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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.

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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 1723411
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week ago, *Walter McDonald* is gone out of the poor-house to keep a school for small children.

There is men and women in the poor-house that is able to earn their living, and not to be chargeable to the publick. They do little jobs about, which they are paid for, and they buy rum with, and get drunk. They quarrel among themselves, and make their complaint to me, which I cannot do any thing with them. I hope you'll send written instructions, so that we may know how to deal with them.

The money due to the Committee of *Bedford*, which they engaged for, amounts to £23 8s. 1d. They want that money and more to be sent down to support them this winter. The funeral charges for *Elisabeth Ains* is not paid, and no account made of it in the above. The poor says she left a feather bed, and whether that ought to be sold to defray charges or not, we don't know. Now, considering the prisoners sent here, concerning the parole granted them by the Continental Congress for six miles each way from the places of their abode, was shortened by this Committee to a quarter of a mile, for the following reasons: they went about night and day amongst the Tories here, and made great disturbances concerning the times; they went off on a *Sunday*, and have not heard of them since; they are considerably in debt here, and left effects, which we collected together, and prized it, which amounts to £90 7s. 3d. Whether we are to sell it at vendue, and pay the debts due, or not, we cannot tell, and return the overplus of the sale of their effects to the Convention, or keep it for them, if ever they return. I hope the honourable Convention will take it all in consideration, and instruct us what our duty is to do, and we will endeavour to do it punctually, without delay.

By order of *Bedford* Committee, I subscribe myself your most humble servant,

LEWIS McDONALD, *Chairman*.

To the President of the honourable Convention at *Fishkill*, *Dutchess* County.

SAMUEL TUDER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Poughkeepsie, October 28, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of 19th instant with copy of a note from the Marine Committee at *Philadelphia* enclosed, wherein they express great anxiety for the frigates building here, came safe to hand, in consequence of which we have used our utmost exertions to get the ships ready to launch. The *General-Montgomery* will be launched on *Monday*, the 4th *November* next, at eight in the morning, at which time we should be glad of the company of such gentlemen of the Convention as can conveniently attend.

We are, with great respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servants,

AUGUSTIN LAWRENCE,
SAMUEL TUDER.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

P. S. If you have any news, should take it kind of you to let us know by the bearer hereof, Mr. *Joseph Pierson*. Please to forward the letter herewith sent to Marine Committee by first conveyance.

SETH CURTIS TO CAPTAIN E. HASBROUCK.

Kingston, October 28, 1776.

SIR: As soon as I had time to recollect myself, I found I had made a mistake in your pay-roll. The sergeants' wages I have drawn upon a par with the soldiers', occasioned by having too much business then upon hand. However, with a little trouble you will alter that; and, instead of their wages as they there stand, it ought to be thus:

<i>John Graham</i> , Sergeant,	- - -	£8 6 4½
<i>Isaac Davis</i> , Jr., Sergeant,	- - -	6 16 6
<i>William Brodhead</i> , Sergeant,	- - -	8 14 11

£23 17 9½

I thought it my duty to give you this timely notice, to prevent bad consequences, which please to accept from your humble servant,

SETH CURTIS.

To Captain *E. Hasbrouck*, at *Fishkill*.

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Saratoga, October 28, 1776, seven o'clock in the morning.

SIR: Your letter of the 26th is this moment come to hand. I have given orders and done every thing in my power to hasten up the Militia. If they are tardy in marching, if, upon their arrival at *Skenesborough*, they refuse to proceed to *Tyonderoga*, the fault is not and will not be mine.

Colonel *Dayton* received my orders in twenty-four hours after they left *Albany*: you have been advised when that was. He has not delayed in obeying them. The march from *Fort Stanwix* is longer, and encumbered with more difficulties than you imagine. His regiment arrived last evening at *Stillwater*. He is now here, but it is very doubtful whether he will proceed at all to *Tyonderoga*, as he halted there in consequence of the most alarming intelligence from *Tryon* County. If the Committee of the Convention of this State cannot procure a body of Militia to march into the western quarter, he must go back. Several of the principal Tories are gone to Sir *John Johnson*, who commands a body of troops and *Indians* destined for the *Mohawk* river; and the inhabitants threaten to lay down their arms unless they can be assisted with men.

A party of Militia, who arrived here last night, are this morning going in quest of a body of Tories, who are said to rendezvous to the westward of this place, with an intent to join General *Carleton*, or interrupt the communication.

