debt. I have further to observe to you that Mr. Verplank never opened his

lips to me about this affair since the purchase was made so that the steps he has taken to arrest you are entirely without my knowledge, privity or procurement and I am apt to think he did not look in his daybook at his original entry when he wrote to Mr. Hicks or he must there have seen that the goods were sold at 9 months credit, as you will see by copy of the bill parcells dated 8 April so that the time of payment is not untill the 8 January next. I have not been very well for some days but hope to see Mr. Verplank before I seal this letter if so you shall be informed at foot what he says if not, by the next post.

30th November. since the above was wrote I have spoke to Mr. Verplank he says that he bought the kettles of you by me as your agent, that he made the entry so in his book and never had the least thought that I was any way liable to him. He well remembers that I showed him your letter directing me to buy the kettles of him & he debited you accordingly. Mr. Verplank you must be senceable can have no desire to shift the debt from you to me at this juncture. I do not think he will be prevailed on to give time & even was I liable and Mr. Verplank had no right to sue, if he insisted on my paying the money I would think it my duty to insist on the same from you, there can be no reason assigned why I should pay the money out of my pockett not having had any view in the whole transaction but to serve your interest.

I am Gentlemen

Your most obedient servant

PHIL. LIVINGSTON

NEW YORK 8th April 1767.

MESS. BAYTON & WHARTON

by PHILL LIVINGSTON, Esq.

2 Casks Raw Brass Indian Kettles viz.

No. 24 435: † 870 L. B @ 29 £119.12.6

No. 25 435: †

A parcell of Wire for Ditto . W 542 L. B 1 . £ 27. 2.0

£146.14.6

Lewis Morris

BORN at Morrisania, Westchester County, New York, in 1726. Died January 22, 1798. Graduated at Yale College 1746 and, interesting himself largely in farming and extensive agricultural pursuits, he was chosen a member of Congress in 1775. He was appointed a member of the Committee to devise means for supplying the Colonies with the necessaries of war. He was afterwards sent west to detach the Indians from the British and in 1776 returned and resumed his seat in Congress. Afterwards he rendered distinguished service in his State Legislature.

SIR

Yesterday I received yours but my Lord Louder not being as yet come to this place cant certainly tell you the time when I shall be able to pay the money but he is every day expected and then I shall advise you, and I cannot say but it will be as convenient to me to pay you in bills as cash which you know when his Lordship arrives here.

Pray make my compliments to Mrs. Cox

From Sir

Your Most Humble Servant

LEWIS MORRIS, JR.

NEW YORK Nov. 24th, 1756.

To WILLIAM COX, Esq.

New Jersey

Richard Stockton

BORN near Princeton, New Jersey, October 1, 1730. Died February 28, 1781. Studied law after graduating from the College of New Jersey in 1748 and was admitted to the bar in 1754. He was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court in 1774, having been previously a member of the Executive Council of New Jersey. He became a member of Congress in 1776 and while inspecting the Northern Army was captured by the British. The severe treatment he underwent as a prisoner undermined his health and was in fact the immediate cause of his death in 1781. *

Aug. 14, 1769.

MY LORD

Agreeable to the communication which passed between us at New York, I wrote Mr. Allwood upon my coming home to attend me which he has done this day. In the course of my speaking to him I told him that all you desired was some publick memorial of his repentance, and that therefore I had reason to believe it was not the quantity but the quality of the compensation you would regard and went so far so with him as to say that upon my intercession you had signified to me that you would abate of the length of the road to be repaired. Finally upon my advising him to accept of the mode of reparation your Lordship had fixed upon, he consented, but told me at the same time that a number of his neighbors would approve and others disapprove of it, nay that some had gone so far as to say if he threw one stone out of the road on this occasion, they would throw in two.

I did not fail to represent to him the danger of such a turbulent and factious spirit and insisted upon his quelling it in person without any delay, which he has engaged to do by all possible means. He has engaged to put into good repair at his own expense the long causway which I am informed is adjoining to & crossing over Dead River, and will complete it as soon as hands can be had from seed time, it shall be finished the next month. He has left and upon my assuring him that I would write your Lordship and beg your acceptance of the terms, and I flatter myself that I shall not be an unsuccessful mediator, upon his paying the costs, of suits, which he has also engaged.

I hope your Lordship will not think it necessary to insist upon any greater length of way, as I believe no more

can be obtained, but in case of your refusal to accept of this, he will suffer an involuntary Judgment to go against him, and trust to a Jury of Inquiry for the damages.

I hope to hear from your Lordship speedily upon this matter, as I have promised to write Mr. Allwood when I am favoured with your answer, and at the same time will be glad to hear that the suit on the part of New Jersey stands in a favourable light before the Commissioners.

With great respects, I am my Lord
Your Lordship's
Most obedient servant.

RICHARD STOCKTON

TO LORD STIRLING.

John Witherspoon, D.D.

BORN in the Parish of Yester, near Edinburgh, February 5, 1722. Died near Princeton, New Jersey, September 15, 1794. He was ordained Minister of the Parish of Beith in the West of Scotland in 1745, and on November 10, 1766, was unanimously chosen president by the Trustees of the College of New Jersey. This he at first refused but afterwards accepted. He became pastor of a Church in Princeton and in 1776 became a member of the Continental Congress. His services in the cause of liberty were untiring and he remained a member of the Continental Congress, representing New Jersey, for six years. During the whole of that time his devotion to public affairs and his close attendance upon the Congress was remarkable for its zeal and perseverance. He retired in the month of November, 1782, after a long series of important services. His powers of memory were remarkable. He often said that he could precisely repeat a speech or sermon written by himself after reading it over only three times.

PEQUA, February 3, 1777.

SIR

The bearer is Mr. John Kittera, son of a substantial freeholder in this County. He was educated in this School & at Princeton College when he was approved both in point of Behaviour & sufficiency He intends applying for being made . . . regimental paymaster to one of the Regiments of this State. Supposing this office to be in the appointment of the Council of Safety we recommend him to you & by you to the other members of that body being persuaded that he will acquit himself to your satisfaction both in point of ability & fidelity.

We are Sir your most obedient humble servants

JOHN WITHERSPOON
ROBERT SMITH

TO CAPT. BLEUVER.
Philadelphia.

Francis Hopkinson

BORN in Philadelphia in 1737. Died May 9, 1791. Graduated from the College of Philadelphia, he was in 1761 Secretary of the conference held on the Lehigh between the Pennsylvania Government and various Indian tribes. He was sent to Congress in 1776 as a representative of New Jersey. Was Judge of the Admiralty of Pennsylvania for ten years, having been appointed in 1779, and was afterwards commissioned United States District Judge of Pennsylvania.

To his Excellency the President & Honourable the Supreme
Executive Council.

GENTLEMEN:

Enclosed is a certified account of Fees received in my
office during the Quarter ending the 13th Instant. I have
to request that your Honours would be pleased to grant
me a Warrant on the Treasury for fifty Pounds on account
of salary, agreeably to former usage.

I have the honour to be with all due respect.

Your most obedient and very humble servant

FRANCIS HOPKINSON

PHILADELPHIA

March 17, 1785.

John Hart

BORN Hopewell, New Jersey, 1708.
Died there 1780. Was for many years
a member of the Colonial Assembly and was
in 1774 elected representative to the Congress
at Philadelphia. He served there with dis-
tinction, his excellent judgment and inflexible
will making him one of the most valued and
respected members of that body.

Province of New Jersey, fet. Frederick Smyth, David Ogden, Richard Stockton, John Stevens; Daniel Coxe, William Morris, William Cleayton, John Hart, John Grandine, Isaac Smith, Micajah How, Samuel Tucker and John Mehelm, Esquires, Justices of our Lord the King, By Virtue of his Majesty's Commission of Oyer and Terminer, and general Gaol delivery for the County of Hunterdon assigned. To the Sheriff of the County of Hunterdon Greeting; on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, We command you, that, you omit not for any liberty but that you cause to come before us Frederick Smyth, David Ogden, Richard Stockton, John Stevens, Daniel Coxe, William Morris, William Cleayton, John Hart, John Grandine, Isaac Smith, Micajah How, Samuel Tucker, and John Mehelm, Esquires, Justices of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery for the County of Hunterdon aforesaid, or any three or more of us, whereof the said Frederick Smyth, David Ogden or Richard Stockton to be one, at the Court House in the County aforesaid, on Thursday the Fifteenth day of June next all prisoners in your Gaol detained, together with the attachments, indictments, and all other helps those prisoners in any Manner touching. And of the Vicinage of every vill and place where those felonies whereof the said Prisoners are appealed or arresster were committed, as well within Liberties as without, Twenty four good and lawful Men to make a Grand Jury for said County, also forty eight good and lawful Men, by whom the Truth of the matter may be better known and inquired into, and who those prisoners in no Affinity do touch, to do those things which on the Part of our said Lord the King then and there shall be enjoined them. You are also to cause it publicly to be proclaimed throughout your

Bailiwick, that all those who will sue against said Prisoners may be there against them according to Justice to prosecute. You shall also make known to all Justices of the Peace, Coroners, Constables and Bailiffs of every Liberty and Precinct in your County, that they be then there in their proper Persons with the Rolls, Records, Indictments and other memorandums, to do there things which to their Offices appertain, in this Behalf to be done and performed, and that you yourself and your undersheriff with your Officers to be then, and there in your proper persons, to do those things which to your Offices belong in that Behalf, to be done and performed; and have you there then the names of the Justices, Coroners and Constables, and of them whom you shall cause to come before us, and to whom you shall so have made known, and have you also there then this Precept. Dated at Burlington the Eighteenth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy five.

RICHARD STOCKTON	JOHN GRANDIN
DANIEL COXE	JOHN HART
WILLIAM CLEAYTON	MICAJAH HOW
ISAAC SMITH	

Abraham Clark

BORN Elizabethtown, New Jersey, February 15, 1726. Died Rahway, New Jersey, in 1794. Having held several important local offices he was appointed June 21, 1776, by the Provincial Congress a delegate to the Continental Congress. In that capacity he served until November, 1783, except during the session of 1779. In 1787 he was appointed by the Assembly of New Jersey one of the Commissioners to represent that State in the Convention which framed the Federal Constitution, and was a member also of the second Congress, being elected to it in 1790.

