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THE WHOLE FORMING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;

OF THE

CAUSES AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;

AND OF

THE CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES,

TO

THE FINAL RATIFICATION THEREOF.

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BY PETER FORCE.

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1843,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

AMERICAN ARCHIVES:

Fifth Series.

CONTAINING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4, 1776,

TO THE

DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.

BY PETER FORCE

VOLUME II.

PUBLISHED BY M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE AND PETER FORCE,

UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833,
AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

WASHINGTON, MAY, 1851.

23538

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1851,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

NO 23538
AD 30 1851
V. 1851

John Bancker, Captain *William Leonard*, Lieutenant *Thomas Beekman*, *Thomas Warner*.

John Vriedenburgh, whose Captain and Lieutenant are gone to the Regulars, and has done the duty of the whole company since, and has acted as Captain.

John Hardbergh, if he gets a Captain's commission.

Joseph Fryleck, an Ensign.

Lieutenant *Hicks* and Lieutenant *North*.

Edward Dunscomb, Lieutenant, *Jeronimus Hogland*, Adjutant, now prisoners.

Christopher Codwise, whom we strongly recommend for a Captain's commission.

COLONEL TASH TO THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Peaskill, in Cortland Manor, October 26, 1776.

This comes to acquaint your Honours that I arrived at *Hartford*, in *Connecticut*, the 2d instant, and one company the same day, which I sent forward next morning, and likewise I sent Colonel *Welch* off the same day, with a letter to General *Washington* acquainting him that I was at *Hartford*, and expected the whole of my regiment to be there in three or four days, and should send the companies off for *New-York* as fast as they got here, and should follow them after the last company had arrived. I likewise let him know we had no camp equipage, such as pots, kettles; neither was it in the power of the State of *New-Hampshire* to procure any, as there was no tin to be had. I also transmitted a copy of my orders to him. I set off from *Hartford* the 8th instant, and all the companies had gone forward excepting Captain *Prescot*, and I thought I would wait no longer for him, and left orders for him to follow as fast as possible. When I arrived at *Stamford* Colonel *Welch* was there, and brought me a letter from General *Washington*, directing me to procure quarters for my regiment and Colonel *Baldwin's* at *Stamford* and *Horse-Neck*, but to have the major part at *Horse-Neck* if quarters could be procured for them. He likewise directed me to furnish ourselves with camp utensils from the inhabitants if possible. I applied to the Committee to furnish me with pots, &c., but Colonel *Baldwin* had got there before me, and had got almost all to be had; they made out to get me three, and I sent round for several miles and procured a small number more, by advancing the cash in hand for them. The 13th instant, early in the morning, received orders by express from General *Sullivan* to march my regiment to *King's Bridge*, with all possible speed, and likewise to acquaint Colonel *Baldwin* that he must march likewise. Accordingly we got wagons to carry our baggage ready about two o'clock, p. m., and got the whole to *Horse-Neck* Sunday night, nine o'clock. Sunday night, the 13th instant, received a letter by express from General *Washington*, to march my regiment to *Fishkill*, as the Convention was there sitting, in such a difficult situation, with regard to the numbers of disaffected persons in many Counties in this State, that they could not trust their own Militia so well as ours; therefore ordered me to march with all possible speed to said *Fishkill*, which I did the next morning, and sent a letter to the General acquainting him of the same. Before I got to *Fishkill* received a letter by express from the Congress, that they did not want but two companies; but I had got them within two miles of the place, so that it was too late to go back that night; so I went forward and waited on the Congress, and let them know my orders; and the President, Mr. *Livingston*, said he was sorry we come so far, that is the whole regiment, but desired I would send back to stop the remainder, and turn them back to *Peaskill*, where we must remain till further orders, to guard the shores, to stop the men-of-war's people landing to carry off cattle, and leave two companies there, which I did, under the command of Colonel *Welch*; and the remainder I have posted from this place, about eight miles down the river, to watch the motions of the enemy, and sent a letter to General *Washington*, acquainting him of my route, and the orders I had received of the Congress, and how I had posted my regiment. And he wrote back very friendly, and told me I must be under the immediate direction of the Convention of this State, with regard to marching the regiment, or any part, to any place till further orders. I have nothing further at present, as you know the news full as well as I; therefore would beg

leave to subscribe myself your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS TASH.

To the honourable the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-Hampshire*.

P. S. Colonel *Baldwin* is at the *White-Plains* with his regiment, and the main body of the army is there. The regiment I command is almost all in good health and high spirits.

