

Proceedings of the Wilmington-New Hanover [North Carolina] Committee of Safety, 1774-1775

This document shows the workings of another committee established to enforce the Association. The Wilmington Committee of Safety was unusual in two ways. First, it maintained detailed records. Second, it aggressively moved to silence political dissent in its region, southeastern North Carolina. The Committee's account should be compared with the equally biased report of a growing insurgency that Janet Schaw gives in "Journal of a Lady of Quality."

Discussion Questions

1. On what grounds does the Wilmington Committee base its enforcement of the ban on horse racing?
2. How does the Committee enforce compliance with the Association?
3. Judging from evidence in the proceedings, what effect do the Committee's actions have on the community of Wilmington?



MINUTES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WILMINGTON-NEW HANOVER
COMMITTEE OF SAFETY
1774 - 1776

WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 23, 1774.

At a meeting of the Freeholders in the Court-house at Wilmington for the purpose of Choosing a Committee for said town to carry more effectually into Execution the resolves of the late congress held at Philadelphia, the following names were proposed & universally assented to—

Cornelius Harnett	William Hooper	Archibald Maclaine
John Quince	Robert Hogg	John Robeson
Francis Clayton	John Ancrum	James Walker

The Committee then adjourned untill 6 o'clock this Evening.

WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 23, 6 O'CLOCK P.M.

Present: Archd. Maclaine, Jno. Ancrum, James Walker,
Jno. Quince, Fr's Clayton & others.

It being then moved that Ancrum, Forster & Brice & others have Imported quantitys of Teas in the Brig *Sally* & Capt. Innes not knowing how to dispose of them, had by Interposition of Capt. Forster Informed the Committee thereof in the Court House Immediately after the Election, Craving their advice:

It was Resolved—that tho this application did not come properly under the Cognisance of a committee chosen to Inspect the conduct of the Inhabitants of this Town regarding certain Resolves entered into by the Continental congress—yet as Capt. Forster & other Gentlemen con-

cerned, Chose to walk hand in hand with their approbation, the following letter to Mr. [William] Hill was agreed to—

Mr. Hill—

Wilmington, November 23, 1774

Sir— This day at a very numerous meeting of the Freeholders of this town, for the purpose of appointing a Committee to carry more effectually into Execution the resolutions of the late Continental Congress, the subscribers to this letter were Chosen & Compose a majority thereof, the first article presented to our notice being a Quantity of teas Imported by yourself & others in your brig *Sally*, Capt. Innes, we inquire of you, & beg your Immediate answer, whether said teas may not be regularly remitted by the vessel, & whether the Custom-house will in that case have any right to demand a duty or refuse Clearing her out— Signed by all the members present.

The Committee then adjourned to the 25th instant.

WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 25, 1774.

The Committee met according to adjournment—

Present: Arch'd Maclaine	Jno. Ancrum	Robert Hogg
James Walker	Jno. Quince	Francis Clayton.

When Mr. Hill's answer being produced & read—follows a Copy—

Gent— Brunswick, November 24, 1774

I cannot take upon me to answer your Enquirys concerning the Tea bro't into this port by the *Sally*—The Collector & Comptroller (I hear) will be at Wilmington tomorrow or next day, the management of the Kings duty is particularly their department & they will determine whether the tea may regularly be remitted by the vessel or whether the duty is to be paid; or whether they will Clear it out—

The safety of the people is (or ought to be) the Supreme law, the gent. of the Committee, will Judge whether this Law, or an act of Parliament, should at this particular time operate in N. Carolina—I believe every tea Importer will cheerfully submit to their determination, I can answer for Gent—your most obed't

Signed, W. Hill—

It was agreed to by a Majority after the point had been Maturely reasoned, that the subject was not in the Extent of the Committee's Inspection, & that it ought to be recommended to those concerned to conduct themselves with discretion & for the good of the Country—

The Committee then adjourned to the 26th instant.

WILMINGTON, 26 NOVEMBER 1774.

The Committee met according to adjournment.

Present: Francis Clayton	John Ancrum	James Walker
Robert Hogg	John Quince	Archibald Maclaine.

