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Saturday the 13th July, 1776.

Present

John Page Esquire President,
Dudley Digges Bartholomew Dandridge
John Blair & Benj^a Harrison jun.
Esquires.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to Robert Nicolson for the use of William Buchanan & C^o. for Fourteen pounds eight Shillings and Eleven pence—And for the use of Andrew Johnson & C^o five pounds thirteen Shillings & eight pence for Sundry Goods, by them furnished Captain Edward Walkers Company of Militia from Dinwiddie.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to William Wilson, for the use of John Cockburn for three pounds—Two pounds for the use of Nath Tucker—and Two pounds two Shillings & Six pence for the Use of Elias White for Guns furnished Captain Winstons Minute Company.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Captain George Stubblefield for the use of John White, for two pounds five Shillings & nine pence for Forage furnished the Culpeper Minute Battalion—Two pounds fifteen Shillings, for the use of Lyddal Britain, for a G[un] furnished Captain Winstons Company—ten pounds for Captain Stubblefields own use, for Guns furnished Cap^t Winstons Company

And Two pounds eight Shillings for the pay of John Carter, a Soldier from y^e 24th of January to the 28th of February, omitted in Pay Rolls

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of Captain Thomas Lilley, of the Brigg Liberty, for One hundred & fifty pounds for the purpose of furnishing necessaries for said Brigg was presented Countersigned by the President & ordered to be registered.

Instructions to Captain John Calvert of the Row Galley Norfolk Revenge, were drafted considered, approved of, Ordered to be fairly transcribed & a Copy thereof delivered Captain Calvert & are as follows

Captain Calvert,

You must with all convenient dispatch proceed with the Row Galley, Norfolk Revenge under your Command, down James River & into the Bay as far as you may Judge safe and necessary for the purpose of annoying or distressing the Enemy, or for protecting any of our own trading Vessells or any foreign Vessel coming with friendly Intentions of trading with us; taking care at the same time to afford all the Protection in your Vessells to such of the Inhabitants on the Shores as may be exposed to the attacks of the Enemy—In all other Vessels we order & request you to exert your best skill & Judgement in all matters which may fall within

the Line of your duty, having especial regard to the safety of the vessel and men under your Command on one hand, & on the other to the full exertion of your Power and Abilities in Captivating annoying distressing, & destroying such of the Enemy's Ships or Vessels which may fall in your way, & which you may judge to be of inferior strength to the Galley which you Command, You are to Chuse your own Ground for Cruizing, unless when acting in Conjunction with Captain Cocke Commander of the Brigg Raleigh in which Case you must pay a proper Regard to his Directions & Instructions.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Colonel Adam Stephens for Two hundred pounds upon Account to defray the Expenses of the Fortifications at & near Portsmouth.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of James Russell for thirteen pounds eighteen shillings & nine pence for medicine furnished Captain Travis for y^e use of the Manley Row Galley, was presented, Countersigned by the President and ordered to be registered.

A Warrant from the Navy Board in favour of Captain Calvert for Fifty Pounds for furnishing the Revenge Galley with Necessaries was presented, Countersigned by the President, & ordered to be registered.

A Letter was written to the Honble the Council of Safety of Maryland as follows Gentⁿ &c—a Copy whereof is filed and ordered to be recorded in a Book to be provided & set a part for that purpose.

Ordered, that a Warrant issue to Archibald Gavan for One pound Seventeen Shillings & six pence half penny for Iron Pots & Covers furnished Captain Roger Thompsons Minute Company —& One pound ten shillings for one hundred & twenty weight Pot Iron delivered to Captain Winston.

A Letter was written to the Honourable Virginia Delegates in Congress as follows Gent. & c a Copy whereof is filed & ordered to be recorded.

Ordered, that John Minson Galt, Robert Nicolson, & James Southall, Gentlemen; be appointed to examine the Negroes now in the Public Jail; and report their opinion what their yearly hire ought to be.

The Gentlemen apointed to examine the Negroes in the public Jail, according to order, made an estimate of their yearly value and returned the following report, to wit;

In obedience to an Order of the Honble Privy Council We have made an estimate of y^e yearly hire of the Negroes at the Public Jail & the return as follows,

Joachim	} belonging to Edmund Bailey	12	Sawyer & Shoemaker
Joe		15	
Luke	William Bailey	10	
Peter	Thomas Jacobs	10	
Charles	George Wythe Esq ^r	9	
Jamie	} M ^r Bowdoin	8	
Reubin		10	
Ned		8	
Juba	William Maury	9	
Peter	M ^{rs} Reade	8	
Gilbert,	belonging to M ^{rs} Roan	9	
James	} Baleigh Dolman	8	
Fielding		9	
David		9	
Hercules		10	
Bristol	William Montague	8	
Aaron	Thomas Parramore	9	
James	} William B. Brown	8	
Prince		8	

£167

J. M. Galt
 Rob^t Nicolson
 James Southall

Ordered, that the Keeper of the Public Jail, do deliver the Negroes in his custody to M^r Peter Terrel, to be by him carried to the Lead Mines, and there delivered to M^r James Calloway; and that M^r Terrel give his Receipt to the Jailor for the same

Ordered, that the General be requested to order a Waggon to assist in removing the Slaves up to the Lead Mines, and that he be informed it is expected, M^r Calloway will have a Load of Lead ready to send down by the return of the Waggon

Ordered that M^r Terrel be empowered to hire a Guard of four Men, to assist in removing the above slaves; and in case he shall not be able to procure the same—that he then apply to the Lieutenants of the several Counties, through which, he is to pass, who are requested to order a proper Guard to attend him to the next County.