March 29, 1778.

Mr. Wadsworth is desired to puruse the enclosed regulations and signifi his pleasure whether he is willing to accept the appointment of Comsy. General, and whether he find any defect in the System of consequence sufficient to require a reconsideration.

The information may be given to Mr. Dyer or
His humble servant

ABRA CLARK.

To JEREMIAH WADSWORTH, Esq.
Yorktown

Pennsylvania

Robert Morris

BORN in Lancashire, England, January 20, 1734. Died Philadelphia May 8, 1806. Arrived in Philadelphia when 13 years of age, and having received a commercial education, entered into partnership with Mr. Thomas Willing in 1754. In 1775 while presiding at a meeting of the Anniversary of St. George, news of the massacre of Lexington was received by his company. From that moment his resolution as to his future political course was fixed. He was appointed a member of Congress November 3, 1775, and became a member of the Committee on Naval Armament. His services to the finances of the Revolution were invaluable. On February 20, 1781, he was appointed Secretary of Finance and Washington offered him the position of Secretary of Treasury but this he declined.

PHILADA. April 19, 1777.

MESS. SAMUEL & ROBERT PURVIANCE

GENTLEMEN

Your favour of the 12th & 19th Inst. came duly to hand, the first advising your purchase of flour & enclosing inventories of the two prize Vessells. We think the flour was bought very reasonably & mentioned it in Congress as proper to be delivered to the Commissary at Baltimore for the use of the army which was agreed to & he must settle with you for it. We entered into the consideration of purchasing the Prize Vessells immediately & for several reasons that need not be repeated, thought it best at present to decline a purchase however we shall be glad to know who buys them & and the price they sell for, as it may probably suit to charter should the purchasers want freight. We have seen the owner of the Brimstone here & he has our offer under consideration. Respecting the Cloathing you have purchased or have in view to purchase, we refer you entirely to the Clothier, General James Mease Esq., whose department it is to manage those affairs. It would give us pleasure to hear that the Virginia Cap. Nicholson was sailed & your Bay cleared of the enemies ships. There are several of them at Cape Henlopen where they have done much mischief. We are Gentlemen

Your obedient & humble servants

By order of the Secret
Commander.
Baltimore.

ROBERT MORRIS
Chairman.

TO MESS. SAMUEL & ROBERT PURVIANCE
Merchants in
Baltimore.

No. 3.

HILLS, Febry. 5, 1798.

DEAR SIR:—

If writing notes could relieve me you would do it sooner than any man in the world, but all you have said in those now before me No. 5 to 9 inclusive, amount when summed up *to nothing*. My money is gone, my Furniture is to be sold, I am to go to Prison & my family to starve.

Good Night

ROBERT MORRIS.

To

JOHN NICHOLSON, Esq.

Benjamin Franklin

BORN Boston, Mass., January 17, 1706.
Died Philadelphia, April 17, 1790.
Spent his early life in his father's shop and came to Philadelphia in 1723. In 1736 he was made Clerk of the General Assembly and 1737 Postmaster of Philadelphia. In 1747 he began those experiments in electricity which made him known throughout the world. He obtained the grant from the Legislature establishing the Pennsylvania Hospital and was on June 7, 1776, appointed one of the Committee to prepare the Declaration. In the same year he went as a Commissioner to the Court of France and in 1778 concluded the treaty of alliance. His services to his country and to humanity were of so wide and varied a character that it is impossible to fully enumerate them here.



PHILADA. Sept. 8, 1776.

SIR

The Congress having appointed Mr. Adams, Mr. Rutledge & myself to meet Lord Howe and hear what propositions he may have to make, we purpose setting out to-morrow and to be at Perth Amboy on Wednesday morning as you will see by the enclosed, which you are requested immediately to forward to his Lordship; and if an answer comes to your hands, that you would send it to meet us at Amboy. What we have heard of the Badness of the Roads between that place & New York, makes us wish to be spared that part of the journey. With great respect & esteem, I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your Excel's. most obedient & most humble servant

B. FRANKLIN

To His Excel. GEN. WASHINGTON.

Benjamin Rush

BORN Byberry Township near Philadelphia, December 24, 1745. Died Philadelphia April 19, 1813. Graduated from Princeton with the degree of B.A. 1766 and went to Edinburgh, where after two years' study he obtained the decree of Doctor of Medicine. After study of his profession in Paris and London he returned to Philadelphia, and in July, 1776, he was chosen a delegate to the Continental Congress. He was also a member of the Convention for the adoption of the Federal Constitution. In 1793, during the yellow fever epidemic, he rendered the highest possible service, remaining in the City when many physicians had left it. He received many foreign decorations for his researches in medicine, his ability as a teacher being equal to his skill as a physician. He was Treasurer of the United States Mint from 1779 to the time of his death.

MY DEAR FRIEND

I sit down to discharge a double debt to you contracted by your two kind letters. My answer to them will be short, for I must meet my class in half an hour at the hospital. The interval between my ordering Peter to get my chair and his bringing it to the door is alas the only time I can devote to you, tho. hours would be too few to inform you of all I wish to communicate to you.

My class consists of 106 pupils inclusive of my apprentices. It would have been larger had not Dr. Shippen persuaded several young gentlemen to attend Kuhn in preference to me. To effect this, he not only extolled Kuhn's learning & sagacity in strong terms, but spoke with great illiberality of my principles & character in medicine. It is thus he pays me for nearly curing his son of a pulmonary consumption by 25 bleedings, after he had been deserted as incurable by Kuhn and most of the physicians of the city. I do not mention this anecdote with a view to complaining. On the contrary I consider Dr. Shippen's, unkindness & ingratitude with pleasure, for slander & persecution are one part of my real estate. In this respect my enemies have unwillingly made me one of the richest men in the United States.

I have read my Bulletin to my class upon the yellow fever of 1794. it was well received. It will be sent to the press in the spring.

I have lately had many cases of the maniacal state of fever, both in the hospital & in private practice. They yield to copious blood-letting. I discharged three patients in one day as cured of that deplorable malady about two weeks ago from the hospital. As pulmonary consumption is the chronic state of pneumony, so madness is nothing

but the chronic state of Pleurisy. From the continuance of the appetite & of muscular excitement it requires more bleeding to cure the former, than the latter state of that disease.

My dear Mrs. Rush & all the children join in love to you with yours

yours

BENJ. RUSH

Philada. December 21, 1795.

TO DR. ASHTON ALEXANDER

at

Dumfries, Virginia.

P. S. I shall send you a printed copy of my syllabus of my lectures in a few days under cover of a letter from Mr. Blount.

John Morton

BORN in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1742. Died April, 1777. Educated at home, three months being the total time spent by him in school. Was made Justice of Peace in 1764 and was shortly afterwards appointed representative in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, of which he was Speaker for a long time; subsequently he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court. He was delegate in 1774 to the first Congress and was re-elected four times. He will always be remembered as having given the casting vote for Pennsylvania when the votes for and against the Declaration were being cast.

PENNSYLVANIA S.S.

IN ASSEMBLY.

To JOHN KING, Gentleman. July 3, 1776.

We reposing especial trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be second Lieutenant of a Company of Riflemen of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, and to be one of the Companys of the flying camp, for the Protection of this Province against all hostile Enterprises, and for the Defence of American Liberty.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a second Lieutenant aforesaid by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers, under your command to be obedient to your orders as their second Lieutenant. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions, from Time to Time, as you shall receive from the Assembly during their Sessions; and in their Recess, from the present or any future Committee of Safety appointed by the Assembly of this Province, or from your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Regulations for the better Government of the Military Association in Pennsylvania, and pursuant to the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by the Assembly, or by the present or any succeeding Committee of Safety.

Signed by order of the Assembly

JOHN MORTON, Speaker.

George Clymer

BORN in Philadelphia, 1739. Died January 23, 1813. Inherited from his uncle, William Coleman, who had directed his education, a considerable fortune. Was a member of the Council of Safety and in July, 1775, became Continental Treasurer. On July 20, 1776, was appointed with James Wilson and others to succeed those members of the Pennsylvania Delegation who had refused their assent to the Declaration and abandoned their seats in Congress. Re-elected in 1777 he continued an active member of that body until May 19, 1777, when he was forced to ask leave of absence on account of ill health. He was again elected in 1780 and served until 1782. He was also a member of the first House of Representatives, being elected by a large majority.

SIR

Captain Pigman's Representation respecting the Militia in Monongalia County was sent to us but on looking into it found it ought to have been addressed to you, and therefore send it to you.

Your most obedient Servants

GEO. CLYMER
SAMP. MATHEWS.

GEN. HAND.

James Smith

BORN in Ireland, 1719. Died York, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1806. Came to America when 12 years old with his father. Attended the College of Philadelphia, where he became skilful in surveying. Studied law and removed to York, where he resided during the rest of his life. In the Provincial Assembly June 23, 1776, became a member of the Committee having charge of the Resolution declaring the Independence of this Province from Great Britain, and July 20, 1776, was elected by the Provincial Assembly a delegate to the Continental Congress in the place of one who had voted against the Declaration. He died in his ninety-third year.

YORK 20th April, 1802.

DEAR SIR

Immediately after the receipt of your letter of the 30th ulto. I made every enquiry in my power, touching the proceedings of Mr. Wheelen's Hewers of Wood (for it seems the race of the Gibeonites are yet in existence) & found by every account, they were going on with the most destructive industry.

You mention in your letter "that an agent should be employed to ascertain precisely, whether the land on which ye Trespass has been committed falls within our claim, and if it does to what extent the injury has been done" to ascertain the facts with precision, no person seemed so proper, as the Commissioned Surveyor of the District with the assistance of some of the most respectable neighbors.

As soon as I could possibly procure the attendance of Mr. John Eichelberger Surveyor of the district in which the land lies I furnished him with the Original Draught and written instructiond to direct him how to proceed with letters to some of the most intelligent neighbors to shew the lines and estimate the damage done to the Land, which business he has compleated, and by the enclosed Draught you will perceive to what extent they have proceeded and are still going on with unabated industry.

