

APPENDIX E. PRIMARY SOURCES - AMERICAN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence

Vermont Militia Officers to Commanding officers of Militia & Committees of Safety in the States of Massachusetts Bay & Connecticut.

Letter from Officers at Bennington—sent by Express to commanding officers of Militia &c.
(Excerpt)

Bennington, July 8th, 1777.

On Monday about 8 o'clock in the morning a large body of the Enemy came up with the rear of our army, when ensued a smart engagement. A very heavy fire was kept up for about half an hour when our Rear was obliged to retreat: The [British] army is advancing into the Country, killing & Robbing the Inhabitants & driving off their Cattle to their own use; our whole army is in a very broken situation; being divided, some part is gone to Fort Ann, the other part is now on or near Hampshire Grants; it is proposed to make a stand at *Pottet* about forty miles north of this place; unless the Enemy be soon stop'd & repuls'd the whole Country will fall into their hands, which will prove the ruin of the whole Country, as we have large stores deposited in this place which we shall of necessity be obliged to leave to the Enemy & retreat down into the New England States, which will soon reduce the country to *Cleanness of Teeth*: We therefore earnestly request of all Friends - to their country immediately to march to the Assistance of the Inhabitants of the Northern Department without the least delay.

Just rec^d by Express from Head Quarters at Pottet requesting the Militia to March to their assistance with all possible speed—with ten or twelve days provisions & as many Kettles for cooking as possible; also to bring a number of axes, spades and other intrenching Tools as you shall think proper.

We are Gent^l your friends & servants

John Fay,	Moses Robinson, Col.
Chairman	Nath ^l Brush, Lt. Col.
	Joseph Farnsworth, Dy. Com ^y .
	Elijah Heavy, Capt.

To the Command^g officers of Militia & Committees of Safety in the States of Massachusetts Bay & Connecticut.

N. B. All Com^{tees} of Safety are desired to furnish the bearer with fresh horses.

State Papers. Documents and Records relating to the State of New Hampshire during the Period of the American Revolution from 1776 TO 1783; Including the Constitution of New-Hampshire, 1776; New-Hampshire Declaration for Independence; the "Association Test," with names of Signers, &c.; Declaration of American Independence, July 4, 1776; the Articles of Confederation, 1778. 40 vols., Nathaniel Bouton, comp. and ed., (Concord: Edward A. Jenks, 1867-1943), vol. VIII (1874), p. 623.

A version of this letter printed in *Collections of the Vermont Historical Society* vol. 1 (Montpelier: J.&J. Poland, 1870), pp. 175/76 begins with these lines:

This day arrived from Ticonderoga with the disagreeable news of the Evacuation of that place, Mount Independence & Skeensborough, which happened on Sunday last, with the loss of all provisions, military and war like stores.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence

Vermont Council of Safety to New Hampshire Council of Safety

In Council of Safety, State of Vermont,
Manchester, 11th July, 1777.

Gentlemen.—The inclosed is a Copy of General St. Clair's Letter to the Convention of this State, by which you will learn his request to the Militia of your state. No further accounts have arrived since the date of the enclosed except that there are Small Scouting Parties foraging in the Woods. You will Learn the Provision General Schuyler has made for the protection of this State, and you will naturally understand that when we cease to be a frontier your State must take it. Would beg your advice and assistance for the good of the whole, and have the honor to be,

Gentlemen, with respect,

Your most Obedt and Very Humble Servant.

By order of the Council,

Ira Allen, Secr'y

Eliakim Persons Walton, *Records of the Council of Safety and Governor and Council of the State of Vermont to which are prefixed the Records of the General Conventions from July 1775 to December 1777* vol. 1 (Montpelier: Steam Press, 1873), p. 131.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence General Schuyler to Inhabitants of Castleton &c

Address of General Schuyler to the Inhabitants of Castleton, &c.

