

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 PÉTER FORCE.

VOLUME I.

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, APRIL, 1848.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1848,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

ABRAM CLARK TO COLONEL DAYTON.

Philadelphia, August 6, 1776.

MY DEAR FRIEND: Your favour of the 25th of July, and Mr. Caldwell's of the 26th, from the *German-Flats*, I received a few days ago, which I answered in a letter to Mr. Caldwell, having the day before written to you by a Doctor going through *Albany* to the Army at *Ticonderoga*. Yours of the 20th July, from *Fort Stanwix*, I received yesterday. I have frequently informed you of the situation of our Army in the *Jerseys*, watching that under General *Howe* on *Staten-Island*. Could I believe any letters would come safe to you, my pleasure in writing would be equal to that you express in receiving them.

The King's Army remain on the Island, fortifying every pass; their numbers unknown, but we with reason believe they are daily receiving reinforcements. Forty vessels, great and small, arrived a few days ago. The number of our forces in *Jersey*, I am not able to inform you of; they are to consist of at least sixteen thousand when completed. The greater part of the Militia of *Pennsylvania* Colony are either there or going, who are to stay till the Army is completed. They form a chain from *Amboy* to *Elizabeth-Town Point*, where strong works are erected at an amazing expense of labour, chiefly effected by our Militia, before the *Pennsylvanians* arrived to their assistance. The *Jersey* Militia, upon the arrival of other forces, returned home to get in their harvest; since which, they are again taking the field.

What works are thrown up at *Amboy*, *Blazing-Star*, &c., I am not able to say. I know nothing of any design to attack the King's forces on the Island; it rather seems an attack from them is waited for; and it is said such an attack is soon expected to be made above *New-York*, near *King's Bridge*, to which place the ships that went up the river, I hear, are returned. *Elizabeth-Town* was in great consternation upon General *Howe's* taking possession of the Island; but at present I believe they are very easy. I formerly informed you that Mrs. *Dayton* had sent the chief of her goods into *Springfield*. Many that moved away from *Elizabeth-Town* have since returned.

You have no doubt been informed by the papers of the flags sent by Lord *Howe* to General *Washington*, with letters. He refused to receive them, as they were only directed "To *George Washington*, &c." You have also, I suppose, seen the printed Narrative of what passed in conversation between General *Washington* and Colonel *Patterson*, who came with a flag from Lord *Howe*. We lately sent a flag to his Lordship to settle an exchange of prisoners. He received the officer with great politeness; manifested a deep concern that he had not arrived before Independency was declared; professed a great regard for *America*, especially the *Massachusetts-Bay*, that had so signally honoured his family. He gave General *Washington* the title of *General*, and called us *The United States*. He consented to the exchange of prisoners; proposed immediately to set all his prisoners at liberty, relying upon the honour of the *American* States to return him an equal number when in their power. By a flag to General *Howe* an exchange of prisoners was also agreed upon, so far as fell within his department, *Canada* being, he said, out of it.

An *Indian* war hath broken out to the southward. The *Overhill Cherokees* have commenced hostilities in the back part of *Carolina*, killed thirty or forty in one settlement, and had about one hundred and twenty besieged in a fortress, which it is thought must surrender before succours could arrive. Forces were marching against the *Indians*. General *Clinton's* fleet remain inactive below *Charlestown* since his defeat: his forces sickly. No news from Lord *Dunmore* since he left *Gwin's Island* and went up *Potomack River*.

Last *Saturday* our gondolas attacked the King's ships near *Dobbs's Ferry*; they fought about an hour and a half, hulled the men-of-war several times, and were served in the same manner themselves. They lost but four men, several wounded, and, I believe, came off the second best, though the Commander writes that he hopes soon to give the King's ships another drubbing.

This day's post, since I begun this letter, brings accounts of more of the enemy arriving in the *Narrows*—an addition to what I have mentioned of at least twenty transports. And by the last accounts brought this day, I find our forces in the *Jerseys* are by no means equal to what I supposed from former information as above mentioned.

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I spoke to our President for the commissions you desire may be sent. He tells me you must apply to General *Schuyler*, who hath got spare commissions, and can supply your regiment. I dare say you have a good regiment, and hear their commendation with pleasure; but had you seen a regiment, that went near two weeks ago to *New-York*, raised in *Maryland*, and another paraded this day in the State-House yard, from the *Delaware* Government, you would have altered your opinion; they were all shirtmen, mostly of an age and size. The two battalions above mentioned were the finest I ever saw.

I lately mentioned to you that a ship belonging to Congress arrived at this town from *France*, with one thousand stand of arms, ten tons of powder, and blankets; since which, I find she brought thirty or forty tons of lead or more, salt-petre, &c., &c. Several valuable prizes, this day's post advises, were lately brought in to the eastward. We are also informed that the *Portuguese* have declared war against us by seizing our vessels in their ports.

