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At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the First Monday
Being the anniversary Election of Town officers for the year Ensuing. The
persons were Chosen to the several offices affixt to their Names.

John Cole Esq.r Moderator

Town Clerk — James Angell. . . . . Town Sergent William Copson

Town Treasurer .. Johns Arnold . .

Town Council } John Cole John Jenches Nicholas Brown John Field
Charles Keene and Jacob Whitman

Town Audit Nicholas Tillinghast Nicholas Brown & Jabez Bowen

Constables } Jabez Goreham. William Brown. James Olney Samuel Nightingale Jun.r
Nathaniel Wheaton Nicholas Power Job Sweeting James Black Ezek Eddy Jeremy
Mason Andrew Cole and Nathaniel Jacobs . . . .

Sealer of Weights and Measures. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates & overseers of the poore. Ambrose Page Zepheniah Andrews & Nath.l White

Surveyours of Joist boards &c. } Christopher Arnold Elijah Bacon. Jonathan Hammond. Jehue
Smith Comfort Wheaton Ezek Eddy & Gorsham Carpenter.

Surveyours of Highways. Joseph Brown Barnard Eddy. Edward Thurber & Pheneas Brown

Gagers of Cash. Samuel Jackson. George Taylor. Ezek Brown & Benjamin West

Vandue Master John Lawrence

Packers of Beef Pork & Cullers of hoops & Staves } Joseph Field Ezek Eddy Ezek Brown Joseph Potter Gersham Carpenter
Isaac Eveleth and Joseph Hoyle . . . . . .

Overseer of the Pest House Jabez Bowen

Corders of Wood. Joseph Crawford Ezek Eddy. Jos: Olney Jun.r and Able Pewey

Colector of Rates. Ezekiel Burr. who Ingages to Collect all Taxes assesed in
this Town for the Year Insuing for 3½ p.r Cent. and before he receive the Rate Bill
or Bills. to Give Bond to the Town Treasurer with Two Good Surityes for the Sum of
one Thousand pounds Lawful Money for the faithful Discharge of said office

Pound Keeper John Lawrence

To Valve Estates. when disputed. in Voting. John Brown Benj Man & Job Smith

Fence Vivers. James Lovett Benj Cushing Jun.r Stephen Rawson & Benj. Thurber.

Presedents of the Five Wards. Stephen Hopkins Nich.s Tillinghast & William

Five Wards } Nicholas Brown John Jenches Thomas Greene Benjamin Man &
Tillinghast Job Smith. John Foster Joseph Nash and Amos Atwell

Field Drivers } Knight Dexter Thomas Birket Job Sweeting James Snow Pheneas Bro
James Olney and John Brown Son of Elisha

Scavengers. Job Sweeting and John Smith . .

Sealers of Leather Samuel Butler and Daniel Cahoone

Persons belonging to the Engine } Nicholas Brown Nathan Angell. Gersham Carpenter Danie
Tillinghast. Joseph Brown Ebenezer Thompson Thomas
John Brown. James Arnold Arther Fenner Knight Dexter &

belonging } John Smith Benjamin Cushing Junr. Ezek Brown Charles
the Engine } Keene. Obadiah Sprague Sanders Pitman Simeon Lowring
Town } John Ines Clark Joseph Nightingale & Nathaniel Wheaton

sons belonging } John Matheson. Zepheniah Andrews Daniel Jackson James
the Engine } Black Asa Franklin. Nathaniel Greene Nicholas Clark
over the Bridge } Joseph Floyd Jonathan Ellis Samuel Black Benj. Talman & Joseph Bucklin

Town Cryer Daniel Branch

Voted that Benjamin Man Jonathan Hammond Comfort Wheaton Joshua Spooner Ichue Smith Martin Seamons Elijah Bacon Isaac Bowen Andrew Cole & Oliver Carpenter be and are hereby appointed to Remove or pull Down any Buildings ordered by the presidents of the Five Wards to be Removed or pulled Down in Case of Fire. who are Impowered to make Rules for themselves. and appoint one amongst themselves to be their Cheif all which shall be observed and Obayed in Time of Fire

Solomon Brown Christopher Arnold Barzillia Richmond David Wilkinson Samuel Thurber and Samuel Nightingale be and are hereby appointed To Give orders for the Removing of Goods in Times of Fire and to appoint the placed to which the Goods shall be removed and that no Goods shall be Removed but by the order of the said persons or Somwond of them

James Angell Overseer of the Work House
James Arnold Overseer of Weaybosset Bridge

Whereas the Town Council have Laid out a Highway through the Land of Amaziah Waterman from Kings Street to benefit Street. and Said Waterman prayed an Appeal therefrom to the Sessions. It is therefore Voted that John Cole be appointed to manage the said Cause in behalf of the Town with Such other Counsil as he Shall Imploy

Voted that Stephen Hopkins and Joseph Brown Together with the Directors of the Market house Lottery. they or the Major part thereof. to Direct of what Materials said House shall be built with and of what Forme and of what Dementions. and on what part of the Land by the Bridge said House shall be Erected. And that the Directors of the Lottery proceed to erect said Building as soon as the First Class Shall be Drawn

The Following persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Honble Inst. Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions of the Peace to be held at Providence within & for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of this Instant. To Wit

Grand Juriour - Benjamin Gladding - Pettit Juriour Joseph Kinnicutt

Granted. Voted that William Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for three Shilling

Voted that the Town Audit audit the Accounts of Amos Atwell the Late Town Treasur John Brown James Angell Benjamin Man Samuel Thurber Junr and Nicholas Cook are appointed to Say ware buildings be Shall be set agreeable to a Vote of the the First on Monday of June 1768

Voted out 25:1772 as may be seen

At a Town Meting held at Providence on Monday the 8. Day of June A.D. 1772 called by Warrant -

Darius Sessions Esqr Moderator

Voted that the Town Treasurer appropriate the Bridge Money and all others that shall come to his hands belonging to the Town. for Discharging of such Orders as may from Time to Time be Legally Drawn on him. and that the Town Audit Settle with the Collector of Taxes the Several Rates. and the present Town Treasurers Accounts and Report the Same to the Next meeting

Voted that the Collector of Taxes pay to the Town & Engine Treasurers the Several Sums Due from him to them within one month from this Day. and if not then paid the Treasurers are hereby ordered to prosecute him agreeable to Law for the Deficiency of said Taxes.

Voted that Jabez Bowen Knight Dexter & Job Sweeting Call on all persons that have any fines in their hands. belonging to the Town. and they are to Settle the Same. and to Report their Doings to the Town Council as Soon as may be

Voted that the Town Treasurer prosecute the Several Notes in his hands the which he Received of the Executors of the Late Town Treasurer Jos. Sheldon

Voted that the motion made by David Howell to be freed from the payment of Taxes. be Received & Refered. to the Next meeting

Voted that the Laws of the Colonoy against person Entertaining Strangers without giving notice thereof to the president of the Town Council. be published In the Providence News paper.

Whereas Joseph Carver & Edward Thurber Junr have Lately each one of them erected building some part of which are on the Highways. It is therefore Voted that they Severly remove their building from off the highway. before December Court Next. and if not then Removed. to be Indicted

Voted that this Town will pay in perpotion with the rest of the Towns in the County (Cumberland Excepted) as they are Taxed by the Coloney. for to procure the Books of Records. Called Brass Clasps. the Long Book with Parchment Cover and the Book Called the old Burnt Book to be Copyed. and that the Clerk Send a Copy of this Vote to the Several Town Clerks of said Towns for them to Lay the Same before their Next Town Meetings. who are Desired to Grant the Same

Granted Voted that William Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for four Shilling pence Lawful money

Voted that the Town audit. audit the Accounts of Amos Atwell Late Town Treas

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the Last Tusday of August AD 1772:

Darius Sessions Esq.r Moderator.

The following Persons were chosen Deputys to represent this Town in General Asembly to be holden at Providence on the Last Wednesday of October Next Viz.t

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1.st Benjamin Man Esq.r 3.
Thomas Greene Esq.r 2.nd John Jenches Esq.r 4:

Whereas David Howell petitioned this Town at their Last Meeting and prayed that he might be freed from the payment of a Town Tax, as he thinks himself Liberated therefrom by the College Charter. as well as from the Colony Tax. Whereupon it is Voted that the prayer of his petition be rejected and that he pay his Town Tax. it being the oppinion of the meeting that he is not by said Charter freed from the payment of Town Taxes.

Voted that Christopher Sheldon Executor of Joseph Sheldon Late Town Treasurer. Receive of the present Town Treasurer the Sum of £ 7: 1: 2 1/4 it being the Ballance Due to said Estate as by the settlement made by the Town Audit. and

order granted

This Day the Town Audit Settled James Arnolds accounts as Town Treasurer & there was a ballance Due to him from the Town of £1: 19: 3 1/2

Voted that James Arnold be paid Forty Shilling for his Trouble in Collecting the mettereals for the rebuilding Whybosset Bridge

Voted that the Bridge Called Stevens's Bridge for the futer be maintained. at the Expence of the Town. And that Benjamin Thurber Repair the same and Levy the Accounts thereof before this Town

The following Persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Honb.le Sup.r Court to be holden at providence within and for the County of Providence on the First Monday of Sept.r Next. To Wit

James Burrows Grand Juriour – Christopher Olney Pettit Juriour

Voted that the Town Treasurer allow Asa Franklin Collector of Rates the sum of £0: 2: 2: out of the Rates Due from him to this Town. said Sum being for the following Persons rates. that he cannot Collect To wit. Jonathan Allin, Caleb Chace. John Joy. William Eveleth. Lockwoods Lot. Isaac Smith. Thomas Taylor Jonathan Clath Samuel Cozo And Joseph parker

Voted that the Town Treasurer prosecute Asa Franklin for the Taxes remaining unpaid, by the First of Nov.r Next: if not before paid.

Voted that the Town and Ingine Treasurers prosecute Ezekiel Burr Collector of Taxes for the Money in his hands Due to this Town. Immeadiately

Voted that John Smith have an Order on the Town Treasurer for £2: 18: 6. it being the Ballance Due to him for building the School House.

Voted that James Angell Procure the Work House to be Shingled at the Town Expence

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the third Monday of Sept.r Next at Two of the Clock after noon. In Order To make a Taxe.

At A Town Meeting Held at Providence on the 16. Day of Sept.r by adjournment . . The Honb.le Darius Sessions Moderator

Voted that the Sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Pounds be Assessed on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitents of this Town for the Supplying the Town Treasurey and that the same be Assessed within Ten Days from this Time. and Collected and paid into the Town Treasurey on or before the First Day of Jan.y Next. the Poll Taxes those of Age one Shillings and Six Pence. minors not to be rated.

Voted that the Collector of Taxes make application to the Town Audit. on or before the First Day of Jan.y Next for an allowance of all such Sums any Persons may be Taxed in this present Tax who are unable to pay the Same. And it is Voted that the Collector of Taxes make application to said Audit on or before the First Day of May Next for an allowance for all such Deficent Sums that may be in the present Colloney Rate Assessed by the Assessors of this Town. and if he Neglect to Apply as aforesaid. then and in that case he is Excluded from having any allowance for such Sums.

Voted that Ambrose Page and James Angell make Rules and Regulations for the well ordering and Government of those person in the Work House and present the Same to the Next Meeting.

The following Persons being Qualified according to Law. are in Meeting Propounded To Wit. Robert Nesbet. David Lawrance. Zach.r Allin. Silas Talbut Ruben Potter. Nathan Potter. Levi Hall. M.r Demonth. John Innis Clark. Joseph Nightingale. Jonathan Badger Josiah Wares. Jonathan Ellis William Russell William Wall Christopher Whipple Sam.l Coy. Job Danforth. Benj.a Talman. Gershom Carpenter William Rhodes. Joseph Willson & Ned Robert Taylor . .

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 18.th Day of Dec.r A.D 1772 Especially Called.

James Arnold Moderator

The following Persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Hon.ble Inf.r Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence on the Third monday of this Instant Viz Nathaniel Packard Grand Juriour Joseph Carver Petit Juriour

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 24: Day of Febr.y 1773

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r Moderator

Voted that James Arnold Town Treasurer purchase the Shop belonging to Jonathan Clark late of this Town. Standing on the Land of Father Fenner and the Sherriff or the Creditors to whom the money is due. And for which if they will not Take the Town Treasurers Security for the same then the Town Treasurer is hereby Directed to hire said Sum on the Towns behalf, and if the Town Treasurer purchase said shop he is hereby Directed to Rent it for the Benefit of the Town

The Following persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Hon.ble Court. Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of March Viz. Coomer Hale Grand Juriour. Aaron Mason Petit Juriour

Town House

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the Third Wednesday of April A.D. 1773. Darius Sessions Esq.r Moderator

The Following Persons were Chosen Deputys to Represent said Town in General Assembly to be holden at Newport on the First Wednesday of May Next. Viz. [redacted] Sessions Moderator

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r .... 1st } Benj.a Allan John Jenckes.
Thos Green Esq.r Benj.a Allan .. 2nd } John Jenckes John [redacted] Smith 4.

Voted that Benj.a Thurber's Account be and is hereby allowed for buelding the Bridge called Stevens Bridge and that the Amount thereof be paid out of the Town Treasurey. it being £12:16:5.

Granted

Voted that Henry Startings Accounts be and is hereby allowed for Dotbing of Mary Hawks and one John Green. And that the Amount thereof being £14:1:7. be paid out of the Town Treasurey

Granted

Voted that [redacted] Esq.r Brown's Accounts be and is hereby allowed for Doctbing &c and the Ammount thereof being 7.6:6 Lawful be paid out of the Town Treasurey

Granted

Voted that Jacob Whitman Sell the Beam that he now has for the Benefit of the Town and purchase another. for the Use of the Town and likewise purchas a Compleat Set of Money Scails for a Standerd for the Town.

Voted that the Town Council Give Notice to all the Doctors in this Town that they may (if they See Cause) give in Writing to Said Council the Terms they will under Take upon to Doct. all the poor of this Town per Annum that said Council agree with him who will undertake for the Smallest Sum for a Year if the Council Shall Judge it to be reasonable

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At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the First Monday of June A.D. 1773. being the anniversary Election of Town Officers for the Year ensuing

Samuel Chace Esq.r Moderator.

James Angell Town Clerk. William Compton Town Sergent.

James Arnold Town Treasurer.

Town Council { Geo: Taylor Richard Jackson / Benj.a Thurber Jabez Bowen / John Matheson & Job Sweating

Town Med.t Nich.s Tillinghast Nich.s Brown & Jabez Bowen

Constables William Compton Nich.s Clark. Jabez Gorham and Daniel Branch

Sealer of Weights & Measures Jacob Whitman

Messers of Rates Overseers of the poore. Joseph Brown Nath.l Wheaton & Christ.r Sheldon

Surveyors of Joint Roads &c. { Christopher Arnold Elijah Bacon Jonathan Hammond / Selone Smith Comfort Wheaton & Gersham Carpenter

Surveyors of Highways. Jos. Brown Nath.l Jacobs Edward Thurber & Phenehas Browne

Gagers of Cask Samuel Jackson Ezek. Brown and Ezek Eddy

Vendue Master John Lawrence on his Giving bond according to Law

Packers of Beef. Pork & Cullers of Hoops & Staves { Sam.l Jackson Joseph Tiel Isaac Doleth Joseph Hoyle Nathaniel / Ichabod Brown Wm Smith Cooper and Wm Lauchford

Overseers of the Pest House Jabez Bowen.

Corders of Wood Ezek Eddy Joseph Olney Jn.r Able Pevey and John Sellis

Ezekel Burr Collector of Rates. who is to collect all Taxes assessed on this Town for the year Insuing for 3/2 p.r Cent and to give Bond to the Town Treasurer with Two Good Surityes for the Sum of one Thousand Pounds for the Faithful Discharge of his Office before he Receive the Rate Bill.

Pound Keeper John Lawrence.

To Value Estates when disputed in Voting John Brown Benj.a Man & Job. Smith

Fence Viewers. James Lovet Benj.a Cushing Jr. Job Sweeting & Benj.a Thurber

Presidents of the Five Ward's Stephen Hopkins Nicholas Tillinghast & Wm Smith

Five Wards { Wm Brown. John Jenckes. Tho.s Green. Benj.a Man. Daniel Tillinghast / Job Smith. John Foster. Josep.h Nash & Joseph Buckin

Field Drivers { Knight Dexter. Tho.s Birket Job Sweeting James Snow Phenehas Browne / James Olney and John Brown son of Elisha

Scavengers. Job Sweeting John Smith and Knight Dexter

Sealers of Leather Samuel Butler & Daniel Cahoon

Persons belonging to the Engine by the Bridge { Nich.s Brown Nathan Angell Gersham Carpenter Daniel Tillinghast / Joseph Brown Abner Thompson Tho.s Green John Brown James / Arnold Arther Benner Knight Dexter & Thomas Bennett

Persons belonging to the Engine up Town. { John Smith Benj.a Cushing Jr. Ezek Brown Charles Keene Obadiah / Sprague Sanders Pitman Simon Lowring John Barnes Clark / Joseph Nightingale & Nathaniel Wheaton

Persons belonging to the Engine over the River { John Mathewson Zepheniah Andrews Daniel Jackson. James / Black Asa Brumblein Nath.l Green Nich.s Clark Joseph Hoyle / Jonathan Ellis Sam.l Black Benj.a Salmon & Joseph Buckin

Daniel Branch Town Cryer.

Persons to pull down Houses in case of Fire { Benj.a Man Jonathan Hammond Comfort Wheaton. James / John Smith Martin Seamons Elijah Bacon. Isaac Brown / Andrew Cole Oliver Carpenter and John Carlile with all power contained in a Vote made & past Last June. 1772

Persons to take care of Goods in case of Fire { Solomon Drown Christopher Arnold. Benjamin Rich / David Wilkinson Samuel Thurber and Samuel Nightingale with all the powers Contained in a Vote past on the Third of June Last.

James Angell Overseer of the Work house. James Arnold overseer of the Weeks Callender having Complyed with the Law in propounded to be

Voted that the Town Council appoint some proper person to provide for the poor Work House. and that all persons who are able to work be Imployed in some the benefit of this Town. and that the Town Treasurer furnish Material said House

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the Third Wednesday of April A.D. 1773. Darius Sessions Esq.r Moderator

The Following Persons were Chosen Deputys to Represent said Town in General Assembly to be holden at Newport on the First.r Wednesday of May Next. Viz. [redacted] Sessions Moderator

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r .... 1st } Benj.a Mann John Jenckes 3.
[redacted] Esq.r Benj.a Mann .. 2nd } John Jenckes John [redacted] 4.th

Voted that Benj.a Thurbers Account be and is hereby allowed
Granted And that for building the Bridge called Stevens Bridge and that the Amount thereof be paid out of the Town Treasurey. it being £12:16:5.

Voted that Henry Startings Accounts be and is hereby allowed for Doctring
Granted of Mary Hawkins and one John Green. And that the Amount thereof being £14:1:7. be paid out of the Town Treasurey

Granted Voted that [redacted] Eph.m Browns Account be and is hereby allowed for Doctring &c. and the Ammount thereof being 7.6:6 Lawfull be paid out of the Town Treasurey

Voted that Jacob Whitman Sell the Beam that he now has for the Benefit of the Town and purchase another. for the Use of the Town and likewise purchas a Compleat Set of money Scails for a Standard for the Town.

Voted that the Town Council Give Notice to all the Doctors in this Town that they may (if they See Cause) give in Writing to Said Council the Terms they will undertake upon to Doct.r all the poor of this Town per Annum that said Council agree with him who will undertake for the Smallest Sum for a Year if the Council Shall Judge it to be reasonable

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James Arnold Town Treasurer.

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Town Audit. Nich.s Tillinghast Nich.s Brown & Inbez Bowen

Constables William Compton Nich.s Clark. Inbez Goreham and Daniel Branch

Sealer of Weights & Measures Jacob Whitman

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Surveyors of Joist & Boards &c. { Christopher Arnold Elijah Bacon Jonathan Hammond / Johns Smith Comfort Wheaton & Gersham Carpenter

Surveyors of Highways. Jos. Brown Nath.l Jacobs Edward Thurber & Phenehas Brown

Gagers of Cask Samuel Jackson Ezek. Brown and Ezek Eddy

Vendue Master John Lawrence on his Giving bond according to Law

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Daniel Branch Town Cryer.

Persons to pull down Houses in Case of Fire { Benj.a Mann Jonathan Hammond Comfort Wheaton. James Snow / John Smith Martin Seamons Elijah Bacon. Isaac Bowen / Andrew Cole Oliver Carpenter and John Carlile with all power contained in a Vote. made & Past Last June. 1772

Persons to take care of Goods in case of Fire { Solomon Dorrow Christopher Arnold. Barzillai Richmond / David Wilkinson Samuel Thurber and Samuel Nightingale with all the powers Contained in a Vote past on the Third Day of June Last.

James Angell Overseer of the Work house. James Arnold overseer of the Weeks Callender having Complyed with the Law in propounded to be made

Voted that the Town Council appoint some proper person to provide for the poor Work house. and that all persons who are able to Work be Imployed in some for the benefit of the Town. and that the Town Treasurer furnish Materials for said House

Voted that the Deputys of this Town apply to the General Assembly at their Next Session for an Act to be made. to Empower this Town to Repair there Highways by a Town Tax.

Voted that the ammount of William Comptons account being 1.17:7. be paid out of the Town Treasury

Voted that the Town Treasurer Defend the action brought by Hocking for the Possession of the Shop called Clarkes: and Employ Counsel in the Towns behalf.

Voted that Nath.l Jacobs take Care of the Bridge by Jonathan Olneys

Voted that Obadiah Sprague be appointed overseer of the Bridge called Burgis Bridg.

Elisas Callender Produced his Deed in Town meeting therefor he is Exempted.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 15.th of June 1773 called by Warrant to Draw Jurours. Sam.l Chace Esq.r Moderator

The following persons were Drawn Jurours to Serve at the Hon.ble Inf.r Court of Common Pleas & General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the third Monday of June Instant Viz. Daniel Buckler Grand Jurour. Sam.l Warner Petit Jurour.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 5.th Day of August. 1773. by Warrant in order to make a Grant of some part of the Cove. opposit the Highway Lying betwen the Land of John Angell and Nathan Angell. Leading Westward into the said Cove. as by Warrant Dated the 2. of August. 1773

George Taylor Esq.r Moderator.

Whereas a Number of Persons have Requested this Meeting to make a Grant of Sixteen Rods Notherly and Southerly and Twenty Rods Easterly on the West Side of the Channel the Center of which to be directly opposite the Center of the Highway Leading Westward into the River opposite against the Land of John Angell for the Baptist Society to build a meeting House thereon. This Meeting having taken the Same into their Consideration. Do Hereby Give and Grant all the Right that the Town have to the said Sixteen Rods Notherly and Southerly and Twenty Rods Easterly and Westerly as Discribed by a plan thereof Exhibited to this meeting to the Society of Baptist Called Baptist for said Society to build a Meeting House thereon.

And it is Voted that Stephen Hopkins Darius Sessions Joseph Brown Joseph Russel Chad Upjohn and Nicholas Smith be appointed a Committee to ascertain the Width of the Channell above the Bridge and to mark out the place of its Direction, And to Layout the whole of the Islatts Lying betwen Wanskuetuckit River and the River Called Moshausuck River. and to lay out proper Highways and Lots. And to Marke out and ascertain the Sixteen Rods by Twenty Rods Granted to the Baptist Society and make a plat thereof and Lay the Same before the Next Meeting.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 11.th Day of August. 1773 called by Warrant in order to make a Grant of Money to be Laid out to Secure the Market House from Setting be.

Knight Dexter Moderator.