By Philip Schuyler, Esquire, Major General in the Army of the United States of America & Commander in Chief in the Northern Department:

To the Inhabitants of Castletown, Hubberton, Rutland, Tenmouth, Paulet, Wells, Granville with the neighbouring Districts bordering on White Creek, Cambden, Cambridge, &c. &c. Whereas, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne commanding an army of the British Troops, Did by a written Paper, by him subscribed, bearing late of Skeenesborough House, on the 10th of July instant, require You to send from your several Townships, Deputations consisting of ten persons or more from Each Township, to meet Colonel Skene at Castle Town on Wednesday July 15th, at ten in the morning, for sundry purposes in said Paper [mentioned] & that you were not to fail in paying Obedience thereto, under pain of military Execution :

—
Whatever, my Countrymen, may be the ostensible Reasons for such meeting, it is evidently intended by the Enemy, then to prevail on you by threats & promises to forsake the cause of your injured country; to assist them in forcing Slavery on the United States of America, & under the specious pretext of affording you Protection, to bring on you that misery, which their promises of Protection drew on such of the deluded Inhabitants of New Jersey who were weak enough to confide in them, But who soon experienced their fallacy, by being treated indiscriminately with those virtuous citizens, who came forth in Defence of their Country, with the most wanton Barbarity & such as hitherto hath not even disgraced Barbarians. They cruelly butchered without distinction to age or sex; ravished children from ten to women of Eighty years of age; they burnt, pillaged & destroyed whatever was in their power: Nor did those Edifices dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, escape their sacrilegious Fury. Such were the Deeds, such they were incontestibly proved to be, which have mark'd the British Arms with the most indelible stains. But they, having by the blessing of Divine Providence on our Arms, been obliged totally to abandon that State, they left those that were weak or wicked enough to take Protection under them, to bemoan their Credulity & to cast themselves on the mercy of their injured Countrymen. Such will be your Fate, if you lend a willing ear to their Promises, which I trust none of you will do. But lest any of you should so far forget the Duty you owe to your Country, as to join with, or in any

Manner of way assist or give comfort to, or hold correspondence with, or take Protections from the Enemy: Be it known to each & every one of you,—the Inhabitants of said Townships, or any other the Inhabitants of the United States, that you will be considered & dealt with as Traitors to said States, and that the Laws thereof will be put in Execution, against every person so offending, with the utmost Rigor. And I do hereby strictly enjoin & command all Officers civil & military to apprehend or cause to be apprehended all such offenders. And I do further strictly enjoin & command such of the Militia of said Townships, as have not yet marched, to do so without Delay, to join the army under my command or some Detachment thereof.

Given under my hand at Head Quarters, Fort Edward, July 13th, 1777.

Ph: Schuyler.

By the General's Command
Henry B. Livingston, A. D. C.

State Papers. Documents and Records relating to the State of New Hampshire during the Period of the American Revolution from 1776 TO 1783; Including the Constitution of New-Hampshire, 1776; New-Hampshire Declaration for Independence; the "Association Test," with names of Signers, &c.; Declaration of American Independence, July 4, 1776; the Articles of Confederation, 1778. 40 vols., Nathaniel Bouton, comp. and ed., (Concord: Edward A. Jenks, 1867-1943), vol. VIII (1874), pp. 658/59.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence

Vermont Committee of Safety to Col. Samuel Herrick

State of Vermont, in Council of Safety,
Manchester, July 15th, 1777.

To Samuel Herrick, Esq.:

We Reposing special trust and confidence in your Patriotism Valiours Conduct and Fidelity do by these presents Constitute you to be Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of a Regiment of Rangers Raised within this State for the Immediate defence thereof, and to be under the Special direction of this Council or the Commander in Chief of the Army Commanding the department the East side of Hudson's River; You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, by doing & performing all manner of things thereunto belonging—And we do Strictly Charge and Require all officers 1fc soldiers under your Command to be obedient to your orders as Lieutenant Colonel Commandant. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from this Council or the Commander in Chief of the Army aforesaid, or any other your Superior officer according to the Rules and discipline of War. In pursuance of the Trust reposed in you, this Commission to Continue in force until the first day of January next.