The committee finding that several gentlemen intended to start horses, which they have had some time in keeping, for the Wilmington subscription-purse, on Monday the 28th instant, and the General Congress having particularly condemned horse-racing as an expensive diversion, the Committee thought proper to send the following admonitory circular letter to the several gentlemen who had kept horses for the race, to wit—

Sir—

Wilmington, 26th November, 1774.

The Continental Congress lately held at Philadelphia representing the several American colonies from Nova Scotia to Georgia, associated and agreed among other things, for themselves and their constituents, to "Discountenance and Discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially all horse-racing and all kinds of gaming, cockfighting, exhibitions of shows and plays and other expensive diversions and entertainments"; and we being a majority of the Committee chosen by the freeholders of Wilmington to observe the conduct of all persons touching the association of the said Congress, think it our indispensible duty to inform you that in our opinion, the avowed intention of running horses for the subscription purse near this town on the 28th instant, if carried into execution, will be subversive of the said association and a breach of the resolves of the General Congress; and that if the gentlemen who intended to enter horses for the said purse (of whom we understand you are one) persist in running the race, we shall be under the disagreeable necessity of bearing public testimony against a proceeding which immediately strikes at the ground of the association and resolves by disuniting the people.

You must be sensible, Sir, that the Americans have not the most distant prospect of being restored to their former rights or of succeeding in their attempts to defeat a venal and corrupt ministry and parliament but by an unanimous adherence to the resolutions and advice of their representatives in the late General Congress; and, as a friend to your country, we have no doubt but you will readily relinquish an amusement that however laudable in other respects, is certainly attended with considerable expense and even distruction to many individuals; and may very justly be condemned at a time when frugality should be one of our leading virtues.

We shall only add that nothing will so effectually tend to convince the British Parliament that we are in earnest in our opposition to their measures, as a voluntary relinquishment of our favorite amusements. Those who will take the trouble of making observation on mankind, must soon be convinced that the people who abandon their pleasures for the public good are not to be biased by any other consideration—Many will cheerfully give a part of their property to secure the remainder. He only is the determined patriot who willingly sacrifices his pleasures on the Altar of freedom. We are &c—

Which was signed by the Committee present.

The Committee then adjourned to the 10th of December.

WILMINGTON, 10th DECEMBER, 1774.

The Committee met according to adjournment.

Mr. John Slingsby & Co. informed the committee that they have imported in the brig *Diana*, Captain Ruthven master, from Glasgow since the first instant, a cargo of goods for their store in this town, amounting to £1916-7-2 $\frac{2}{3}$ sterling and another cargo for their store at Cross creek amounting to £1018-13-9 $\frac{3}{4}$ sterling, and delivered these same with the invoices thereof into the hands of the committee requesting that they may be sold agreeable to the association of the general congress:

Resolved therefore that the sale of the said goods be on Wednesday the 14th instant and that public notice thereof be given immediately.

The Committee adjourned to the 14th instant.

WILMINGTON, WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER, 1774.

The cargoes of goods imported by John Slingsby & Co. and put into the hands of the committee the 10th instant, were put up to public sale at the courthouse pursuant to notice, when the importers became the last and highest bidders for the said goods, that is to say for the several goods imported for their store in Wilmington the sum of nineteen hundred and twenty-three pounds (£1923) Sterling and for the several goods imported for their store at Cross Creek the sum of one thousand and twenty pounds (£1020) like money. Exclusive of the amount of the several goods in the two invoices as mentioned in the proceedings of the 10th instant, there was gun-powder for the Wilmington store to the amount of £11-10-sterling and for the Cross Creek store to the

amount of £6-18-sterling as appears to the committee, never came to the hands of the said John Slingsby & Co. not having been shipped on board the said brigantine.

The committee met at 6 o'clock P.M. Mr. Herald Blackmore informed that he had Imported since the first Instant, in the Sloop *Mary* [*Three Marys*] and the Brig [name left blank; *Expedition*, Port Brunswick vessel register] Five Negro Slaves and craved advice how to proceed as he had given orders for the purchase of and shipping said slaves, previous to the Resolutions of the provincial congress. The committee desired that Mr. Blackmore would not sell, or send them out of Town, but be accountable for them at the next meeting—then adjourned to December the 17th, 1774.