Voted that John Brown Merchant be appointed to Build a Wall from the South West Corner of the East abutment of the Bridge to the first Fenscel it being 30: feet and to Extend the Same about 45. feet Southerly holding the same distance from the Wall wherein the Granit House stands as it is from said abutment to the said Fenscel and to Shell and fill up the same Under the Direction of Zepheniah Andrews John Mathewson & John Smith said Wall to be Ten feet high. and when said Wall and work is Don to the Satisfaction of said Committe which is to be compleated within three months from the Date hereof said John Brown is hereby to Receive out of the Town Treasurey the Sum of One Hundred and Eight pounds. and if not then paid said sum Interest to be allowed him untill paid. Provided Nevertheless that if it should not be so far distant as 30. feet and eighty five to be paid in the same proportion and if more then to be paid after the same rate.

Voted that the Town Treasurer procure proper Stone Peaces to Extend from the East abutment of the Bridge to the first Fenscel in order that they may be laid in such a manner that they may be taken up for a Gate to pass through said bridge. and that those that are now there be by him taken up for Cap Logs. for the market house Lot where said Lot is compleated and filled up. agreeable to the above Vote.

Voted that Daniel Jackson have an order on the Town Treasurer for Six Shillings it being the amount of his account.

Voted that William Compton have an order on the Treasurer for Ten Shillings it being the ammount of his account for warning the Town.

This Meeting adjourned Untill Sunday 29.th Instant Then Chad

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 24: of August 1773 by adjournment. and by Two Warrants. Specially Granted

Knight Dexter Esq.r Moderator

Voted that Jo.b Smith and his associates have all the right that the Tow. have to the First row of Lots on Each side of the Street Next to Mashasuch River provided they Fill up the Street by the First Day of January Next so. To be passable for Carts. to the Land Granted to the Bapt.ts Society to Build Meeting house thereon. agreeable to a plat Lodged on File, and to fill up the Lots according to the request Lodged on File made by Jo.b Smith and his associates

Voted that John Brown be desired to make an Estimate of what the Expence will be in Extending the Wall Six Feet to the Northward of the Bridge and of Filling up and paveing the Same and to Lay the Same before the Next meeting.

At a Town Meeting Held at Providence on the Last Tuesday of August Ad 1773.

Darius Sessions Esq.r Moderator.

The following persons were chosen Deputys to Represent the Town in General Assembly to be held at South Kingstown on the Last Wednesday of October Next viz. Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1.st } John Smith 3.d
John Jenckes 2.d } John Mathewson 4.th

Voted that Instructions be Given to the Deputys concerning G. Rooms Letter and that the same that have been red be the Instructions for the Deputys. and that the Clerk Give a Copy thereof to the Deputys to Conduct themselves by. and that the Same be published in the Providence Gazett.

Voted that John Brown build the Wall through the Bridge & Fill up the Same and to Take up the pavements and to relay the Same agreable to his Estimate presented to this Meeting. and that when Compleated to the Satisfaction of the Committee appointed at a meeting held on the 11.th Day of this Instant. there said John Brown is to receive out of the Town Treasurey the Sum of £63: 4: 8: and if not then paid Interest till paid. and if the head wall Shall take more then 42: Cord of Stone the said Brown is to have a further Allowance therefor at the rate in his Estimate Lodged on File, and that in the mean Time the Bridge is to be Kept passable by said John Brown

Voted that Wm Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for 10/ it being for Warning the Town.

Voted that the Highways for this Year be mended by a Town Tax

Voted that the Sum of Two [illegible] Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for the Purpose and that the Same be assessed within forty Days from this Time and and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of January The poll Tax on those of Age [illegible] 2/ p.r pole

The following persons were Drawn Jurours to Serve at the Hon.ble Court Court of Assize & General Goal Delivery to be holden at Providence within & for the County of Providence on the First monday of Sep.r Next viz William Smith G. Jurior. James Sabin Petit Jurior

Voted that the Committee to Lay out the flatts be continued

This meeting adjourned to the 4.th Wednesday of Sep.r Next.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on Wednesday the 22: Day of Sep.r 1773: by Adjournment

Jonathan Arnold Moderater

Whereas at the Last Sessions of the General Assembly there was an Act passed empowering the Town of Providence to mend their Highways by a Tax or otherwise. And Whereas at a Town Meeting held on the Last Tuesday of August last past it was Voted that the Highways in this Town for this Year be mended by a Tax. It is therefore now Voted that the following Method be pursued viz.t That a Committee of three men be appointed and they or any Two of them are empowered to Advise with and Direct the Surveyours where and in what manner to amend the Highways within their Several Districts. That the Several Surveyours shall present the Accounts of what each of them shall do (in conformity to the advise of the said Committee) to the Towns Audit and the Same being by them allowed each Surveyour shall thereupon be entituled to draw the amount of his Bill or so much thereof as the Town Audit shall allow out of the Town Treasurey and the Town Treasurer is hereby Ordered to pay the same accordingly. Committee Jonathan Arnold Ebenezer Thompson and James Black

Voted that Wm Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for 8/ it being the Amount of his Account for warning the Town to meet this Day

The following persons having their Deeds Recorded are now proposed to be made Free of the Town. Viz Perses Waterman, Richard Waterman, Holden. John Grainger, Theodore Foster, Wm Logan Zachariah Eddy Simeon Thayer, Joseph Mason John Mumford. Daniel Tourtelot. Wm Jacobs Hopping Jn.o Wm.d Barton Joseph Fuller Benajah Carpenter Esther Recompence Healy James Burrel. Tho.s Allsey Sam.l Godfrey Jun.r Belcher. Nathan.l Angell John Fitter Wm Chickly. Benj.a Hammond John Mowney Freibel Dorsey George Fuller Benj. Gladding Daniel Benj. Eddy John Atwood Richard Lloyd

The above persons were [illegible]

[illegible] hereby appointed to make a Survay of the Town Streets Gangways and Highways throughout this Town & are hereby Continued with the Addition of Joseph Brown, who are desired to Compleat the Same and Lay the Same before the Town Meeting at their Next Adjournment —

Voted that the Committee heretofore appointed to Examine into the the Fines and all Debts whatsoever Due and belonging to the Town, be and are hereby continued and desired to Report to this Meeting at their Adjournment

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the Last Wednesday of Nov^r. Next at 2: Clock afternoon ... at which Adjournment the Town Did not meet .

At a Town Meeting held at Providence Dec^r. 4: 1773. Called by warrant in Order to choose a Collector of Taxes. &c.

Stephen Hopkins Esq^r. Moderator.

Voted that Ezekiel Burr Collector of Taxes have Five p^r Cent Commissions for all Taxes by him Collected this Year.

Voted that William Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for 5/ it being for warning of the Town .. 1. Granted —

Voted that Marcy Smith have an Order on the Town Treasurer for £5 .. 13. 4 it being for Keeping Stephen Hunt. 0. Granted —

Whereas this Town have paid a Sum of Money for the attending of on Stephen Hunt. it is therefore Voted that the Town Treasurer Demand of said Hunt the money that the Town have already advanced for him and Likewise to demand Such other Sum or Sums that the Town shall advance for the Same, and on his refusing to pay the Same. then to prosecute for the same.

The following persons were drawn Juriours to Serve at the Honble. Inf^r. Court of Common Please and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of this Instant. Viz

William Earl. Grand Juriour. Moses Brown Petit Juriour.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 19. Day of January 1774 Called by Warrant. In order to prevent the East India Company if possible from Importing Tea into this Town Subject to a Duty or any other persons. . . . . .

Jabez Bowen Esq^r. Moderator.

Inasmuch as the British Parlement have undertaken to raise a Revenue in the American Colonies. by a Duty upon Tea. We the Freemen of the Town of Providence Legally assembled in Meeting cannot be silent on so interesting and alarming an occation — Should we in this case omit to assert and [illegible] the firmest Resolutions to unindicate our [illegible] right. it might be construed as a Cession of them into the Hands of those who have wantonly invaded them in this Instance — We do therefore. in Justice to ourselves and the Sister Colonies. openly and publicly, make the following Declaration that by a vigorous Exertion. in Conformity thereto. we may in some Measure contribute towards escaping the Dreadful Train of Evils which must be the Consequence of tame Submission to any Invasions of American Freedom. We lament every seeming Sequiescence which hath at any Time heretofore been mide in these Colonies. under parliamentary usurpations of our Liberties. but as any such tacit Concessions were made through Fear. Inattention. or without a due Consideration of our Rights. we strongly protest against any Precedent being made thereby to our Disadvantage When we consider that many of our Ancestors removed from Britain, and planted themselves here, that the Religion. Language and Customs of the two Countries are mostly Similar. and that there hath been a long Intercourse of Trade and Commerce between them, we are willing, and even desirous of a Continuance of Connection between the Colonies and Britain, if it may be had upon Terms in any Measure equal

Upon full Consideration of the Matter upon which we have met we do Resolve

1. That the Disposal of their own Property is the inherent Right of Freemen, that there can be no Property in that which another can of Right take from [illegible] without our Consent that the Claim of Parliament to Tax America is. in other Words, a Claim of Right to Levy Contributions on us at Pleasure.

2. That the Duty imposed by Parliament upon Tea Landed in America. is a Tax on the Americans. or levying Contributions on them without their Consent

3. That the express Purpose for which the Tax is levied on the Americans Namely for the Support of Government. Administration of Justice, and Defence of his Majesty's Dominions in America, has a direct Tendency to render Assemblies useless, and to introduce arbitrary Government and Slavery.

4. That a virtuous and steady opposition to the ministerial Plan of Governing America. is absolutely necessary to preserve even the Shadow of Liberty, and is a Duty which every Freemen in America owes to his Country. to himself. and to his Posterity

5. That the Resolution Lately entered into by the East India Company. to send out their Tea to America. Subject to the payment of Duties on its being Landed here. is an open Attempt to enforce this ministerial Plan and a Violent attack upon the Liberties of America

6. That it is the Duty of every American to oppose this Attempt.

7. That whoever shall. directly or indirectly. countenance this Attempt. or in any wise aid or abet in unloading. receiving. or vending the Tea sent. or to be sent out by the East India Company. while it remains Subject to the Payment of a Duty, here is an Enemy to this Country.

8. That no Tea belonging to the East India Company or any other Persons Subject to a Duty or Duties Tea Shall be unloaded here or brought by Land.

9. That this Town will cooperate with the other Towns in this Colony. and with all the Colonies, in a resolute Stand, as well against every other unconstitutional measure to enslave America, as the Tea Act in particular.

[illegible] Esq. Silver Bowen Esq. and Mess.rs John Brown. John Up[illegible]
John Jenckes. John Mathewson and Daniel Cahoon or the major part of them be a Committee. to correspond with the Towns in this and the neighbouring Governments. on all such Matters as shall be thought to affect the Liberties of America

Voted, That this Town highly approve of the Proceedings of their Brethren of Boston, Philadelphia and New York in their spirited, and resolute opposition made to the Introduction of Tea while subjected to a Duty Laid by Parliament, and that our Thanks. be given for the same.

Voted, That the Committee wait on all the Importers of English Goods in this Town, and inform them of the Resolutions, which the Town have entered into respecting Tea while subjected to a Duty. And if any of them have ordered any Tea to come next Spring that they be desired to send counter Orders immediately.

Voted that the aforegoing Proceedings be published in the next Providence Gazette.

Voted that William Compton have an Order on the Town Treasurer for the sum of Six Shillings for warning the Town to meet this Day

3.6

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the Seventh Day of Febry. A.D. 1774. Col. Knight Dexter Moderator

Voted that this Meeting disaprove of Joseph Browns Nathaniel Wheatons And Christopher Sheldons Conduct as assessors of Rates. for their Neglecting to Rate the President and professor of the College in the Last Town Tax.

This Meeting Taking into their most Serious Consideration. the Charter of the College Granted by the General Assembly. In February 1764. whereby the Assessors of Rates for this Town have thought Proper to exclude the President and professor of said College from Town Taxes, in direct Violation of a Vote of this Town passed in August. 1772. —— Do Resolve.

1. That by the Charter Granted by his Majesty King Charles the Second to the Colony of Rhodeisland &c. This Town was therein. Incorporated with all the Priviledges Immunities and internal police of a Corporate body.
2. That the Freemen of this Town have enjoyed the Right of being Governed by their own Town Meetings in the Article of Town Taxes, and that the same hath never been forfeited. or many ways Yielded up. but hath been constantly recognized by the General Assembly of the Colony.
3. That the [illegible] have in their representative Capacity the only exclusive Right to lay Town Taxes on their Inhabitants and that every attempt. to vest such power in any person or persons whomsoever. other then in the Freemen assembled in Town Meeting is Unconstitutional and hath a manifest Tendency to distroy the Liberties of the People of this Town
4. That the Freemen of this Town, are not bound to yield. Obedience to any Law designed to Impose or alter the manner of their internal Taxation whatsoever other then by the Votes of the Freemen in Town Meeting assembled

[illegible] ordered [illegible] in the Next Providence Gazette

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At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the [illegible] Especially called Saml. Nightingale Esq.r Moderator

The following Persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Next Sup.r Court. Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery. to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence of the third Monday of this Instant Viz. Richard Jackson Grand Juriour. Barnard Eddy Petit Juriour

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At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the third Wednesday of Septr A.D. 1774. Darius Lefavour Esq.r Moderator

The following persons were chosen Deputys to represent this Town in the Gen.l Assembly to be held in Nov.r on the first Wednesday of may Next Viz. Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1. Deputy
John Jenckes. 2. Deputy
John Smith 3. Deputy
John Mathewson. 4. Deputy

Voted that Wm. Compton have an order on the Town Treasurer for Said Shillings it being for Warning Juriours

The following persons being all of them the eldest Sons of Freemen and of full age was Voted Free of the Town and returned to the General Assembly as such in order to be made Free of the Colony. Wm. Compton Junr. Nathan Field. Benjamin Page Joseph Harris. James Field Junr. and William Tillinghast

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The following Persons were propounded April 20th. 1774. To Wit. Josiah Gifford Jethro Barnard. Jos. Jewet Nath.l Gilmor Dan.l Sidwell Thos. Sabins Daniel Hawkins. Wm. Clark. Robert Newell Wm. Baxter James Wheaton Son of Eph.m James Wheaton. Josiah Snow Elisha Brown Wm. Eddy. Joshua Lyndle Wm. Jacob Bowen James Monroe. At a Town Meeting held April 19th. 1775. the aforegoing [illegible] was all Voted free men of the Town Except Joseph Jewell.

At a Town Meeting Held at Providence on the 17th Day of Feby A.D. 1774. Called by Warrant.

Samuel Nightingale Esq.r Moderator

Resolved. That this Town will heartily joine with the Provinces of the Massachusets-Bay and the other Colonies. in such Measures as shall be Generally agreed on. by the Colonies. for the protecting and Securing their invaluable Natural Rights and priviledges to the latest posterity

That the Deputies of this Town be requested at the next Session of the General Assembly of this Colony, to use their influences for as many best of the representatives of the General Assemblies of the and Provinces in North America, for Establishing the Rights

...to them shall appear the most effectual to answer that important purpose
and to agree upon proper Methods for effecting the same.

That the Committee of Correspondence of this Town be desired to assure the Town of Boston that we consider ourselves equally interested in the present alarming conduct of the British Parliament towards them, and that we view the whole English American Colonies equally concerned in the Event, and that we will with the utmost firmness act accordingly, whenever any Plan shall be agreed on; and in the mean time we are of the opinion that an universal Stoppage of all Trade with Great Britain Ireland, Africa and the West Indias, until such Time as the Port of Boston shall be Reinstated in its former Privileges &c. will be the best expedient, and that a proper Time should be generally agreed on for the same universally to take place

Whereas Jacob Schoemaker late of said Providence died intestate and hath left Six Negroes Four of whom are Infants: And there being no Heir to the said Jacob in this Town or Colony, the said Negroes have fallen to this Town by Law, provided no Heir should appear. Therefore it is voted by this Meeting that it is unbecoming the Character of Freemen to enslave the said Negroes, and they do hereby give up all Claim of Right or Property in them the said Negroes or either of them. And it is hereby recommended to the Town Council to take the said Negroes under their Protection and to bind the small Children etc. some proper Masters and Mistreses. And in case there should not be personal Estate of the said Jacob Schoemaker sufficient to pay his just Debts it is further recommended to said Council to bind out either or both of the adult Negroes for that Purpose

Whereas the Inhabitants of America are engaged in the Preservation of their Rights and Liberties; and as personal Liberty is an essential Part of the natural Rights of Mankind, the Deputies of the Town are directed to use their Endeavours to obtain an Act of the General Assembly prohibiting the Importation of Negro Slaves into this Colony; and that all Negroes born in the Colony should be free after attaining to a certain Age.

Voted. That James Angell Esq.r be added to the Committee of Correspondence of this Town, and that he sign their Letters as Clerk.

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*At a Town Meeting Held at Providence on the First Monday of June A.D. 1774. being the Anniversary Election of Town Officers for the Year ensuing, the following Persons were chosen to the office respectively ascribed to their Names

Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator

James Angell Town Clerk. *James Arnold Town Treasurer. Wm. Compton Tow Serg.t

George Taylor, Richard Jackson, Benj.a Thurber. } Jabez Bowen, John Mathewson, Job Sweeting } Town Council } Job Sweeting, Nath.l Greene, Dan.l Cahoon. Town Audit

Constables: Wm. Compton. Timothy Mason. Jehabod Brown. Sam.l Black. Gideon Young Jn.r & Sam.l Jackson

Sealer of Weights & Measures. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor. Nath.l Wheaton. James Angell & Wm. Wheaton

Surveyours of Boards &c. } Christopher Arnold. Elijah Bacon. Jonathan Hammon. John Smith. Comfort Wheaton. Garsham Carpenter. Ezek Eddy. & Martin Seamons

Surveyours of Highways. } Martin Seamons. Nath.l Jacobs. Nath.l Wheaton

Gaugers of Cask } Sam.l Jackson. Ezek Brown. Ezek Eddy and Archibald Young

Vendue Master John Lawrance on Giving bond according to Law

Packers of Beef Pork & Sam.l Jackson. Isaac Welleth. Joseph Hoyle. Nathan Arnold. John
Hullers of Hoops & Staves } Wm. Smith Cooper. and Wm. Lankford

Overseers of the Pest House. James Black

Corders of Wood. Ezek Eddy. Wm. Lankford. Able Pevey. and John [illegible]

Ezekiel Burr Collector of Rates. on Giving bond to the Town Treasurer. with Good Sureties in the Sum of one Thousand pounds. for the performance of said office. before he receive the rate bill

Pound Keepers. John Lawrance and Job. Sweeting

To Valve Estates when disputed in Voting. John Brown. Benj. Man. & Job Smith

Fence Viewers. Benj.a Cushing Junr. Job Sweeting. Benj.a Thurber. Knight Dexter & Christopher Arnold

Presidents of the Fire Wards. Stephen Hopkins Nich.s Tillinghast. Wm. Smith

Fire Wards } Nicholas Brown. John Jenekes. Thomas Green. Amos. Atwell. Daniel Tillinghast. Job Smith. John Foster. Jos: Bucklin & Benj.a Thurber

Field Drivers } Job Sweeting James Snow. Nicholas Brown. James Olney. John Brown Son of E.d David Law.

Scavengers Job Sweeting. Jabez Bowen and Ambrose Page

Sealers of Leather. Sam.l Butler. and Daniel Cahoon

Persons belonging to the Engine by the Bridge } Joseph Brown. Nathan Angell. Gersham Carpenter. Daniel. Tillinghast. Joseph Nightingale. Ebenezer Thompson. Thos. Green. John Brown. James Arnold. Arther Fenner Junr. Knight Dexter. and Thomas Bennett

Persons Belonging to the Engine by the Town. } John Smith. John Innis Clark. Nath.l Metcalf. Benjamin Cushing Junr. Saunders Pitman. Ezek Brown. Charles Keen. Obediah Sprague. Levi Hall & Benj.a Marshall

Persons belonging to the Engine over the river } John Mathewson. Zep. Andrews. Daniel Jackson. James Black. Asa Franklin. Nath.l Green. Nich.s Clark. Joseph Hoyle. Jonathan Ellis. Sam.l Black. Benj.a Talman & Joseph Bucklin

Town Cryer. Daniel Branch.

Persons to pull down Houses in case of Fire } Benj.a Man. Jonathan Hammon. Comfort Wheaton. James Snow. John Smith. Martin Seamons. Elijah Bacon. Isaac Brown. Andrew Cole. Oliver Carpenter & John Carlile. with all the powers contained in a Vote made and past June. 1772. by this Town.

Persons to take care of Good in case of Fire } Solomon Drown. Christopher Arnold. Barzillai Richmond. Dan.l Wilkinson. Sam.l Thurber. & Sam.l Nightingale. with all the Powers contained in a Vote paſed by this Town on the First monday of June. 177

Overseer of the Work House. James Angell

Overseer of Weaybosset Bridge. James Arnold

Overseer of the Bridge by Jn.o Olneys. Nath.l Jacobs

Overseer of the two Bridges called the Mile Bridge & Stevens Bridge } Nathaniel Wheaton

Voted that the Town Treasurer remove the pound on the Land of Nathan Angell that one other pound be Erected on the West Side of the Bridge by Job. Sweeting and the Law his accounts for building the Same before this Town.

Voted that the Town Treasurer prosecute the Collector of Taxes within this Day for the Last Town Tax if not paid by that Time.

Voted that Benj.n Man. Zepheniah. Andrews. Joseph Brown. Benj.n Thurber and Jonathan Arnold be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to Examine the places for Erecting of Two Fountains. one of which to be over the river. and the other up Town. and to make a Calculation of the Costs of said Two reservors of Water. and Make report to the Next Meeting.

The Following Persons were drawn Juriours to Serve at the Hon.ble Inf.r Court of Common pleas. and General Sessions of the peace. to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the third monday of this Instant June. Viz.t

Elihue Robinson. Grand Juriour —— Ezek. Edely Petit. Juriour

Voted that Darius Sessions. Ebenezer Thompson and John Jenckes be the School Committee for the Year Ensuing. with the Powers Contained in the Rules and Regulations Reported to this Meeting by a Committee for that Purpose and rec.d by the Town and by them ordered to be Recorded.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the Last monday of this Instant June. at 2: Clock. P.M. at which Time I attended. but no other person appeared. therefore —— said Meeting was of Course dessolved. J. Angell Clerk

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At a Town Meeting held at Providence convened by Warrant on the 12th Day of August 1774. Benjamin Man. Esq.r . . . . . Moderator . . . . . .

Voted that John Smith have Liberty to extend his Warfe. Forty Feet further then it now is. where the Head of his Warfe now is ——.

Instructions to the Deputys of this Town, in General Assembly.

Gentlemen. — The Sufferings and Distresses of the People of the Town of Boston occationed by a relentless Execution of that cruel Edict for Blocking up the Port awakins our Attention, and excites our Compassion. their Cause is our Cause. and unless Aid and Succor be afforded them, they may be discouraged into a hurtful Submission, and ministerial Vengeance may next Direct against this Colony. and in the End alight upon all. You are therefore requested to use your Endeavours at the Next Session of the General Assembly. to procure a Grant to be made from this Colony of such Sum of Money as they may think fit, towards relieving and mitigating the Difficulties and Distresses. which that Town must experience from the operation of that Most unrighteous Inhibition, the hostile manner of carrying the same into Force, and a General Arrest of their Liberties.

Permit us to observe, that in Doing this it will be evidenced, that as a Community we are would do unto others. as we would that they should do unto us in a like Circumstance. and that it will be a Greater Testimony of Unanimity in the General Concernments of America, in this Day of Struggle and Danger then private Contributions and far more equal

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At a Town Meting held at Providence on the Last Monday of August A.D. 1774 ....

The Hon.ble Darius Sessions Esq.r . . . Moderator

The Following persons were chosen Deputys to Represent this Town in General Assembly to be Holden at Providence on the Last Wednesday of October Next ensuing Viz.t

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1st . . } Mr. John Smith.
John Jenckes . 2nd . . . . } Mr. John Mathewson.