In your letter of the 24th you mention the want of spades in such a manner as if there had been a neglect in procuring them. They are not to be had. All that the country afforded, all that I could get made, have been sent you. The turnips and potatoes cannot go unless the flour is stopped. A person is gone express to *Boston* for nails. Nail rods are not to be had here. I have determined to send the Militia from *Fort Edward* to *Tryon* County, if they will not march to *Tyonderoga*, and have ordered *Dayton's* to proceed with all despatch.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Where is Colonel *Lewis*, for whom I have so long ago written to you? *Yauncey's* return, mentioned in yours of the 24th, was not enclosed.

RICHARD STOCKTON TO ABRAHAM CLARK.

Saratoga, October 28, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Before I left *Philadelphia* Congress appointed a committee, consisting of one member from each State, to devise ways and means for furnishing the army with clothing, &c. As the member appointed for *New-Jersey*, I laid the resolution before our Legislature, then sitting at *Princeton*, and recommended to them the great importance of their appointing persons in every County. They were pleased to take up the matter with that zeal which the nature of it required, and determined to take a recess that they might, in their own persons, the more effectually and speedily execute the business. I hope, therefore, that already a considerable quantity of shoes and stockings at least, may be provided, and that you will take immediate order for the sending a parcel to our regiments who are in this quarter. Colonel *Dayton's* regiment is ordered from *Fort Stanwix* to *Tyonderoga*. The Colonel and Major *Barber* came here last evening, and the regiment is now within a few miles of this place, marching with cheerfulness, but great part of the men barefooted and barelegged. My heart melts with compassion for my brave countrymen who are thus venturing their lives in the publick service, and yet are so distressed. There is not a single shoe or stocking to be had in this part of the world, or I would ride a hundred miles through the woods and purchase them with my own money; for you'll consider that the weather here must be very different from that in *New-Jersey*: it is very cold now I assure you. For God's sake, my dear sir, upon the receipt of this, collect all the shoes and stockings you can, and send them off for *Albany* in light wagons; a couple of two-horse wagons will bring a great many, which may be distributed among our several regiments who will be all together at *Tyonderoga* in a few days. If any breeches and waistcoats be ready, send them along; but do not wait for them if the shoes and stockings are ready and the others not.

We have despatches from General *Gates* this morning,

informing that he hourly expects to be attacked by the enemy; but our works are very strong, and a boom thrown across the water from *Tyconderoga* to *Mount Independence*, to prevent the enemy's shipping from getting below us. Therefore, I trust, with the blessing of Almighty God, that we shall disappoint their wicked and sanguinary purposes. But shall the brave troops from *New-Jersey* stand in the lines half-leg deep in snow, without shoes or stockings? God forbid! I shall empty my portmanteau of the stockings I have for my own use on this journey, excepting a pair to take me home; but this is a drop of water in the ocean.

In the utmost haste, I am, with much esteem, dear sir,
your most obedient, humble servant,

RICH'D STOCKTON.

To *Abraham Clark, Esq.*

COLONEL WYNKOOP TO GENERAL GATES.

Skeenesborough, October 28, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I send you one hundred boards and eighty barrels of flour by the Militia. It is Colonel *Yates's* orders from General *Schuyler*, that all the boats I send from this place to *Fort Ann* must be loaded with flour. I would be glad if the General would let me know, by the first opportunity, whether he would have the flour forwarded to *Ticonderoga* or have it left at this place, and which of the two must be brought from *Fort Ann* first, the boards or the flour.

I would be very glad if the General would please to send me up some musket-balls. As to powder, I have plenty.

This evening I expect that there will be one hundred and eighty men in of Colonel *Robinson's* regiment, from *New-England*.

Yesterday I sent off a number of boats to *Fort Ann* to bring down two regiments of Militia which are out of *Albany County*. I shall want some more boats to send off the Militia as fast as they arrive. General *Schuyler* has ordered, also, that all the cattle must be brought to this place and killed here, and forwarded to *Ticonderoga* in quarters; which we are doing as fast as possible.

I am, dear General, your most obedient, humble servant,
CORN'S WYNKOOP.

To Major-General *Gates*.

The General will see by my return that I am weak of men.

COLONEL WYNKOOP TO GENERAL GATES.