James Liggits procedure surprises me much, as I always esteemed him as a man of integrity, no man in York County knew our lines & Title better than James Liggit.

As to Mr. Wheelen being a stranger to our claim & title what shall I think? believing him to be a man of probity & honour, he must have forgot that, before his people entered on our land he was shewed our line & was informed of our title & warned not to cut any wood within our lines.

I remain Dear Sir

Your most obedient Servant

JAMES SMITH

Hon. JASPER YEATS
Lancaster.

George Taylor

BORN in Ireland, 1716. Died February 23, 1781, in Eastern Pennsylvania. Educated in the profession of medicine he gave it up and came to America, taking a position as filler in the iron works at Durham, below Easton, Pennsylvania. He became clerk for the owner of the works and afterwards married his widow and became manager of the works. He became a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1764 and continued a member until 1770. On November 4, 1775, he prepared and presented to the Assembly a draft of instructions to the delegates to the Continental Congress, directing them to vote the dissolution of the allegiance of the Province to Great Britain. On July 20, 1776, he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress. On March 17, 1777, he retired from Congress and never again engaged in public service.

EASTON 4th Decem'br 1780

DEAR SIR,

I understand the Furnace is out of Blast some time ago
& perhaps you could spare a team or two to send me a
little Hay my Horse & Cow have not a mouthful to eat
& what is worse I have not a shilling to buy any. if you
have any flat irons please to send me two or three pair.
I wish you would take a ride up and settle the remaining
part of the Hessians acco't I would come down but am not
able to Ride. I should be glad to talk with you about
several things that cannot be contained in a Letter.

I am Sir
Yr. most Huble. Servt.

GEO. TAYLOR.

RICHD. BACKHOUSE Esqr.

James Wilson

BORN St. Andrews, Scotland, 1742.
Died Edenton, North Carolina, August 28, 1798. Came to Philadelphia in 1766 and obtained the position of tutor in the Latin department of Philadelphia College and Academy. He studied law in the office of John Dickinson and having been admitted to the bar became eminent in the practice of his profession. He served as member of the second Continental Congress, 1775, and was re-elected in 1776 and 1777. He was in 1787 a delegate from Pennsylvania to the Convention which assembled at Philadelphia for the purpose of framing the Constitution. He argued strongly in favor of its ratification and delivered the oration at the procession formed to celebrate its adoption. In 1789 he was appointed one of the first Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, became Professor of Law in the College of Philadelphia in 1792, and retained these offices until his death.

DEAR SIR

Some business, which I have to transact here, prevents my attendance at Lancaster. You will oblige me by giving some attention to the few actions in which I am concerned in that County. An ejectment has long been depending in Cumberland County between the Lessee of the Reverend Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Fleming. I think a Distringas has been ordered for the next Court of Nisi Prius at Carlisle. If it has not, I must entreat of you to take the necessary steps at Lancaster to send the Distringas to the Sheriff of Cumberland County, and to give a notice of Treat to Mr Stevenson the attorney for the Defendant. I shall be at Carlisle. I wish you a pleasant and profitable Circuit, and am, with much Regard

Dear Sir

Sincerely yours

JAMES WILSON

Philada 7th May, 1780.

JASPER YEATES Esq,
Lancaster.

George Ross

BORN New Castle, Delaware, 1730.
Died Lancaster, Pennsylvania, July, 1779. Admitted to the Bar of Philadelphia, at the age of eighteen he removed to Lancaster, where he obtained a fine practice. Became a member of the Continental Congress September 5, 1774, and continued until 1777 a member of that body. Lancaster County offered him 150 Pounds of the County stock as a recompense for the time he had given to public business but he declined it. In 1779 he was appointed Judge of Admiralty for the State of Pennsylvania but died very shortly after.

No. 904. Petition from Lancaster, 1755.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR

The enclosed letter from Mr. Allison with the annexed copy we have just now received by express, by which your Honour will be able to judge of the melancholy & distressed situation of the inhabitants of this & the other Frontier Countys of this Province There are not one half of the people of this County who have arms and there is not amunition by any means sufficient for those that have, We beg your Honour's assistance in furnishing those that are willing to do their utmost for the defence of their family's & bleeding Country in such manner as time and opportunity will admit. And as we are thus destitute of all manner of warlike stores and in a great degree separate and disunited by means of our distant abodes and for want of some plan of operation amongst us; tho. many are well disposed, unless some supplies are speedily sent to oppose the progress of the enemy we in Lancaster as well as many more must shortly evacuate our places of abode. We are with the utmost respect

Your Honour's most obedient & humble
servants

Lancaster 12 November 1755

6 o'clock P.M.

P. S.

You have also enclosed a copy of an affidavit the original whereof was sent by John Harris to Mr. Franklin.

To the Honble. ROBERT HUNTER MORRIS Esq.

Governor of the Province of
Pennsylvania.

To CAPTAIN THOMAS RODNEY Esquire
in Dover.

ROBERT THOMPSON

JOHN N. CATHER, Justice

GEORGE ROSS

JOSEPH SHIPPEN JUNIOR

Delaware

Caesar Rodney

BORN in Dover, Delaware, about 1730. Died 1783. Little is known of his early life. In 1762 he was a member of the Assembly which met in New Castle, having been sent there by his native County. In 1774 acting as Speaker he called a meeting of the Legislature and was sent by that body to the Continental Congress to be held in Philadelphia. Re-elected to Congress, and also made Brigadier General, he was in 1777 chosen President of the State of Delaware, and in 1782 declined a re-election and was again made delegate to Congress.

TRENTON, Feby. 12, 1777.

I now set down to write you by Coll. Collins who was left sick at Morristown and is not yet recovered. He came here the night before last & was detained yesterday by snow which fell the most of the day. As the first and most material piece of intelligence, I inform you that I am in good Health and have not been a moment otherwise since I left home. The day after you left me in consequence of permission had of General Putnam for that purpose, I got a waggon, packed up All. my Baggage and set out for Pennistown Got about four miles on my way and met orders from him to return to this Post, letting me know that upon second consideration, he thought it too material a post for any less than a General's Officer. I returned and soon after I came back Lord Sterling came to town, dined with me and promised that as soon as he got to Headquarters where he was then going he would prevail upon General Washington to call me to Headquarters. However General Washington supposing I was by that time with Putnam did not think proper to do it. Our people, or the most of them, by the time they had been a week at camp got so uneasy to return that General Washington ordered them away to join General Putnam. They set out, came to Putnam's post on Monday, yesterday week, and next day as they informed me by leave of General Putnam set out again and came here and the next day set out for Philada on their way home. Upon the whole I think the General hardly expected they would go any farther than General Putnam's Post. Because on Thursday evening last which was the day they left here, I rec'd orders from General Washington to take them into my Brigade with Putnam, supposing I had a Brigade under

Putnam. All this appeared to be such a mystery that I could not tell what to think of it till Mr. Coll. Collins came and told me that the General finding that he could do nothing with them, said he would march them to Putnam where I was that I might try to deal with them, not knowing that I had been ordered back by Putnam. However to do the men justice who came from our County Mr. Coll. Collins says he is convinced every man of them would have staid provided those from Newcastle and Sussex would but that they were determined against it.

Captain Manny had his men all turned out to stay. Every man upon being addressed. Now you must know the General requested them to stay only two weeks and that he would then discharge them. I most sincerely wish they had, for their uneasiness drew from the General a very severe letter to them which Coll. Collins has.

I have just rec'd intelligence of an engagement between our troops and those of the English at Quibble Town, the particulars of which are not yet fully known here, but are related as follows—That Coll. Scott of the Virginians with about four hundred men were attacked by a Foraging party consisting of two thousand who beat him back. Coll. Scott continued to fight and retreat till he was reinforced which was in a very little time from different quarters to near as many if no more in number than the Enemy, and then beat the enemy back to their lines at Brunswick with the loss of all the Cattel Horses &c. They had been pillaging and three hundred or thereabouts of their men killed. Our people lost either two or three men.

When I shall be discharged the Service in order to set out home cannot yet say, but suppose it wont be long. However am determined not to leave it while I am thought

necessary or usefull, and have reason to believe the Generals have hitherto thought me both.

I have now a lot of acquaintance here, both Gentlemen and Ladies, that do everything in their power to make my time agreeable, and will I am convinced part with me, when obliged to do it, with great reluctance. You may think strange how this should come to pass. However I am certainly a man of consequence here, tho if ever so little in my own State, and they have got it in their heads, tho ever so strangely, that I am a gentleman as well as a Whig. My love to Betsey, Sally, Caesar, Clyde &c. Remember me to all my friends and believe me

Yours etc.,

CAESAR RODNEY.

P.S. pray don't neglect to have an eye to my business either at plantation or elsewhere.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY

I beg leave to inform you that in virtue of a Resolution of the General Assembly passed the Twenty sixth day of June last, empowering the President to appoint a proper person to go to the City of Philadelphia, make inquiry for, demand, receive, secure &c., the public papers belonging to this State that had been taken away by the English. I appointed Samuel Patterson, Esq., who in pursuance of said appointment proceeded to Philadelphia, and, by the papers returned me procured many of the Records above mentioned and lodged them in the Offices of Newcastle County, to which they belong. He has also lodged with me an account of his expenses, which, with the other papers reported to me accompanies this message for your perusal and approbation.

CAESAR RODNEY

Dover, Oct. the 29th, 1778.

PHILADELPHIA, July the 10th, 1776.

SIR:

You mention in your last that Mr. Wells is discharged the service. Coll. Haslet has not as yet reported that matter to Congress. When he does I shall attend to what you have said on that head.