Copy of a grand and general

The Following persons were drawn Juriours to Serve at the Hon.ble Sup.r Court in Providence within and for the County of Providence on the First Monday of September Next Viz.t

Lewis Peck drawn Grand Juror } To Serve at the Sup.r Court of Judicature as above
John Demount — Petit Juror }

Voted that this Town will for the year Ensuing mend their Highways by Taxe and that the Several Surveyors Lay their accounts for the Repairs of said Highways — before the Town Audit for in Order to have them Audited. and the audit. to Give an order on the Treasurer for the Several Sums due to them, and Monthly [illegible]

Whereas at the Last Sessions of Assembly an Order was passed that John Smith Should Receive the Quota of the Armes belonging to the County of Providence and Deliver them to his Hon.r the Deputy. Gov.r Whereupon it is by this meeting Voted that John Smith be appointed. to procure the said Small Armes to be Cleaned and made fit for Use. and to procure proper Chests for the same all of which Expences to be paid by this Town after his accounts have passed the Town Audit

Voted that John Smith procure the uptown Engine to be mended at the Towns Expence and to Lay the amount thereof before this Town

It is Resolved by this Meeting, that this town ought not to be made the Asylum of any person or persons, of whatever Town, place, or City within the British Dominions whose principles & practices, being inimical to the Liberties of our Country and its happy Constitution, have rendered or shall render them Obnoxious to the Inhabitants of such place or places from which they may emigrate: And that all such ought to be discouraged by every prudent & Legal Measure; And the Hon.ble Town Council are hereby requested to exert themselves for the Removal & Ejection of all such Persons so far as by Law they may be warranted — As their being admitted amongst us may tend greatly to endanger the Peace, Order, & Tranquillity of the Town, as by recent instances, has been manifested. —

Voted that this Resolution be published in the next Providence Gazette

Whereas by the death of William Walker Late of Providence. Two Lots of Land became an Escheat to the Inhabitants of this Town, And whereas one of said Lots is now Occupied by Mr. William Chace and the other is Occupied by John Brown. on Consideration of the premises. It is Voted that the Town Treasurer In the behalf of the Town demand of said Chace and Brown the Possession of both said Lots for the Use of the Town, and on the Surrender of the premises demanded. the Town Treasurer is hereby directed to Erect a pound thereon for the Use of the Town

A Town Meeting held at Providence on the 31st Day of August 1774.
Called by a Warrant.

the Honble Darius Sessions Chosen Moderator

Whereas on the Evening of the 30th of August instant, a number of persons, ~~unprudently & tumultuously Assembled themselves together in a manner that did disturb the~~ peace & Order of the Town, and as such proceedings are of evil Example repugnant to the good and wholesome Laws of this Town & Colony; which, if executed, we deem sufficient to support the Quiet & tranquility thereof; and such doings being ever derogatory to the Honor of the Town and subversive of our Rights & liberties to their very foundations: This Town Do protest against such proceedings, & desire the Civil Magistrates therein to exert themselves to their utmost to prevent & suppress all such unhappy disturbances in future, in doing which they may rely upon the Aid & Support of the freemen and well disposed inhabitants of this Town at all times.

Voted that this Vote, be published together with the Resolve of yesterday in the next Providence Gazette

This Meeting was then dissolved

Jon.a Arnold Depty Clerk

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 21st Day of November A.D. 1774 Called by Warrant ~~to Order a Town Tax &c~~

Nicholas Brown. Esqr. ... Moderator

Voted that a rate or Tax of Four Hundred & Twenty Five Pounds Lawful Money shall be assessed upon the Estates & Polls of the Inhabitants of this Town To be Levied within Ten Days and Collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the first Day of March Next and that the Poll Tax shall be 2/. on all male Polls belonging to said Town of Twenty one Years of Age and Upwards.

Voted that the Committee of Correspondency for this Town be hereby Impowered to Receive of the Town Treasurer the Sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Pounds Lawful Money and to Trasmit the Same to the Comonittee in the Town of Boston for Procuring Donation for the Destressed Inhabitants of the Town of Boston and Charlestown. And the Treasurer is hereby ordered to pay said Sum out of the first Money he shall receive of the Taxe now ordered.

The following Persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Hon.ble Superior Court to be held at Providence on the 3. Monday of Dec.r Next

John Tillon Grand Juriour. Thos. Sabins Petit Juriour

Voted that the Town Treasurer pay the Bill of Cost Taxed John Cole in the Case The Town against

Adjourned to the 2. Monday of Dec.r Next

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 12 Day of Adjournment.

Ephraim Bowen Esqr. Moderator.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday Next. at Two o'Clock P.M. and that the Town Sergent give Notice thereof to the Freemen of the Town by beat of Drum. the Morning of the same day to which said Meeting stands adjourned.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 17th Day of December A.D. 1774. by adjournment and Warrant

Nicholas Brown Esqr. Moderator.

Voted that the Committee appointed by the Honble General Assembly to adjust the accounts of the Directors of the Lottery for Building of the Market House. Call on the several Directors for their accounts and Settle the same as soon as may be.

This Day the Town Treasurer's Accounts was Settled and report made by the Town Auditt and there remains Due to the Town Treasurer the Sum of £10: 14: 8 1/4. Lawful Money

O.G. Voted that Joseph Martin have an Order on the Town Treasurer for the Sum of £2: 2: 8. L. Money it being for Burying the Corpse of one John Preston

Voted that the following Persons. to wit William Earle, Nicholas Cook Esqr Benjamin Mann, Zepheniah Andrews, Arther Fenner Junr. Ambrose Page Nicholas Brown George Corlis Paul Allin David Lawrance Joseph Russell Job Sweeting Jos. Nicholas Jonathan Arnold Barnard Eddy Aaron Mason Joseph Brown Nathl Wheaton Together with the Present Committee of Correspondence of this Town be and are hereby appointed a Committee of Inspection to see that the Association, Entered into by the General Continential Congress be strictly adheard to by all Persons within this Town agreeable to the Eleventh Article of said Association. And that any Seven of them Make a Quorum who are to Meet once in Every Month viz to wit on the third Wednesday of every Month at the Counsel Chamber at five of the Clock P.M. and that the Town Sergent duly attend said Committee and all the proceedings of said Committee be Lodged on File in the Town Office

Voted that Gideon Young Overseer of the Work House be paid Interest on Orders for Keeping of the Poor. after they become Due and payable

that that James Snow be and is hereby appointed to Ring the Bell three Times Each Day to wit Morning Noon and at Nine a Clock and that he Shall receive Nine Pounds out of the Town Treasurey for his so doing for one year from this Day

Voted that Nicholas Cook John Brown and Nath.l Wheaton Jun.r be and are hereby appointed a Committee to Sell to Arther Fenner the Shop that was formerly Jonathan Clarks if they can agree on the Price. and in that Case to make a Deed of release of all the Right that the Town have thereto

At a Town Meeting Held at Providence Feby. 2. 1775 Specially Called by Warrant Nicholas Cook Esq.r Moderator

Whereas Sarah Hacker Daughter of Joshua Hacker is now Ill of the Small Pox. it is therefore Voted that the Town Council be requested to Convean themselves Together with the assistance of the Civel Authority. and Take the same under their Consideration. and to remove her out of the Compact part of this Town agreable to Law

Voted that this Town will Pay unt James Brown Twenty Five Dollars a Month Rent for his House during the Time it shall be Improved for the use of the Small Pox and that the money be paid out of the present Tax. as Soon as the House shall be Cleared. which shall be don at the Towns Expence

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 14th Day of March A.D. 1775

Ambrose Page Moderator

The following persons were Drawn Juriours to Serve at the Honble Sup.r Court Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery to be holden on the third Monday of this Instant March at Providence. To Wit Samuel Tripe G. Juriour. Joseph Hoyle Petit Juriour

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the third Wednesday of April A.D. 1775. Adjourned Sessions ——— Moderator

The following Persons Were Chosen Deputy to represent said Town in Generel Assembly. to be holden in Newport on the first Wednesday of May Next. To wit

Stephen Hopkins Esq.r | John Smith . . . 3
John Jenckes . . . 2 | John [illegible]son . . 4

Voted that Mr. Jonathan Jenckins be appointed Gauger for the remaining Part of the Year

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the 26. Day of April 1775 by Warrant.

Mr. Joseph Brown Moderator

Voted that a Watch be Established in this Town for the Ensuing Consisting of Nine Men and that the following Persons be a Committee to draw a Set of rules for regulating the above Watch and to Levy the Sumes before the Next Meeting. To Wit Zepheniah Andrews. Pelatiah Allin Jonathan Arnold Benj.a Thurber and James Black. and that the Committee Proceed to set a Watch this Night. Provided always that the Town Council of this Town shall augment or Lessen the Watch from Time to Time as Need may Require.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the Second Monday of May Next at 2. Clock afternoon

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the Tenth Day of May A.D. 1775. by Adjournment

Nicholas Cooke Esq.r . . . Moderator.

Voted that it be and it is hereby recommended to the Hon.ble Town Council at their Next Sessions to Establish a Watch in this Town of Six Men each Night agreable to Law and to appoint a Master or Warden to Set said Watch and to have the Oversight and direction there of for Six Months from this Time, and that the said Town Council be desired to meet to Settle said Watch on Friday Next, and it is recommended to said Council that each Person have the Liberty to watch in their Turn, or to furnish a person in his room And on Failur thereof to pay three Shillings for each Neglect

Voted that Six persons be appointed to Examin into the State of the Inhabitants of this Town and to make Report of all such that are provided with Small Armes and Accoutrements agreable to Law. and of all such that are not provided agreable to Law with Small Armes &c. and of all persons that in their Judgments are not of Ability to Supply themselves. Saveing and Excepting all those that are or may be enlisted The following Persons are appointed to make the Examination To Wit Nathaniel Wheaton, Benj.a Thurber. David Lawrance Paul Allin, Benoni Pearce and Barnabas Eddy. and that the same be made on Saturday Next

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Monday Next 2. Clock P.M.

At a Town Meeting held at Providence by adjournment on Monday the Fifteenth. Day of May A.D. 1775

Mr. Joseph Brown, Moderator.

Voted that the doings of the Town Council on the Matter of the Watch be approved and accepted and that Mr. Zepheniah Andrews be and is hereby appointed to Build three Sentry Boxes and Watch Houses in this Town in this agreable to the Vote of the Town Council. Establishing a Watch. and that the said Mr. Andrews advise with Messrs. John Brown & Jonathan Arnold on that Matter.

Voted that the Master of the Watch. Together with John Brown and Jonathan Arnold have full power to direct what Instrument or Instruments the Watch shall be provided with from Time to Time.

Voted Unanimously that the Committee who were appointed by the Town at Last Meeting to enquire into the State and preparation of the Several Inhabitants of this Town in respect to fire Armes and other Military Stores and Accoutrements and if they are not prepared to make their report, that this Meeting be and they are hereby to make their Report to Col.o John Mathewson Edward Thurber and [illegible] are appointed by the Town a Committee to receive the same and

the aforesaid Committee are hereby appointed and empowered to purchase at the Expence and on Account and reskue of the Town such and so many Arms as shall appear to them Necessary to Supply all able bodied men who are by s.d Committee deemed unable unable to provide for themselves and furnish such supplies of Military Stores and accoutrements, as they Judge necessary, Under certain Rules and restrictions to be by them made.

And That the said Committee make their report to the Town as Soon as they have compleated the Busines Asigned them in this Vote - Together with the Regulations which shall be by them made as aforesaid.

And it is further Voted that the said Committee do as Soon as may be after receiving the report of the first Committee as aforesaid, furnish each Captain of the Militia Companies in this Town, with Lists of those persons who Live within the Limits of their respective Companies, that are able to provided themselves with Arms &c as the Law requires - and that upon Receipt thereof it is recommended to them to strictly adhere to the Law and Cause, all such to provide themselves or exact their Fines for each deficiency.

Voted that Major Truman and Mr. Paul Allen be a Committee to make up the whole of the Towns Stock of Powder and Lead or procure the same to be made into Cartridges as soon as may be at the expence of the Town and when so made return the the same to the Captains of the Several Military Companies in this Town.

Voted that the Vote Passed in Town Meeting on the Last Tusday of August be reprinted in the Providence Gazette -

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1775 June 5th

Town Officers Chosen

At a Town Meeting held at Providence on the First Monday of June A.D. 1775 being the Fifth Day of the Month. and the Day appointed by Law for the Annual Election of Town officers. for the Year Insuing, the following Gentlemen were chosen to the Offices affixed to their Names -

Mr. Nathaniel Greene Moderator.

Theodore Foster. Town Clerk - James Arnold. Town Treasour

George Taylor, Richd Jackson, Benj.a Thurber } Town Council. Jabez Bowen, John Mathewson, Job Sweeting. } Wm Compton. Town Sergent .....

Town Audit. Job Sweeting Nath.l Greene and Dan.l Cahoon

Constables. William Compton. Timothy Mason. Jehabod Browne. Gideon Young Jr. James Black and Sam.l Ingraham

Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mr. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates. and Overseers of the Poore. Joseph Nightingale Edw.d Thurber. & Wm Wheaton

Surveyors of Highways and Boards &c } Christopher Arnold. Elijah Bacon Jonathan Hammond. Jehu Smith. Comfort Wheaton Gorham Carpenter. Ezek Eddy. and Martin Seamons.

Fenceviewers of Highways. Martin Seamons Nath.l Jacobs 2.d Nath.l Packard

Gaugers of Cask. Sam.l Jackson Ezek. Brown. Ezek Eddy Arch.d Young Jonathan Jenckes. & Wm Bowers... Vendue Master Mr. John Lawrence on Giveing Bond according to Law.

Packers of the Pork } Sam.l Jackson Isaac Ladd. Joseph Hoyle Nathan Arnold. Jehabod Brown. Wm Smith Cooper. and William Lankford - Overseer of the Post. Third James Black.

Ezek Eddy Wm Lankford Abr.m Power and John Pettis ... Surveyors of Lumber at Providence Giveing Bond to the Town Treasurer with Two Good Sureties for the performance of his office before he receive the Rate Bill

Jurors drawn to serve at June Term 1775 -

Order Granted

1775 June 5th

Pound Keepers. John Lawrence and Job Sweeting.

To Valve Estates when disputed in Voting John Brown Benjn Man & Job. Smith

Fence Viewers Benjn Cushing Jos.a Job Sweeting Benjn Thurber. Knight Dexter 2.d Christop.r Lyon

Presedents of the Fire Wards. Stephen Hopkins Nicholas Tillinghast. and Wm Smith

Fire Wards } Nath.l Brown John Jenckes. Thomas Greene Amos Atwell. Daniel Tillinghast Job Smith John Foster. Joseph Bucklin and Benjn Thurber.

Field Drivers Job Sweeting James Snow Thomas Brown James Olney. Joseph Bucklin. Nath.l Power and Gersham Carpenter.

Sea vengers. Job Sweeting Jabez Bowen and Ambrose Page

Sealers of Leather. Sam.l Butler and Samuel Cahoon

Persons belonging to the Engine by the Bridge } Joseph Brown. Nathan Angell. Gersham Carpenter Daniel Tillinghast Joseph Nightingale. Ebenezer Thompson. Thomas Greene John Brown James Arnold Arther Fenner Jn.r Knight Dexter and Thomas Bennett

Persons belonging to the Engine up Town } John Smith. John Inm.d Clerk Nath.l Metcalf. Benjn Cushing Jos.a Tenniers Pitman Ezek. Brown Charles Keen. B. Sprague. Levi Hall and Benjn Mowshell.

Persons belonging to the Engine over the River } John Matheson. Zep. Andrews. Dan.l Jackson. James Black Asa Franklin Nath.l Greene Nich.s Clerk. Joseph Hoyle Jonathan Ellis Sam.l Black Benjn Talman. and Joseph Bucklin .....

Town Cryer. Daniel Brancch. * Clerk of the Market Silas Downer.

Persons to pull Down Houses in Case of Fire } Benjamin Man, Jonathan Hammond, Comfort Wheaton, James Snow, John Smith Martin Seamans, Elijah Bacon, Isaac Bowen, Andrew Cole, Oliver Carpenter and John Carlile with all the Powers contained in a Vote made and passed in June 1772 by this Town -

Persons to take Care of Goods in Case of Fire } Solomon Drown, Christopher Arnold, Barzillai Richmond David Wilkinson Samuel Thurber and Samuel Nightingale with all the Powers contained in a Vote made and passed by this Town on the Third Monday of June 1772 -

Overseer of the Work House James Angell Esq.r -

Overseer of Weybosett Bridge James Arnold -

Overseer of the Bridge by Jonathan Olneys - Nathaniel Jacobs -

Overseer of the Two Bridges called the Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge } Nathaniel Wheaton -

The following Persons were chosen Jurors to serve for this Town at the next inferior Court of Common Pleas and general Sessions of the Peace to be holden in Providence in and for the County of Providence the Third Monday of this present June viz Simon Smith, Grand Juror and James Barrows Juror -

..... Voted That the Amount of William Compton's Account being the Sum of £ out of the Town Treasury -

1775 June 5th

Committee of Inspection chosen

Town Clerk ordered to sign the Letter to Newport

Town Treasurer to rent out the Cellar of the Market House &c

Vote of Thanks to James Angell Esq

Committee to receive and deliver Town Records

Adjournment

Voted that the Amount of Doct.r Henry Sterling Jun.r's Account for attending upon Eliza Dennison being the Sum of Three Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Ten Pence be paid out of the Town Treasury.

Voted that the Committee of Inspection appointed on the 17th Day of Dec.r 1774 be and they hereby are continued for the Year ensuing.

Voted that M.r James Black Merchant be added to the Committee of Inspection.

Voted that the Town Clerk sign the Letter dated this Day from the Committee of Inspection of this Town to the Committee of Inspection at Newport in Behalf of the Town informing them that this Town unanimously approve of the Same.

Voted that the Town Treasurer be appointed and he hereby is appointed to rent out the Cellar and finish the Stairs of the Market House and make the same convenient for the Engine and that the Expence thereof be defrayed by the Monies now in the Hands of the Managers of the Lottery.

Voted That the Thanks of the Town be and they hereby are rendered to James Angell Esq.r for his good Services heretofore as Town Clerk and for his honourable and faithful Discharge of that Office

Voted That M.r Richard Jackson, Benoni Pearce Esq.r and Major Nathaniel Greene be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to receive the Records of the Town of James Angell Esq.r the late Town Clerk who has this Day Resigned and deliver the Same to Theodore Foster the present Town Clerk giving and taking Receipts therefor.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the Third Monday of this present June to meet at 2 o'Clock Afternoon.

1775 June 19th

M.r Paul Allen to deliver not exceeding 17 Cartridges of the Town Stock to the Inhabitants being their proportion for the same

At a Town Meeting held by Adjournment in Providence on the 19th Day of June 1775

The Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esq.r Moderator.

Whereas M.r Paul Allen has made up the Town Stock of Powder and Lead into Cartridges agreeable to a Vote of the Town on the Fifteenth Day of May last and whereas the Captains of the Several Companies have not received the said Cartridges in order to deliver the same to the Inhabitants it is now therefore Voted That M.r Paul Allen be desired to deliver out said Cartridges to such of the Inhabitants as he may think will make a proper Use of them and that he take a Receipt from every Person for so many of said Cartridges as he shall receive promising to return the same on Demand if not used in the Colony's Service at any Time when the Town may order a Review; or in Case any of said Cartridges shall be missing when called for to pay to the Committee who may be appointed to make said Review Nine pence lawful Money for every Cartridge which shall be so missing unless they have been used in the Publick Defence. The said Forfeiture of Nine Pence for every Cartridge missing if any to be appropriated to purchase Ammunition for the Town and that No one Person receive more than Seventeen Cartridges to every Fire Arm he may have fit for Use.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the 3d Day of July next at 3 o'Clock P.M.

1775 July 3d

Report of Committee to settle Market House Accounts accepted in part

Adjournment. The Town to be notified thereof by Warrant &c

At a Town Meeting held by Adjournment in Providence on the 3d [illegible] A D 1775.

M.r Joseph Brown Moderator

Voted That the Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to settle and adjust the Accounts of the Directors of the Market House Lottery be accepted referring that part thereof to the next Meeting which respects the Charges made by the Directors for bad Debts.

Voted That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next at the Court House at Three of the Clock in the Afternoon and that the Town be warned in the usual Manner.

To Chuse Two Assessors of Rates and overseers of the Poor. To determin and Direct in what manner the Money due to the Market House shall be laid out. To Determin whether the the Town will allow to the Directors of the Market House Lottery the Sum of Thirty Four Pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Money charged by them for bad Debts and to Consult upon Measures proper to be taken respecting the Erection of a Beacon to alarm the Country in case of an Enemy's Approach.

1775 July 10th

Town Treasurer to sue for Fines

Overseers of the Poor be chosen in place of those who declined to serve

Silas Downer Esq.r appointed to finish the Market House so far as the Money due to the Market House will answer

Committee to erect Beacon

Town Sergeant to notify the Inhabitants to Receive their Cartridges

Allen

At a Town Meeting holden by Adjournment and Warrant in Providence on the 10th Day of July A D 177[illegible]

Amos Atwell Esq.r chosen Moderator.

Voted That the Town Treasurer sue for the Fines of Col. Joseph Nightingale and M.r Ed[illegible] Thurber for Refusing to serve as Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor.

Voted That Capt Ebenezer Thompson and Wellcome Arnold Esq.r be chosen Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor in the Room of Col. Joseph Nightingale and M.r Edward Thurber who have Declined Serving.

Voted That Silas Downer Esq.r Clerk of the Market be appointed to call upon the Directors of the Market House Lottery for Materials Sufficient to Finish said Market House as far as what Monies the said Directors have in their Hands will go and cause Such part of said House to be finished as he may think proper; and in Case the Directors or any of them refuse to furnish Materials or Money to the Amount of what is in his or their Hands that he immediately sue their Bonds.

Voted That M.r Joseph Brown Joseph Buckin and Benjamin Thurber be appointed a Committee to erect a Beacon on the Hill to the Eastward of the Town to alarm the Country in Case of an Enemy's Approach.

Voted that the Town Sergeant notify the Inhabitants of the Town to Receive their Cartridges of M.r Paul Allen.

Voted That M.r Paul Allen be directed to deliver to such of the Inhabitants as will choose to find Balls, Powder sufficient to charge each Fire Arm fit for Use 17 Times and that he take a Receipt for the Powder only which any person may Receive.

Voted that Silas Downer Esq immediately procure the Windows made for the Market House [illegible] Town in their Places. The Meeting Dissolved.

At a Town Meeting called by Warrant & Holden in Providence on the Thirty First Day of July A D 1775.

The Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq.r Moderator.

Voted That there be an Intrenchment and a Brest Work howe up betweeen Fields Point and Sassafras Point Sufficient to cover such a Body of Men as may be ordered there on any Emergency — That there be a Battery of Six Eighteen Pounders erected at Fox Hill — That there be Four Canon mounted as Field Peices by the Committee herein afternamed — That the same committee draw up Rules for Regulating the Battery — That Capt Nicholas Power be appointed to build the Battery and Breast Work aforesaid and that he advise and Conquit with Capt Esek Hopkins Ambrose Page Esq.r Capt John Updike Mr Samuel Nightingale Junr Capt William Earle and Capt Simon Smith who are appointed a Committee for that purpose on the Manner of building the aforesaid Works — And that he proceed on the Same immediately — That there be a Foot bridge built over the Creek that Leads to Fox Point — That the Committee aforesaid apply to the Proprietors of the Lands to get Liberty to build the Batteries at Fox Hill &c — That Capt Power draw on the Town Treasury for Defraying the Expence of the aforesaid Works untill the same shall be reimbursed by the Continental Congress and if there is not money Sufficient in the Treasury to answer Capt Powers Orders he shall be allowed Interest for the Same till paid — That His Honor the Dep.t Governor be requested to represent the whole of this Matter to the Continental Congress Requesting that they would be pleased to Reimburse the Town the Expences they may be at in Erecting these temporary though necessary Works of Defence.

Voted that the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to erect a Beacon be also requested to build a House for the Materials for the Beacon.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday next at 2 o Clock P M.

At a Town Meeting holden by Adjournment in Providence on the 5.th Day of Augus.t A D 1775 — The Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esq.r Moderator.

Voted that the Committee appointed to erect the Batteries at Sassafras & Fox Points immediately proceed to build one Floating Battery Such as they shall think proper.