A Warrant, from the Navy Board in favour of Captain William Michell for Two hundred & fifty pounds towards the payment of his Company of Marines, was presented, Countersigned by the President, & ordered to be recorded.

The Council adjourned til' Wednesday next 9 o'Clock.

Signed,

John Page
Dudley Digges
John Blair
B. Dandridge
Ben. Harrison

Wednesday July the 17th 1776

Present

John Page Esquire, President,
Dudley Digges John Blair,
and Bartholomew Dandridges
Esquires.

Tho' there were not a sufficient Number of Members to make a Board; Yet there being business before them which required immediate Dispatch; the above Members thought it necessary for the Public service to proceed therein (Subject to the future Control of the Council.)

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to Colonel William Harwood for Eighteen Pounds fifteen Shillings being so much formerly paid by him for Seventy five weight of Gun powder delivered to the Keeper of the Magazine by Order of the Committee of Safety.

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to John Blair Esquire for two pounds sixteen Shillings & a penny half penny for so much paid an Express on public service.

Ordered, That James & Prince two of the Slaves lately ordered to be sent to the Lead Mines, under M^r Peter Terrel; be delivered up to their Master, William Burnet Brown Esq^r he engaging to have them removed to some interior part of the Country.

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to James Baker for two pounds ten Shillings for his Services as sub Sheriff of Gloucester County in attending the Court of Commissioners, per Account.

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to George Rice for Five pounds ten shillings for a Rifle Gun Three pounds for a Thousand Flints and three pounds eighteen Shillings & nine pence for a Gun for the use of Captain John Nevils Company of Frontier Troops.

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to George Rice for thirteen pounds ten Shillings for riding Express from Fort Pitt.

Ordered, That a Warrant issue to Peter Hedengran for twenty three pounds, being for his additional pay as Surgeon to the fifth Regiment from the 28th of March to the 28th of June, and Six

The Board having received information that Bartlet Goodrich and John Cunningham have broke their parole by departing beyond the Limits of the Town of New London, to which they were confined, and that James Parker who was Ordered to be kept on his parole within the Limits of the aforesaid Town, hath refused to give such Parole. Ordered therefore that the said Goodrich, Cunningham and Parker be conveyed under a proper guard to Amherst County and there confined to close prison, and it is further Ordered that a Serjeant & six men be placed as a Guard over the same.

On the Recommendation of the Court of the County of Bedford; it is Ordered that a Commission issue directed to Robert Ewing &c one half and one more to a Quorum *vide* Commission Book.

Adjourned till Tomorrow morning ten OClock.

Signed,

John Page	Nath ^l Harrison
Dudley Digges	Merriwether Smith
Bartho: Dandridge	and
Thomas Walker	David Jameson

Friday the 14th day of February 1777.

Present,

His Excellency the Governour.

Dudley Digges	Nathaniel Harrison	} Esquires.
John Blair.	Merriwether Smith	
Bartholomew Dandridge	and	
Thomas Walker	David Jameson	

Ordered that the Commissary of stores furnish Colo: Muchlenburg with one hundred pair of coarse stockings for the use of his Regiment on his paying for the same.

Ordered that a warrant issue to mr Leighton Wood for the use of mr. Thomas Smith for One hundred and twenty eight pounds on acco^t to recruit a first Lieutenants quota of Regulars for the service of this State. (Bond executed, and Instructions given).

Ordered that the Officers appointed in the County of Lunenburg for the Continental service be allowed till the first day of March next to compleat their respective Quotas.

Ordered that the Lieutenant appointed in the County of York for the Continental service be now in the service of this state, be allowed til the first day of march next to compleat his quota.

Ordered that John Page, Dudley Digges, and Thomas Walker esquires be appointed a Committe to consider the Memorial of Colo Henry Field respecting the additional Expences he hath been at in carrying on the Business of Contractors to the second and

seventh Regiments, and report their Opinion thereupon to the Board.

Ordered that the Commissary of stores, deliver Captain Wright Westcott twenty four pair of stockings and six Rugs for the use of the Crew on Board the Sloop Scorpion.