Skeenesborough, October 28, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have sent twelve batteaus to *Fort Ann* in order to bring down two or three regiments of Militia from that place, with their baggage, and also a quantity of flour. I have been obliged to have the remainder of the batteaus that was here, dragged over and put into *Wood Creek*.

I would be very glad if the General would please to send me some more boats, as I have now but two boats left, that I might be able to forward the troops as fast as they arrive.

I am, dear General, your most obedient, humble servant,
CORN'S WYNKOOP.

To Major-General *Gates*.

COLONEL LIVINGSTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

New-Haven, October 28, 1776.

SIR: After having with the greatest impatience waited the arrival of the whale-boats and vessels that were to have been employed in the *Long-Island* expedition, I find myself at length disappointed, Colonel *McIntosh* having marched two of the regiments that were allotted for the purpose to Head-Quarters; so that the original plan must of necessity fall through, as the force we have left is inadequate to the undertaking. Colonel *Richmond's* regiment has only three hundred men, and my detachment, together with part of Colonel *Smith's* regiment that have joined me, amount to about two hundred. The term of inlistment for Colonel *Richmond's* regiment will be elapsed in ten days. However, we will not be quite disappointed, but will make an attempt

to disperse the recruits inlisting for General *Howe*, on *Long-Island*. If our orders extended to burning the hay, grain, and whatsoever we conceived might be of advantage to the enemy, I imagine we might distress them a little; but this Governour *Trumbull* will not authorize Colonel *Richmond*, to whom he has given the command, to execute. I had not the least idea of Colonel *McIntosh's* being recalled until my arrival at this place. If the weather permits, I fancy we shall be to-morrow night on *Long-Island*, though I don't think, under the restrictions laid on us, any thing of great consequence can be achieved. I should have waited your Excellency's orders at this place, had I not received express ones from Governour *Trumbull* to repair to *Long-Island*. Among the few of Colonel *Smith's* regiment that have joined me, there are almost as many officers as men, and about twenty volunteers; some of whom I have employed to collect men on the east end of *Long-Island*. Our success at landing will be communicated to your Excellency as soon as effected.

The enclosed is a copy of an order from Governour *Tryon* to the people of *Suffolk County*. I hope we shall be time enough to prevent its effects. The original I have not yet been able to lay my hands upon.

I have some reason to believe the Militia in general will join us on landing; they have been so much harassed and imposed upon by the enemy, that they now wish to throw off the yoke.

I remain your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY B. LIVINGSTON.

To His Excellency General *Washington*.

Newport, October 28, 1776.

By a gentleman who was a passenger in a brig belonging to this place, from *London* to *Barbadoes*, commanded by one *Daniel Cornell*, we are informed that when he left *Barbadoes*, the brig was taking in a freight there for supplying the enemy at *Quebeck*; and that Captain *Cornell* had purchased six swivel-guns to prevent (as he expressed it) his being captured by an *American Rebel*. As he was born and has a family within this State, it is hoped he will fall into the hands of some of our cruisers, and meet a just reward.

The Tories on *Long-Island* and in *New-York* begin to be sick of their new lords and masters; one who made his escape out of the city a few days past, said the enemy called the friends to liberty only "Rebels;" but the Tories they called, "damned Traitors and scoundrels." The person who gave this account was one suspected of being a Tory.

REV. WILLIAM GORDON TO GENERAL GATES.

Copy of a Letter intended to have been forwarded the last Monday, (October 28,) but happened to be too late for the post:

Jamaica Plain, October 28, 1776.

FRIEND GATES AND DEAR GENERAL: Whether the enemy may attack you before the receipt of this, is uncertain; but should it happen, hope you will be helped to give them such a drubbing as will be an ample revenge on them for having destroyed our fleet. We got home safe the last Friday; stayed at *King's Bridge* only from Saturday to Monday morning, there being no enjoyment of friends. We are looking out for great and important news. God, of his infinite mercy, grant that it may be good! A vessel left *Statia* this day three weeks. The Captain says that the Governour helped him to get every thing he wanted, and just before he sailed sent for him and told him that he knew the movements of the *French*, and was certain that by that time they had declared war against *Great Britain*, with which he might acquaint his friends. Hope the Governour has not been out in his conjecture.

Adieu. In great haste, but willing to send you an early line. Respects to your suite. Your affectionate friend,

WM. GORDON.

Jamaica Plain, November 2, 1776.

MY DEAR FRIEND: You will see by the above how good I meant to have been. Having heard nothing certain from your quarter, conclude that you have had your full