Voted that the said Committee be & they hereby are Directed to Consider the Practicability and Usefulness of building other Floating Batteries as a further Defence to this Town and Make their Report thereon to the next Meeting.

Voted that the Engine House now Standing by the Market House be removed to the Battery erected at Fox Point for a Guard House at that Place.....

Whereas Mr Moses Brown hath moved that the Town would instruct their Deputies to [illegible]

Whereas certain evil minded Persons Inhabitants of this Colony and assembled in the Creeks and Thicketts of the Narragansett Bay have made it their Practice of Late to assist our inveterate Enemies by Piloting their armed Vessels up the River from Newport towards this Town with the known Design of oppressing the Loyal and Peaceable Inhabitants of the Colony and Piratically Seizing their Property &c Wherefore it is Voted by this Meeting that the Deputies for this Town be and they are hereby instructed to use their Influence to procure an Act of the general Assembly for inflicting the severest Punishment upon such attrocious Offenders as a Means of Discouraging such villainous Conduct in future and that such Act be made to extend to all such Persons who may be Guilty of such Practice on any Part of the Coast.

Voted That for the Present Capt Samuel Warner be appointed to have the Care of the Battery at Fox Point and of all the Guns Stores &c belonging to the Same.....

Voted That his Honour the Deputy Governor Ambrose Page Esq.r Capt Joseph Brown and the Members of the Committee of Safety in this Town or the Major Part of them present be a Committee to order when the Beacon shall be Fired to alarm the Country.

Voted that the Committee appointed to erect the Beacon be requested to fire the same on Thursday the Seventeenth Day of this Month at the Setting of the Sun and that they procure one Thousand Hand bills to be printed to advertise the Country thereof that proper observations may be made of the Bearing of the Beacon from the Different Parts of the Country: and that they Notify the Country that the Beacon will not be Fired at any Time after the said 17.th Day of August unless this Town or Some part of the Colony should be attacked by an Enemy in which Case the Beacon will be Fired and 3 Cannon Discharged to alarm the Country that they may immediately repair to this Town duly equipped with Arms &c.

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday next at 4 o'Clock P M. At the Time I attended and waited near Two Hours, but no other Person except the Tenth Sergeant and Capt John [illegible] appeared. W.m

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At a Town Meeting held in Providence according to Law on the 29.th Day of Augus.t A D 1775 — The Honourable Nicholas Cooke Esq.r Moderator.

The following Gentlemen were chosen Deputies to represent this Town in general Assembly at their Sessions to be holden in South Kingstown on the last Wednesday of October next Viz.....

Honourable Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1.st — Mr John Smith 3.

Mr John Jenckes.....2. — Col.o John Mathewson 4.th

Whereas it is necessary that Rules and Orders should be established for the well governing and Directing the Market in this Town therefore Voted that Capt John Updike Mr Nathaniel Greene Jabez Bowen Esq.r with the Clerk of the Market be a Committee to prepare a Draught of Rules and Orders for that purpose and that they lay the same before the Town at their next Meeting.

Whereas the Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Newport in this Colony for and on behalf of the said Town of Newport have appealed from the Determination and Order of the Town Council of this Town made on the Twenty Second Day of July [illegible]

Removal of John Ireby from this Town to the said Town of Newport to the Hon.ble Superior Courts of Judicature &c to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the first Monday of September A.D 1775 — Therefore Voted that the Hon.ble Town Council be requested to Meet together and consider thereof and if they shall deem their said Order legal and Sufficient that they procure an Attorney to plead to the same at the Superior Court —

The committee appointed on the 21st Day of July last to draw up Rules for Regulating the Battery at Fox Point made Report as on File which is accepted by the Town —

Voted that Capt Esek Hopkins be appointed to command the Battery at Fox Hill

Voted that Capt Samuel Warner be Leiutenant

Voted that Capt Christopher Sheldon be Gunner

Voted that Seven Men be appointed for each Gun in the Battery including Officers & that such be Selected from the Town Inhabitants who are acquainted with the Use of Cannon and do not belong to any of the Independant Companeis —

Voted that the Battery Company appoint a Capt & Gunner for each Gun out of their Company —

Voted that upon any Person quitting the Battery Company the Officers thereto belonging have Power to select others as aforesaid to keep their Number compleat —

Voted that Two persons be appointed to watch the Battery at Fox Point in the Day Time and in the Evenings untill Relieved by the Town Watch and that Capt Nicholas Power be appointed to hire the said Two Persons on the best Terms he can to be employed as the Officers of the Battery shall direct —

Voted that the Great Guns be numbered and each persons Name who belong to said Guns be wrote on a Card and affixed to the Gun they may belong to that they may know where to repair in Case of an Alarm —

Voted that the Captain Leiutenant and Gunner of said Battery have the Care of preparing and keeping the Stores belonging thereto in good Order —

Voted that the Battery Company exercise their Cannon once in a Month or oftener to perfect themselves in the Use thereof —

The following Persons were drawn Jurors to Serve at the Honourable Superior Court of Judicature &c to be holden in Providence in and for the County of Providence on the first Monday of September A.D 1775 Viz Joseph Martin Grand Juror: William Barker Petit Juror —

Voted that Capt Barnard Eddy and Mr Paul Allen be a Committee to call upon all those Persons who have Received Cartridges made of the Town's Stock of Powder and Lead agreeable to a Vote of the Town made on the 19th Day of June last to Examin if any of said Cartridges are missing and if they shall find that any Person hath Expended any of said Cartridges otherwise than in the publick Defence that they Demand and Receive the Nine Pence promised by such Person for each Cartridge so expended and that they Demand and Receive all of the Town's Cartridges delivered on the late alarm otherwise which any person may have in his possession more than 17 for every Gun he may have Set to Fire

Whereas Mr Moses Brown hath moved that the Town would instruct their Representatives to use their Influence in the next General Assembly to procure a Bill now lying before House of Assembly intitled "An Act prohibiting the Importation of Negroes into this Colony and asserting the Right of Freedom of all those hereafter born or Manumitted within the same," a Copy whereof hath now been read to the Town to be passed into a Law: And whereas the said Act contains Matters of Great Importance and will materially affect the Property of Individuals therefore Voted that the Consideration of the same be referred to the next Meeting and that a Warrant be Issued to warn the Freemen of the Town that the said Motion will be considered and Act upon at the next Meeting —

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to the 12th Day of Sept.r Next at 3 o'Clock P.M —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence especially called by Warrant and held according to Law in Providence on the 7th Day of September A.D 1775 —

Col Barzillai Richmond Moderator —

Notwithstanding the Time limeted by the Hon.ble Continental Congress for Exportation to great Britain Ireland and the West Indias is not Yet fully expired: Yet it is apprehended by this Town that the Exporting Flaxseed from this Continent at this Time in large Quantities to any Parts of Europe fully to the 10th of this Instant, the Memorable Day when all Exportation from the United Colonies ceases, mutitates directly against the Spirit and Design of the Continental Association And Whereas upon the Presumption that Exportation would be continued by the other Colonies to the 10th of Sept.r a Quantity of Flaxseed has lately been brought into this Town the Exportation whereof under the present Circumstances may counteract the Good of our Country and give Grounds for Jealousy and Uneasiness to our Brethren in the other Colonies who we find have determined not to export any Flaxseed of this Years Produce And as We are Desirous of the most firm Union with our Brethren on the Continent and wish that every Cause of Uneasiness may be removed It is Therefore — — — Voted and Resolved that this Town highly disapprove of the Exportation of any Flaxseed at any Time hereafter by any Persons in this Town untill a general Exportation of that Article takes Place throughout the United Colonies of America and that this Vote or Resolve be published in the next Providence Gazette —

.....Dysentient —

Because the aforesaid Vote or Resolve under the Pretext of amending is an Actual Violation of the Regulations of the Continental Congress & deprives the Subjects of those Priviledges they are entitled to not only agreeable to the plain Construction of the 4th Article in their Printed Resolves but also the full Sense and Determination of the Members of said Congress on a late Motion to alter the 4th Article —

As such a Vote or Resolve is very inconsistant with the well known Principals of Justice and Reason and withholds the Benefit of Christian Trade from our Real Friends while the same are allowed to those that are evidently pursuing the Subversion of all Rights and Priveledges —

As such a Measure adopted by a Number of Individuals or small Corporations has a direct Tendency to Supersede or render ineffectual and of no Validity the United Regulations of the Continental Congress and to Reduce every Matter to a State of Uncertainty and Confusion —

Saml Nightingale —

The forgoing Protest signed by Mr Nightingale was delivered to the Town Clerk by him to be entered on Record

The Meeting Dissolved —

1775
Sept 12

At a Town Meeting holden by Adjournment and Warrant in Providence on the 12th Day of September AD 1775

Col Barzillai Richmond Moderator.

Voted That no Instructions be given to the Representatives of this Town Respecting the Bill now lying before the General Assembly of this Colony Intitled "An Act prohibiting the Importation of Negroes into this Colony and asserting the Right of Freedom of all those hereafter born or manumitted within the Same".

Whereas the Committee appointed on the 29th Day of August last to prepare a Draught of Rules and Orders for well Governing the Market in this Town have now made Report in the following Words, viz).

Whereas the Town of Providence assembled in Meeting the 29th Day of August last appointed us the Subscribers to be a Committee, to prepare and lay before the Town a Draught of Rules and Orders for the Well Governing the Market in this Town, we report the following Draught.....

By-Laws for the better regulating the Market in Providence.

1. That one Pair of Scales, sufficient for weighing five or six Hundred Pounds weight, and one Pair of others for small Drafts with suitable Weights be provided by the Town for the Use of the Market, to be kept in some Convenient Place in the Market House, to be assigned for that Purpose and not be Lent or Carried away....

2. That all Meats heretofore usually Sold at Market in any Part of the Town as also Butter and Cheese shall be weighed by Scales and not by Steelyards, except the Buyer shall consent in any other Part of the Town than at the Market House, under the Penalty of Twelve Shillings to be Recovered from the Seller by the Clerk of the Market or any House Holder in the Town with Cost on Information made on Oath, or Supported by One Credible Witness, before any Justice of the Peace in said Town by Distress or by Action of Debt for the Use of the Poor of said Town and be carried to that Account.

3. That if any Provisions of whatsoever Kind shall be exposed to Sale, and the same shall be unwholesome (which Matter shall be Judged of and Determined by a Committee of Three Persons to be appointed for that purpose, of whom the Clerk of the Market shall allways be one) the same shall be forthwith taken by the Committee and effectually Destroyed

4. That whoever shall be guilty of ingrossing, Forestalling or Regrating as to any kind of Provisions, shall be Severely prosecuted; and that any Householder in the Town may make Information thereof to any Justice of the Peace in said Town, to the End that the Offender may be dealt with as to Law shall appertain; And it is particularly and Especially Ordered and Provided that no Butcher Huckster Shopkeeper or any other person shall buy or purchase in the Town of any Person or Persons coming to Market any Kind of Provisions whatsoever, between Sun-Rising and Noon with Intent to sell the same again at Market by Retail in any Part of the Town, under the Forfeiture of all such Provisions so bought or in Default thereof the Value thereof to be Recovered by Complaint or Information by the Clerk of the Market or any House Holder in the Town to any One Justice of the Peace in said Town more by Distress for the Use of the Poor of the Town and to be carried to that Account

5. That it shall be the particular Duty of the Clerk of the Market to keep the House Lott and Wharffe free of every thing which may tend to obstruct its use and to prevent all Nuisances there..... To demand and Receive for the Use of the Town accustomed Wharffage and Dues for landing in said Wharffe and taking off Goods and Things excepting Provision Vessels and Boats and such as shall come thither to market for the purpose of Supplying the Town with Necessaries by Retail — And to examin and see that all Steelyards whereby Fish or any other Thing not hereby prohibited, be Standard, and to mark such as shall not prove true and prevent their future Use in the Markets.....

6. That the Town Treasurer for the Time being be impowered to Rent out and Lease from Time to Time and for a Term not exceeding one Year, the Cellars under the Market House

7. That the Clerk of the Market shall cause a Copy of these Regulations to be kept affixed up in fair View in the Market House.....

John Updike
Nath[l] Greene.....
Silas Downer.....
Jabez Bowen".....

And the said Report being duly considered it is Voted and Resolved that the same be and hereby is accepted, and that the said Rules and Regulations be Established for well governing the Market in this Town.

Voted that Jabez Bowen Esq[r] Capt Ebenezer Thompson and Silas Downer Esq[r] the present Clerk of the Market be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to Judge and Determine when Provisions exposed to Sale in Market are unwholsome and to destroy such as they shall deem so.

Voted That the Committee appointed on the 15th Day of May last to purchase Arms at the Expence and on account and Risque of the Town to supply those who are unable to provide themselves therewith, have an Order upon the Town Treasurer requesting them to pay the said Committee for One Hundred and Eighteen Guns and Accoutrements belonging to the same which they have purchased for the Town.....

At a Town Meeting especially called by Warrant and held according to Law in Providence the 26th Day of October AD 1775.

Samuel Nightingale Esq[r] Moderator.

Whereas Objections are made to the Present Situation of the Magazine or Guard House at the Fortifications on Fox Hill it is Therefore Voted That the Officers of the Battery Company be impowered to remove the Same if they think necessary to any other Place where more safe near the Fort and that the said Officers be also impowered to give Direction where and in what Manner Intrenchments shall be made to the Magazine if

for covering a Body of Men which may be posted there to oppose an Enemy coming up the River, and to add any other Works to the Fortifications they may judge necessary for Making the same more Secure —

Voted That Capt John Updike be appointed to prepare a number of Scows and proper combustible Materials with Chains of a suitable Length to fasten them together to be used when necessary for the Purpose of annoying any Enemy who may come against the Town by Water and to agree with the Owners of the Scows for the Use of the same —

Committee appointed to procure Boom & Chain to be extended across the River and to make other Fortifications with Fire Vessels &c

Voted That Mr Joseph Brown, Amos Atwell Esq Capt Barnard Eddy, Jabez Bowen Esq Mr John Brown Capt John Updike Capt Simon Smith Capt Joseph Bucklin and Capt Ebenezer Thompson be a Committee to procure a Boom and Chain to be extended across the River below the Town of Providence immediately to be properly fixed and secured and that they lay the Expence thereof before the Town — That the same Committee be appointed to direct where and in what Manner Fortifications shall be made upon the Hill to the Southward of the House of Mr William Field and that Capt Barnard Eddy oversee the Works and be paid by the Town for his Services herein — That the said Committee be also empowered to procure Fire Vessels and Materials as they shall think Proper and to order any other Fortifications they shall judge necessary for further Securing the Town — For the Expence of all which the Town engage to pay Interest to those who advance any thing for the aforesaid Purposes from the Time they shall advance the same till paid — And that the said Committee in Behalf of the Town make application to the General Assembly of this Colony praying them to defray the Expence of the aforesaid Works or Fortifications —

Same Committee to purchase an Anchor — Nicholas Power to be allowed Interest —

Voted that the said Committee purchase an Anchor of Jabez Bowen Esq for the said Boom and Chain — X

Voted that Capt Nicholas Power be allowed Interest for the Money he has or may advance for hiring Two Persons to watch the Battery at Fox Point —

Voted that the Part of the Town below the Goat Lane on the East Side of the River be required by Warrant from the Town Clerk as usual by Beat of Drum to repair tomorrow Morning at Eight o' Clock to Fields Point to make proper Fortifications there to provide themselves with Tools and Provisions for the Day — That the Inhabitants capable of bearing Arms who dwell on the West Side of the River be required in the same Manner to repair thither for the same Purpose on Saturday next and that the Inhabitants of that Part of the Town to the Northward of the Goat Lane be required in the same Manner to repair thither for the same Purpose on Monday next —

All persons capable of bearing Arms ordered to work Intrenchments &c at Fields Point —

Voted that Benjamin Mann Esq be appointed to wait upon Brigadier Angell in Behalf of the Town to request him to inform the Officers under his Command of the Alarming Intelligence we have lately received and to pray him strictly to Order all the Troops in his Brigade duely to equip themselves according to Law so that they may be ready upon any Emergency to do Duty at a Moments Warning —

Benjamin Mann Esq to wait upon Brigadier Angell

Mr Terence Reily having his Deed recorded and produced in this Town Meeting is Recommended to be made Free of this Town —

Terence Reily admitted —

The Meeting Dissolved —

1775 Nov.r 11th

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 11th Day of Novr 1775 By Warrant . . . . .

Nicholas Brown Esq.r Chosen Moderator —

Vote Repealing Boom & Chain & Fire-Vessells Repealed —

Voted that That Part of the Vote of the Town Meeting of this Town on the 26th Day of October last appointing a Boom and Chain to be extended across the River be and the same is hereby repealed — And as the General Assembly of this Colony have ordered Fire Vessels and Materials to be procured it is also Voted that That Part of the aforesaid Vote respecting the same be Repealed —

The Town will give their utmost Assistance to put the Militia Laws in Execution — Town Council request to continue the Watch —

Voted that it be Recommended to Brigadier Angell strictly to put the Militia Laws in Execution respecting Fire Arms and Accoutrements and this Town will give him their utmost Assistance therein —

Voted That it be Recommended to the Town Council of this Town to continue the Watch already established for 6 Months to come —

Adjournment

Voted That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 20th Day of this Month to Meet at the Court House at 2 o'Clock P.M. — That Enquiry in the Mean Time may be made what Sum it is necessary to assess to discharge the Town's Debts

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1775 Nov.r 20th

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment on the 20th Day of Novr 1775

Nicholas Brown Esq.r Moderator —

£1000 Tax Ordered —

Voted That the Sum of One Thousand Pounds Lawful Money be assessed on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for Supplying the Town Treasury and that the Same be assessed within Thirty Days and be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of March next and that the Sum of Three Shillings Lawful Money be assessed on each Pole — And in Case the Collector shall not collect the Same and pay to the Town Treasurer as aforesaid that he be prosecuted by the Town Treasurer immediately after the said First Day of March —

Report of committee appointed to procure Fire Arms —

Whereas the committee appointed appointed by the Town on the 8th Day of May last have made Report as follows Viz, ... "Providence Novem.r 20th 1775 . . . . .

We the Subscribers being appointed by the Town to procure a Number of Fire Arms & Accoutrements For Town Stock Do report that we have Eighty Five Arms & about one Hundred Cartouch Boxes ready to deliver to the Town and a Number of others which will be completed in a short Time — We also agreeable to the Order of the Town Report the within Regulations for the Same . . . . .

And are the Town's very humble Servants

Benj.a Thurber —
Elihu Robinson —
David Lawrence —
Jon.a Arnold —
Paul Allen —
Jn.o Matheuson —

Regulations for Town Arms &c

1st That the Town Arms & Accoutrements be Divided into Three equal Devisions to be in the Hands of Three Different Men, one in each District of the Town. Viz, above or near the Court House below or near the Bridge and at or near Mosely Bridge in Weybosset Street —

2d That they be by them respectively safely kept clean and in good Order and not to be

1775 Nov.r 20th

Regulations for Town Arms &c

out or Lent on any Account whatever but to the Order of some one of the Field Officers of the Providence Battalion or to the Order of their Lieutenant Officers to and for the use of Persons Inhabitants of the Town of Providence, or General Musters and Field Days of their respective Companies — Saving and excepting Times of General Alarm when Necessity will not admit of being restrained by Rules —

3d That such Officer to whose Order the Arms &c shall be delivered out as aforesaid shall immediately after the Occasion for them be over: cause the same to be returned in Good Order as when delivered out, which shall discharge his said Order: and if any Arms or Accoutriments shall be missing & not returned, so many as are returned shall be endorsed on the said Order, and the same shall remain in the Hands of the Person who delivered out such Arms and shall be his Protection from any Demand from the Town against him for any Arms & Accoutrements left or Missing as aforesaid — And be also Security to the Town to demand and Recover the Arms &c or the Value thereof from the Drawers of the Order as aforesaid —

4th That on all general Alarms upon Order from the Officer in chief Present, or in writing, Each person having the Care of said Arms &c — shall distribute the same to the Officers of the several Military companies in Providence, taking down the Number delivered to each, and if any remain after they are Supplied, to such three Persons either white or Black, who he may know to belong to the Town of Providence and whom he may Judge Suitable to use them, taking their Names down and what they Receive — Which Account rendered to the Town shall discharge him, and make those charged with the Receipt thereof liable to return them in Good Order or pay the Town the full Expence & Value of Procuring others in their Room, on Demand: Unless the Town upon Application shall think fit to remit the same or any part thereof.

5th And if any Person belonging to a Neighbouring Town should happen to be in this Town at the Time of any Alarm, and there shall be a Surplusage of Arms, after the Inhabitants as aforesaid are Supplied in such Case the Keepers there of may deliver out the Arms &c remaining to any Persons of Character known to them, requesting the Same taking down their Names &c as aforesaid which shall render them liable to return them — or pay the Town in Case of Loss in Manner as the Inhabitants of this Town are liable by the Preceding Article —

6th That all Arms and Accoutrements which may suffer Damage in the Actual Service of the Public, through unavoidable Accidents shall be repaired at the Expence of the Town — Notwithstanding any thing in the Preceding Articles upon proper Proof thereof to the Town Treasurer —

7th That the Town Treasurer shall prosecute all persons delinquent — and not conforming to the above Regulations, within Six Days after Information shall be given him thereof by the Keepers of said Arms respectively — And each Keeper of said Arms is hereby enjoined to give Information of such Delinquent to the Town Treasurer within Two Days after the Time expires in which such Arms &c may be returned

And the said Report being duely considered It is Voted & Resolved that the same be and hereby is accepted and that the said Rules and regulations therein contained be established —

Committee to take care of Town Arms &c

Voted That Messrs Benjamin Cushing Junr Arthur Fenner Junr and James Blake be appointed to keep the Town Arms and to deliver them out agreeable to the Rules and Regulations aforewritten — And that they each be furnished with a Copy of the same — And that the Committee who have procured the said Arms be ordered to deliver them to the said Persons as fast as they are Inrolled taking their Receipts for the same

Nichs Power to build Watch House

Voted That Capt Nicholas Power be appointed to build a Watch House at Fox Point Eight Feet Square and of a Suitable Height: And that he hire a Room near the Market House for the Use of the Watch the approaching Winter or prepare a Part of the Market House for that Purpose, at the Expence of the Town — And that the Master of the Watch procure Wood for their Use —

Thomas Pitman Guard Battery

Voted That Thomas Pitman be appointed to watch the Battery at Fox Hill for Six Months to come at the same Price he has hitherto done —

Voted That Mr William Compton have an Order upon the Town Treasurer for the Sum of One Pound and Twelve shillings lawful Money being the Amount of his Account against the Town to this Day —

Whereas Doct Thomas Truman hath this Day exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Medicines &c for Molly Lunt a poor transient Person — It is Voted that the same amounting to £ 6. 5. 6 be [illegible] Court of Inferior Court of Common Pleas if they find the same rightly charged that they order the same to be

1775 Nov.r 21st

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence called by Warrant and held according to Law in Providence on the 21st Day of November A D 1775 —

Nicholas Brown Esqr chosen Moderator —

Whereas in the Request for calling the Present Town Meeting it was Suggested that the Committee of Inspection for this Town have Neglected their Duty and thereupon a Clause was inserted in the Warrant warning the Town to meet among other Things to enquire into the Conduct and Proceedings of the said Committee — And now the Gentlemen who signed the said Request and a Number of the said Committee being present in this Meeting and fully heard —

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town is satisfied with and wholly approve of the Conduct and Proceedings of the said Committee they having done all in their Power to answer the Purposes of their Appointment

Amos Atwell Esq added to Committee of Inspection

Voted That Amos Atwell Esqr be added to the Committee of Inspection for this Town —

Great Uneasings on account of the Price of Salt being raised

Committee appointed to examin what Quantity of Salt there is in Town &c

Whereas it has been suggested by divers persons in this County that there are large Quantities of Salt now Stored in the Town of Providence and that the same is withheld from Sale for the Purpose of enhancing the Price of that necessary Article; which Suggestions have given great Cause of Uneasiness to Many of our Friends and Brethren in the Neighbouring Towns — which we think entirely without Foundation — Nevertheless willing that the Most effectual Steps should be made in every Matter that so nearly concerns the Welfare of the Community — In Order that things may appear in their proper Light — and all Causes of Suspicion and Uneasiness be removed — That we may preserve that Harmony and Unanimity so essentially necessary at this Time of general Distress and Danger —

It is Voted by this Town in Meeting for that Purpose assembled that Messrs Jehu Smith, Joseph Martin and Welcome Arnold be a Committee to inspect the several Shops, Stores, Ware houses and all other Places commonly used for Storing Salt, or wherever the same may be stored or kept — And where they may know or hear of that Article in any considerable Quantity — and take down the Quantity found and being now in this Town and in whose hands the same is — And make their Report to the Committee of Inspection immediately —

Inhabitants request of them the Committee all the Salt they have —

And the Inhabitants of the Town in General and the Owners of Salt in Particular are requested to use the utmost Freedom in shewing the said Committee all the Salt they have, without Reserve, in order that such Measures may be adopted as will preserve that Harmony which is the wish of every Friend to this Country —

Some of the Committee of Inspection requested to Meet the County Committee —

Voted That his Honor the Governor, Joseph Brown, Jonathan Arnold, Jabez Bowen, Amos Atwell John Mathewson John Jenckes Esqrs and Majr John Brown and Joseph Bucklin all of the Committee of Inspection be requested to meet the General Committee of the County of Providence to Morrow at the House of the Widow Waterman in Smithfield That some proper Measures may be taken for removing all Causes of Uneasiness and Disstrust —

The Meeting Dissolved —

1775 Dec.r 12th

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 12th Day of December A D 1775

The Honble Nicholas Cooke Esqr chosen Moderator

Jurryman Drawn to Serve at Decr Term 1775

The following Persons were drawn to serve as Jurors for this Town at the Honorable the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of December Current, Viz,

Deacon John Field for Grand-Juror and Dexter Brown for Petit-Juror —

1776 Feb.y 6th

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 6th Day of February A D 1776 called by Warrant according to Law

Mr Benjamin Cushing chosen Moderator —

Town Council ordered to give in a List of Persons in Town entitled to keep Fire Arms &c

Agreeable to an Act of the Honorable General Assembly of this Colony made at their Last Session It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Council of this Town be ordered to give in a List of all Persons who are inhabitants of this Town and obliged by Law to keep Arms &c

Feb: 6th AD 1776

good Fire-Arm Bayonet and Cartouch Box, who are unable to purchase the Same, to a Town Meeting of this Town to be holden on Tuesday next; in order that Such Persons may be Supplied with a Good Fire Arm Bayonet and Cartouch Box at the Expence of the Town agreeable to said Act of Assembly.