With respect to the other matters you sent me, I am of opinion that any good effect which might flow from them must be local, I mean that it would be confined principally to the inhabitants of that County,—and on the other hand at a time of such eminent danger, when powerful Armies are actually knocking at our gates, and the serious attention of every friend to American Liberty is employed in giving that manly opposition to those vile invaders of their just rights, privileges and property. Whether it would be prudent to hold out to the World such numbers of internal enemies—especially as by the manly and determined spirit prevailing in the Congress their wings must and will be clipped. The Declaration has laid the foundation, and will be followed by laws fixing the degree of offence and punishment suitable. Some people have done things, which if done in future nothing less than life will be sufficient to atone for. These enemies to our righteous cause will I apprehend be less on their guard if they are not held up in that public way, than if they are, and will undoubtedly meet their due reward, provided you persue steadily your line of Patriotism, and at the same time keep a watchfull eye toward their conduct in the politics of your County. These things must and will be inquired into. But, Sir—now is the time and season that our open and avowed enemies are pressing hard. They call forth the attention and utmost vigilance of the Congress to that point. They

well know they have internal enemies in disguise, and whenever by the blessing of God, their virtuous efforts shall be crowned with success. They will immediately turn their thoughts toward those sappers of the rights of mankind. It is also the business of every Government so soon as formed to take in hand that business. South Carolina has already set them a good example.

I have sent you a pamphlet called Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty &c., wrote by Doctor Price in England. It is an excellent piece, and don't doubt, properly used, will tend to strengthen your patriotic or in other words independent party. I have also directed one to Doctor McCall as present.

The Militia of Pennsylvania are beginning their march this day toward New York, and I do suppose that by the last of this week General Washington will be thirty thousand strong at least. Coll. Haslet's Battalion (except one company which to stay at Lewis) is ordered up to Wilmington, as a security to Philadelphia, in the absence of their Militia, as well as to the Lower Counties, and hopes for this reason the Committee of Safety will permit them to retain (while thus employed) the Militia Arms belonging to the public.

Neither Betsy's or Sally's shoes are yet done, tho. the measures were sent as soon as I got to town. I am glad to find that you are of opinion my harvest will be down by the last of this week. pray do attend to it, perhaps wheat will bring something next year.

I am yours &c.,

CAESAR RODNEY

George Read

BORN Cecil County, Maryland, 1734. Died 1798. Studied for the Bar and upon his admission began practice at New Castle, Delaware. He became by appointment Attorney General for the three lower counties of Delaware in 1763 and was in 1774 elected to Congress. He strenuously opposed the adoption of the Declaration, maintaining the time had not come for such action, but voted for it. In 1776 he was President of the Convention which formed the first Constitution of Delaware. In 1782 he was made Judge of United States Court of Appeals and in 1793 Chief Justice of Delaware. He was the first Senator for the State of Delaware.

No. 37 NEWCASTLE, ye 10th March, 1766.

SIR

There is a tract of between 50 & 60 acres of marsh below and adjoining to the Town of Newcastle known by the name of the Town Marsh, eight acres of which belong to the Hon'ble. the Proprietaries and hath been held by Mr. Geo. Monro under them for many years the rent thereof hath not been near sufficient to pay its proportion of rebuilding and repairing the banks inclosing the whole tract. Doctor Finney held about two thirds of the whole, Geo. Monro, Thos. McKean & myself held about Four Acres each the residue. Six or seven years since the Banks broke and the whole lay under water until the last summer when Doctor Finney with the consent of the other owners & possessors raised a new Bank at the expense of about £3.10.0 per acre. The last fall and winter our new work suffered much which induced the owners here to determine upon laying out a considerable sume for repairing it. A great number of labourers were engaged and Monday the 3rd of March instant, fixed upon to begin, but the Saturday preceeding proved fatal to us. The wind and tide rose so high that the water made its way over the greatest part of the bank and levelled it in many places equal to the surface of the marshes, and we were once more overflowed. This accident occasioned a division of sentiment about the rebuilding it. Some of the owners thought it impracticable but all agreed to sell and I became the purchaser from the owners here and now apply to your honor as a Com. of Property (not knowing whether there is another) to purchase the eight acres above some of the most ordinary in the whole. This in the opinion of persons who have no property there, among others I mention Mr. McWilliam

who is a Judge nevertheless in order to make it worth my while to attempt the supporting a Bank to inclose the whole marsh there. I am willing to pay the same price per acre for those eight acres that I am to pay to Doctor Finney who owned some of the best in the tract and none worse than this of the Proprietaries, to wit nine Pounds ten shillings per acre clear of any expense to the 3rd of March instant.—N. There was then near Five Pounds and ten shillings per acre due to the Comp. Acct. from the said eight acres. And to make a compleat Bank with the necessary defences will cost me at least £350 calculating the expence from the 3rd of this month without allowing anything for casualties while the work is performing. This Sir is the state of that property more or less of which every Tide during this tempestuous Season is floating away. I should have waited of you in person upon this occasion but I have twenty two workmen employed in preserving and securing the remains of the Bank, therefore I must beg the favour of you, Sir, to deliver your sentiments upon the above proposal to Mr. Tilghman who will be so kind as to communicate them to me by the first opportunity.

I am your Honor's most obedient humble servant

GEO. READE

To the Hon. JOHN PENN, Esq.
Governor of the Province of
Pennsylvania & Counties in
Delaware.

Thomas McKean

BORN Chester County, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1734. Died January 24, 1817. Was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly for many years, having been first elected in 1765. In that year he attended a general Congress of the Colonies in New York and was appointed Judge of the Common Pleas for New Castle County. In 1774 he was delegate from the lower counties of Delaware in the first Continental Congress and served until 1783, having been chosen its president in 1781. He was Chief Justice of Pennsylvania from 1777 until 1799, when he became Governor of the State, which office he retained until 1808.

MY DEAR SIR

I am sorry I was not at home when your favor of the 29th ulto. by express was left at my House, being then with the Congress at Yorktown in Pennsylvania, soliciting the affairs of the Delaware State. Every friend of mine, nay every man of common sense or common honesty must know that nothing under Heaven, but the love of my country & of the virtuous part of the Delaware State, could have induced me to have undertaken the command in chief when it was the duty of the Speaker of the Council in the first place, or at least to have requested it of me; but from whom I have never yet heard, tho I wrote to him on the 26th of last month and delivered my letter to his cousin Major Evans one of the Privy-council: I say no man could suppose it to be eligible in one who had quit the State and accepted the office of Chief-Justice in another, where he could have remained in peace & honor and taken care of his own property & domestic affairs without censure from any one, to neglect them all and step forth to save a "poor & distressed State" without a head, without a shilling, public records & papers in possession of the enemy, together with their capital & principal trading town; the militia dispirited & dispersed, many of them fled out of the State for safety, and a majority of the rest supposed to be disaffected to the glorious cause we are engaged in, and to undergo all the difficulties and discouragements, he was sure to meet with, and which has since been realized. No Secretary, no Great Seal &c., &c., to be heard of. The command to continue but a few weeks, and another person to succeed, who might either disconcert every plan he should propose or adopt, or reap the honor of it. Tho' sensible of all this, yet I have done it, and by the favor of God will go thro' with the business.

You have new orders enclosed: Please to advise with General Dickinson & whom else you please about the method of carrying them into execution with the utmost speed. There is something more in view than what is mentioned, but I am under an obligation to the General to keep it secret. This hint must not be mentioned. I must beg you will give orders to the Dover Light horse to hold themselves in readiness to march on a day's notice. I purpose to be at Dover next week.

Your commission as Major General is inclosed. Please to forward the packet for Brigadier Dickinson, who is appointed next to General Dagworthy; Colo' Patterson is appointed third.

Our affairs are again in a most prosperous way. General Burgoyne's army of about seven thousand surrounded in a swamp by Twenty thousand Americans, his retreat and all supplies cut off,—General Howe's army, consisting on the day after the battle at Shad's Ford on the 11th of September of 8304 including the sick, and since reduced by the battle of the 4th instant inclusive of the sick to about 6,000. soon to be attacked again by General Washington & an army of more than double the numbers; and the row-gallies, Batteries &c., playing their part most nobly indeed. In short a month more will in my opinion give us peace, liberty & safety. I know your utmost exertions will not be wanting. Let us quit ourselves like men, like freemen, and convince the world we deserve liberty.

You have the copy of a state of the British forces at & after the 11th September among the papers, it was found in the pocket of a British Major, now a prisoner taken in the last action. General Agnew was killed, a Hessian general supposed Lieut. Gen. Kniphausin mortally wounded and another Hessian General severely wounded, besides

a great many Colonels &c., and upwards of a thousand soldiers killed, and above an hundred waggon load of wounded were brought into the city on the 4th. A Quaker from their yearly meeting told me this, and that he saw the two Hessian Generals in the condition I mention. General Washington in his letter of the 10th to me says, "If the uncommon fogginess of the morning & the smoke had not hindered us from seeing our advantage, I am convinced it would have ended in a complete victory: But we must not repine, on the Contrary should rejoice that we have given a severe blow to our enemies, and that our ranks are as full or rather fuller than they were before.

Having no Secretary to help me, I must subscribe myself

Your friend & most obedient Servant

THOS. MCKEAN

October 15th, 1777.

To MAJOR GENERAL RODNEY

at

Dover.

Maryland

Samuel Chase

BORN in Somerset County, Maryland, April 17, 1741. Died June 9, 1811. Studied law at Annapolis, and was sent by the Maryland Convention to the Continental Congress in 1774. He remained a member until the end of 1778. Went as Commissioner from Maryland to England in 1783. He became in 1788 Chief Justice of the Criminal Court in Baltimore and in 1791 Chief Justice of the General Court of Maryland. In 1796 he was appointed to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

PHILA., Sept. 13, 1777.

Saturday 11 o'clock, A.M.

DEAR SIR

I wrote to you by express yesterday afternoon, inclosing an order on Mr. Harwood for 30,000 Dollars. I have received 20,000 Dollars which Mr. Smith or myself will send in a day or two. I have seen several of our Generals & many of our officers, & it is universally agreed that we have not above 600 killed and wounded, & that the enemy have killed and wounded above double that number. Our Troops are in high spirits. We have intelligence that Gen'l. Howe has sent for to New York & Rhode Island for an immediate reinforcement of 4,000. We have ordered 1500 from Poats Kiln. The Jersey Assembly have voted, and preparing and will send in three days 4,000 of their Militia. They give a bounty of 4 Pounds a man. In a Captain's pockett was found a copy of Mr. Howe's orderly book, & Gen'l Washington says he collects from that Howe's force is between 9 & 10,000 men. Mr. Howe has no tents none but officers. We had before the battle 14,000 regulars including officers & 5,000 Militia, we are encreasing. Yesterday noon Mr. Howe was not returned from the place of battle.