By order of Council,

Thomas Chittenden, *Prest.*

Records of the Council of Safety and Governor and Council of the State of Vermont to which are prefixed the Records of the General Conventions from July 1775 to December 1777 Eliakim Persons Walton ed., vol. 1 (Montpelier: Steam Press, 1873), pp. 135/36.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence Committee of Safety, Vermont

Letter from Ira Allen, Esq. of Vermont, relating to hastening on Troops. &c.

In Council of Safety, State of Vermont.

Manchester, 15th July, 1777.

To all Militia Officers whom it may concern:

This is the second and perhaps the last Express we may be able to send you from this post. Your immediate assistance is absolutely necessary; a few hundred militia troops to be joined to our present strength would greatly add to our present encouragement; as, by very late information we learn that a large scout of the enemy are disposed to take a Tour to this Post, the inhabitants with their Families cannot be quieted without an assurance of the arrival of Troops directly for their assistance; you will please to let us know your determination without delay.

The Continental Store at Bennington seems to be their present aim. You will be supplied with provision here on your arrival—Pray send all the Troops you can possibly raise. We can repulse them if we have assistance.

I have the the honor to be your most obed^t

Hum^b serv^t

By order of Council
Ira Allen, Secy.

State Papers. Documents and Records relating to the State of New Hampshire during the Period of the American Revolution from 1776 TO 1783; Including the Constitution of New-Hampshire, 1776; New-Hampshire Declaration for Independence; the "Association Test," with names of Signers, &c.; Declaration of American Independence, July 4, 1776; the Articles of Confederation, 1778. 40 vols., Nathaniel Bouton, comp. and ed., (Concord: Edward A. Jenks, 1867-1943), vol. VIII (1874), pp. 633/34.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence

Vermont Committee of Safety to New Hampshire Council of Safety

In Council of Safety, State of Vermont,
Manchester, 15th July, 1777.

Gentlemen,—This State in particular seems to be at Present the object of Distruction. By the surrender of the fortress Ticonderoga a Communication is opened to the Defenceless inhabitants on the frontier, who having little more in present store than sufficient for the maintenance of their Respective Families, and not ability to immediately remove their effects, are therefore induced to accept such Protections as are offered them by the Enemy : by this means Those Towns who are most Contiguous to them are under necessity of Taking such Protection, by which the next Town or Towns become equally a frontier as the former Towns before such Protection, and unless we can obtain the assistance of our friends so as to put it immediately in our Power to make a sufficient stand against such strength as they may send, it appears that it will soon be out of the Power of this state to maintain a frontier. This country, notwithstanding its infancy, seems as well supplied with provisions for Victualling an army as any Country on the Continent, so that on that account we cannot see why a stand may not as well be made in this State as in the State of New Hampshire, and more especially as the inhabitants are Heartily Disposed to Defend their Liberties. You, Gentlemen, will be at once sensible that Every such Town as accepts protection are rendered at that instant forever incapable of affording us any further assistance, and what is infinitely worse, as some Disaffected Persons eternally Lurk in almost every Town, such become Doubly fortified to injure their Country. Our Good Dispositions to Defend ourselves and make a frontier for your State with our own, cannot be Carried into execution without your assistance. Should you send immediate assistance we can help you, and should you neglect till we are put to the necessity of taking protection, you Readily Know it is in a moment out of our power to assist you. Laying these Circumstances together will I hope induce Your Honors to take the same into consideration and immediately send us your Determination in the Premises.

I have the satisfaction to be your Honors'

Most Obed^t and very Hum^{bl} Serv^t.

By order of Council,

Ira Allen, *Secr'y*.

The Honorable the Council of Safety,
State or New Hampshire.

P. S.—By express this moment received we learn that between 3 & 4 thousand of the Enemy are Fortifying at the town of Castleton. Our case calls for immediate assistance. I. Allen.

Records of the Council of Safety and Governor and Council of the State of Vermont to which are prefixed the Records of the General Conventions from July 1775 to December 1777 Eliakim Persons Walton ed., vol. 1 (Montpelier: Steam Press, 1873), pp. 131/32.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence Committee of Safety, Vermont

Orders to draft men.