Colo Anthony Lawson who was a prisoner at Saint Augustine in East Florida, having been discharged upon his parole to release or cause to be released at the desire of the Earl of Dunmore any person or prisoner within this Commonwealth, otherwise to deliver himself up again, and the said Earl of Dunmore not being here, and Colo: Alexander Gordon being a prisoner of the same Rank and dignity. Resolved that he be released in exchange for the s^d Anthony Lawson upon this Condition that if this exchange shall not be ratified by the Governor of S^t Augustine he shall return to his former Condition.

The Board taking under their further Consideration the case of Edward Hughs, and their Resolution of tuesday last respecting the said Hughs, and considering also his own Confession as well as a Letter from Sir John Peyton informing this Board that the said Hughs had furnished the enemy with provisions and held intercourse with them; and it appearing that these things have been done within this Commonwealth contrary to an Act of the General Assembly declaring what shall be Treason. Ordered that Captain Calvert do carry the said Hughs or cause to be carried before a justice of the Peace of Gloster County, to be examined and further tried before an examining Court or dismissed according to the usual Course; and that the said Cap^t Calvert cause such Evidences as may best testify the whole truth to attend before such justice.

Ordered that a Warrant issue to mr William Rose junior Quarter master to the Militia stationed here for fifteen pounds on acco^t to purchase wood for the said Militia.

Whereas by an Order of Congress of the eighteenth day of January Last, an authentuated Copy of the declaration of Independency is directed to be sent to each of the United States to be by them recorded, and one of the Copies having been transmitted to this Board by the President of Congress for that purpose. Resolved therefore that the same be recorded, in the journals of the Proceedings of this Board, and is as follows—"In Congress July 4, 1776. The Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America. When, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the seperate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Natures God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they shoud declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are created equal, that they

are endowed, by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter, or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence indeed will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their duty, to throw of such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the Patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid World.

“He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome, and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governours to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operations till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

“He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large districts of People, unless those people would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at places unusual uncomfortable and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly for opposing with manly firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolution, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers incapable of annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time, exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of For-

eigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us in Times of Peace standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has effected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation.

For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us:

For protecting them by a mock trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States.

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences.

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province establishing there an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever:

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries, to complete the Works of death, desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our Fellow Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the

Executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes & conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions, we have petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A prince whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections & Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the Rest of Mankind Enemies in War, in peace Friends.

We therefore the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress assembled, appealing to the supreme judge of the World for the Rectitude of our intentions do in the name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish & declare that these united Colonies are and of right ought to be free and Independent States, that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connexion between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as free and Independent States they have full power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and things which Independent States may of Right do. And for the support of this declaration with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives our Fortunes, and our sacred Honour. John Hancock, Georgia Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton. North Carolina William Cooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn. South Carolina Edward Rutledge Thomas Heyward junior Thomas Lynch junior Arthur Middleton. Maryland Samuel Chase William Paca Thomas Stone Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Virginia George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson junior Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton. Pennsylvania Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross. Delaware Caesar Rodney, George Read,

New York William Floyd, Phil: Livingston Fran^s Lewis, Lewis Morris. New Jersey Richard Stockton, Jn^o Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart Abra Clark. New Hampshire Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton. Massachusetts Bay Samuel Adams John Adams Robert Treat Payne Edbridge Gerry. Rhode Island and Providence &c Stephen Hopkins William Ellery. Connecticut Roger Sherman, Sam^l Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott. In Congress January 18th 1777. Ordered that an authenticated Copy of the declaration of Independency with the names of the members of Congress subscribing the same, be sent to each of the United States, and that they be desired to have the put on Record. By order of Congress, John Hancock President, attest Cha Thompson Sec^y a true copy Jn^o Hancock Presid^t.

Adjourned till Tomorrow Morning ten O Clock.

Signed

Dudley Digges	Nathaniel Harrison
John Blair	Merriwether Smith
Bartho. Dandridge	and
Thomas Walker	David Jameson.

Saturday the 15th day of February 1777.

Present

His Excellency the Governour.

John Page	Nathaniel Harrison	} Esquires
Dudley Digges	Merriwether Smith	
John Blair	and	
Bartholomew Dandridge	David Jameson	

This Board do recommend it to the Continental Paymaster to advance Colo Charles Harrison two hundred and forty three pounds on acco^t: for the use of his Regiment of Artillery to be deducted out of the next Pay Roll.

The Board of Council, with great Concern, are given to understand that the Practice of Gaming is introduced in several Houses in this City; for the suppression of this baneful practice: It is Ordered that the Mayor, and all magistrates of the said City, be requested to use their utmost Endeavours to put the laws into rigorous exertions against this dangerous Vice.

Resolved that D^r James McClurg be allowed the sum of four dollars per day as a full compensation for his services as Physician and Director General of the Hospitals of this State.

John Bullet received Instructions and a warrant on the Treasury for sixty four pounds on acc^t to recruit an Ensigns Quota of men for the service of this State; He giving Bond &c.

The Board having received Information by various means that sundry evil disposed persons, have lately furnished several ships

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