Mr James Snow appointed to ring the Bell

Voted That Mr James Snow be appointed to Ring the Bell Three Times every Day Viz in the Morning before Sun-Rise, at Noon and at Nine o'Clock in the Evening — To Ring the Same Three Minutes each Time: and that he be paid Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings Lawful Money out of the Town Treasury for his so doing for One Year to be Reckoned from the Seventeenth Day of December last.

Benoni Pearce Esq: allowed £1.. 2

Voted That One Pound and Two Shillings Lawful Money be paid to Benoni Pearce Esq out of the Town Treasury it being the Amount of his Account for making an Examination respecting Fire Arms &c and for going to North Providence to Set a Bone for Mrs Fisk one of the Poor of the Town &c and that an Order be granted accordingly.

Martin Seamans to Examin State of Fire Arms &c on East Side of the River..

Voted That Martin Seamans be appointed to examin into the State of the Inhabitants of this Town on the East Side of the River, with respect to Fire Arms, Bayonets &c Cartouch Boxes and that he make Report to the Town-Council on Saturday next at 10 o'Clock A.M. as well of all those who are Supplied with the Same, as of those who are not — and that he be paid for said Service Seventeen Shillings Lawful Money out of the Town Treasury. And also that John Pettey be appointed to make the same Examination on the West Side of the River — to make Report to said Council at said Time and that he be paid therefor Eight Shillings out of the Town Treasury.

Committee appointed to draw up Resolution shewing the Inexpediency of the Inhabitants removing

Whereas at this critical Period when our all is at Stake it is absolutely necessary for our Safety that the Inhabitants of this Town should not desert the Same by Removing into the Country and as Some of the Inhabitants of this Town are about removing from the Same and Should their Example be much pursued it may be attended with Evil Consequences: It is therefore ..... Voted that Messrs Nicholas Brown, Jabez Bowen, Ebenezer Thompson, Amos Atwell and Benoni Pearce, be a Committee to draw Some Resolutions respecting the Same to be laid before the Town at their next Meeting.

Adjournment

Voted That this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday next at 2, o'Clock in the Afternoon then to Meet at the Court-House.

1776 Feb: 13th

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment and convened by Warrant according to Law at the Court House on the 13th Day of February AD 1776.

Mr Benjamin Cushing Moderator.

Report of Town-Council

The Town Council of this Town agreeable to an Order of the Town at the Last Meeting have now made Report as follows Viz, "At a Town Council held in and for the Town of Providence on the 13th Day of February AD 1776. Present George Taylor Esq — John Mathewson Esqr — Capt Richard Jackson — Job Sweeting Esqr — Jabez Bowen Esqr — Members of said Council.

We the said Town Council in Pursuance of an Act of the Hon^ble the General Assembly [illegible] and an Order of the Town Meeting of the said Town of Providence held on the 6th Day of February Instant Do make Report of the following as a List of the Names of those Persons who are Inhabitants of said Town and are obliged by Law to equip themselves with a Good Fire Arm Bayonet and Cartouch Box and who in our Judgment are not able to purchase the same.

A
Josiah Armington
Stephen Arnold
Caleb Arnold
Edward Allen
Barnabas Allen
John Aplin

B
John Beard
David Burr
Daniel Branch
Nicholas Branch
George Brown
John Bardin
Samuel Black
Charles Baggonan
Thomas Birket

C
John Cooper
Amos Chace
Barnabas Chace
Waterman Carpenter
Whipple Crow

D
Addington Davenport
Patrick Dwier
Silas Downer Esq

E

F
Wm Foster shipwright
Micah Field
James Field Junr
Edward Field

G
William Graston Junr

H
Philip Horswell
John Healey
John Thalwin
Jonathan Hill
Edward Hunt
Uriah Hopkins
Calven Holloway

J
Samuel Johnson
Benjamin Johnson
Benjamin Jones
William James

K
Abraham Kipp
John Kitton

L
John Lawrence Junr
Thomas Luther
Abner Lealand
John Luther
Oliver Luther
William Lee
Seth Lathrop

M.
Bonnet Monrow
Joseph Manning
Ralph Merry
Vespatian Miller
Thomas Miller
Noah Mason
James Mitchel

N

O

P
Reuben Potter Shipwright
Henry Peckham

Q

R
William Ross
John Rowland
John Reynolds
Grindal Rawson

S
Walter Southard
John Stone
Benjamin Tyson
Joseph Stewart
William Stewart
Archibald Salisbury
Josiah Snow
Daniel Sullivan
William Spencer

T
Richard Thornton
Peleg Tallman
Luke Thurston
Samuel Thurber Junr
John Teal
Uriah Thayer
Timothy Sheldon
Caleb Teal

W
George Whitchen
Levi Whipple
Vallentine Whitman
Azariah Whipple
Marmaduke Waterman
William Wheat
Abiel Weaver
Anthony Westcoat
Joseph Willson
Ebenezer White
Oliver Washburn

Y
John Young Butcher

Signed By Order and in behalf of said Council
By Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1776 Feby 13th Captains of Train Bands to receive Town Arms &c. keep them in Order at the Town's Expence

And the said Report being accepted it is, Voted That the Committee who now have the Town Arms be Requested to deliver to the Captains of the Several Trained Bands in this Town So many Guns Bayonets and Cartouch Boxes as will be Sufficient for Furnishing those Persons who belong to their Respective Companies who by the Town Council are deemed unable to Supply themselves with the same taking their Receipts for the Guns Bayonets and Cartouch Boxes they shall so deliver

Voted that the Captains of the Several Companies in this Town who shall Recive the Town Arms be Requested to keep the same in Good Order fit for Use at the Expence of the Town

Whereas the Honble the General Assembly of this Colony at their Last Sessions Ordered a Deputy to be chosen to represent this Town in the Room of the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esq who is now a Delegate for this Colony at the Honble the Continent Congress and cannot attend to represent the said Town of Providence in General Assembly and whereas a Warrant for this purpose hath been issued and directed to this Town by the Honble Metcal Bowler Esq Speaker of the said Assembly and the Town being thereupon legally warned and assembled - Have now made Choice of Col. Jonathan Arnold to represent this Town in the General Assembly of this Colony in the Room of the said Honble Stephen Hopkins Esq

Col. Arnold chosen Deputy

Voted that Mr William Compston have an Order upon the Town Treasurer for the Sum of £ it being the Amount of his Account

Voted that Mr Martin Seamans have an Order upon the Town Treasurer for the Sum of Sixteen Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount of his Account for formaking Examination of Arms &c on the East side of the River

Voted that Mr John Pettey have an Order upon the Town Treasurer for the Sum of Eight Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount of his Account for Examining State of Fire Arms &c on the West Side of the River

The Meeting Dissolved

March 12th 1776

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 12th Day of March AD 1776

Solomon Drown Esq Chosen Moderator

Jurors drawn to serve at March Term 1776

The Following Persons were drawn to serve as Jurors for this Town at the Honble the Superior Court of Judicature &c to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of March instant Viz

Martin Seamans Grandjuror —— Benjamin Man Esq Petit Juror

The Meeting Dissolved Witness Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the third Wednesday of April AD 1776

The Honble Nicholas Cooke Esq Moderator

The Following Gentlemen were chosen to Represent this Town in the Honble General Assembly of this Colony at their Sessions to be holden in Providence on the First Wednesday of May next Viz,

Col. Jonathan Arnold 1st Deputy | Mr John Smith 3d Deputy
Mr John Brown 2d Do | Amos Atwell Esq 4th Do

Voted that Mr Terence Neily who has been propounded more than Three Months be admitted a Freemen of this Town

Messrs Caleb Borgworth, Joseph Cleveland and Zadock Williams having their Deeds Recorded are Propounded to be made Freemen of this Town

Voted that the Town Arms be Sold to the Colony to be used and regulated agreeable to an Act of the Honble General Assembly passed at their Sessions holden on March Last Provided that they are not Sold for a Price less than Three Pounds and

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A Register of the Names of all those who Voted for General Officers in the Town of Providence on the Third Wednesday of April AD 1776

Ephraim Bowen
John Cole
William Thurber
Joseph Cleveland
Joseph Hewes
William Compton Junr
John Atwood
William Wheaton Junr
Comfort Bardon
10 Levi Burr
Eleazer Peck
Nathaniel Pritchard
William Corlis
Joseph Tillinghast
Eleazer Harding
Joseph Clarke
Daniel Cahoon
William Wheaton
Barzillai Richmond
20 John Jenckes
Sanders Pitman
George Rounds
Richard Olney
Daniel Snow
Edward Thurber
Samuel Black
Samuel Nightingale Junr
Charles Bowler
Jacob Whitman
30 Benjamin Man
Obadiah Sprague
Ambrose Page
Benjamin Thurber
John Tilton
Edward Spaulding
William Carl
Peter Pitto
Joseph Brown
Benjamin Cushing
40 Joseph Russell
James Arnold
John Foster
Theodore Foster
James Wheaton
Levi Hall
William Seamans
John Matteson
Nathan Waterman
Nathan Brown
50 Zadock Williams
George Taylor
Thomas Peck
Timothy Gladding
Zephaniah Andrews
Phoenix Frazier
John Field Junr
Samuel Chace

Joseph B. Tillinghast
John Lawrence
60 Joseph Cooke
James Snow
Thomas Bennet
Benoni Pearce
Benjamin Clap
John Field
David Bacon
William Barton
Charles Keene
Samuel Smith
70 Amos Atwell
Charles Holden
James Burrell
John Waterman
William Compton
Henry Bacon
William Tillinghast
Benjamen Alger
John Grainger
Joseph Potter
80 Nathaniel Greene
Benjamin Page
John Mumford
Samuel Hamlin
James Sabin
William Tyler
John J. Clark
Thomas L. Halsey
David Smith
Abiel Smith
90 Ezekiel Dursey
Martin Thurber
Phinehas Potter
Nicholas Clarke
Paul Allen
David Lawrence
Joshua Lindley
Job Danforth
Benjamin Randall
Martin Seamans
100 Andrew Williams
Asa Franklin
Joseph Ingraham
Joseph Potter
William Page
Ephraim Peabody
Abner Thayer
Gideon Crawford Junr
Archibald Stewart
Zachariah Allen
110 Job Sweeting
Joseph Hoyle
Nathan Arnold
David Tiffe
George Corlis

Joseph Rimmicut
Samuel Thurber
Joseph Hawkins
Samuel Thurber Junr
William Tyler
120 Job Smith
Benjamin Cushing Junr
Nathaniel Jacobs Junr
William Hoyle
William Wall
Coomer Hale
Thomas Hoddard
Elijah Bacon
Oliver Carpenter
John Larcher
130 Ezeck Brown
Welcome Arnold
Nehemiah Sweet
James Angell
Nicholas Brown
John Brown
Nicholas Cooke
David Hoell
Joseph Collins
Joseph Snow Junr
140 Gideon Young
Robert Bickey
Comfort Wheaton
Elias Callender
Robert Terry
Philip Peckham
Amos Allen
Samuel Jackson
Amos Horton
Joseph Nightingale
150 Thomas Sabin
Joseph Arnold
Benjamin Allen
James Munroe
David Wilkinson
Benjamin Gladding
Joseph Buckin Junr
Solomon Drown
John Carter
Nicholas Power
160 Jabez Bowen
Daniel Branch
William Clarke
Benjamin Bowen
Daniel Stillwell
David Burr
William Brayton
Joseph Lawrence
Samuel Tripe
Arthur Fenner Junr
170 James Black
Lewis Peck

Oliver Carpenter
Joseph Crawford
Phinehas Brown
Joseph Olney
Benjamin Taylor
Edward Taylor
William Whipple
Joshua Burr
180 Daniel Brown
Walter Harding
Nathan Williams
Terence Neily
Arthur Fenner Senr
Amaziah Waterman
Simeon Ingraham
Charles Lee
Moses Brown
Christopher Sheldon
190 Christopher Arnold Junr
Christopher Arnold
Samuel Godfrey
Pardon Sheldon
William Smith
Joseph Eddy
Solomon Drown Junr
Thomas Rhone
Joseph Eddy
Benjamin Tallman
200 James Berry
Isaac Bowen
Joseph Field
John Cross
Samuel Warner
Remington Sheldon
Richard Brown
William Bucklin
Samuel Coy
Daniel Bucklin
210 John Burrough
Stephen Northrop
Recompence Healey
Henry Herring
John Smith Junr
Nathan Potter
Richard Whitehorn
John Davis
Reuben Potter
Thomas Birket
220 Josiah Gifford
Knight Dexter
James Seamans
Elihu Robinson
Samuel Angell
William Hopkins

Witness Theodore Foster Town Clerk

Instructions to the Deputies respecting Apprentices in the Army

Instructions To the Deputies of the Town of Providence

Gentlemen, At a Time when the very being of American Liberty is at Stake, through the Machinations of our most unnatural and implacable Enemies by whom every Effort is made to distress us and to Force to Compliance with the Most Arbitrary oppressive and Tyrannical Measures the Virtuous Inhabitants of the Thirteen United Colonies: And who have by their most cruel Edicts absolutely prohibited that Oeconomical and Friendly Intercourse with Britain, and other Foreign Countries, which heretofore has amply Supplied to the Great Advantage and Emolument such necessary Articles as this happy Country in its infant State could not so readily afford, it becomes the Wisdom and is the Highest Policy of the said Colonies to promote by every Measure, Arts and Manufactures as well as Arms being equally and alike necessary to our Comfort Support and Defence — In Consideration whereof as we Suppose the Honble Continental Congress have afforded to Several of the Southern Colonies such Protection as the Necessity of the Case required by passing the following Resolution January 30: 1776 Viz: "That no Apprentice whatsoever be inlisted within the Colonies of New-Jersey Pensylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware and Maryland as a Soldier in the Army and Navy of the United Colonies, without the Consent of his Master or Mistress first obtained in Writing; and that all Apprentices now inlisted as Soldiers in said Army and Navy without such Consent be immediately discharged from the Service, on the Application of his Master or Mistress upon Payment of all just and Reasonable Charges of their Inlistment" And having the fullest Confidence in their Justice and equal Regard to each of the United Colonies and knowing from the Most obvious Reasons arising from the peculiar Situation of this small Frontier Colony, that the present Mode of Raising Recruits for the Army, gives the most fatal Discouragements to Arts and Manufactures therein: —

We the Freemen of the Town of Providence in Town Meeting assembled do Recommend to you to use your Endeavours, that the General Assembly of this Colony as soon as may be apply to the Honble Continental Congress, that this Colony and the Inhabitants thereof may have the aforesaid Resolution extended to them in the same Manner as to the Colonies therein particularly mentioned

And We further Recommend that you endeavour to procure an Act of the General Assembly of this Colony in Substance nearly the same with the said Recited Resolve and which shall Operate as to any standing Troops to be hereafter raised within and for the Immediate Defence of this Colony — Gentlemen It is not from the least Doubt of your Chearful Readiness to urge and Support every Measure calculated to promote, in Subservience to the Public Good, the Prosperity of this Colony, nor that We have the most distant Wish to preclude the Right of Private Judgment, that we thus publickly and Unbidden Recommend the Foregoing to your Care: But from the purest Motives of Regard to the Welfare of our Country —

Voted that the Foregoing be Instructions for the Deputies of this Town —
Witness Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1776 May 11th Juror drawn to serve at the Court of Admiralty held by Hon. John Foster Esq. May 21st.

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 11th Day of May AD 1776. By Virtue of a Warrant issued according to Law by the Honble John Foster Esq. Judge of the Court Erected to try and condemn to All Vessels that shall be found infesting the Sea Coast of America and brought into the Colony of Rhode Island to Draw a Juryman to Serve at said Court which is to be holden at Providence in the County of Providence on Tuesday the Twenty First Day of May Current at 10 o'Clock AM

Solomon Drown Esqr Chosen Moderator —

Capt Pardon Sheldon is drawn a Juryman to Serve at the Court aforesaid —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the First Monday in June AD 1776 being the Third Day of the Month and the anniversary Election of Town Officers the Following Gentlemen were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names Viz

Mr John Jenches Moderator

Town Clerk — Theodore Foster Esqr

Town Treasurer Mr James Arnold —

Town Serjeant Mr William Compton

Town Council — George Taylor Esqr Col. John Mathewson, Job Sweeting Esq Mayor Ebenezer Thompson Messrs Daniel Cahoon and Christopher Sheldon —

Town Audit Job Sweeting Esqr Major Nathaniel Greene and Mr Daniel Cahoon —

Constables — Mr William Compton James Black Esqr Timothy Mason, Ichabod Brown & Wesk: Cla

Sealer of Weights and Measures — Mr Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor — Messrs John Updike David Lawrence and William Wh

Surveyors of Joists and Boards .. Christopher Arnold, Elijah Bacon, Jonathan Hammond John Smith Comfort Wheaton Gershom Carpenter Eseck Eddy and Martin Seamans —

Surveyors of Highways — Messrs Martin Seamans, Nicholas Power, Nathaniel Jacobs Esqr & John Smith

Gaugers of Cask — Messrs Samuel Jackson, Eseck Brown, Eseck Eddy, Archibald Young Jonathan Jenkins and William Burroughs —

Vendue Master on Giving Bond according to Law — Mr John Lawrence

Packers of Beef and Pork ... Samuel Jackson, Isaac Eveleth, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold Ichabod Brown, William Smith, Cooper and William Lankesford .....

Corders of Wood .... Messrs Eseck Eddy, Wm Lankesford, Abel Peavey and John Pettey —

Overseer of the Pest House James Black Esq.

Collector of Taxes Mr Ezekiel Burr at 2 per Cent. on Giving Bond to the Town Treasurer with Two Good Sureties before he receive the Rate Bill in the Sum of One Thousand Pounds for the Faithful performance of said Office . . .

Pound Keepers — Job Sweeting Esqr and Mr Martin Seamans —

To Value Estates when disputed in Voting Messrs John Brown Benjamin Man and Job Smith

Fence Viewers, Benjamin Cushing Junr Job Sweeting, Charles Keene and Christr Arnold

Presidents of the Fire Wards Ambrose Page Nicholas Jellinghast Esquires & Mr Wm Smith

Fire Wards { Nicholas Brown, John Jenches, Thomas Greene, Amos Atwell Daniel Jellinghast Job Smith, John Foster, Joseph Bucklin and Edward Thurber —

Field Drivers { Job Sweeting, James Snow, Phinehas Brown, Joseph Bucklin Nicholas Power and Gershom Carpenter —

Scavenger's — Job Sweeting Jabez Bowen and Ambrose Page Esquires

Sealers of Leather — Samuel Butler and Daniel Cahoon

Persons belonging to the Engine by the Bridge { Joseph Brown, Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter Daniel Jellinghast Nightingale Ebenezer Thompson, Thomas Greene John Brown, James Arthur Fenner Junr Wellcome Arnold and Thomas

Persons belonging to the Engine at North End — Messrs. John Smith, John Innes Clarke Martin Thurber, Benjamin Cushing, Sanders Pitman, Eseh Brown, Charles Keene, Obadiah Sprague Lewis Hall and Benjamin Marshall —

Persons belonging to the Engine on the West Side of the River — Messrs. John Mathewson, Zephaniah Andrews Daniel Jackson, James Black Asa Franklin, Nathaniel Greene Nicholas Clarke Joseph Hoyle, Jonathan Ellis Samuel Black Benjamin Talleman and Joseph Buckbin —

Town Cryer — Mr. Daniel Branch —

Clerk of the Market .... Silas Downer Esqr. —

Persons to Remove or pull down Buildings in Case of Fire — Messrs. Benjamin Man Jonathan Hammon, Comfort Wheaton James Sneed and John Smith Martin Seamans Elijah Baton Jane Bowen Andrew Cole Oliver Barnes

Persons to order when and where to Remove Goods in Case of Fire — Solomon Drown Barzillai Richmond David Wetherson and Samuel Nightingale Esqr. and Messrs. Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber with all the Powers contained in a Vote made and passed by this Town on the Third Monday in June AD 1772

Overseer of the Work House ... Col. James Angell

Overseer of the Bridge by Capt Jonathan Olney's Nathaniel Jacobs Esqr.