Exeter, July 18th 1777.

Sir—

In pursuance of a Vote of the Council & Assembly of this day's date you are forthwith to cause one fourth part of the Militia under your command to be drafted for two months in order to prevent the further encroachments of the Enemy.

For their encouragement in this time of general alarm, the Genl. Court have Voted, that each Captain shall receive eight pounds, each Lieut. £5: 10s, each Ensign £4, Sargeants, corporals & privates each 4 D. per month, & each non-commissioned officer & private is to have a month's pay advanced which will be sent to each Colonel to be paid them on their being ready to march. It is supposed that the Number drafted will compose three Regiments to be commanded by 4 Field officers, viz. a Colonel Lieut. Col. & 2 Majors & its expected you'll agree among yourselves upon the persons, whose pay & rations will be the same with that the Field officers recd in the Continental service the last year. The whole to be commanded by Brig. Genl Stark,—each man is to receive 3d per mile from his home to Charlestown where he will receive provisions.

Indorsed—" Copy of orders to several Regts to Draft men, July 22d 1777.

State Papers. Documents and Records relating to the State of New Hampshire during the Period of the American Revolution from 1776 TO 1783; Including the Constitution of New-Hampshire, 1776; New-Hampshire Declaration for Independence; the "Association Test," with names of Signers, &c.; Declaration of American Independence, July 4, 1776; the Articles of Confederation, 1778. 40 vols., Nathaniel Bouton, comp. and ed., (Concord: Edward A. Jenks, 1867-1943), vol. VIII (1874), p. 642.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence New Hampshire Council to Ira Allen

Exeter, July 19. 1777.

Sir,—

I was favored with yours of the 15th inst. yesterday by express, and laid the same before our general court, who are sitting. We had, previous thereto, determined to send assistance to your state. They have now determined, that a quarter part of the militia of twelve regiments shall be immediately draughted, formed into three battalions, under the command of Brig. Gen. John Stark, and forthwith sent into your State, to oppose the ravages and coming forward of the enemy; and orders are now issuing, and will all go out in a few hours to the several colonels for that purpose. Dependence is made that they will be supplied with provisions in your State; and I am to desire your convention will send some proper person or persons to Number Four. [Charlestown, N. H.,] by Thursday next, to meet Gen. Stark there, and advise with him relative to the route and disposition of our troops, and to give him such information as you may then have, relative fo1 the manoeuvres of the enemy.

In behalf of the council and assembly, I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

Meshech Weare, President.

Ira Allen, Esq., Secretary of the State of Vermont.

Records of the Council of Safety and Governor and Council of the State of Vermont to which are prefixed the Records of the General Conventions from July 1775 to December 1777 Eliakim Persons Walton ed., vol. 1 (Montpelier: Steam Press, 1873), p. 132.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence

New Hampshire Committee of Safety to General Stark

State of New Hampshire,
Saturday, July 19th, 1777.

To Brig^d Gen^l Jn^o Stark,—You are hereby required to repair to Charlestown, N^o 4, so as to be there by 24th—Thursday next, to meet and confer with persons appointed by the convention of the State of Vermont relative to the route of the Troops under your Command, their being supplied with Provisions, and future operations—and when the Troops are collected at N^o- 4, you are to take the Command of them and march into the State of Vermont, and there act in conjunction with the Troops of that State, or any other of the States, or of the United States, or separately, as it shall appear Expedient to you for the protection of the People or the annoyance of the Enemy, and from time to time as occasion shall require, send Intelligence to the Gen^l Assembly or Committee of Safety, of your operations, and the manoeuvres of the Enemy.

M. Weare.

Records of the Council of Safety and Governor and Council of the State of Vermont to which are prefixed the Records of the General Conventions from July 1775 to December 1777 Eliakim Persons Walton ed., vol. 1 (Montpelier: Steam Press, 1873), p. 133.