PETER R. LIVINGSTON TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Esopus, October 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I came over here yesterday to inquire what flour might be had here, and find but little; however, have got all there is, and Captain *Sleight* is now loading. He will have, I judge, about three hundred barrels. I set all the wagons riding I could get. They are to ride all day to-morrow, so that he will be ready to sail on *Monday* for *Albany*. Have ordered all the mills to grind as fast as possible, to have another load ready by the time he returns. Shall send up another load of four hundred barrels by the middle of the week, as I find they are in the utmost want.

Shall send off a hand to purchase some teams at *Sharon*, and send them down, loaded with oats if I can procure them. Have no money. Shall send a hand down to you for some soon.

Beg you will excuse this scrawl, and your further directions by the return of this express.

Am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

PETER R. LIVINGSTON.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President of the Convention, at *Fishkill*.

RICHARD STOCKTON AND GEORGE CLYMER TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 4, 1776, and referred to the Board of War.]

Saratoga, October 26, 1776.

SIR: In execution of the commission with which we were charged by Congress, we proceeded with as much expedition as the nature of the service would permit to *Albany*, having taken Head-Quarters in our way, and thereby obtained all the information which could be given us by Mr. *Trumbull*, your Commissary-General. At *Albany*, we spent two days with General *Schuyler*, and then proceeded, in company with him, to this place. On our way we received information by express of our fleet having been attacked on *Lake Champlain*, and the next day, of its total defeat. We were, nevertheless, about to proceed on to *Tyconderoga*, but were advised by General *Schuyler* that, in all probability, our army would be attacked by the enemy before we could possibly reach that place; or if otherwise, yet that General *Gates* his attention would be so totally taken up in preparing to receive the enemy, that we could do no business with him: we therefore concluded to suspend our journey to *Ticonderoga* for a few days, until we might have some further accounts from General *Gates*, and in the mean time we gave our attention to the barracks to be erected in this place, and in considering the application of two gentlemen respecting the contract for supplying the army. Happily, General *Schuyler's* precaution of diligence as to the barracks, had left us little more to do but to go with him and mark out the ground where they were to be erected. He had prepared the most of the timber before we arrived, and they are now raising, and will be ready in good time. Other barracks will be built at *Fort Edward* and elsewhere. Nails are exceedingly wanted, and if any could be procured at *Philadelphia*, they should be sent immediately. After having gotten through the business which had arisen at this place, and having sent on a letter to General *Gates* for speedy information from him, we set out for *Fort George* in order to inspect the state of the Hospital at that place. The chief of the sick from *Ticonderoga* are sent there, as being a much more healthy and convenient situation; and we are happy in being able to inform Congress that the building is convenient and comfortable; that the Director-General has lately received a large supply of the most capital medicines; and that they are now furnished with a sufficient quantity of fresh mutton and Indian meal. They yet want bedding, and some other matters which we shall state upon

our return. We shall endeavour to procure some straw, a very scarce article here, which is much needed at the Hospital.

At the close of our business at *Fort George* we received a letter from General *Gates* advising us not to pursue our journey to *Tyconderoga*, but to remain at *Saratoga* until further advice from him. We are just returned here from *Fort George*, and shall wait a few days to hear further from General *Gates*. In the mean time we shall be pursuing the other part of our instructions, which can be executed here.

General *Schuyler* has taken every possible step, in order to keep open the communication from hence to *Ticonderoga*, that the army may not want supplies. Considerable bodies of the Militia are daily going up; yet we heard the last evening that the savages had appeared between the upper end of *Lake George* and *Ticonderoga*, and had, on the day we left *Fort George*, taken two and killed and scalped one of our people going to *Ticonderoga*. An express comes in this moment, who brings a letter from the commanding officer at *Fort George*, informing that a party of the enemy had made their appearance and fired on some of our people, who were crossing *Lake George*. General *Schuyler* yet doubts of this fact.

We shall attend with all possible diligence to the remaining business committed to us by Congress, and, for our own sake as well as the publick interest, return as soon as may be.

With the greatest esteem and respect, we have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servants,
 RICH'D STOCKTON,
 GEO. CLYMER.

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Saratoga, October 26, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Mr. *Harrison's* letter of the 20th instant I received yesterday, and a few minutes afterwards I received a letter from General *Gates*, copy whereof I do myself the honour to enclose.