WILMINGTON, SATURDAY THE 17th OF DECEMBER, 1774.

The committee met according to adjournment.

Present: Corn's Harnett	John Ancrum	Rob't Hogg
Arch'd Maclaine	James Walker	John Robeson
		John Quince

The committee finding upon Inquiry that one of the slaves Imported by Herrel Blackmore was ordered after the publication of the Resolves of the provincial convention of this province, and in contradiction thereto, and that he had at that time an opportunity to contradict the Orders he had given for the other Slaves, and he now confessing that he sent a copy of the provincial resolves to Granada—It is the opinion of the committee that the said slaves be reshipped. And the committee do resolve that all slaves Imported since the first day of this Instant, or which may be Imported, shall be reshipped from this province. Upon a suggestion to the committee that Mr. Arthur Mabson hath Imported in his Schooner [*Arthur & Polly*] from the West Indies some slaves which are now at his plantation near this Town: It is ordered that the sense of this committee relative thereto be made known to Mr. Mabson and that Mr. Maclaine write to him for that purpose, which he hath done as follows, to witt—

Wilmington, 17th December, 1774.

Sir— The committee for the Town chosen to observe conduct of all persons Touching the association of the General Congress, have resolved that all slaves Imported into this river since the first day of December Instant, shall be reshipped to the place from whence they came as soon as possible, and being Informed that you have, contrary to the

The Committee being informed of a Public Ball to be given by Sundry persons under the Demonination of The Gentlemen of Wilmington at the House of Mrs. Austin this Evening, & as all public Balls & Dances are Contrary to the Resolves of the General Continental Congress, & a Particular Resolve of this Committee, Ordered that the following Letter be sent to Mrs. Austin to forewarn her from Suffering such Public Ball & Dancing at her House—

Madam— The Committee appointed to see the Resolves of the Continental Congress put in Execution in this Town, Acquaint you that the Ball intended to be given at your House this Evening is Contrary to the Said Resolves, we therefore warn you to decline it & Acquaint the parties concerned that your house cannot be at their Service consistent with the good of your Country.

By order of the Committee.

(Signed) Tho. Craike.

MONDAY, MARCH 6th, 1775.

The Committee met According to Adjournment.

Present: Cornelius Harnett, Chairman
Francis Clayton, Deputy-Chairman

Archib'd Maclaine	Joel Parish	F. Jones
Alex. Lillington	Timy Bloodworth	Jno. Ancrum
James Moore	Tho's Bloodworth	Jas. Walker
Jno. Robeson	James Wright	Wm. Hooper
Samp. Moseley	Jno. Hollingsworth	Sam'l Collins
	Sam'l Marshall	

The following Association was agreed on by the Committee & annexed to the Resolves of the General Congress to be handed to every person in this County & recommended to the Committee of the adjacent Counties, that those who acceded to the said Resolves may Subscribe their Names thereto—

We the Subscribers in Testimony of our Sincere approbation of the proceedings of the late Continental Congress to this Annexed, have hereunto set our hands & we do most solemnly engage by the most Sacred ties of Honour, Virtue & Love of our Country, that we will ourselves Strictly Observe every part of the Association recommended by the Continental Congress as the most probable means to bring about a Reconciliation between Great Britain & her Colonies & we will use every

Method in Our power to endeavor to Influence others to the Observation of it by persuasion & such other Methods as Shall be consistent with the peace & Good Order & the Laws of this Province & we do hereby intend to Express our Utter detestation of all such as shall endeavor to defeat the purpose of the Said Congress & will Concur to hold forth such Characters to Public Contempt.

William Wilkinson Reported Sundry Dry Goods Imported in the Schooner [Industry] Yelverton Fowkes Master, from Charles Town, directed to his care by Joseph Robeson of Deep River to have their opinion whether the said Goods could be landed agreeable to the General Resolves. The Committee after examining Mr. Wilkinson & Capt. Fowkes & Such papers as they could produce—Resolved that the Said Goods cannot be Disposed of by the Said Robeson or his Factor till further proof of their having been Imported or disposed of Agreeable to the General Resolves & that William Wilkinson be allowed six weeks from this time to procure from the Committee of Charles Town such Certificates as shall be Satisfactory to this Committee, & the said Wm. Wilkinson is to store the Goods & deliver the key to Mr. James Walker, one of this Committee.