Our election for Council and Assembly, Sheriffs, &c., comes on next *Tuesday* in all the Counties of *New-Jersey*. I now feel the want of you in *Elizabeth-Town*. I sat down to consider to whom I might venture to write on politicks, and have none that I dare speak plainly to. Had you, or my much esteemed friend Mr. *Caldwell*, been there, I should have been at no loss. I have none like-minded. I have friends, it is true, but none there now that I dare speak with freedom to. I have written to several, and desire they will not keep my letters secret, so that I hope I shall not be charged with secret practices.

As to my title, I know not yet whether it will be honourable or dishonourable: the issue of the war must settle it. Perhaps our Congress will be exalted on a high gallows. We were truly brought to the case of the three lepers: If we continued in the state we were in, it was evident we must perish; if we declared Independence, we might be saved,—we could but perish. I assure you, sir, I see—I feel, the danger we are in. I am far from exulting in our imaginary happiness; nothing short of the almighty power of *God* can save us. It is not in our numbers, our union, our valour, I dare trust. I think an interposing Providence hath been evident in all the events that necessarily led us to what we are—I mean independent States; but for what purpose, whether to make us a great empire, or to make our ruin more complete, the issue only can determine.

You and Mr. *Caldwell*, it seems, diverted yourselves with the power given in his commission. I find it was useful, however; for in his last he informs me of his commanding a garrison.

General *Schuyler* makes the same complaint as you do for want of cash. His letter came to Congress the same day with yours and Mr. *Caldwell's* from the *German-Flats*. Two hundred thousand dollars were immediately sent to the Paymaster-General, being part of five hundred thousand dollars ordered to be sent. The Congress, or rather some of the Members, tell me, that if your regiment is near three months in arrear of pay, it is not a neglect of Congress, but a neglect somewhere else, as they have sent seasonable supplies.

I am glad to hear a person so high in my esteem as Mr. *Barber*, so honourably spoken of by you. I never doubted but he would do honour to his appointment. He is young, and in the bloom of life, and a large field for promotion is open before him; and I can't help but look upon him as designed in Providence for some important station.

I most gratefully accept your congratulation on account of my appointment. Believe me, my dear friend, I am not in a place of my own choosing. I had much rather take an active part in our own State; I think I could have been more useful to my country there, where I had a sufficient share of influence, and where I could have served my friends much better than here. Besides, I have found my health much interrupted, pent up in a close town, deprived of air and exercise, and excessive heat from the reflection of the sun on the buildings and pavements. Excepting my health, I am as agreeably situated as I could expect. Dr. *Witherspoon*, Mr. *Hart*, and myself, quarter together, and endeavour to make our lives as agreeable as possible.

What you say respecting your regiment returning in the fall, will be attended to in a proper time.

Remember, sir, (what I frequently mention,) that when I

write to you or Mr. *Caldwell*, I mean always to address you both; but, with regard to your families, I can say no more than that I have not heard of their being unwell.

I am, my dear friend, your sincere and humble servant,
ABRAM CLARK.

P. S. You'll please to accept this on plain paper; our dignity don't afford gilt, and our pay scarcely any. *Richard Lawrence*, on *Staten-Island*, is Colonel of a regiment under the Crown, and commands the forces there, joined with some Regulars.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, August 6, 1776.

In consequence of a request of this Board to the Committees of Inspection and Observation of the different Counties, to appoint suitable persons to hear the complaints of the families of those Associators that have gone to camp, and to supply them with such necessaries as they may stand in need of, the Committee of Inspection and Observation of this City and Liberties have recommended the following gentlemen for that purpose, viz:

For the First Battalion: *Isaac Coates, William Moulder, Jacob Schreiner.*

For the Second Battalion: *Moses Bartram, Gasper Guyer, Ephraim Bonham.*

For the Third Battalion: *George Meade, Richard Dennis, Robert Bailly.*

For the Fourth Battalion: *George Græme, Frederick Dushon, Peter Knight.*

For the Fifth Battalion: *John Hart, John Tittamary, William Drury.*

Resolved, therefore, That they be and are hereby appointed accordingly.

Extract from the Minutes:

JACOB S. HOWELL, *Secretary.*

PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE.

In Committee Chamber, Philadelphia, August 6, 1776.

Resolved unanimously, That the following Resolve of the Provincial Conference be published in all the Newspapers in *English* and *German*.

"In Provincial Conference, June 25.

"*Resolved,* That it be recommended to every County and District Committee in this Province, to pay the strictest attention to the examination of all strangers or persons travelling through the City or Counties, and permit no persons travelling through the City or Counties to remain therein, unless they produce a pass or certificate from the City, County, or District Committee from whence they last came; and it is further recommended to all Committees, to furnish proper passes to all friends to *American* liberty upon their application therefor."