Overseer of the Two Bridges called the Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge Mr. John Smith —

Voted That Major Ebenezer Thompson and Messrs. Richard Jackson and Samuel Nightingale Junr. or either two of them be and they hereby are appointed a Comittee to audit examin and settle the Accounts of Silas Downer Esqr. Clerk of the Market with respect to the Market House and the Materials furnished for and Work Done thereon —

Voted That the Town Council be and they hereby are Requested to Revive and Continue the Town Watch by Night under the same Regulations as established by them on the 11th Day of November last — That the Master of the Watch Go through with the Assessment then made by the said Town Council in the same Manner as would have been done had the Colony done nothing respecting the Watch untill that assessment shall be finished —

Whereas it does not appear necessary to employ any person for the present to watch the Battery at Fox Point by Day and in the Night it may be done by the Town's Watch It is therefore Voted that the Person who now watches the said Battery be dismissed from said Employ —

Voted that the Thatch Land belonging to the Town at the great Point be Leased out by the Town Treasurer to Mr. John Smith for Twenty six Shillings Lawfull Money for the Year ensuing —

The following Persons were drawn to Serve as Jurors at the Hon.ble the Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of June current Viz. —

Andrew Cole Grand Juror

William Checkley Esqr. Petit Juror —

Whereas the Honorable John Foster Esqr. Judge of the Court of Admiralty in this Colony hath issued his Warrant to this Town to return a Juror to Serve at said Court on Monday the 17th Day of this Month therefore Mr. Philip Allen is drawn a Juror according to Law to Serve at said Court —

Whereas Col. James Angell exhibited an account by him Charged against the Town for Wood for the Fort and the said account duly examined It is Voted that the same be and hereby is allowed and that Two Pounds and Eighteen Shillings Lawfull Money being the Amount thereof be paid to the said James Angell out of the Town Treasury

Whereas Mr. William Compton exhibited an account by him charged against the Town for for warning Jurors from the first Meeting [illegible] and the said account being duly examined It is Voted that Six Shillings being the amount

1772 June 3d Mr. John Smith allowed 6s. —

Whereas Mr. John Smith exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for [illegible] outside Door of the Brick Watch House and the said Account being duly examined It is Voted and the same hereby is allowed and that Six Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said John Smith out of the [illegible]

Voted that Messrs. John Jenckes Jabez Bowen, Nicholas Brown, Ebenezer Thompson John Smith Col. James Angell Col John Mathewson and Benoni Pearce Esqr. be appointed a Committee to run out the Bounds of the Town burying Land — To Calculate the Expence of erecting a Stone Wall around the same and to make Report thereof to the next Town Meeting —

Whereas this Town has been frequently alarmed by Fires breaking out in Small Tenements and Workshops through the Deficiency of the Chimnies and Stoves belonging to the same; for preventing whereof for the Future It is Voted and Resolved That Messrs. Joseph Brown, John Updike and Joseph Buckbin be, and they hereby are, appointed, a Committee to inspect all such Chimnies and Stoves in this Town, as are or may be suspected to be dangerous; and when it shall be found that any Chimney or Stove is deficient in the Opinion of the aforesaid Committee and the Owner or Tenant thereof shall refuse or Neglect for more than Ten Days to amend the same agreeable to the Directions of the said Committee he or they so offending shall be subjected to a Fine not exceeding Three Pounds Lawfull Money, to be Recovered by the Town Treasurer by Bill, Plaint or Information before any Court of Record in the County of Providence The Forfeiture so arising to be appropriated for the Support of the Poor of this Town: — And that this Resolve be published in the Providence Gazette —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held according to Law on the 25th Day of June AD 1776 —

Col Jabez Bowen Moderator

Voted That Ambrose Page Esqr. Capt Barnard Eddy, Benjamin Man Esqr. Col. Jabez Bowen and Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr. be appointed a Committee to examin the most Suitable Place within this Town for Erecting an Hospital for Inoculation for the Small Pox; and also to draw up such Rules and Regulations as may be thought necessary in case an Hospital should be erected and therein make suitable Provision for the Poor of the Town and Persons unable to be at the Expence of Inoculation and Report to the next Meeting: — That this Meeting be adjourned to Tuesday next the 2d Day of July at Four o Clock P.M. at the Court House at which Time all the Freemen of the Town are desired to give their Attendance That the Town Sergeant give Notice of the Adjournment and Business on that Day by Beat of Drum in the Usual Manner and that a Copy of this Vote be inserted in the Providence Gazette —

Whereas the Honorable John Foster Esqr. Judge of the Court of Admiralty in this Colony hath issued his Warrant to this Town to return a Juror to Serve at said Court on Thursday the 4th Day of July next for the Trial of the Justice of the Capture of the Ship True Blue her Appurtenances Cargo & Guns — Therefore Mr. Joshua Hacker is drawn a Juror according to Law to serve at said Court —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held according to Law in Providence by Adjournement on Tuesday the 2d Day of July AD 1776 —

Col Jabez Bowen Moderator

Whereas the Committee appointed by the Town at the Last Meeting have now made report as follows Viz

"We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee to find out the most Suitable Place for Erecting an Hospital to inoculate in for the small Pox: also to draw up the Rules & Regulations for the governing of the said House and to make Provision whereby the Poor of the Town might be inoculated gratis We having met on the said Busines Do report as followeth, That after viewing several Places within the Limets of this Town that We thought might be convenient and safe We do report that the place called High Bank lying to the Northwest of Great Cove is the most proper Place that we can find and very suitable for the Purpose — We are further indued to recommend this place as the Buildings may be placed on Land belonging to the Town and further that the House at Horsestock Meadow belonging to the Heirs of Stanmer Olney might be very proper and convenient for a Well House if to be purchased or hired of the Owners &c ..... We have also drawn up Sundry Rules and Regulations which we judge Necessary & fit to be adopted by the Town — All which we Submit &c

Providence July 2: 1776

Ambrose Page
Benjamin Mann
Jabez Bowen ..... Committee
Nath: Wheaton .....
Barnard Eddy

Rules and Orders for the Government of the Hospital for Inoculation for the Small Pox .....

1st That there be a Committee of Five Persons annually chosen by the Town who shall have the Direction of all Matters relating the Hospital and wherein the Safety of the Town & Country may be concerned and they shall have Power and Authority to make and Ordain such further Rules and Orders as from Time to Time they may find Necessary as well as to see the Laws Rules and Orders already made and given are punctually obeyed —

2d: That the Physician who shall be agreed with by the Town and all under him whether Assistants or Nurses shall be under the Controuls and Order of the Directors in all things wherein the Public Safety is concerned

3: That Besides the Hospital there shall be a Well House provided for the Reception of all Persons offering for Inoculation and at which the Physician shall perform the Operation, and put them under the Prerequisite Course of Medicine, and detain them there until the Signs of Infection appear immediately upon which they shall repair to the Hospital .....

4th That that no person presume to approach the Well House nearer than the Distance of One Hundred Yards and no Patient to go without that Distance from the said Well House without Special Permission under the Hand of the Physician and any one who shall offend herein shall be liable to the Fines and Penalties fixed by the Act of Assembly permitting Inoculation in this Colony upon those who transgress the Limets and Restrictions at the Hospital and the Physician giving such permission in case the Distemper through such Means should spread shall be liable to the same Penalty to be recovered and appropriated in the same Manner as by Sd Act is mentioned for his giving Certificates from the Hospital —

5th That every Patient entering the Hospital shall there remain within the Limets prescribed by said Act of Assembly until the Physician shall give him the Certificate by Law required — That he shall thereupon be thoroughly washed & cleansed and his Apparels and Linnen washed and well aired — and thence proceed to the Well House where he shall be again well washed and take at the least one Dose of Physic and also have his Apparels and Linen well washed and aired after which and having the Doctors Certificate he may be at Liberty to return to his Home .....

6th That no Utensils of any Kind nor any other Utensils or Thing whatever saving wearing Apparels Linen & Sheets be removed from the Hospital to the Well House on any Pretence whatever during the Time the Infection shall be kept in the Hospital and that at all other Times the Removal of any Manner of Thing other than above Enumerated be under the special Care and Direction of the aforesaid Committee and which they shall previously cause to be cleansed thoroughly first at the Hospital and then at the Well House as is ordered respecting wearing Apparels &c

7th That if any person shall presume to carry out from the Well House or Hospital any wearing Apparels Linnen or Sheets without having them cleansed as aforesaid or shall by any Means not possess himself thereof without their being so cleansed and having the Certificate of the Physician thereof and every Article particularly enumerated therein: for every such Offence the party so offending shall pay as a Fine the Sum of Fifty Pounds Lawful Money to be recovered by the Town Treasurer of the Town of Providence to and for the Use of the Town in any Court of Record in this Colony —

8th That if any Person under Inoculation shall at the Well House or Hospital behave in an Ungovernable Manner or be refractory or unruly and refuse to submit to the Rules and Regulations prescribed him, The Directors shall and they are hereby empowered to lay him or them under such confinement as shall be sufficient to prevent any Ill Consequences from such Misbehavior: — untill he or they be sufficiently cleansed from the Infection as aforesaid — when if any Crime of an High Nature hath been committed, he or they shall be removed to the Prison House, there to remain untill delivered by due Course of Law, otherwise he or they shall upon payment of all extra charges be dismissed as other persons are from the Hospital —

9th That no nurse or servant be suffered to pass to or from the Well House or Hospital without a Permit under the Hand of one or more of the Directors .....

10th That Proper Vaults and Necessary Houses be provided both at the Well House and Hospital wherein all infected old Clothes, Rags and all Filth and rubbish shall be immediately thrown & from Time to Time buried and that no rags, Straw or Rubbish of any Kind be burned at the Well House or Hospital

11th That the Directors be and they hereby are empowered to annex such Fines Forfeitures and Penalties to any Temporary Rules & Regulations they may make as to them shall seem meet not exceeding the Sum of Ten Pounds for any one Offence and that no person be dismissed from the Hospital or receive the Doctors Certificate for dismission until he or she have a Certificate from under the Hand of one of the Directors that all such Fines & Forfeitures and all Hospital Dues are fully satisfied —

12th That all Fines and Forfeitures whatever be accounted for to the Town Treasurer and keep regular Entries thereof and the Monies thence arising shall be appropriated [illegible]

as the Town shall towards defreying the Expence of Inoculating Poor & Indigent Persons inhabitants of the Town of Providence and all Donations to the Hospital coming to the Hands of said Directors shall be accounted for and appropriated in the same Manner.

13th That the Directors shall procure a proper Hospital Book wherein shall be entered all Rules and Regulations made either by the General Assembly or this Town for the Government of the Hospital and also such Temporary Regulations as the Directors shall see fit to make which Rules shall be read to the Patients the Second Day after their Admission into the Well House and again the Second Day after they enter the Hospital that no one may plead ignorance in excuse for the Breaches thereof.

14th That the Directors also cause a Book to be kept for the Entry of Patients wherein their Names and Places of Abode be inserted also their Ages the Time they entered at the Well House and the Time of their Removal to the Hospital and the Event of the Disease and the Time when they shall be discharged both from the Hospital & Well-House and shall cause every Patient to be carefully entered therein as aforesaid.

15th That the Physician who shall improve the Hospital shall for the Privilege of improving the same inoculate for every Six Persons, one Person an Inhabitant of this Town who shall be recommended for that purpose by the Town Council and the said Physician shall be at Liberty to receive them into the Hospital singly or several at a Time as suits him best and such persons shall be boarded & Nursed either at their own or the Towns Expence as the Council shall adjudge to be proper with respect to their Severall Circumstances.

16th That the Guards shall consist of Four Persons to be appointed by the Directors and receive their Orders from and be at all Times under their Controul & Direction. And either of them shall neglect the Duty enjoind them by, or disobey the Orders they shall receive from the Directors or otherwise misbehave whilest on Duty or in the Hospital he shall forfeit & pay as a Fine according to the Nature of the Offence, a Sum not exceeding Six Pounds Lawfull Money to be recovered and appropriated in Manner aforesaid and if the Directors shall see fit rendered incapable of sustaining that Trust forever.

17th It shall be one special Charge to the Guards from the Directors and they are hereby particularly enjoined to kill all Dogs and Cats or other Domestick Animals which shall approach the Well House or Hospitals within the Boundaries before mentioned and to bury them immediately and to prevent any Horses Cattle or Sheep from passing within said Boundaries."

And the said Report being Twice distinctly read and duly considered It is Voted and Resolved that the same be and it is hereby accepted.

Voted that Inoculation for the Small Pox be introduced and Practised within the Limits of this Town.

Voted that the aforesaid Committee who made the foregoing Report be and they hereby are empowered to contract with some proper person or Persons to build an Hospital at the Place recommended by them, Two Stories High 24 Feet Wide and 72 Feet long under their Direction and in such manner as they shall think best. To procure the same to be built within Two Months and also to hire the House heretofore owned by Ithamar Olney for a Well House for the Hospital on as good Terms as may be - provided it may done with the Consent of the Town of North Providence. And towards defreying the Expence of erecting the said Hospital it is Voted that the Town Treasurer be empowered to hire the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds Lawful Money for that Purpose and deliver the Same to Nathaniell Wheaton Esq who is hereby more especially appointed to have the overSight and Direction of the whole and for his Services herein the Town will make him proper Satisfaction.

Whereas Nicholas Tillinghast Esq declines serving in the Place of a President of the Firewards to which he was chosen in June last: It is therefore Voted that Samuel Nightingale Esq be and he hereby is chosen a President of the Firewards in his Room and that the Thanks of the Town be rendered to the said Nicholas Tillinghast Esq for his Services heretofore in said Office.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held according to Law on the 12th Day of July A D
Col. Jabez Bowen Esq Moderator.

Whereas Mr John Smith claims the Land lying to the Northwest of Great Point where the Inoculation Hospital was ordered to be Erected which Land the Town Suppose to belong to them. Therefore for determining and Settling the Dispute about the Title to the said Land it is mutually agreed by the said John Smith and the Town of Providence in Meeting now assembled that Richard Steere Esq Mr Daniel Mann and Jonathan Harris Esq be and they hereby are chosen and appointed to Settle and Determine the Same and they or either Two of them agreeing upon an Award or Report the Same shall be final and binding both upon the Town and the said John Smith his Heirs &c

And Col Jabez Bowen Col. James Angell and Mr John Jenckes are hereby appointed to appear in Behalf of the Town before the abovementioned Gentlemen appointed Arbitrators as aforesaid to vendicate and support the Title of the Town to the said Land and to lay before them such Papers Plats and Evidences respecting the same as may be necessary. And the said Committee are requested to procure the Arbitrators aforesaid to examin Settle and Determin the said Dispute as soon as may be and to make Report of their Doings hereon to the Town at their next Meeting.

Whereas there is immediate Necessity that the Inhabitants of this Town who have an Inclination thereto should undergo Inoculation for the Small Pox and the Time necessary for Erecting an Hospital will be such that many will be deprived of the Benefit thereof if during the most favourable Season of the Year = It is therefore Voted that the Committee appointed to build the Hospital proceed in that Business as fast as possible; - and in the mean Time agree upon the best Terms with such of the Owners of Houses and Tenements in that Part of this Town called Jockwotton, as are willing to oblige the Town with the Use thereof for such Time as the Town shall judge Necessary for the Purpose aforesaid and that all such as shall decline to be inoculated and who live in any of the Houses or Tenements aforesaid be requested to remove therefrom and that those who are unable to provide for themselves the Committee aforesaid are hereby impowerd to provide for and remove at the Town's Expence.

Voted That the said Committee Estimate the weekly Damage that will

Owners of the Lower Ferry by Means of Inoculation being carried on at Jockwotton as aforesd and Lay their Estimate before the Town at their next Meeting

Voted That Mr Joseph Russell Capt John Updike & Major Ebenezer Thompson be added to the said Committee for the Purpose of applying to the Town of Johnston to know their Sentiments of admitting Inoculation for the Small Pox into the said Town of Johnston — and also to know on what Terms the Houses and Farms belonging to Job Hawkins's Wife and Job Smith may be hired in Case the Town are willing to admit the same and make Report at the Next Meeting —

Charles Holden is drawn a Juror according to Law to serve at the Court erected for the Trials of Prize Causes in and throughout the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be holden by the Hon^ble John Foster Esq^r on the 22 Day of July current for the Trials of the Justice of the Capture of the Brigantine Rover —

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned to Friday next the 19th Day of this Month and that the Town Serjeant warn the Inhabitants thereof in the Usual Manner

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At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held according to Law on the 19th Day of July A.D. 1776 —

Col Jabez Bowen Moderator —

Voted that the Clerk write a Letter to the Town Clerk of Johnston requesting him to call together the Freemen of that Town on Thursday next to know their Sentiments of Admitting Inoculation for the Small Pox into that Town — And the Committee who were appointed at the last Meeting are desired to attend without Fail and report their Determination at the next Meeting of this Town —

Whereas the following Proceedings are now laid before the Town for their Approbation Viz

"At a Meeting of a Num of the Justices of the Peace and of the Members of the Town Council "of the Town of Providence at the Court House July 19th A.D. 1776 —

Present

George Taylor Esq^r
Job Sweeting
Ebenezer Thompson
John Mathewson
} Members of the Town Council

Samuel Chace Esq
Jabez Bowen Esq^r
Theodore Foster Esq^r
Nathaniel Wheaton Esq
} Justices of the Peace

Whereas the Small Pox is now very prevalent in the Town of Boston and Inoculating Hospitals are established in many other Places so that there is great Danger of that Disease being communicated to this Town if some proper Method is not soon adopted to prevent the same: —

It is therefore ordered That Mr Caleb Fuller who keeps the Lower Ferry be prohibited from Transporting any person over said Lower Ferry whom he may suspect has been where the Small Pox is prevalent. And it is further ordered that there be some proper Place provided at the Upper Ferry to smoke and cleanse Persons in who have come out of the Town of Boston or other infected Place — And Mr William Dagget is desired to procure a proper person who has had the Small Pox to oversee the same and the Town will make him a reasonable Allowance for his Services herein —

It is Voted That the Town Clerk write to the Authority of Smithfield and North Providence Requesting them to place proper Guards at Pawtucket and Cumberland Bridges to prevent People from coming into this Colony from Boston or any other Place infected with the Small Pox without being properly cleansed —

Whereas there is a Body of the Continental Troops expected to march through this Town from Boston on their Way to New York. It is therefore Voted and ordered That Colothels Daniel Tillinghast John Mathewson and Jabez Bowen be desired to wait on the commanding Officer who shall be with said Troops. to know if the said Troops have been where the Small Pox is prevalent and whether there is any Danger of that Disease being communicated from them and should that be the Case they are desired to turn of at the North Part of this Town and to Travel the Route by Butterworth's Mill and they are also desired to tender every necessary Assistance from the Authority of this Town that the Troops may want for their Support and accommodation —"

And the said Proceedings by the said Members of the Town Council and of the Justices of the Peace being duly considered they are fully approved by this Town and ordered to be recorded as proceedings of this Town —

Voted That this Meeting be adjourned until Friday next at 4 o'Clock P.M at the Court House. — The Town Clerk and Town Serjeant appeared pursuant to this Adjournment but a Sufficient Number of Freemen not attending The Meeting is Dissolved: Theod: Foster Town Clk

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At a Town-Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 5th Day of August A.D. 17

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator —

Voted that Inoculation for the Small Pox be immediately practised at the Houses in that Part of this Town called Jockwotton —

It is Voted and Resolved that Ambrose Page Esq^r Benjamin Man Esq^r Col Jabez Bowen Nathaniel Wheaton Esq^r Mr John Brown. Col Jonathan Arnold Mr Samuel Nightingale Jun^r Col Amos Atwell and Col John Mathewson and Mr Joseph Martin be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to direct in what manner Inoculation shall be practised at Jockwotton and it is Voted that any Three of said Committee shall have Power to Act and give Directions as though the whole Committee were present. provided they put their Orders and Directions into Writing and they are signed by their Clerk: — which orders and Directions so made shall be valid and of full Force untill Countermanded by a greater Number of the said Committee And it is voted that the Town Clerk shall be Clerk of the said Committee who shall faithfully Record all their Proceedings in a Book to be provided for that Purpose — The said Committee to have all the Power and Authority mentioned in the Act of Assembly allowing

and in the Report of the Committee appointed to Build an Inoculation Hospital, as made to the Town and by them accepted on the 2d: Day of July Last — They are also hereby empowered to agree with the Owners of the Houses and Tenements at Jockwotton and to provide for the Payment of all Expence accruing on this Busines by Drawing on the Town Treasury or otherwise —

It is Voted that the Town Clerk shall be paid for his Services in Attending the said Committee writing their Orders Proceedings &c Such a Consideration as shall be reasonable for the Same —

Mr. Elias Callender is legally drawn a Petit Juror to Serve in the Court Erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes in and throughout the State of Rhode Island &c to be holden at Providence in the County of Providence Before the Hon.ble John Foster Esq Judge of said Court on the 19th and Twenty Sixth Days of August Current and the 2d Day of September next —

Voted that Mr. William Compton have an Order upon the Town Treasurer for £1.. 18.. 0. the Amount of his Account —

The Meeting Dissolved

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held according to Law on 27th Day of August AD 1776

John Cole Esq Moderator —

The following Gentlemen are chosen to represent this Town in General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden in October next Viz.

Col Jonathan Arnold 1st Deputy | Mr John Smith 3d Do
Mr John Brown 2d Ditto | Col. John Mathewson 4th Do

This Town taking into Consideration the State of the Work House Do thereupon Order that the Town Clerk inform the Town Council that it is recommended to them by the Town to examin into the State of the Work House and the Poor of the Town now there it having been Suggested that proper Care of them is not taken by the Keeper of the Work-House — and that they take proper Proceedings hereon and also agree with some Suitable Physician to attend the Poor of the Town in their Sickness at a Stated Price for a Years Attendance —

Whereas the Small Pox has been communicated in the Natural Way by a Person inoculated out of this Government and as many Persons are gone and going elsewhere for Inoculation and there being continual Danger from this Quarter unless those who are inoculated are cleansed of Infection — It is therefore recommended to the Town Council to make such Orders and Regulations respecting the Premises as they think best and to publish the same

Voted that so long as a sufficient Number of the Inhabitants of Providence offer to enter for Inoculation at the Hospitals in this Town, that no person not being an Inhabitant of this Town have permission to be inoculated to the Exclusion of any of the Inhabitants of Provide-

The Following Persons to Serve as Jurors for this Town at the Hon.ble the Superior Court of Judicature &c to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the First Monday of September next viz

Benjamin Cushing Jun.r Grand Juror
George Rounds Petit Juror —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 17th Day of September A.D. 1776.

Capt John Updike Moderator.

This Meeting being especially called pursuant to an Order of a Meeting of the Committee appointed to act during the Recess of the General Assembly held at the Court House in Newport on the 12th Day of September A.D. 1776 to raise this Town's Proportion of the Battalion of Militia ordered for Rhode Island to replace Col. Richmond's Regiment which is under marching Order for New-York — And the Town having taken the said Order of said Committee into Consideration Do thereupon Vote and Resolve that in order to raise this Town's Proportion of said Battalion with as much expedition as possible the Sum of Six Pounds Lawful Money be given as a Bounty to each Soldier who voluntarily enlists himself into said Battalion as one of this Town's Proportion thereof: and that the Town Treasurer be requested immediately to hire a Sufficient Sum of Money for this Purpose —

Voted that Messrs Daniel Hawkins Joseph Fuller David Bacon James Arnold & Nathaniel Wheaton Esq be a Committee to number the Male Persons Suitable to bear Arms in the Town of Providence —

Voted that Col. Jabez Bowen be empowered to inlist Men for this Towns proportion of the Battalion aforesaid until the Officers are appointed —

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq Judge of the Court erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State — Mr. Thomas Lloyd Halsey is drawn a Juror to serve in said Court on the First Day of October next —

Voted that this Meeting be adjourned until To-Morrow at 4 o Clock in the Afternoon at the Court House —

Benoni Peace Dept Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden on the 18th Day of September A.D. by Adjournment

Capt John Updike Moderator

Voted that each soldier who inlists himself into this Town's Proportion of the Battalion to replace Col. Richmond's Regiment equip himself fit for marching to New-

Voted that the Officers be ordered not to inlist any men out of the Neighbouring Towns in the County into this Town's Proportion of the Men for the Battalion now raising to go upon Rhode Island until Saturday the 21st Instant and that they inlist the Number of 43 able bodied Men as this Towns proportion of said Battalion Officers included who belong this Town —

Voted that 100 Small Arms belonging to the Town of Providence be sold and delivered to Col. John Mathewson for the Use of the State at the Price of £3,, 16,, 0 each and that the Money therefor be paid to the Town Treasurer as soon as may be —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on 3d Day of October A.D. 1776.

Major Nathaniel Greene Moderator.

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq Judge of the Court erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State Mr Abner Thayer is drawn a Juror to serve in said Court on the 7th Day of the present Month and Mr James Snow is drawn a Juror to serve in said Court on the 14th Day of this Month

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At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 15th Day of October A.D. 1776 —

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator.

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq Judge of the Court erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State Nathanael Jacobs Esq is drawn a Juror to serve at said Court on the 21st Day of October instant and Capt Joseph Buckin is drawn a Juror to serve at said Court on the 28th Day of said October —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 17th Day of October A.D. 1776 —

Mr Charles Keene Moderator.