The Committee then adjourned 'till 3 o'clock this after-noon.

3 o'clock, the Committee met according to adjournment.

Present: Corn's Harnett, Chairman
Fran's Clayton, Deputy-Chairman

John Robeson	Wm. Jones, W.T.	Jno. Hollingsworth
Sam'l Swann	Tho. Bloodworth	Joel Parish
A. Lillington	Arch'd Maclaine	Jno. Devane
Geo. Moore	John Ancrum	Geo. Merrick
Sampson Moseley	James Walker	Wm. Hooper
Wm. Jones, L.C.	James Wright	James Moore
Jno. Colvin	Tim'y Bloodworth	Fred'k Jones
Sam'l Marshall	Sam'l Collins	

Mr. James Keenan Chairman of the Duplin Committee pursuant to a Letter from this Committee at their last meeting, attended.

Resolved that all Members of the Committee now present go in a body & wait on all the Housekeepers in Town with the Association before mentioned & request their signing it, or declare their reasons for refusing, that such Enemies to their Country may be set forth to public View & treated with the Contempt they merit.

Resolved That it's the Opinion of this Committee that all Dances, Private & as well as public, are contrary to the Spirit of the 8th Article in the Association of the Continental Congress & that as such they ought to be discouraged & that all persons concerned in any Dance for the future should be properly stigmatized.

Mr. Harnett desired the Opinion of the Committee respecting a Negro fellow he bought in Rhode Island (a Native of that place) in the Month of October last whom he designed to have brought with him to this Province, but the said Negro ran away at the time of his Sailing from Rhode Island—The Question was put whether Mr. Harnett may Import the Said Negro from Rhode Island—Resolved Unanimously that Mr. Harnett may Import the Said Negro from Rhode Island & it is the Opinion of this Committee that under the above Circumstances Such Importations will not be any Infringement of the Articles of the Resolves of the General Congress.

Ordered that Mr. Grant, Messenger to this Committee, be paid for his Attendance on the Committee 10 days (including tomorrow) at the rate of 8 shillings per day.

The Committee then Adjourned till 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

TUESDAY, 7th MARCH, 1775.

The Committee met According to Adjournment.

Present: Cornelius Harnett, Chairman

Fran's Clayton, Deputy Chairman

John Ancrum	Tho's Bloodworth	Joel Parish
Geo. Moore	J. Robeson	Jno. Hollingsworth
Wm. Hooper	Jno. Quince	Alexand'r Lillington
Sam Swann	Jno. Devane	F. Jones
James Moore	Jno. Colvin	Geo. Merrick
Sampson Moseley	Tim'y Bloodworth	J's Wright
Wm. Jones, W.T.	Wm. Jones, L.C.	Arch'd Maclaine

Resolved that three Members of this Committee attend the meeting of the Committee at Duplin on the 18th Instant—Mr. Sam'l Ashe, Mr. Sampson Moseley & Mr. Timothy Bloodworth were accordingly Nominated to attend the said committee.

The Committee sent for Mr. John McDonnell, An Importer & purchaser of sundry Dry Goods as appears by the Journal of this Committee the 3rd February last, to demand the sum of £8-0-2 Sterling Money

which he becomes liable for to the Committee. The said Jno. McDonnell having made it appear to the Satisfaction of the Committee that the Goods he purchased were damaged in such a manner as not to be worth the first Cost & Charges, It is the Opinion of this Committee that the aforesaid Sale is Void and that the said Jno. McDonnell be excused from paying the above sum.

Doctor Thomas Cobham, Messrs. Jno. McDonnell, Jno. Walker, Jr., John Slingsby, Thomas Orr, Jno. Cruden, Wm. MacTier & Wm. McLeod, Merchants, William Whitfield, planter & Kenneth McKenzie & Dougal McNight, Tailors, all of the Town of Wilmington, appeared before the Committee & having refused or declined under various pretences to sign the Association of the Continental Congress—Resolved & agreed that we will have no trade, Commerce, dealings or Intercourse whatsoever with the above mentioned persons or any others Connected with them, or with any other person or persons who shall hereafter violate the said Association, or refuse to Subscribe thereto; but will hold them as unworthy of the rights of freemen & as Inimical to the Liberties of their country & we recommend it to the people of this Colony in particular & to the Americans in General, to pursue the Same Conduct.