NATHANIEL DONNELL, *Secretary pro tem.*

A General Muster-Roll of five Artillery Companies under the command of Colonel MIFFLIN, now lying at the Artillery Park, near AMBOY, &c., &c., in EAST-JERSEY.

ARTILLERY PARK FRONTING CONGRESS STREET, NEAR AMBOY.

Muster-Roll of the First Company of Artillery Associators of PHILADELPHIA, commanded by Major BENJAMIN LOXLEY.

1 Colonel,	} Commissioned Officers.
1 Major,	
1 Captain-Lieutenant,	
1 First Lieutenant,	
1 Second Lieutenant,	
1 Ensign,	} Warrant Officers.
3 Lieutenant Fire-Workers, one of which on furlough, one stopped by Council of Safety.	
1 Clerk of Stores,	
1 Conductor,	} Warrant Officers.
4 Sergeants.	
4 Corporals, one sick, one lame left behind.	
8 Bombardiers, one on furlough, one lame left behind.	
18 Gunners.	
11 Matrosses.	
1 Drum.	
1 Fife.	
11 Wagon-Drivers, including the Wagonmaster.	
Colonel's servants: 2 Negroes, who do duty without pay.	
Major's servant: 1 Negro, who does duty without pay.	

N. B. Twenty-six Privates of this Company at sea or at publick work.

Muster-Roll of Capt. HUGG's First Company of Artillery of WEST-JERSEY.

1 Captain,	} Commissioned Officers.
1 Captain-Lieutenant,	
1 First Lieutenant,	
1 Second Lieutenant,	
1 Lieutenant Fire-Worker.	
4 Sergeants.	
4 Corporals.	
1 Bombardier.	
48 Matrosses.	
1 Drum.	
1 Fife.	

Muster-Roll of the Third Company of Artillery Associators of PHILADELPHIA, commanded by Captain JOSEPH STILES.

1 Captain,	} Commissioned Officers.
1 Captain-Lieutenant,	
1 First Lieutenant,	
1 Second Lieutenant,	
1 Ensign,	
2 Lieutenant Fire-Workers.	} Warrant Officers.
1 Clerk of Stores,	
1 Conductor,	
4 Sergeants.	
4 Corporals.	
6 Bombardiers.	
24 Matrosses.	
1 Drum.	
1 Fife.	
11 Wagon-Drivers, including the Wagonmaster.	

N. B. Eight of the above Matrosses at publick work.

Muster-Roll of the Second Company of Artillery Associators of PHILADELPHIA, commanded by Captain JOSEPH MOULDER.

1 Captain,	} Commissioned Officers.
1 Captain-Lieutenant,	
1 First Lieutenant,	
1 Second Lieutenant,	
3 Sergeants.	
3 Corporals.	
3 Bombardiers.	
5 Gunners.	
38 Privates.	
1 Drum.	
7 Wagoners.	

Muster-Roll of Captain NEAL's Company of Artillery.

1 Captain,	} Commissioned Officers.
1 Captain-Lieutenant,	
1 First Lieutenant,	
1 Second Lieutenant,	
1 Third Lieutenant,	
4 Sergeants.	
4 Corporals.	
4 Bombardiers.	
45 Matrosses.	
1 Drum.	
1 Fife.	

SAMUEL MIFFLIN, *Colonel of Artillery.*

Amboy, August 6, 1776.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GEN. HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAINE, DATED HEAD-QUARTERS, STATEN-ISLAND, AUGUST 6, 1776.

Judging your Lordship will be anxious for information, and having two packets on this side, I despatch the *Sandwich*, without waiting for further tidings of Commodore *Hotham* and the part of his fleet not yet arrived, but which, from late reports, may with reason be hourly expected.

The troops that have arrived to this day are expressed in my returns to the Secretary at War and Adjutant-General, whereby your Lordship will observe that we are in force sufficient to enter upon offensive operations; but I am detained by the want of camp-equipage, particularly kettles and canteens, so essential in the field, and without which too much is to be apprehended on the score of health, at a time when sickness among the *British* troops was never more to be dreaded, from a due consideration of their importance in the prosecution of this distant war, and esteeming the Army present as the stock upon which the national force in *America* must in future be grafted. However, if the camp-equipage should not arrive with Commodore *Hotham*, we must use every means to provide against those wants, and the Army will immediately begin to act.

Your Lordship's despatches of the 3d, 12th, and 13th of *May*, with the duplicates of others since the 22d *October*, 1775, were received by the *Sandwich* packet, on the 27th, and by Lord *Hyde* on the 29th *July*. His Majesty's most gracious approbation of my withdrawing the troops from *Boston*, under the circumstances, as described in my despatch of 21st of *March*, and the flattering terms wherein it was conveyed by your Lordship, does me the highest honour.