I am in great hopes that General *Carleton* will not be able to dislodge our army from *Tyconderoga*; but should such an event unfortunately take place, such measures will be taken as I think will certainly prevent them from penetrating into the country on this side of the lakes. The change of Commissaries has very considerably interrupted the supplies for the army. I have, however, got every thing again in such train that a very considerable quantity of flour is now on its way up, and I believe it impossible for the enemy to prevent its reaching the army even if they should make their utmost efforts to intercept it.

On the 28th *September*, the army had forty days' flour; on the 22d instant, it was reduced to sixteen; but on that and every succeeding day, I hope considerable quantities arrived. Be assured, my dear General, that I shall take every measure that has a probable tendency to promote the service and secure the country.

I congratulate your Excellency on the success of our troops at *East-Chester*. I hope it will soon be succeeded by a more decisive blow in our favour, so as to frustrate the enemy's intention of forming a line between you and us.

I am, dear sir, with every respectful sentiment, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To His Excellency General *Washington*.

Ticonderoga, October 24, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Your letters of the 14th, 17th, and 18th instant, are received in course, and now before me. The ammunition arrived safe, and in as good order as could be wished; a most seasonable supply I assure you. Not any of the Militia are yet come in. I hear of numbers being upon their march, and I shall advise you as they arrive. Colonel *Dayton's* are not on this side the lake. I expect them every day. Our communications are free and unmolested, and the eastern post and travellers are continually coming to *Mount Independence* by *Otter Creek* and the roads that lead from thence, no scouts of the enemy appearing to disturb them. Cattle are pretty plenty upon the ground, as you will see by Mr. *Jauncey's* return enclosed. If you order

cattle to be killed at *Lake George*, you had better direct them to be salted down in barrels and sent over the lake in that way, for it arrives in a wretched condition when sent in quarters fresh. I shall be careful to have batteaus and vessels enough at *Skenesborough* to bring all the provisions you send there.

Flour seems to be more in request than meat. You may be assured we are doing every thing our judgment can direct, or our industry accomplish, for receiving the enemy properly. Spades, which I have so long and so often sent for, are so much wanted that even one single hundred would be most welcome.

General *Carleton* keeps very close at *Crown Point*; his navy at anchor upon his flanks. I have scouts continually down both sides of the lake. I apprehend by this time his force is all collected, and expect the stillness will immediately be succeeded by a grand attack. Heaven grant he may be defeated! The army here are in good spirits, and think only of victory.

Tenpenny, eightpenny, and shingle nails are exceedingly wanted. And where are the one or two thousand bushels of turnips and potatoes you was to send here? They would be of the utmost benefit to this army. If you can send a good parcel of nail rods, our smiths will assist in making nails.

I am, dear General, your affectionate, humble servant,
 HORATIO GATES.

To the Hon. Major-General *Schuyler*.

[The Return alluded to in this letter was not enclosed.
 J. LANSING, Jun.]

GEN. SCHUYLER TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION.

Saratoga, October 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am honoured with your favour of the 24th instant. The affidavits transmitted me would countenance the suppositions that the enemy intend an irruption on the *Mohawk* river, but I can hardly imagine they will attempt until they have met with success at *Ticonderoga*, which I both hope and believe they will not have. I did not, however, like to move *Dayton's* corps from the western quarter, but was pressed to do it in such terms by General *Gates* that I could not prudently refuse it. Lest, however, an accident should happen, I would advise that Colonel *Van Ness*, with his regiment, should, on his return from *Coxsackie*, march to *Schenectady*, or such place where he can be of most service in case of an attack. Our scouts from *Johnstown*, *Fort George*, and *Fort Edward*, all agree that there is not the least appearance of an enemy in the north-west quarters.

I enclose you copies of letters from General *Gates* and General *Arnold*. I have had a copious eruption since you was here; it is going off, and find myself in much better health.

I am, gentlemen, with every friendly wish, and with the greatest esteem, your most humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Committee of Convention, at *Albany*.

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO COMMITTEE OF BENNINGTON.

Saratoga, October 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: You will please to signify to the Militia of the Eastern governments on their march, that I wish them to hasten as fast as possible to *Skenesborough*, where I have left orders for their future disposition. I should be happy if every man carried as much flour or bread as he conveniently can. I suppose the Militia from your and the adjacent towns are already marched.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the honourable Committee of *Bennington*.

COLONEL DE HART TO THEUNIS DEY AND JOHN C. SYMES.

Ticonderoga, October 26, 1776.

DEAR SIRS: We as yet have not seen our enemy: this night or in the morn we expect them. We have intelligence of the Grenadiers and Light Infantry being advanced as far as *Putnam Point*, about nine miles from this place.