Congress have given brevet commissions to the officers who came with Mr. DuCondray, two of them Monsieur Augusto Le Brah, an able engineer, and Monsieur Pierre a skilful artillerist will be sent to you to give you their advice and assistance in defending our towns and teaching our artillery. They are both gentlemen and experienced officers. I doubt not you will give them a polite reception. Would it be amiss to get some person master of their language to be generally with them & attentive

to their wants & to prevent their being imposed on? They complain of disrespect & imposition here. Would it not be proper for some of our young gentlemen to endeavor to learn their art? Would it not be proper to have an accurate survey and plot of the harbours & grounds near Baltimore & Anapolis.

Adieu

Your friend

S. CHASE

Where is Smallwood & Gist? Where Nat Gist with his Indians?

BALT. 2nd December, 1803.

DEAR SIR

My youngest son, Mr. Thomas Chase, is obliged from ill-health brought on by a sedentary life, to relinquish, almost as soon as commenced, the practice of the law. He has been the two last summers to the Bath and Sweet Springs, in Virginia, but obtained no relief from his complaint, which is situate in the stomach. He is advised by his physicians to a changing climate, and he intends a voyage by water to New Orleans; and will sail from this City on Sunday week (the 11th) in the Ship "Comet." He proposes to go up the River Mississippe as high as St. Natchez; and he has some thought of making a permanent residence between those places, if, on view, he shall think it expedient. My son has not mixed, and is thereupon unacquainted, with the world. The knowledge, assistance, and advice therefore of some gentleman of information and experience would be highly acceptable. I hope you will excuse my soliciting you for an introduction of him to some gentlemen in New Orleans, Fort Adams or St. Natchez. Your compliance with this request will greatly oblige, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant

SAMUEL CHASE.

To The Honorable GENERAL DAYTON
Senator of the United States
Washington.

William Paca

BORN in Harford County, Maryland, October 31, 1740. Died 1799. Admitted to the Bar in 1764 he was chosen in 1771 a member of the Provincial Legislature. Upon the adoption of the Constitution of Maryland he was made Senator for two years. He became Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Maryland in 1778 and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in Admiralty Cases in 1780. Elected Governor of Maryland in 1782, he served in Congress in 1786 and was re-elected Governor. He became Judge of the District Court of the United States in 1789.

GENTLEMEN:

The bearer hereof is Mr. Pots, a gentleman who some years past left England and resided in Maryland. He is now on his return and proposes to embark from Amboy. He brings with him several letters from gentlemen of Maryland for their correspondent in London. We believe these letters are not upon political subjects but if any doubts should be entertained, he is ready to submit them to inspection. We are personally acquainted with Mr. Pots and know that he is not unfriendly to America.

The gentleman who accompanys Mr. Pots is Mr. Thomas a native of Maryland and a friend to America.

Your humble servant,

WM. PACA

TH. JOHNSON, JR.

STEPHEN HOPKINS

Philada. March 26th, 1776.

To The Committee of Observation
at Amboy

Thomas Stone

BORN Pointen Manor, Charles County, Maryland, 1743. Died Alexandria, Virginia, October 5, 1787. Began the practice of the law at Fredericktown, Maryland. In 1774 he was chosen one of the Maryland Delegation in Congress and re-elected to Congress in 1775. He was again elected to Congress in 1777 and in 1783 and in the intervening years served as a member of the Maryland Legislature.

SIR

I wish heartily my ability was equal to my inclination to pay the balance due by me to your Company—when I promised you it was in consequence of engagements to myself for double the sum I need for you, in which I have been very unexpectedly disappointed. I have the greatest reason to believe I shall receive money very soon & when I do shall immediately call on you. More I can't do, tho' I should be extremely sorry that you should want one moment what is due from me. I have been almost ruined this year by the scandalous conduct of Sheriffs towards me. Otherwise no gentleman should have asked me twice for cash owed him. The bal. of our whist acc't. I make 17 $\frac{4}{4}$ no material difference from yours which is most probably right. I will furnish you with a state. of acc'ts between Mr. McBride & self when I see you. I omitted to enter the last sum paid to his order & have mislaid the receipt for it which is the reason I can't send you the state. now. I shall find the receipt or search & will do as above.

I am Sir

Your most obedient

T. STONE

1774, Feb. 2nd.

Charles Carroll

OF CARROLLTON

BORN Annapolis, Maryland, September 20, 1737. Died Baltimore, November 14, 1832. Chosen a member of the first Annapolis Committee in 1775 he was on July 4, 1776, appointed a Delegate of Congress, and placed on the Board of War. He assisted in drafting the Constitution of Maryland and was afterwards chosen to the Senate of the State. Re-appointed as Delegate to Congress in 1777 and re-elected to the Maryland Senate in 1781, in 1786 and in 1797. He was one of the Commissioners to settle the boundary line between Virginia and Maryland. He outlived all his colleagues of the Continental Congress and died at the age of ninety-five.

DOUGHOVAGEN, 16th Oct., 1820.

SIR

Mr. Shipley informs me you have not yet paid to him the balance due on my order on you for \$880. dated 21st of August last & that you had no money and could get none, Mr. Caton being out of town. By my account of last month I had in your hands \$4389.25. I do not suppose that you have let Mr. Caton have any part of that balance, as I have positively directed you not to pay to him, Mr. Harper or my son any money of mine without my check on you for such payment, and am therefore at a loss to understand how Mr. Caton's absence should prevent you paying to Mr. Shipley the balance of my order, unless you paid to Mr. Caton money of mine contrary to my instructions, & in that case you have made yourself answerable for such payment. I desire you to inform me if you have paid to Mr. Caton any part of the above balance and to what amount. Your prompt answer will oblige

Sir, Your most humble servant

CH. CARROLL of Carrollton.

To MR. JAMES NEILSON
Baltimore.

Virginia

George Wythe

BORN Elizabeth City, Virginia, in 1726. Died Richmond June 8, 1806. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and was appointed in 1764 on the Committee organized to remonstrate against the proposed Stamp Act. He was again a member of the House of Burgesses in 1768 and 1769, and was elected in 1775 to the Continental Congress. He was chosen Judge of the High Court of Chancery in 1777 and became subsequently Sole Chancellor. He was Professor of Law in William and Mary College.



G. WYTHE to MR. MAZZEI.

I shall take it kindly if you will procure for me a seal for a watch with the arms of the Taliaferro family on one side, and the initials R. T. on the other side, and the inclosed motto neatly engraved. Let not the expense be more than three or four guineas, which shall be paid upon receipt of the seal and the sight of your order. This freedom, Sir, is taken in confidence that you would be sensible of the same pleasures in doing me a friendly office as I should in doing one for you. I wish you every felicity. Adieu.

WILLIAMSBURGH, 10 August, 1785.

Richard Henry Lee

BORN Stratford, Virginia, January 20, 1732. Died Chantilly, Virginia, June 19, 1794. Acquiring a clerical education in England he returned to Virginia when 25 years of age and was chosen Justice of Peace. He became one of the delegates from Virginia to the first Congress in 1774. He was member of a large number of Committees while in Congress, usually acting as Chairman, introduced the Resolution for Independence June 7, 1776, and also served actively in that body from 1778 to 1780. In 1784 he was elected President of Congress. He was one of the first Senators for Virginia under the new Federal Constitution. He retired from public service in 1792.

YORK TOWN Octob'r 31st 1777.

SIR

We have the honor and the pleasure to inclose you a copy of the Capitulation by which Gen. Burgoyne and his Army surrendered themselves prisoners of war. This great affair, might have been still greater, if the near approach of Sir Henry Clinton to Albany (where our military and provision stores were lodged) had not rendered dispatch necessary with Gen. Burgoyne's army. Two thousand brave men under Gen. Stark are gone to Ticonderoga and Gen. Gates with the main body of his Army is moving down the North river to meet Gen. Vaughn, who yet remains about 50 miles below Albany. Two Brigades with the light Corps under Col'o. Morgan are on their way to join Gen. Washington. Nothing that we know of hath happened near Philadelphia since the enemies unsuccessful attack on Red Bank and Fort Mifflin, in which two of their ships of war were lost and Count Donop with some inferior officers and 70 privates made prisoners: A more particular account of which has been already sent to Williamsburg. We have thought it of importance enough to send a particular Express with this glorious intelligence, which we hope will be approved. As the Artillery Officer (Capt. Loycauté) whom we had the honor of recommending for the command of the State Regiment of Artillery raising in our Commonwealth, is here waiting an answer, we could wish to be indulged with one by return of this Messenger.

We are with esteem and respect Sir
your most obedient and very humble Servants

JOSEPH JONES
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE
JNO. HARVIE
RICHARD HENRY LEE

Reverse Side On public service

His Excellency

PATRICK HENRY, esquire

Governor of Virginia

at

By Express Williamsburg.

R. H. LEE

Rec'd November 10, 1777

R. H. LEE TO GOV. HENRY

BURGOYNE'S surrender

Loycauté.

31st December 1776. BALTIMORE.

DEAR SIR:—

The enclosed is a more exact account than that last night inclosed & Col. Bayter who brought us this letter from the General says another party of Hessians was brought in just before he came away making the whole number of prisoners between 1000 & 1100.

Farewell

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

To Honorable JOHN PAGE
At Williamsburg in
Virginia.

Thomas Jefferson

BORN Shadwell, Virginia, April 2, 1743. Died Monticello July 4, 1826. Began practice of the law in 1767 and in 1769 was chosen a member of the House of Burgesses. In 1785 he was appointed by Congress Minister to France and was Secretary of State in Washington's Cabinet, from which he resigned in 1793. He was elected Vice President of the United States in 1797 and March 4th took the Chair as Presiding Officer of the Senate. He was elected President of the United States and took his seat March 4, 1801. In 1809 he retired from public life.

September 21, 1798.

SIR

Be pleased to have paiment made to Mr. John Barnes of all dividends of interest and principal which will become due on the 1st day of the ensuing month of October for stock of whatsoever description standing on the books of the Treasury in the name of William Short late one of the ministers of the U. S. for which this shall be the sufficient voucher under the power of attorney given to me by the said William Short and deposited in the bank of the U. S.