Resolved that a Copy of the above Resolve be given to Adam Boyd to print in hand Bills & distributed through this Province.

The Committee being informed that a Vessel arrived in the River from Glasgow with Bale Goods, desired the Chairman to write the following letter to Richard Quince, Esq., Chairman of the Brunswick Committee—

Sir— From the Cap'n of a Vessel from Hispaniola Just come to Town, we learn that a Snow [a vessel] has arrived from Glasgow laden with Bale Goods, Bricks, Wines &c. You are Sensible Sir that these Goods, Agreeable to the Articles of Association, ought to be returned & take this very early Opportunity of putting you in mind that she is a Subject of your attention, having Committed a breach of Said Association within your Limits. The Name of the Cap'n & Vessel are not known [not in Port Brunswick Vessel Register] but Supposed to be the *Snow Relief*, Dougal McGregor, Master. You will please Communicate the procedure of your Committee in this Affair & I am, Res' Yours

(Signed) Corn's Harnett.

The Committee then Adjourned 'till the Afternoon.

[The *Snow Relief*, Alexander McGregor, Master, according to Governor Martin, was "stranded here in the month of March last." Captain Collett

the Commander at Fort Johnston laid claim to the cargo as salvage. Governor Martin thought his action "unjustifiable".]

TUESDAY, 4 O'CLOCK.

The Committee met according to adjournment.

Present: Corn's Harnett, Chairman

Francis Clayton, Deputy-Chairman

Jno. Quince	Wm. Jones, W.T.	F. Jones
Jno. Devane	Wm. Hooper	Arch'd MacLaine
Thos. Bloodworth	John Ancrum	Wm. Jones, L.C.
Tim. Bloodworth	James Moore	

Resolved Unanimously that as the measures which this Committee must be under an Absolute necessity to adopt, in case any persons should mark themselves as Objects of distinction in Opposition to the General American cause, must be greatly detrimental in their present Operation & future consequence to them, We therefore, in order to give full Opportunity to those who have not yet Subscribed their Names as a testimony of their concurrence in the Continental Association, have thought fit to delay till Monday next carrying into Execution those signal marks of Content to which the Continental Congress have thought fit to consign those who are so far lost to Public Virtue, as to Oppose the Measures which that body proposed as a Cement of Allegiance to our Sovereign & as having a tendency to promote a Constitutional Attachment to our Mother Country.

Resolved Unanimously also that if any person who upon Application having been made to him to Sign the Association has hitherto refused, if he shall make known his altered Resolution & shall be desirous to sett his Name to the Said Association, he will find it in the hands of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman or Secretary of this Committee till Monday next, before or at which time he may apply and Save the dangerous consequence that may ensue from a longer Neglect.

Account of Money Received by the Secretary for the Committee, to be disposed of Agreeable to the Resolves—[Sent to the Bostonians.]

From Arch. MacLaine, Corn's Harnett, Al. Lillington, Sam'l Swann, Samp. Moseley, Fred'k Jones, G. Moore, Wm. Jones, Joel Parish, Jno. Devane, Jno. Robeson at 8 shillings each for not attending the Committee, as summoned.

From Mr. Crowther for sale of Goods on the 21st February, 1775

4- 8-9

Do. [ditto] Alexander Hostler for Do. 31st Dec'r, 1774

3- -

Do. John Slingsby for Do. at Sundry times

14-10-

Do. Wm. McTier for Do. 31st Dec'r 1774

2- -

Do. John Cruden for Do. 31st Dec'r Do.

8-8

Do. Tho. Orr for Do. 31st Dec'r Do.