Whereas much uneasiness hath arisen on account of the Purchase of a Quantity of Butter for the Use of the Inhabitants of Nantucket occasioned by a Suspicion that the same might be appropriated for the Use of the Enemies of the United States of America: — And as Mr Samuel Starbuck the purchaser has appeared before this Meeting and there being no Evidence that the same was designed for our Enemies and it being understood by this Meeting that the Exportation of any Kind of Provisions to Nantucket is contrary to Law unless under Regulations ordered by the General Assembly of this State in October last and Mr Starbuck for removing this Uneasiness is willing that said Butter should be stored until the General Assembly shall meet and make Order respecting the Exportation of Provisions to Nantucket: — It is therefore Voted that Capt. John Updike, James Black and Arthur Fenner Junr Esq be a Committee immediately to store the same in some suitable Place until the Assembly shall meet excepting Two Thirkins of Butter which Mr Starbuck wants for his own Use: — And the Deputies of this Town are requested to lay this Matter before the General Assembly for their Direction herein. This Town highly disapproving of the Exportation of any Provisions to Nantucket until the Sentiments of the General Assembly are known —

Whereas great Injustice is frequently done by a Method of Buying and selling sundry Articles of Provisions without weighing the same: — It is therefore Voted and Resolved that whoever shall either buy or sell in this Town any dead Lamb Turkies Geese or Dunghil Fowles unless by the pound-weight shall forfeit and pay as a Fine the Sum of Six shillings Lawful Money to be recovered of both the Buyer and Seller by Warrant of Distress from any Justice of the Peace of the Town on the Complaint of any Householder in the said Town. That the Lambs so bought shall be forfeited by the Buyer to and for the Use of the Poor of the Town: — That the Fines so recovered be lodged in the Town Treasury for the Town's Use: — That this Regulation take Place on the First Day of November next: — and that the same be published in the Providence Gazette —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 22d Day of October A.D. 1776 —

The Honble John Foster Esqr Moderator —

Voted that Inoculation for the Small Pox be no longer practised in this Town —

Voted that the Town Clerk be ordered to issue a Warrant to warn the Freemen of the Town to meet on Thursday next the 24th Instant in order to chuse a Deputy to represent this Town in the General Assembly: — To appoint a Committee to receive and distribute the Proportion of Salt ordered by the General Assembly to this Town or otherwise to order respecting the same as shall be thought best: — and to order a Tax to be assessed on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for supplying the Town Treasury —

Whereas Capt Joseph Buckin who on the 15th Day of Oct: instant was drawn a Juror to serve in the Court erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes is by Law excused from serving as a Juror: — Therefore Mr Amos Horton is drawn a Juror to serve at said Court in his Place and Mr Paul Allen is drawn a Juror to serve in said Court on the 4th Day of November next —

This Meeting is adjourned to Thursday next at 2 o' Clock P. M —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and duly assembled on the 24th Day of October A.D. 1776.

Ephraim Bowen Esqr Moderator

Whereas Col. John Mathewson who was chosen on the 27th Day of August last a Deputy to Represent this Town in the Sessions of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in October 1776 hath declined serving therein — It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Theodore Foster Esqr be and he hereby is chosen and Elected a Deputy to represent this Town in the said General Assembly in the Place of Col. Mathewson —

Whereas good and necessary Regulations respecting the Market in this Town have heretofore been made which have not had their desired Effect owing as is apprehended to the Law respecting the same not being duly executed — It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Silas Downer Esqr, Capt John Updike, Capt Joseph Buckin James Wanton Esq Arthur Fenner Junr Esq Capt. Zephaniah Brown, Mr David Burr Mr James Arnold Capt Christopher Sheldon Mr John Dement Capt William Earle and Nathaniel Jacobs Esqr be a Committee to be Stiled Inspectors of the Market whose Business it shall be to see that all the Regulations of the Market are duly executed — And that the Town Clerk Copy and procure to be published in the Providence Gazette all the Laws relative to the Market —

It is Voted that a Majority of the abovementioned Committee agree with the Butchers who frequent the Market House for the Price each shall pay for the Stall he shall make use of therein and that said Committee procure the Scales and Weights ordered in the first Regulation of the Market to be immediately placed in the Market House —

It is unanimously Voted that the Market House be entirely Shut up and not opened on Sabbath-Days —

It is Voted that Benoni Pearce Esq be appointed to proportion and distribute to the Inhabitants of the Town the Salt ordered to this Town by the General Assembly — and that the same be delivered to every Householder or Head of a Family in proportion to the Number of individuals of all Ages and Sexes set against his or her Name in the Register of the Inhabitants taken by the Town Clerk and Mr Martin Seamans by order of the General Assembly in July last And after he have proportioned the Same and received the Money therefor at the Rate of Six Shillings by the Bushel that he make out Orders for the Delivery thereof to Mr Samuel Wanton who is hereby appointed to measure and deliver out the same to that Mr Pearce may the Money as directed by Act of Assembly —

It is Voted and Resolved that the Sum of £500 be assessed as soon as may be on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for supplying the Town Treasury and that the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury within 3 Months — Voted that Mr William Compton be paid £3. 3.0 being his Account for Drum

It is Noted that it be recommended to the Directors of the Inoculation Hospital to procure the Houses and Buildings at Jockwotton which have been improved for Inoculation to be sufficiently cleansed of Infection as soon as may be; excepting the House of John Cole Esq which it is recommended to reserve until those who are now there or may be sent thither by the Town Council are recovered and cleansed — and that it be recommended to the Town Council immediately to procure some other Suitable Place for the Reception of those who may be taken sick with the Small Pox — . . . .

Theodore Foster Town-Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 5th Day of Nov. AD 1776 . . . . .

Capt David Lawrence Moderator

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq Judge of the Court erected for the Trials of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State by Virtue of which Warrant this Meeting is now assembled — Capt Elijah Bacon is drawn a Juror to serve in said Court on the 11th and 18th Days of November instant —

Theodore Foster Town-Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 20th Day of November A.D. 1776

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator

It is Noted that Col. John Mathewson and Theodore Foster Esq be and they hereby are appointed to wait upon George Taylor Esq President of the Town Council to know whether he have a willing to Subscribe the Test-Act as required by Law & to make Report as soon as may

It is also Voted that Capt. David Lawrence and Capt. Joseph Bucklin be appointed to wait upon Job Sweeting Esq to know whether he have or be willing to Subscribe the Test Act and to make Report as soon as may be —

And the said Col. Mathewson and Theodore Foster report that they have been to the House of George Taylor Esq and he not being at home they could not see him — And the said David Lawrence and Joseph Bucklin report that they have been upon Job Sweeting Esq who returned them for Answer that he would presently attend the Town Meeting —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and duly assembled on the 24th Day of October A.D. 1776—

Ephraim Bowen Esqr Moderator—

Whereas Col. John Mathewson who was chosen on the 27th Day of August last a Deputy to Represent this Town in the Sessions of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in October 1776 hath declined serving therein — It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Theodore Foster Esqr be and he hereby is chosen and Elected a Deputy to represent this Town in the said General Assembly in the Place of Col. Mathewson —

Whereas good and necessary Regulations respecting the Market in this Town have heretofore been made which have not had their desired Effect owing as is apprehended to the Law respecting the same not being duly executed — It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Silas Downer Esqr, Capt John Updike, Capt Joseph Bucklin James Black Esq Arthur Fenner Junr Esq Capt Zephaniah Brown, Mr David Burr Mr James Arnold Capt Christopher Sheldon Mr John Demount Capt William Carr and Nathaniel Jacobs Esqr be a Committee to be Stiled Inspectors of the Market whose Business it shall be to See that all the Regulations of the Market are duly executed — And that the Town Clerk Copy and procure to be published in the Providence Gazette all the Laws relative to the Market —

It is Voted that a Majority of the abovementioned Committee agree with the Butchers who frequent the Market House for the Price each shall pay for the Stall he shall make use of therein and that said Committee procure the Scales and Weights ordered in the first Regulation of the Market to be immediately placed in the Market House —

It is unanimously Voted that the Market House be entirely Shut up and not opened on Sabbath-Days —

It is Voted that Benoni Pearce Esq be appointed to proportion and distribute to the Inhabitants of the Town the Salt ordered to this Town by the General Assembly — and that the same be delivered to every Householder or Head of a Family in proportion to the Number of individuals of all Ages and Sexes set against his or her Name in the Register of the Inhabitants taken by the Town Clerk and Mr Martin Seamans by order of the General Assembly in July last And after he has proportioned the Same and received the Money therefor at the Rate of Six Shillings by the Bushel that he make out Orders for the Delivery thereof to Mr Samuel Clark who is hereby appointed to measure and deliver out the same and that Mr Pearce pay the Money as directed by Act of Assembly —

It is Voted and Resolved that the Sum of £500 be assessed as soon as may be on the Polles and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for supplying the Town Treasury and that the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury within 3 Months — Voted that Mr William Compton be paid £3, 3.0 being his Account for Drums

It is Noted that it be recommended to the Directors of the Inoculation Hospital to procure the Houses and Buildings at Lockwotton which have been improved for Inoculation to be sufficiently cleansed of Infection as soon as may be; excepting the House of John Cole Esq which it is recommended to reserve until those who are now there or may be sent thither by the Town Council are recovered and cleansed — and that it be recommended to the Town Council immediately to procure some other Suitable Place for the Reception of those who may be taken sick with the Small Pox — ....

Theodore Foster Town-Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 5th Day of Novr AD 1776 .....

Capt David Lawrence Moderator —

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq Judge of the Court erected for the Trials of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State by Virtue of which Warrant this Meeting is now assembled — Capt Elijah Bacon is drawn a Juror to Serve in said Court on the 11th and 18th Days of November instant —

Theodore Foster Town-Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 20th Day of November A.D. 1776

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator

It is Noted that Col. John Mathewson and Theodore Foster Esq be and they hereby are appointed to wait upon George Taylor Esq President of the Town Council to know whether he has a willing to Subscribe the Test-Act as required by Law & to make Report as soon as may

It is also Voted that Capt. David Lawrence and Capt Joseph Bucklin be appointed to wait upon Job Sweeting Esq to know whether he has or is willing to Subscribe the Test Act and to make Report as soon as may be —

And the said Col. Mathewson and Theodore Foster report that they have been to the House of George Taylor Esq and he not being at home they could not have a with him — And the said David Lawrence and Joseph Bucklin report that they have waited upon Job Sweeting Esq who returned them for Answer that he would presently attend the Town Meeting —

And the said Job Sweeting Esq who is a Member of the Town Council and one of the Town Auditt having appeared before this Meeting and refused to Subscribe the Test Act and the Town having Rec.d sufficient information that George Taylor Esq had also refused Subscribing the same whereby their said Offices according to Law are become Vacent — The Town thereupon proceeded to chuse others in their Room —

Col Jabez Bowen is chosen President of the Town Council in the Place of George Taylor Esq aforesaid

Benjamin Mason Esq.r is chosen a Member of the Town Council in the Place of the said Job Sweeting —

Mr. Paul Allen is chosen one of the Town Auditt in the Place of the said Job Sweeting

Whereas Benoni Pearce Esq.r hath declined proportioning the Salt belonging to the Town It is therefore Voted that Mr. James Arnold be appointed in the Place of Mr. Pearce to proportion the same as he was directed and that Mr. John Nicolls be appointed in the Place of Mr. Samuel Olney who is now attending the Hospitals and in case Mr. Nicolls shall not undertake that Mr. Arnold be empowered to procure some suitable person to measure and deliver said Salt to the Inhabitants of the Town

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Honorable John Foster Esq.r Judge of the Court erected for the Trial of Maritime Causes in and throughout this State: — Mr. William Russell is drawn to serve as a Juror in said Court on the 27.th Day of November instant: — and Capt. Nicholas Power is drawn to serve as a Juror in said Court on the 30.th Day of said November —

The following persons are drawn to serve as Jurors for this Town at the Hon.ble Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the 3.d Monday of December next viz Pardon Sheldon Grand juror Robert Merry Petit Juror —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and and assembled on the 27.th Day of November A.D. 1776 —

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator

Whereas the General Assembly at their last Sessions passed an Act ordering a Regiment of Men to be immediately raised for the Defence of the State to consist of Six Men out of Every Number throughout the State able to bear Arms and directed that Town Meetings should be called to carry the said Act into immediate Execution and this Meeting being assembled for this purpose: It is Voted and Resolved that this Town will immediately raise 43 Men including Officers being their Quota of the said Regiment pursuant to said Act of Assembly and as an Encouragement to the Men immediately to inlist into said Regiment it is Voted and Resolved That every person who shall inlist himself as a Private Soldier into the said Regiment pursuant to said Act of Assembly shall be allowed Twenty Dollars as a Bounty and that the Town Treasurer be directed and empowered to hire the Sum of £250 for this Purpose

Whereas Mr. James Arnold who was appointed at the last Meeting to proportion the Town's Salt has declined the same: It is therefore Voted that Mr. Martin Seamans be and he hereby is appointed to proportion the said Salt in the same Manner as Benoni Pearce Esq was directed on the 24.th Day of Oct.r last and that he receive the Money for the said Salt and make out Orders to Mr. John Nicolls for delivering the same allowing to each person 4 Quarts and 1 Pint of Salt for every Individual in his Family —

Voted That Mr. Joseph Martin be and he hereby is appointed to purchase a Suitable Frame for a Building to be erected for an Hospital for the Small Pox —

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Hon.ble John Foster Esq Mr. Ephraim Wheaton is drawn a Juror to serve in the Court of Admiralty on the 9.th Day of Dec.r next —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and held on the 30.th Day of November A.D. 1776 —

Capt David Lawrence Moderator —

It is Voted that £700..0..0 Lawful Money in Addition to the Rate ordered on the 24.th Day of October last be assessed and levied as soon as may be on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town and that the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury within 3 Months from this Town: — and that 3/ be assessed on each pole in proportioning the £500..0..0 ordered in October and the £700..0..0 now ordered —

Mr. John Smith is drawn a Juror to serve in the Admiralty Court on the 16.th day of December next pursuant to a Warrant from the Hon.ble John Foster Esq: —

Resolved That 20/ be allowed to Mr. William Compton being the Amount of his Account out of the Town Treasury and that the Clerk grant an Order therefor —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence especially called and convened by Warrant on Sabbath Day Morning December 8.th A.D. 1776 —

The Honourable Stephen Hopkins Esq Moderator —

Whereas a Large Body of the Enemy have arrived in the Narragansett Bay and it is probable soon intend to attack this Town and in order that proper Defence may be made: It is Voted That the Hon.ble Stephen Hopkins Esq: Col. Jonathan Arnold, Col. John Mathewson — Mr. Joseph Brown Col. Barzillai Richmond Col. Joseph Nightingale Col James Angell and Mr. Sumner be and they hereby are appointed a Comm[illegible]

Examin the most Suitable Places for Erecting and making proper Batteries and Intrenchments for the Defence of the Publick against the Enemy: And they or the Major Part of them agreeing to make Report to his Honor the Governor in order that if he sees fit he may direct the Troops under his command immediately to go to erecting said Batteries &c — That the Same Committee after having agreed upon proper Places proceed to mark out the Ground in order that said Troops may as soon as possible proceed to work thereon —

Voted and Resolved that William Wheaton Esq^r Mr Paul Allen Mr Benjamin Cushing Jun^r and Edward Thurber Esq^r be and they hereby are appointed a Committee immediately to collect all the Tools in Town proper for making Intrenchments taking down in proper Lists the Names of those who furnish the said Tools with the Particular Articles Supplied by each person

Resolved that all the Male Inhabitants of this Town of Sixteen Years of Age & upwards appear under the Commanding Officers of their respective Companies at the Court House Parade at 3 o' Clock this Afternoon, all those who are equipped with Arms Accoutrements Knapsacks & Blankets and those who are not fully provided with those Articles that they can furnish —

And it is expected that no person whatever who is an Inhabitant and capable of Bearing Arms will neglect to appear at Time and Place aforesaid — And that the Town Sergeant and the Town Cryer immediately publish this Vote through the Town —

Resolved That Mr David Lawrence be empowered to procure a Number of Bakers immediately to Bake a Quantity of Bread sufficient for the Men assembled on the present Alarm .....

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 15th Day of January A.D. 1777 — Legally warned and assembled

Capt John Updike Moderator

Mr Martin Seamans is chosen Collector of Taxes for this Town in the Place of Mr Ezekiel Burr who is now Sick and unable to Serve in that Office and it is Voted that the said Martin Seamans be allowed 4 p^r Cent for collecting the Taxes; on his giving Bond in the Sum of £1500..0..0 with Sufficient Sureties for his Faithful discharge of that Office

Resolved that Edward Thurber Esq^r be and he hereby is chosen a Member of the Town Council in the Place of the Hon^ble Daniel Cahoone lately chosen a Councillor of the State .....

Resolved That Col. John Matteuson be and he hereby is chosen President of the Town Council in the Place of Col. Jabez Bowen who hath this Day Resigned that Office .....

Resolved that Arthur Fenner Jun^r Esq be and he hereby is chosen a Member of the Town Council to fill the Vacancy occasioned by Col. Matteuson being advanced to the place of President .....

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 24th Day of January 1777

Major Ebenezer Thompson Moderator

As the Situation of the Hospital at Tockwotton at this Time is very inconvenient for Publick Utility and carrying persons thither who may be taken Sick with the Small Pox gives uneasiness to the Troops Stationed in this Town: It is therefore VOTED that the Town Council be and they hereby are instructed and Directed not to send any person in future to that place Infected by that Disease

Whereas the Hon^ble Major General Joseph Spencer by Letter to the Council of War which Letter hath now been laid before this Meeting hath represented the Many inconveniences attending the Situation of the Hospital at Tockwotton whereby a Piece of great Importance in a military View in the present Situation of Publick Affairs is obstructed and hath requested that some other Place may be provided for the Reception of those who may be taken Sick with the Small Pox:

It is therefore Resolved that Mr John Smith be and he hereby is appointed empowered and directed to look out for some Suitable place in a Retired Situation either in this Town or the Vicinity there of for an Hospital for such as may have the Small Pox and upon finding a Place Suitable for this purpose that he immediately make Report to the Town Council who are thereupon requested in case the place shall be out of the Jurisdiction of this Town to make application to the Council of War or the General Assembly for establishing the Same as an Hospital for the Reception of those who taken Sick with the Small Pox in this Town —

Whereas the Accounts of the Market House still remain unsettled the persons who were appointed to settle and adjust the same having removed out of this Town — It is therefore Voted that Messrs Moses Brown, Ebenezer Thompson and James Arnold be empowered to adjust and settle the Accounts of Messrs John Smith and Jonathan Hammond against the Market House —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on the 19th Day of February A.D. 1777

Mr John Brown — Chosen Moderator

Pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly passed at their Last Sessions: It is Voted and Resolved That Edward Thurber Esq^r Major Ebenezer Thompson and Mr James Arnold be and they hereby are chosen and appointed a Committee on Application to adjudge and determin whether European and East India Goods are sold at a Higher Price than by Law is allowed —

Resolved that the Committee appointed by this Town on the 8th Day of December last to collect Tools for making Intrenchments and Batteries about this Town be and they hereby are requested to make out a List of all the Tools they collected Setting down the Names of the Persons who Supplied the same and the Price they deemed said Tools to be worth and to Notify all persons who furnished said Tools and have not had them Returned to bring in an Account there of &c

in order that Application may be made to Mr John Smith as one of the Committee of Safety for the State for payment therefor.....

Resolved that Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings be paid to Mr James Snow for Ringing the Bell in Mr Snows Meeting House from Decr 12th 1775 to December 12th AD 1776 out of the Town Treasury

Resolved that Mr Joseph Martin be and he hereby is appointed to procure some Suitable person to ring the Bell Morning Noon and Night as heretofore at a Price not exceeding Ten Pounds by the Year...

Resolved Mr William Compston be paid £3. 8. 6 Lawful Money out of the Town Treasury it being the Amount of his Account this day exhibited.. The order is granted

Resolved that Nine Shillings be paid to Mr Daniel Branch out of the Town Treasury for Notifying the Town 3 Times to receive the Salt proportioned to the Inhabitants

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence legally warned and held on the 21st Day of March 1777

Ephraim Bowen Esq Moderator

Whereas the Town Council, on the Report of Mr John Smith appointed on the 22d Day of January last to look for a Suitable Place for an Hospital applied to the General Assembly, and in Consequence of an Act passed by them have taken and improved the House and Land owned by Mr Jesse Lealand in North Providence for an Hospital for the Small Pox and in order that Satisfaction may be made to the said Mr Lealand It is RESOLVED That this Town Recommend to the Town Council to allow to Mr Jesse Lealand One Hundred Dollars for the Hire of his said House and Land in North Providence for one Year from the Ninth Day of April next for the Use of an Hospital for the Small Pox and to advance him one half thereof as soon as may be and in Case they cannot agree with Mr Lealand for that Price that they offer to him to chuse Three indifferent Persons to determin what shall be allowed to him for the Hire of said House and Land —— or if Mr Lealand shall choose to have the Possession of the said House and Land delivered to him that they order the same to be immediately cleansed and delivered up to him accordingly on the said Ninth Day of April being the Time at which the Term for which the same was leased to John Jenckes Dursey expires —— Resolved That Three Pounds be paid to Marten Seamans out of the Town Treasury For his Trouble in delivering Capt Mr Jeeps Proportion of Salt

Whereas Mr Paul Allen hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Lead Cartridge Paper &c and his Service respecting the Town's Stock of Powder Balls Ammunition &c and the same being duely considered it is Voted that Twelve pounds Nine Shillings and Nine pence being the Amount thereof be paid to him out of the Town Treasury

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence held on Wednesday the 16th Day of April AD. 1777 Being the Day by Law appointed for the Choice of Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and to put in Votes for General Officers

The Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq.r Moderator

The following Gentlemen are chosen to represent this Town in the General Assembly, Viz.

Col. Jonathan Arnold | Mr John Smith
Mr John Brown | Capt William Rhodes

A Register of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Proxies for the General Officers of the State on Wednesday the 16th Day of April AD. 1777 —— to be returned to the General Election, as follows, Viz, ...