I am with great respect, Sir

Your most obedient servant

TH. JEFFERSON

To JOHN STEELE, Esq.

Comptroller of the U. S.

Benjamin Harrison

BORN Berkeley, Virginia, 1740. Died April, 1791. In 1764 became a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and presided over that body until 1782, at which time he was chosen Governor of the State. He was twice re-elected to the same office and was a member of the State Convention organized in 1788 to ratify the Federal Constitution. He was also a member of the State Legislature.

BERKELEY, Feb'y 2, 1767.

DEAR SIR

Mr. Farley has been at Norfolk ever since I rec'd your letter or would have sent it to him and returned you his answer, if you can part with the flour to him on any good terms, I shall be glad of it, as I really want the money for it, but if not, I will use my best endeavors to do it for you, the price you are to pay is the curr. price, but cash is the great article in the bargain, and that I fear is not to be had; This you may depend on that I will not give you any trouble if I can help it, as I know it is much out of your way. I shall send to Norfolk soon, and will sell it there if I can, if any less we will bear it betwixt us, but if it will not sell there, I will in that case send your letter over to Mr. Farley, and let you know what he says. Your last letter to him I enclose you, you'l please to send it back open that I may see your proposals perhaps I may do better with it than you expect from him. I observe what you say about the inspection of the flour. The custom is for the exporter to pay it. Mr. Cary did not charge it as it was a trifle to him, however we will have no dispute. You'l please to ask Coll. Tucker about it, his determination shall govern me. You'l please to pay the bearer Mr. John Slade the balance remaining which I now want to pay for my wheat, his receipt shall discharge you. Your plank is ready and shall be sent down as soon as my vessel returns from Norfolk. Please to give my affect. compliments to your lady and believe me to be Dear Sir

Your affectionate

BENJ. HARRISON.



Thomas Nelson, Jr.

BORN York County, Virginia, December 26, 1738. Died there January 4, 1789. Was a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia before he became of age. He was also member of the Provincial Congress of 1775. He attracted much notice while a delegate to the Continental Congress, resigned in 1777 and was afterwards appointed Commander-in-Chief of the State forces. He returned to Congress in 1779 and was chosen June, 1781, Governor of the Commonwealth. He participated in the Siege of Yorktown as a commander of the Virginia Militia.

RICHMOND, Sept. 2, 1781.

DEAR GENERAL.

I congratulate you on the arrival of the Count De Gross with 23 Ships of the line, six Frigates and 3000 troops, a circumstance that that must give the most excessive joy to every true American. I am convinced that the bear mention of this great intelligence will operate most strongly on your inclinations to take the field.

The militia from the South side of the James River are ordered out and the Marquis has fixed on Cobbain instead of I am not informed whether he has written to you on this subject. I wish you to take command of those troops. A circular letter is written to the County Lieutenants pressing them in the most earnest manner to send every man into the field who has a gun of any sort. Should we let slip this glorious opportunity of relieving our Country from the distress of an invading army for we shall never have another, I am sure we shall not deserve one. I need not add more than to assure you I shall be happy to see you in the field with as much expedition as circumstances will admit of

I am Dear Gen'l.

Your Obt.

THOS. NELSON, JR.

TO GENERAL LANSON.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

BORN Stratford, Westmoreland County, Virginia, October 14, 1734. Died Richmond in 1797. A brother of Richard Henry Lee, he became a member from Loudoun County to the House of Burgesses in 1765 and acted in that capacity until 1772. He was elected in August, 1775, a delegate to the Continental Congress and was re-elected successively in 1776-77 and '78.

MENOKIN July 2, 1773.

MY DEAR BROTHER

By a Glasgow Ship I wrote you that Mr. M. Smith intended to ship 60 bbls. tobacco in rayson to answer the bills he had drawn on you, but that he could not take them in; we have try'd since tho' in vain to charter. You have lost near 300 bbls. for want of ship room. As there will be a great deal of tobacco left in the Country, & the present crop is very forward & promising, I think you should have a ship as early as possible in the fall in the Country. I am afraid Wipkins will be tardy in making his remittances, I have pressed him often and warmly, he has promised to remit you by the first opportunity £90 which he had in hand and £100 for which he expects an order from Col. Taylor, besides 100 bbls of tobacco which he is hawking about for sale, the produce of which he assures me will be remitted to you. You may depend I will be as bad as a third day ague & fever to him untill he complies. John Gordon says he does not know what he owes you, as you have not sent him sales nor acc't. curr't. Everybody is so ready at evading demands, that it is impossible to collect debts without having an exact state of their Acc'ts. which you should always send me, at least of those whome you intend I should push for payment. I wrote you by the Institia, Captain Gray, but he is not yet sailed, & I doubt will not before Rayson, When she does John Corrie is to draw for his ball, on Campbell. Captain Rayson just left me, his last craft is now taking her load from the lower parts of this River, he is all ready and will sail as this craft gets round. He has been much troubled with the craftsmen, indeed they are grown so bad that it requires a person much better acquainted with this business & much cleverer

than Rayson to manage them, we are endeavoring to form some regulations for these Gentry against the next meeting of the Assembly; the trade suffers so much by their negligence & villainy that everybody is convinced of the necessity of taking them under consideration. My 22 hhd. are on board, you will insure so as to recouper £6 in case of loss. I hope if we should have a war it will not raise insurance much, as our opponents are not very powerfull at sea. Mrs. Lee intended to have sent her sister some hams by Dobbie, but the Captain assured me it was impossible to keep them in a summer passage, so we have deferred it till the fall, & will be glad to have a conveyance in a ship of your own. I am afraid I am so far behind with you that my tobacco will not pay the bill, & answer the Goods to be sent for by Rayson, but you may depend I will send you in bills next summer, before the tradesmen will be clamorous for their money.

As I shall shortly write again, I must now take my leave, please to give our hearty love to our dear sister & brother Sawyer, & believe me ever your sincerely affectionate friend & brother

FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

To WILLIAM LEE, Esquire
Merchant in
London.

Carter Braxton

BORN Newington, King and Queen County, Virginia, September 10, 1736. Died October 10, 1797. He was a member of the House of Burgesses, Virginia, and took an active part in the session at which the Resolutions of Patrick Henry were presented and adopted in 1765. Later he became a member of the Popular Convention and was chosen in 1775 a delegate to the Continental Congress. Chosen afterwards a member of the Virginia Legislature, he remained a member of that body until 1786, when he became one of the Executive Council.

March 15, 1782.

MESS. WADSWORTH & CARTRE

DEAR SIRS

I am much obliged by your agreeing to take the corn carried to Hampton by mistake to you, provided it comes to Wm's Ferry & to the adjustment of my last account sent by Mr. Moon.

Since that acc't, the one offered by Mr. Dunlevy has accrued and being called on for payment for all the corn bought I am to desire the favour of you to pay that amount to him.

One of your agents was here yesterday & told me of the new arrangement made respecting the artillery horses and wished to provide some forage for them after the sixteenth. I told him my slaves were gone for some which you should have. They will be down in three or four days, but the forage is fine tops, no more blades being to be had, of this we allow two pounds for one & by means of the weight we lose by the exchange. I can also procure some oat straw which the horses are fond of. Of these enough may be furnished for the horses till the crop comes which will be in about 2 or 3 weeks, after which time they will eat none. I have such fine marshes here that you may put a 1000 horses on it & have corn & oats sufficient to make them fatt in the month of April. I am much pleased at the alteration of the arrangement as I know you see the errors of the French & will give more corn & have them soon in better order. Any supply you want here I beg to make or any fodder you want at Wm.'s Ferry rely on having the preference of. I can have a sufficient quantity down in time at either place. Any assistance in my power shall be contributed by Sirs

Your humble servant

CARTER BRAXTON

North Carolina

William Hooper

BORN in Boston, Massachusetts, June 17, 1742. Died Hillsborough, North Carolina, October, 1790. Graduated at Harvard in 1760 and began at once the study of law with James Otis of Boston. He removed to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1769, and was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1775. He was prominent in both State and National politics from that time until the date of his death.

SIR

The Committee of this City a few days ago transmitted to you an original letter from Governor Martin to Henry White, Esq., from the contents of which it is very obvious that Governor Martin has formed designs highly inimical to the friends of America. From authoritative information we learn that he is to receive a supply of Gunpowder from General Gage in New York & that he has sent from North Carolina a cutter well armed to receive it. She is a small boat, rigged like a Schooner, mounts a few swivels & is commanded by a Mr. Bridges the Lieutenant of the Tamas Man of War. The vessel we believe was formerly purchased in New York by a Capt. Collet. We beg your particular care in case she should arrive in your port to take the steps you may think prudent to secure her & her cargo. She is probably to receive the gunpowder from the Arie or some other man of war lying in your harbour.

We are Sir with great respect

Your most obedient humble servants

WILLIAM HOOPER

JOSEPH HEWES.

Philadelphia, June 8th, 1775.

Joseph Hewes

BORN in Kingston, New Jersey, 1730. Died Philadelphia, November 10, 1779. Upon the completion of his college course at Princeton he went to Philadelphia, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits until about 1730. He removed to North Carolina and settled near Edenton. He was sent as a delegate to Continental Congress in 1774 and remained a member during 1775 and 1776, serving on many important committees. He declined a re-election in 1777, but resumed his seat in July 1779.

EDENTON, 9th March, 1777.