-15-

Do. J. McDonnell, a Gift to the Bostonians

3- -

£28- 2-5

Account of Money paid by order of the Committee to James Grant, Messenger to the Committee for his Attendance 10 days in Dec'r includes this day at 8 shillings per day

£4- -

To Owen Keenan for Dickson in full for the Ballance due him by the Committee appointed to Receive donations for the Bostonians, for carrying expresses to the Northern Counties

5

£9- -

The Committee Adjourned to the next Occasional Meeting.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders of Wilmington this day, Wm. Purviance, Esq'r, Messrs. Richard Player, James Blythe, And'w Ronaldson, Wm. Evins & Henry Young were Unanimously chosen an Addition to the Wilmington Committee.

MONDAY, 13th MARCH, 1775.

At an Occasional Meeting of the Committee,

Present: Corn's Harnett, Chairman

Fran's Clayton, Deputy-Chairman

Archib'd MacLaine	James Walker	And'w Ronaldson
Rob. Hogg	R'd Player	John Ancrum
Jno. Quince	James Blythe	Jno. Ashe
Wm. Purviance	Wm. Evans	

Since the Resolves passed the 6th of this Instant to make public the Names of the Persons who refused to sign the Continental Association, the underwritten persons who had refused, have subscribed their Names within the time Limited—

John Cruden, Tho's Orr, Wm. Macleod, John Slingsby, Wm. Whitfield, Tho's Cobham, John Walker, Jr. & Mr. Mactier.

Rec'd this day from Mr. Harnett his subscription to the Committee for purchasing Gunpowder

£25 - -

MONDAY, MARCH 20th, 1775.

At a General Meeting of the Committee.

Present: Cornelius Harnett, Chairman

James Moore	James Walker	Fred'k Jones
Sam'l Ashe	Wm. Hooper	Jno. Ancrum
Sam Swann	Alexander Ronaldson	Sam'l Marshall
Rob. Hogg	Jno. Hollingsworth	Archb'd Maclaine

Resolved that the Importers of Negroes since the 1st of December last, be called upon at the next General meeting of this Committee on the 20th of April next, to produce Bills of Loading or other Sufficient proof to the Committee that they have reshipped the Said Negroes agreeable to the Resolves of the General Congress as directed by this Committee.

Paid for paper £0-2-8.

The Committee then Adjourned to the next Occasional Meeting.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24th, 1775.

At an Occasional Meeting of the Committee,

Present:	Wm. Evans	A. Ronaldson
Robert Hogg	Jno. Ancrum	James Blythe
James Walker	Wm. Purviance	Tho's Devane
Jno. Robeson	Tim'y Bloodworth	

Messrs. George & Tho's Hooper Reported Sundry Dry Goods off the *Peggy*, [James] Graham Commander, from Leith shipped to their Address which they desired the Committee to take into Consideration & direct what should be done with the Said Goods.

Ordered that the Said Goods be not landed, but sent back to Great Britain as directed by the 10th Article of the General Association & Mr. John Robeson is desired (as a Member of this Committee) to go on board the Said Vessel & take an account of the Goods on board with their Marks & Numbers & on her being ready to Sail for Great Britain, to Examine the Said Goods with his Account before taken.

Cap. Oldfield reported two negroes shipped to his address off the Schooner *Bedford*, Cap. Benny, which were ordered to be reshipped & was Comply'd with by Cap. Oldfield.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th.

At an Occasional Meeting of the Committee,

Present: Archib'd Maclaine	James Walker
Jno. Robeson	Alex Ronaldson
Wm. Purviance	Wm. Evins
Tim'y Bloodworth	Jno Ancrum

Mr. Alexander Hostler apply'd to the Committee to have their advice concerning a Ship called the *Clementine* that was coming to his address from London, Commanded by Dick Weir, which was lost on the middle ground near the bar of this River. At the same time Mr. Hostler delivered to the Committee an Invoice of Sundry Stationary Goods Shipped on board the Said Vessel which he requested the Committee to take also into Consideration & direct him what may be done with the said Ship Stores & Materials & Stationary Goods.

Ordered that it is the Opinion of this Committee that the Vessel, with her Stores & Materials, may be legally Sold without any breach being made in the General Association, but as the Stationary Goods are landed at Brunswick, this Committee think they don't come under their direction.

[2nd Provincial Congress met 3 April, 1775, at New Bern.]

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1775.

The Committee met agreeable to adjournment.

Present: Cornelius Harnett, Chairman		
Robert Hogg	John Colvin	Sampson Moseley
James Walker	Francis Clayton	George Moore
Alexander Lillington	James Blythe	Jno. Ancrum
Timothy Bloodworth	Sam. Marshall	William Evans
Andrew Ronaldson	Jno. Robeson	Frederick Jones
	William Purviance	

Mr. William Wilkinson appeared & Produced a certificate for the proper landing of a parcel of goods consigned him from Charlestown in

the Schooner [Industry], Yelverton Fowkes master, which being read was deemed satisfactory by the Committee.

Application was then made by Mr. Cruden in behalf of a Mr. Elliott, setting forth that he had purchased the Real & personal estate of Marmaduke Jones, Esq. both of the Province & praying leave to Import some of his house Servants (negroes) now in Jamaica. The article in the Association respecting the Importation of Slaves being read & the Subject fully debated, it was determined that said Servants could not be Imported.

The Committee then adjourned to May 20th.

[2nd Continental Congress met 10 May, 1775, in Philadelphia]

SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 1775.

The Committee met According to Adjournment.

Present: Cornelius Harnett, Chairman

Francis Clayton, Deputy-Chairman

George Moore	James Blythe	William Evins
John Ashe	And'w Ronaldson	William Jones
Sam'l Marshall	Jno. Robeson	Sam'l Collins
John Devane	Tho's Bloodworth	Timothy Bloodworth
John Colvin	Samuel Ashe	Alexander Lillington
Sampson Moseley	Fred'k Jones	James Walker
James Wright	Archibald MacLaine	Jno. Ancrum
Robert Hogg	James Moore	Jno. Quince
John Hollingsworth	William Robeson	

Ordered that this Committee meet at 11 o'clock in the forenoon on the 20th day of every Month, Otherwise to be subject to the fine agreed to be paid by Absentees.

Resolved that the Committees of the Respective Counties in this District be Invited to meet in Wilmington on the 20th of June next in order to deliberate on several matters of Importance that will be laid before them respecting the General Cause of America.

Ordered that the Resolve entered on the Journals of this Committee On the last meeting respecting application to the Committee for liberty to Mr. Elliott to Import his house Servants be Rescinded.

Resolved, A paper Containing the Reasons of the Magistrates of Chatham County for not Signing the Association presented to them by

one Doctor Piles, is highly approved of by this Committee, & is ordered to be published in the *Cape Fear Mercury*.

Account of Money paid & rec'd for the use of the Committee, this Meeting—

Rec'd from Jno. Ashe—15 shillings, Jno. Hollingsworth—	
8 shillings, Francis Clayton—8 shillings, Wm. Robeson—	
8 shillings, Wm. Jones—8 shillings, Jno. Quince—16	
shillings, fines for being Absent	£ 3- 3-0
Paid—to William Mactier for 200 lbs Gunpowder at 3	
shillings	£30- -
—James Harpers Boy at twice in part of two Expresses,	
one to the Southward & the other to the Northward	1-10-
—To James Grant in full to this Meeting	2- 8
—For Paper	2-8
	£34- 0-8

The Committee then Adjourned to the Next Meeting.

Letter from the Safety Committee at Wilmington to Samuel Johnston, dated 31 May, 1775.

Dear Sir, We take the liberty to enclose a copy of Mr. Hoopers letter to Mr. Harnett; on the perusal of which you will no doubt perceive the expediency of calling (as soon as possible) a Provincial Convention. We have the greatest reason to expect Interesting accounts from the Continental Congress in a short time, and you will, we are convinced, think with us, that a Convention Ought to meet as soon as proper notice can be given to the several Counties, which we beg leave strenuously to recommend to your attention.

We have not the least doubt, that at the next meeting of Our Committee, an immediate stop will be put to the Exportation of Provisions, &c. from this Port to Newfoundland.

We sincerely Condole with all the friends of American Liberty in this Province, on the Death of our worthy friend Col. Harvey. We regret it as a Public Loss, especially at this Critical Juncture.

We are with great regard, Dear Sir, Your most Obed. Serv'ts

R[obert] Howe, Corn's Harnett, John Ashe

[Governor Josiah Martin arrived at Fort Johnston on June 2, 1775]