DEAR SIR

I have just received a letter from Mr. Hooper by which I have the pleasure to find you had got safe to Baltimore before he left it. Ever since I parted with you at Halifax I have been very much indisposed which has prevented me from leaving home. I am now getting better but this weather continues so very bad here that it would not be prudent for me to set out in my weak infirm state. I hope to be with you some time next month. Mr. Thomas Jones was taken sick a few days after he got home. He lingered about twenty days & died. His loss is severely felt here. He was a warm friend to our cause and zealous in the support of it. I am told our troops are on their march from the southward. Some of them are at Halifax. The regiments it is said are very thin and the recruiting business goes on slowly. I have been informed three prizes have lately arrived at Newburn. One of them it seems was bound from London to Augustine and being maned chiefly by New England men, the crew took the vessel from the Captain and brought her to this state. It is said she has a very valuable cargo on board. When she had got almost up to Newburn a little armed vessel that was going out took possession of her and now claims her as a Prize. Ought not our Americans who brought her in have a large share or must they be satisfied with regaining their Country & their liberty and rest contented with the character of Pirates which some persons have given them. You have not been kind enough to write me a line since your arrival at Baltimore. I hope when you have received this you will do it, let me have as much news & politics as you are at liberty to put on paper. Are none of the lottery tickets to be sent

this way on public account? If not pray send me one hundred of them for myself & a few of my friends. I wrote to Mr. Morris on this subject but as he will not be in Congress soon unless you remove to Philadelphia, he will not have so early an opportunity of doing it as yourself providing any of them are to be had at Baltimore. Pray offer my best compliments to the President and your brother members and believe that I am with much esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obedient servant

JOSEPH HEWES

To THOMAS BURKE, Esq.

John Penn

BORN Caroline County, Virginia, May 17, 1741. Died September, 1788. His father having died at an early age he became sole manager of his property, and being very desirous of improving his knowledge of books applied to Edmund Pendleton, one of the most distinguished Statesmen of Virginia, asking that he be allowed the use of his Library. This request was freely granted and Penn took the utmost advantage of it. At the age of 21 he became a member of the Bar and by his ability soon became very prominent in his profession. He was appointed in September, 1775, upon the resignation of Mr. Caswell, to take his seat in Congress as a representative of North Carolina. He was successively re-elected in 1777-78-79 and performed his duties with the utmost skill and ability.

PHILADA., July 12, 1777.

DEAR SIR

Having been informed that the Troops belonging to our State could not part with the money they brought with them, but at a very great loss, Doctor Burke and myself thought it reasonable to exchange with the men, by giving them an equal number of Continental dollars, which Mr. Blunt at our request did, amounting in the whole to 248572 dollars agreeable to the enclosed list. We hope the money will be of use with you, indeed it was lost to the Soldiers here.

We have employed Lieutenant John Allen to conduct the money from Baltimore and have requested Mr. Hill-yass to dispatch him as soon as possibly he can. You will receive the above quantity of dollars besides the 300,000 sent by the Congress, the whole is to be conducted at the expense of the Continent. It is still uncertain what General Howe means to do as he remains between Staten Island and New York. General Burgoyne is in the neighborhood of Ticonderoga, his force is not known. I am afraid we shall not be able to help that fact.

Your son is very well, our Troops are near this City waiting for Gen'l. Howe's movements with great respect.

I am

Dear Sir

Your ob'd. Serv.

JOHN PENN.

Lieut. Burke was out of the way so could not sign this letter.

PHILADELPHIA, July 15, 1779.

SIR

Immediately on receiving your favor of May 26th last, we laid before Congress the several matters where-with you charged us, but unavoidable interventions have prevented our obtaining their resolutions on them all, previous to the date hereof.

The intense heat of this Season, and the great length of the march, make it almost certain, that an order for the North Carolina troops to join the Southern Army, would be attended with consequences fatal to their health, and such as must deprive the public of their services, everywhere, during this campaign, if not forever it was therefore judged most expedient to postpone such orders, until they can be executed without such imminent hazard of inconvenience.

The resolution relative to the desired commissions are the least which we have been able to obtain, altho' in our opinion they are not altogether so well calculated for the relief of the sufferers, especially in our Country, as they might have been. But the measure by which they were decried and from which great public good was expected, has still many advocates in Congress, notwithstanding the experience of all parts of America groans under the evils it has produced.

The Congress has, with great reluctance, granted even the partial payment of your draught in our favor. The Continental Currency is too much depreciated, that every one has the necessity of putting an entire stop to commissions, and relying on the exertions of the States for supplying the public necessaries. The power of the States internally is much better understood, much better established,

much more simple and vigorous in its operations relative to public credit, and, let us add, much more relied on, than that of Congress. It is therefore more competent to give securities, which will give valuable paper currency than Congress, in their unconfederated state, can give. The Congress, sensible of this, and also sensible, that increasing the Continental commissions must be attended with very injurious consequences have taken up ideas very different from such as heretofore prevailed. Should the war continue longer than the present campaign, the States must furnish the supplies, either by contributions in kind, or by taxes in money, and those are the chief resources which the Congress have at present in view. They will probably have recourse also to loans a measure only justified on principles of necessity which is burthensome and unequal in a very high degree, and which, it is much to be wished may be avoidable for the present campaign. The Congress wish to provide by loans, and by what remains of the former commissions not yet expended. While intent on this object, it was a great disappointment to them to receive so great a requisition, as two millions and a half from one of the states; and many deemed it better to let any one state struggle through the want of money, than to send them any from the Public Treasury, in its present circumstances. The resolution was at length taken, to advance one million; and we were obliged to be satisfied therewith. It is hoped that when the state is fully informed of the state of affairs, she will provide for her some other way and forgo the remaining part of the requisition. We confess this to be our wish; and doubt not it would be the wish of our constituents were the difficulties of our finances as well known to them as to us. The sum granted cannot

be paid before the beginning of August, and, as soon as possible, it shall be sent forward. If the residue cannot be dispensed with, we shall make a future application to Congress, but we are far from being sanguine in our hopes of success.

We thank you Excellency for the further information you have given us relative to the proceedings of the Assembly. We feel the highest satisfaction from the generous provisions made for our fellow citizens in the army. Permit us, however, to represent to you, Sir, that the intentions of the Assembly with respect to the cloathing for the officers are far from being carried into due execution; and we beg leave to recommend it to your attention; relying on your exertions in behalf of so meritorious a body of our citizens. The Assembly have always manifested intentions very liberal, in providing for the expenses of their delegates; but, it is impossible to judge how adequate any allowance will prove to the unavoidable disbursements. We sincerely wish that all our citizens were well armed, and, to press the necessity thereof on our fellow citizens. The Predatory war which we may apprehend hereafter, if hostilities shall continue, will require, everywhere, vigilance readiness and vigor. We are convinced that so far as the first and last can avail, our Country will be safe while you preside over her, but, without arms, our virtue and vigilance cannot avail much. We wish it to be thought an object of the highest consequence to supply them.

You will see by the enclosed papers that a descent has been made in Connecticut, and we have advice from Europe, that it was planned in the British Cabinet. This is a proof at once of the predatory designs of the enemy, and of that imbecility which prevents them from carrying

on operations of greater vigor, and more competent to their design of conquest. We wish we could give you a satisfactory idea of our foreign affairs, but they are still in so obscure, and undecided a state, that this is impossible. We are also yet under strict injunctions of secrecy but, should decisions be made, deeply effecting the happiness and safety of our Country, we shall feel ourselves under obligations, stronger than any other, of laying the whole of the affairs before the state.

We are sorry to find that we differ in sentiments with some of the delegates of Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and South Carolina, on questions which are of the utmost importance to all, but peculiarly so to them and to us, as states possessing internal staples, and being composed chiefly of Husbandmen. Jersey, Delaware and South Carolina on the questions alluded to, are usually divided. Pennsylvania votes differently from us, but, we have the satisfaction to find, that New York, Maryland, and Virginia concur with us. We lament that our eastern bretheren have, at present objects in view, in the pursuit of which we cannot concur with them; tho' we feel every possible disposition to unite with them in all pursuits, not inconsistent with the safety and happiness of our Country. We accuse them, because the objects are, to them, immediately interesting; but, in our opinion, not so much so to all, or to any of the states, as to justify some measures that are under consideration.

We have the honor to be with great respect your Excellency's obedient servants

JOHN PENN
THOMAS BURKE
WILLIAM SHARPE

To His Excellency
GOVERNOR CARWELE

[OVER]

Three hundred and thirty Dollars have been advanced to the express for which he has given a receipt to be accountable to you.

General Hagan desires the enclosed to be submitted to your inspection in order to give an idea of the expense of trimmings which not having been sent with some cloath which came forward from the state puts the officers under the necessity of purchasing them here, at an expense which few can bear.

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge

BORN Charleston, November 23, 1749. Died January 23, 1800. Began to practice law in Charleston in 1773. Chosen a delegate to Congress in 1774 and became a member of the first Board of War. He was again in Congress in 1779 but in the following year was captured at the siege of Charleston and imprisoned at St. Augustine. In 1782 he was a member of the General Assembly at Jacksonborough and in 1798 was elected Governor but died before his term expired.

You judge very truly my dear Charles, when you thought that I felt myself much interested in anything that affected your happiness. For I can sincerely say that, there is scarcely a misfortune to which humanity is subject, that I should not endeavor to lighten by dividing with you; or a pleasure which you could enjoy that I would not endeavor to multiply. With a heart full of affection, I wish you a thousand and ten thousand days of felicity, and with an head full of wisdom. I think the fault will in some measure be your own if you do not possess them. It is probable that J. M. may not write you by this conveyance, if he should he will speak for himself, if he should not, I'll speak for him. He told me as a most profound secret that you had written for the refusal of _____ & that you should have it for 500 less than any other person. You'll make a very bad bargain at that rate,—but no matter,—a man who makes but one bad bargain when he is deeply in love & that a pecuniary bargain, must be more than a match for a Scotchman, & indeed a whole tribe of your second sighted gentry.

But as neither F.D. or I are in your situation it will be some time before we bring matters to a conclusion. It is now eleven o'clock my brats are asleep, my wife is in bed, & nothing but friendship has kept my eyes open. Nor shall they be closed till I tell you we all love you & that I am ever

Your affectionate friend

ED. RUTLEDGE

P. S. Your brother, Thomas, Mable & Mr. Middleton left Cornwall on Saturday. Respects to all at Newgate.

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

BORN South Carolina, 1746. Died March, 1809. Having completed his legal studies in England, he was elected upon his return to this country in 1775 a delegate to Congress. He held a commission in the militia and in 1778 became Judge of the new Criminal and Civil Courts. He was captured at the time Charleston fell and upon his return to Carolina resumed his seat on the bench, which he retained until 1798.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The State of South Carolina. To all and singular the Sheriffs of the said State, Greeting: You and each of you are hereby commanded, without delay, to attach the body of James Stewart wherever he may be found, within your and each of your respective districts, so that you compel him to be and appear before the Justices of the said State, at the Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at Charleston, on the Second Tuesday in December next to answer James Weatherly in a plea of trespass on the Case and so forth, and also for certain promises and assumptions to the said James Weatherly, by the said James Stewart, made and not performed, to the damage of the said James Weatherly Forty Pounds sterling, money of the said State.

And have you then and there this writ.

Witness the honorable Thomas Heyward Junior, Esquire, one of the said justices at Charleston, the Twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty seven and in the Twelfth year of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America.

FOWKE PLATT, JR.

Atty.

(Seal) THOS. HEYWARD, JR.

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

BORN St. George's Parish, South Carolina, August 5, 1749, and it is presumed was drowned at sea toward the end of 1779. Studied law in London and returned to South Carolina in 1772. He was appointed Captain of the provincial militia of the State in 1775. Having been sent as a delegate to Congress in 1776 he sailed in 1779 for St. Eustatius and was never heard from again. A letter of Henry Laurens has been inserted immediately after the accompanying description of Mr. Lynch's signature, because it refers to the illness of the elder Lynch.

Signature

“T. LYNCH, JUN.”

On Title Page of “The Bucolicks of Virgil.”

London, 1749.

Accompanying the Book is a certificate as follows:—

“I certify that the Signature of T. Lynch, Jun., on the title page of “The Bucolicks of Virgil” London, 1749, is the genuine signature of Thomas Lynch, Junior, the Signer of the Declaration of Independence from South Carolina. I received it from Pickney Johnston of Charleston, S. C. who was a connection of the Lynch family, and it has been in my possession over fifty years.

J. MAXWELL PRINGLE

Charleston, South Carolina.”

DEAR SIR:—

Capt Adam McDonald left in my custody a Horse Saddle & Bridle as your property & desired them to be returned by some good opportunity. Colonel Wells who came here in the service of Georgia being in great want of a Horse to carry paper & other articles I have embraced this opportunity of returning yours together with the Saddle & Bridle under his care.

I congratulate the friends of America on your appointment to the Command of the Continental Battalion in Georgia. I wish you much joy & honour & in the same Cordial terms salute my young friends Jack & Lachlan but I find neither the plough nor the Pike will work any alteration in you as a correspondent—you might have told me at several opportunities what was doing & what you thought ought to have been done—haven't the Men of War's Men outwitted us in the Hinchinbrooke & the Merchantment—the intelligence we received yesterday from Philadelphia added to the late Act of Parliament which came through your Town, puts all possibility of reconciliation with Great Britain upon terms formerly proposed, aside; yet I feel myself lighter, I think better terms are not far distant. But I feel, nevertheless, and I grieve for England; her glory and her honour are eclipsed her power will sink. I grieve for her as for the loss of an old and much-loved friend. In a word, I see the time advancing very fast when the declaration I have oft made to men of consequence in that Island, and perhaps oft in your hearing, will be accomplished; her Conquest will be her defeat, possibly worse—if her ancient Rival should interpose in earnest, she may suffer nothing but defeat.

I am writing in great haste; accept what I offer therefore with grains of allowance.

We have lost one of the best friends to this country, and one of the ablest politicians in America, by a stroke of apoplexy on the elder Mr. Lynch in Philadelphia. He had been twelve days languishing, when the Messenger came away on the 3d March, wholly deprived of speech and understanding. His son goes to-morrow to see and also to succeed him as a Delegate; for if he survives, he must change his habits and air. The messenger brought a private letter from Doctor Swendt, who writes that Quebec was taken. The letter was dated day after that from Mr. E. Rutledge, and says the intelligence was just received. General Lee as a Major and Gen. Armstrong as a Brigadier, are appointed for Southern Department, and both will probably be here in a few days. Every family in your Colony should immediately set to making Saltpetre, and in one month you would collect enough to make gunpowder to serve you six.

I have not time to write to James Bailley. I intreat you to give him order for the removal of my Negroes & all the Ren from the Island to the Main if you think it will be proper or in any other manner you judge best.

I wish you all happiness & so

Dear Sir

Your most obedient se—

HENRY LAURENS.

This morning I hope will begin to releive me from the intolerable burthen of Presidentship—we shall have finished the ground work of a New Constitution & proceed to the election of Officers.

CHARLESTOWN 24 March 1776

COLONEL MACKINTOSH.

Arthur Middleton

BORN Middleton Place, Ashley River, South Carolina, 1734. Obtained his degree at Cambridge and returned to America, becoming at once a prominent leader of the Revolutionary party in the South. He was a member of the first Council of Safety and sent in 1776 to Congress. In 1779 he served at the defence of Charleston, afterwards serving in the State Senate. He wrote many able political essays under the signature of "Andrew Marvell."

In Committee
PHILADA. October 10th, 1776.

SIR

We learned sometime since with much concern that the expedition that we had planned for you to execute, would prove abortive, as the ships had gone out a cruizing under the sanction of Governor Frumbultz's recommendation, with which we cannot be well satisfied, altho' in this instance we are disposed to pass it by in silence, being well convinced both he and the severall captains meant to perform service at a time when the Ships were idle.

Supposing therefore that you will have been obliged to lay on side the expedition to Newfoundland, we now direct that you immediately collect the Alfred, Columbus, Cabbot and Hampden, take them under your command and proceed for Cape Fear in North Carolina where you will find the following Ships of War

The Falcon of 10 Guns
Scorpion of 16 Guns
& Cruizer of 8 Guns

and a number of valuable prizes, said to be 40 in number, and other vessels under their protection, the whole of which you will make prize with care. We understand they have erected a kind of a Fort and Bald head at the entrance of Cape Fear River but it being only manned with a few people from the Ships, we expect you will easily reduce it and put the same in possession of the State of North Carolina or dismantle it as may appear best.

When you have performed this service you had best deliver the Continental Agents there, such of your prizes as we sell may or be in North Carolina, others you may convey into Virginia or this place for we don't recommend

your remaining in North Carolina for fear of being blocked up there. Perhaps you may receive advices that will render it eligible to proceed further Southward to rout the enemies' ships at South Carolina & Georgia and if that is practicable you have not only our approbation but our orders for the attempt.

We hope Sir you will not lose one single moment after the receipt of this letter but proceed instantly on this expedition.

We are Sir

Your humble Servants

ROBERT MORRIS

WILLIAM ELLERY

JOSIAH BARTLETT

THOS. MCKEAN

RICHARD HENRY LEE

WM. HOOPER

ARTHUR MIDDLETON

Georgia

Button Swinnett

BORN England about 1732. Died Georgia May 27, 1777. Emigrated in 1770 from Bristol to America and became prominent in all colonial interests. Was representative to Congress in 1776 and 1777, and in the latter year became the President of the Provincial Council. In the same year he engaged in a duel with General Mac-Intosh and was mortally wounded.

The signature of Button Gwinnett is attached to an Indenture of Mortgage dated April 25, 1770, between Button Gwinnett of the Island of St. Catharine, Georgia, and Edward Mease of Pensacola, for 1900 Pounds, conditioned to pay 475 Pounds before February 21st, 1773, with interest at 8% and 475 Pounds before February 21st, 1774, secured upon the island of St. Catherine, containing 6200 Acres.

Lyman Hall

BORN Connecticut, 1731. Died Burke County, Georgia, February, 1791. Graduated at Yale in 1747 and began the study of medicine. He removed in 1752 to South Carolina and shortly thereafter to Sunbury, Georgia. He was elected a member of Congress in 1775, and annually thereafter until 1780. He was chosen Governor in 1783 and served only one term, afterwards retiring to private life.

SAVANNAH, 22 September, 1783.

GEORGIA:—

These are to certify that Lieut. Nathaniel Pearre of the Georgia Line is entitled to two hundred acres of land as a bounty from this State, and also to two hundred acres by resolution of Congress of the 16th September, 1776.

L. HALL

To any Court for granting Lands &c.,
within this State.

George Walton

BORN Frederick County, Virginia, about 1740. Died Augusta, Georgia, February 2, 1804. Began to practice law in Georgia in 1774. Was made a member of the Congress in 1776 and re-elected in 1777, 1778 and 1780. He was made a Colonel of Militia in 1778 and appointed Governor of the State in October, 1779. He was re-elected Governor, was four times Judge of the Court of Georgia, and became Senator in Congress in 1795.

AUGUSTA, 2 December, 1779.

SIR

I do myself the honor to enclose to you several resolves of the Assembly of this State, to the objects of which I beg leave to call your attention.

The operation of the one which expresses the necessity of a reinforcement, can receive direction only in yourself. But we rely upon equal or rather upon every possible support, while on our part and maugre a multitude of dangers and difficulties, we keep in union and existence the frontier, weakest and most exposed state.

The money voted and sent by Congress to this distressed people is now called for and expected. Such a fund being in our state, will not only relieve the present exigences of government (until other supplies can be brought from Congress) but give confidence and stability to its proceedings.

The order for building an additional number of forts, has in view the better protection of the inhabitants, the encouragement of settlers, and awe the Indians. And in case of a disturbance with those people, may be useful to your army.

The Assembly found themselves constrained to do something with the brigade of the State: and the resolve respecting it will shew you what has been deemed most advisable. It must be submitted to Congress.

I request that I may hear from you as early as possible, on these subjects & that you will transmit the money.

I am Sir your most obedient

Servant

GEO. WALTON

To Major General LINCOLN.

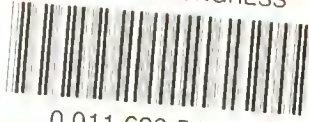
4th Dec. The enemy's irregulars having penetrated into Burke County I have ordered Colonel Swift with a party of Militia to join Colonel Parker with a party of Dragoons and who marched this morning to drive them out.

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SAMUEL CHASE	A. L. S.	September 13, 1777
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GEORGE CLYMER	A. L. S.	March 21, 1778
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JOHN HART	D. S.	May 18, 1775
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“ “	D. S.	February 22, 1777

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