Samuel Hamlin
David Burr
Samuel Black
James Black Esq
William Chace
Remington Sheldon
Allen Peck
Nicholas Power
David Tifft
James Arnold
Elihu Robinson
Boomer Hail
Henry Bacon
Col. Joseph Nightingale
Recompence Healey
Joseph Snow Junr
Benjamin Cushing Junr
John Field Junr
Samuel Warner Junr
Phinehas Potter
Joseph Cooke
Amos Horton
Robert Newell
Nutbely Williams
Daniel Snow
Christopher Sheldon
Andrew Williams
Capt Silas Talbot
Potter Ritto
George Brown
John Larcher
Col. William Russel
Benjamin Cushing Esq
Joseph Potter Junr
William Whipple
David Lawrence

Capt Elijah Bacon
Lewis Peck
Zachariah Allen
Charles Stevens
Terrence Reiley
Samuel Young
Joshua Burr
Thomas Bennet
Col. John Mathewson
Daniel Cahoon Esq
David Hoell
Capt Comfort Wheaton
John Smith
Elias Callender
Hon.ble John Foster Esq
John Fitton
Samuel Shaw Esq
James Field Junr
Joseph Fuller
John Jenckes Esq
Samuel Thurber Junr
Samuel Tripp
Daniel Branch
Hon.ble Stephen Hopkins Esq
Benjamin Allen
Col. Jonathan Arnold
Capt. Joseph Olney Senr
Richard Seaver
Lieut. Col. Levi Hall
Joseph Russell
Nicholas Brown Esq
William Wheaton Esq
Joseph Brown
Charles Bowler
Joseph Hawkins
Capt Charles Keene

Nathaniel Frothingham
Nathaniel Wheaton Esq
William Compston
Lieut. Col. Zephaniah Andrews
Benjamin Man Esq
Capt Robert Taylor
Benoni Pearce Esq.r
Benjamin Hunt
Ambrose Page Esq.r
John Mumford
Gershom Carpenter
John Field
Ephraim Bowen Esq.r
Col. Jabez Bowen
Joseph Martin
Martin Seamans
Sanders Pitman
John Brown
Barzellai Richmond Esq
Dexter Brown
Wilcome Arnold
David Marten
John Smith
Amos Atwell Esq
Theodore Foster Esq.r
Paul Allen
James Sabin
James Snow
Arthur Fenner Senr Esq.r
Solomon Brown Senr Esq.r
Samuel Thurber
John Atwood
Edward Spalding
William Corlis
Nathan Waterman

William Page
Paul Jews Esq
Ephraim Babbitt
Ephraim Walker
Ezekiel Birket
Amos Allen
Joseph Lawrence
James Munro
Jonathan Olney
Nathan Angell
Asa Arnold
Thomas Greene Esq
Levi Burr
Reuben Potter
Christoph.r Olney
Gideon Young
William Ayler
Rdcon Crawford
William Hail
John Burrough
John Petley
Newbridge Ramsey
Phenix Frazier
Obadiah Sprague
Isaac Field
Joseph Hoyle
William Rhodes
Joseph Cleveland
James Burrill
Joshua Lindley
Charles Hill
Capt Brown
Samuel Coy
Joseph Field
William Field

Proxies for the Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq.r as Govert or — 134
Proxies for the Hon.ble Josiah Arnold Esq — as Governor — 26
Proxies where no person is named as Governor — 112

Whereas Mr Terrence Reiley hath Preferred a Petition to this Meeting in the following Words Viz, To the Moderator and Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled in Meeting ..... Terrence Reiley of Providence Shopkeeper humbly sheweth ——

That he hath purchased of James Angell Esqr a Water lot near the Southwesterly End of Weybosett Bridge joining Southerly on James Sabin's Lot and northerly on the Town's Land or Highway — That he is about to fill up his said Lot by Wharfing out in order to erect a Building or Buildings thereon but that the same is so narrow that it will not admit of Conveniences unless he be permitted to fill up and make a Gangway on the North Side thereof on the Towns Land left open for a publick and general Accommodation ——

Wherefore he prays that he may have Leave to fill upon that Side Twelve or Fourteen Feet for the Use of the Town, which he is willing to do at his own Excpence with such convenient Stairs as may be directed and as far out as he shall wharff upon his own Lot: and that such part of the Town's Land so filled be and remain to their Use as fully as if they had done it themselves ..... Terrence Reily

And the said Petition being duly considered it is Voted and

Resolved that the Prayer of the said Petition be and the same is hereby Granted and that Messrs John Jenckes, James Arnold and Zephaniah Andrews be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to mark out the Land to be filled and wharffed out as aforesaid and to give directions respecting the Stairs aforesaid &c —

Voted and Resolved that the Deputies of this Town be and they hereby instructed to move for and use their utmost Endeavours to procure a Repeal of the Act of Assembly for paying the Members of the Upper and Lower House out of the General Treasury and that the Town in Future will pay their own Deputies .....

Whereas Messrs Jonathan Hammond and John Smith have exhibited an account against the Town for Work done on the Market House and the same having been referred to a Committee and duly examined Voted that Thirty three Pounds and Two Shillings being the Balance remaining due thereon be paid to them out of the Town Treasury —

Whereas John Jenckes Dursey hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Damages occasioned to him by Reason of his having been obliged to remove from the House of Mr Jesse Lealand now occupied as an Hospital for the Small Pox which Accounts to £245 „ 10 „ 0 and it being thought that the same is unreasonable and Mr Durfey having offered to submit the same to the Determination of Capt. Joseph Olney Mr James Angell and Mr Jonathan Whipple: It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Town Council be and they hereby are empowered to appoint the Persons before named or in Case of their Refusal other good Men to arbitrate & Settle the said Account .....

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting (especially called) of the Town of Providence held at the Court House on Saturday the 19th Day of April 1777 —

Doct. Ephraim Bowen chosen Moderator —

Upon a Motion being made to the Moderator to determin whether the Town is dissatisfied with their present Rate Assessors or not it is thereupon Unanimously Voted That the Town is satisfied

Resolved That Mr William Compton be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury Eighteen Shillings Lawful Money for Services in Warning three Town Meetings ..... ——

Resolved That Mr John Nicolls be allowed and paid the Sum of Four Pounds and Ten Shillings Lawful Money out of the Town Treasury for his Services in delivering out the Town's Salt from Nov. 24th 1776 to March 10th 1777 — The Order is Granted —

Resolved That the Overseers of the Poor of the Town be and they hereby are directed to look out Suitable places in the Country for the Removal of the Poor of the Town on Expence, if they can be provided for on better Terms than in the Town —

Instructions to the Representatives of the Town —

To Messrs Jonathan Arnold John Brown, John Smith and William Rhodes

Gentlemen / You being chosen to represent the Freemen of this Town in the Honorable the General Assembly of this State, are hereby instructed to use your Endeavours in the General Assembly That the Laws made by this State in January 1776 respecting those persons who disqualify themselves to sit in General Assembly by Receiving any Post in the Military Department be duly observed —

Likewise to procure a Law of this State to be passed to oblige all Persons to give in to Rate Assessors Lists of their Rateable Estates whereby more just and equitable Assessments may be made in Future —

Also to use your Endeavours in the General Assembly to procure a Law to be passed obliging all Persons indebted to any Subjects of Great Britain to account with the State and pay their Respective Dues into the General Treasury for the Use and Benefit of the State ..... We look upon such a Law as just and equitable as that capturing their Property on the High Seas .....

The Foregoing was Voted and Passed Unanimously .....

Protest.

We the Subscribers Inhabitants and Freemen of the Town of Providence being now on Military Duty at Pawtuxet for the Defence of our Country being informed that our Brethren who remain at Home have called a Town Meeting to meet this Day in order to Examin into the Conduct of the Present Assessors of Rates &c

DO Protest against the Doings of the said Meeting as at this Time Most of the People that have thought themselves aggrieved in the last Town Tax are now out of Town upon the General Assembly and part as Soldiers at this Post ... ——

As the Levying and apportioning of Taxes is the most Tender and Delicate part of Government every soft and indulgent Method ought to be adopted and every Prejudice especially if against the Assessors should be allayed ..... These things being considered the Request that the Meeting now convened would not proceed to determine any thing concerning the Premises but adjourn it for a few Days that there may be a more general Meeting of the Inhabitants .....

Pawtuxet April 19th 1777 —

Joseph Nightingale
Wm Rhodes — Wm Russell
Sam Chace Jun — Wm Wall
Samuel Godfrey — Paul Allen
Lewis Peck — Arthur Crawford
James Hill — James Munro
Ezekiel Crawford Jun
Aaron Wright

The Meeting Dissolved — Benoni Pearce Dept Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of Town of Providence held on the 28th Day of May AD 1777

Col. Barzillai Richmond Moderator

Whereas the General Assembly at their last Sessions passed an Act proportioning to the several Towns in the State a Number of Men to be raised for filling the Two Continental Battallions belonging to this State and as 18 Men are ordered by said Act to be raised & inlisted by this Town by the 10th Day of May next: It is therefore Resolved That Col. Zephaniah Andrews Capt. William Rhodes Col. Barzillai Richmond Mr Martin Seamans Major Elihu Robinson Mr Joseph Hoyle Capt. Nicholas Power Col. Levi Hall and Mr Nehemiah Sweet be and they hereby are appointed a Committee in Addition to the Continental Officers now in this Town for the Purpose of inlisting their Towns Proportion of the Men ordered as aforesaid and that Mr James Arnold immediately apply to the General Treasurer pursuant to said Act of Assembly for the Money allowed as a Bounty to the Soldiers inlisting — And that the Town will pay the said Committee for their Services and Expences in inlisting the said Men

Whereas it is Just and Equitable in all Publick Assessments that the Individuals of the Community should be rated in Proportion to the Estate of which they are possessed: and great Injustice may arise from the Assessors not knowing the Value of the Rated person's Estate and as many People in this Town have heretofore neglected to render an Account of their Rateable Estate for preventing whereof in Future: It is Resolved that the Assessors for this Town be and they hereby are directed in making all Assessments of publick Taxes to estimate as near as they can the Estate of any person who shall neglect to render an Account of his Rateable Estate according to Law and after they shall have estimated such person's Estate at the full Value thereof to double the Same and proportion the Tax accordingly —

Resolved that this Meeting be and the same is hereby adjourned until Monday next at the Court House at 3. o' Clock P.M. that further Measures may then be adopted if necessary for inlisting this Town's Proportion of Men as mentioned in the 1st Resolve of this Meeting

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At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment on Monday the 5th Day of May 1777 —

Benjamin Man Esqr Moderator

Capt. Sumner having laid before this Meeting the Plan of a Fort proper to be erected for the Common Defence upon the Hill Eastward from the Compact part of this Town and informed them that [illegible] Major General Spencer by him recommends the Consideration of the Matter to this Meeting ..... After Consideration had thereon the Freemen assembled are of Opinion a Fortress upon said Hill would be of the greatest Advantage to the Public as well as to this Town in Particular and assure his Honor they will chearfully concur in any General Measures for carrying the Plan aforesaid or such other as his Honor may adopt into Execution —

Whereas Major Ebenezer Thompson has Resigned his place as a Member of the Town Council It is therefore Resolved that Capt. John Updike be and he hereby is chosen a Member of the Town Council — And

Whereas Capt. John Updike and Capt. David Lawrence have resigned their Office of Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor: It is therefore Resolved that the Clerk issue his Warrant to warn the Freemen of the Town to meet on Friday next at 3. o' Clock P.M. to choose Assessors of Rates &c To which Time and Place this Meeting is adjourned —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence held by Adjournment & Warrant May 9th AD. 1777. Major Elihu Robinson Moderator —

Resolved That Major Elihu Robinson an Assessor of Rates and an Overseer of the Poor for this Town until the Election of Town Officers in June next

Resolved That Mr Lewis Peck be and he hereby is chosen an Assessor of Rates and Overseer of the Poor for this Town until the Election of Town Officers in June next

Resolved that the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is directed to call upon Capt. John Updike and Capt. David Lawrence for the Fines which by Law have accrued on their Refusal to Serve in the Office of Rate Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for this Town into which Office they were chosen in June Last and have acted therein untill lately and in case they shall refuse to pay the said Fines that the Town Treasurer sue for the Same —

Whereas many Inhabitants of this Town on Account of the Publick Difficulties have removed their personal Estate out of the Limits of this Town but are still considered as Inhabitants and Freemen thereof and Whereas a Large Tax hath been assessed by the General Assembly upon this Town for defreying the Expences of the State which had accrued before such Removals and in apportioning the said Tax the said Personal Estate was considered: The Assessors for this Town are therefore hereby directed in assessing the said Tax to assess all Rateable personal Estate which hath been removed by the Inhabitants within Six Months past which hath not been taxed out elsewhere in Real Estate —

Information being made to this Meeting that Capt John Updike declined serving as a Member of the Town Council into which Office he was chosen at the last Meeting The Town Serjeant having therefore now been sent to him to know if that was the Case returns for answer that Capt Updike aforesaid utterly refuses to serve: Therefore Resolved That Capt. Nicholas Power be and he hereby is chosen a Member of the Town Council in his Room —

Resolved that Twelve Shillings being paid to Mr William Compton out of the Town Treasury being the Amount of his Account for warning Town Meetings Twice —

The Meeting is Dissolved —

1777
May 19th

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of Providence holden on the 19th Day of May 1777—

Mr. John Jenckes Moderator—

Whereas for the Common Defence it is Necessary that Fortresses and Intrenchments be made in Lands belonging to Individuals whereby they may Receive great Damage and it is Just and equitable that all Damages occasioned to Individuals for the Preservation of the Publick should be borne by the Publick at Large It is therefore Resolved That Messrs Samuel Thurber Junr Christopher Sheldon and Zephaniah Andrews be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examin what Lands are or will be occupied by the Publick Works erecting on the Hill to the Eastward of the Compact Part of the Town and to apprize the Same and make Report to this Town at their next Meeting in order that some means may be adopted for making Payment and Satisfaction therefor.

Resolved That Capt. John Updike, and Mr. Paul Allen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon the Proprietors of the Lands through which it is proposed to lay out a Highway from Olneys Lane in a Northerly and Southerly Course along on the Hill to the Eastward of the Compact Part of the Town near the Beacon Colledge &c to know whether the said Proprietors will consent that said Highway be laid out through their Land without Expence to the Town to make Report at the Next Meeting. / Resolved That Seven Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Ten pence be paid to Mr Jacob Whitman out of the Town Treasury being the Amount of his Account for Blacksmiths Work for the Market House

Resolved that this Meeting be adjourned to Friday next then to meet at the Court House at 3 o'Clock P.M. to receive the Reports of the said Committees &c

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden on the 16th Day of May AD 1777—

Mr. David Hoell Moderator.

Whereas application hath been made to this Town by the Proprietors of Soils on on Beacon Hill where a Fortress is now erecting under the Direction of the Commander in Chief of the Continental Troops on this Station for Damage done to them by means of said Works: Resolved That this Town do not think proper to undertake in their Capacity to make them Compensation therefor.—

Resolved That it be and hereby is Recommended to the Commanders of the Several Companies of Alarm Men Independent Companies and Militia in this Town to call their respective companies together and in Turns to go upon Beacon Hill there to give all Assistance they are able to compleat the Fortifications there Erecting for the common Defence—

That Col. Barzillai Richmonds company go upon duty To Morrow: Capt. Brussells the next day: Capt Burrills on Monday: Capt Keene's on Tuesday: Capt Snows and the Grenadier Company on Wednesday and that the Captains keep Lists of all Persons who work as also of those who do not Work to be returned to the Next Town Meeting and that the said Companies begin on Thursday next to go through a Second Tower of Duty in Rotation in the same Manner each Person to furnish himself with proper Tools &c

Resolved That the Town Clerk at any Time hereafter in Case he shall think it necessary and expedient on Account of the Publick Troubles for the More Safe Keeping of the Records of the Town to remove them from the Places where they now are: That He hereby be fully authorized and empowed to remove the same to any Place he shall think for the best for their Security at the Expence of the Town—

The Committees appointed at the Last Meeting made Reports as on File which were accepted—

The Meeting is Dissolved— Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence held on Monday the 2d Day of June A.D. 1777 being the anniversary Election for Town Officers, the Gentlemen hereafter mentioned were chosen to the Offices ascribed to their Names respectively for the Year enjoing, viz,

Col. John Mathewson Moderator—

Town-Clerk— Theodore Foster Esqr—
Town-Treasurer— Mr James Arnold—
Town-Sergeant— Mr William Compton—
Town-Council— Col. John Mathewson, Capt. Christopher Sheldon, Edward Thurber Esqr— Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr Benoni Pearce Esqr Mr Benjamin Cushing Junr
Town Audit— Samuel Butler and James Black Esqrs Mr Joseph Cooke—
Constables— Messrs William Compton Job Danforth, Nicholas Clarke Martin Thurber and Samuel Coy—
Sealer of Weights & Measures— Mr Jacob Whitman
Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor— William Wheaton Esqr Major Ethan Robinson and Mr Lewis Peck—
Surveyers of Joists and Boards— Messrs Christopher Arnold Capt. Elijah Bacon, Mr Jonathan Hamm Mr John Smith Capt. Comfort Wheaton and Mr Gersham Carpenter
Surveyers of Highways— Messrs John Smith Daniel Snow and Joseph Arnold—
Guagers of Cask— Messrs Samuel Jackson, Caleb Brown Caleb Ebby Archibald Young Jonathan Jenkins and William Burroughs—
Verdue Master— Mr John Lawrence on Giving Bond according to Law—
Packers of Beef & Pork— Messrs Samuel Jackson Isaac Eveleth, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold Ichabod Brown William Smith Coopers and William Lankford—
Corders of Wood— Messrs Samuel Black, John Petty, John Atwood Martin Thurber Ezekiel Healey William Wheaton son of Ephraim, Joseph Hoyle James Arnold and Joseph Martin Esqrs
Overseer of the Pest House. James Black Esqr—
Collector of Taxes— Martin Seamans Esqr at 5 per Cent on his giving Bond to the Treasurer in Double the Sum of the Rate agreed upon by the Assessors Lists

Pound Keepers — Messrs Nathan Waterman and John Petty

To value Estates when when disputed in Voting. Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr Sam Butler Esqr Mr John Brown

Fence Viewers — Messrs Benjamin Cushing Junr Deacon John Field Capt Charles Keene & Mr Christr Arnold

Presidents of the Five Wards — Jabez Bowen Esqr Mr William Smith and Joseph Martin Esqr

Five Wards — Nicholas Brown, John Jenckes Thomas Greene Amos Atwell Daniel Tillinghast Esqrs Mr Job Smith Hon.ble John Foster Esqr Capt. Robert Taylor and Edward Thurber Esqr

Field Drivers — Capt James Snow Messrs Phinehas Brown and Gershom Carpenter

Scavengers — Jabez Bowen Esqr Messrs John Larcher and Sanders Pitman

Sealers of Leather — Samuel Butler and Daniel Cahoone Esquires

Persons belonging to the Engine by the Bridge — Messrs Joseph Brown. Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter. Col Daniel Tillinghast Col Joseph Nightingale Major Ebenezer Thompson Thomas Greene Esqr Mr John Brown Mr James Arnold Arthur Fenner Junr Esq Messrs Welcome Arnold and Thomas Bennet

Persons belonging to the Engine at the North End — Messrs John Smith John Innes Clarke Martin Thurber Benjamin Cushing Junr Sanders Pitman Ezek Brown Capt Charles Keene Mr Obadiah Sprague Col Levi Hall and Mr Benjamin Marshall

Persons belonging to the Engine on the West side of the River — Col John Matthewson Col Zephaniah Andrews Mr Daniel Jackson. James Black Esqr Capt. Asa Franklin Capt Elijah Bacon Mr Nicholas Clarke Mr Joseph Hoyle Col. Jonathan Ellis Mr Samuel Black Col Benjamin Tallman and Capt William Rhodes

Town Cryer — Mr Daniel Branch

Clerk of the Market — Silas Downer Esqr

Persons to Remove or pull down Houses in Case of Fire — Joseph Martin Esqr Mr Jonathan Hammon Capt Comfort Wheaton Capt James Snow Mr John Smith Martin Seamans Esq Mr Oliver Carpenter Mr John Carlisle

Persons to order when and where to remove Goods in Case of Fire — Solomon Brown Esqr Col Barzillai Richmond David Watkinson Esq Deacon Henry Bacon and Messrs Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber with all the Powers contained in a Vote passed by the Town on the 3d Monday of June A.D. 1772.

Overseer of the Work House — Mr John Demount

Overseer of the Bridge by Jonathan Olneys. Mr Christopher Olney

Overseer of the Two Bridges called the Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge Mr John Smith

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge Mr James Arnold

RESOLVED That from and after the 10th Day of June instant the several Cordons of Wood in this Town strictly adhere to and observe the Laws of this State made and passed A.D. 1698 intituled "an Act for preventing Fraud in Fire-wood exposed to Sale" and that they furnish Certificates of the Quantity in each Load to the Driver thereof that Imspections upon Non Payment and summary may be in future prevented: and that this Resolve with the said Act [illegible] Constables

The Following Persons are draughted to serve as Jurors at the Hon.ble Superiour Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence Viz { Samuel Young Grandjuror / Richard Sever Petit Juror

Whereas Capt William Rhodes and Nicholas Power have exhibited an account by them Charged against the Town for their Services and Expences in Enlisting this Towns Quotas of the Continental Battalions and the said Account being duly Examined it is Resolved That Twenty Pounds and Fourteen Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to them out of the Town Treasury and that the Clerk give an Order accordingly — Order is Granted —

Whereas Martin Seamans Esqr hath now exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Expences in Inlisting this Towns Quota of the Continental Battallions and the said Account being duly examined .... It is RESOLVED That Forty Two Pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Money be paid to said Martin Seamans and that the Clerk give him an Order accordingly upon the Town Treasury — Order is Granted —

Resolved That Messrs William Rhodes and Messrs Welcome Arnold be a Committee to wait upon Major Simeon Thayer to know the Expences he has been at in Inlisting Men for this Town and to Report to the Next Meeting —

The Meeting Desolved — Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence held on Saturday the 14th Day of June AD 1777

Mr John Jenckes Chosen Moderator —

Pursuant to the Act of the General Assembly passed at their Last Sessions entituled "An Act to prevent Monopoly and Oppression" & the Freemen of said Town being now assembled in Town Meeting proceeded to choose and appoint the Committees as Directed by said Act and Elected and appointed as follows viz

Messrs Sanders Pitman Archibald Stewart and Asa Franklin a Committee to ascertain and establish the Prices of Spinning, Weaving, &c as by said Act is Directed —

Edward Thurber Esqr Mr James Arnold and Mr Joseph Lawrence a Committee to determin on Application what is the Reasonable Cost of particular Goods as by said Act is Directed —

Capt John Updike James Black Esqr Mr Samuel Thurber Col Zephaniah Andrews William Wheaton Esqr Samuel Butler Esqr and Capt Samuel Warner a Committee to be under Oath to prosecute all Breaches of said Act which shall come to their Knowledge or of which they shall Receive Information —

Resolved That Mr John Smith be and he hereby is Requested to assist Capt William Rhodes in Procuring this Town's Proportion of the Blankets as ordered by the General Assembly at their Last Sessions —

Resolved That Capt. Benjamin Hoppen be and he hereby is appointed to enlist this Town's Proportion of the 15 Months Ballalions raised by this State —

Resolved That Capt William Rhodes be and he hereby is appointed to [illegible]

the Generale Treasury the Money allowed by the Generale Assembly for Enlisting This Towns Proportion of the 15 Months Battations: That he pay the same into the Town Treasury and That the Town Treasurer pay the same to Capt. Benjamin Hoppen as fast as he Enlists the Men ——————

Whereas Major Simeon Thayer of this Town hath exerted himself in a Most exemplary Manner in the Enlistment of Soldiers for the Continental Service in generale and to the Advantage of this Town as a grateful Testimony thereof and for defraying his Extraordinary Expences —

Resolved That Thirty Pounds Lawful Money be granted and paid to him out of the Town Treasury — Order granted —

Resolved That Messrs. David Howell Welcome Arnold and Theodore Foster be and they hereby are appointed a Committee in Behalf of the Town to draught Instructions to the Representatives of this Town to use their best Endeavours that the General Assembly adopt some certain and Equitable Mode for supplying the Soldiery of this State agreable to the Encouragement given to them by the Publick Acts of Government: — That when this is done they Use their Endeavours to procure a Repeal of the Acts Stating the Prices of Goods and also that the General Assembly of this State write to the other Assemblies of the States of New England respecting the Embargoes in the Seffferent States and that the same may be repealed in all the States as soon as may be: That said Committee lay said Draught of Instructions before the Town on Monday Next at 3 o Clock in the Afternoon at the State House to which Time and Place this Meeting is adjourned — Notice of this Adjournment and the Business to be Transacted to be given on Monday in the Forenoon to all the Freemen by the Town Sergeant by Beat of Drum in the Usual Manner —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment and also Notified by Warrant on Monday June 16th 1777 —

Mr John Jenckes Moderator

The following Instructions to the Representatives of the Town of Providence are Reported by Messrs. David Howell Welcome Arnold and Theodore Foster a Committee appointed for this purpose on Saturday last, Viz

To Messrs. Jonathan Arnold John Brown, ~~John Brown~~ John Smith and William Rhodes Representatives for the Town of Providence

Gentlemen/

Having chosen you our Representatives in the General Assembly of this State and not doubting but it must be agreeable to you, especially at this Critical Time, to be acquainted with the Sentiments of your Constituents, respecting Sundry Matters of Weighty Concernment to this and the neighbouring States; We have thought fit to give you the following Instructions —

You are directed to move for and exert your Influence in the General Assembly an Act for the more effectual and certain Supply of the Troops raised by this State and their Families Articles of Life as they may want at such Rates as may comport with the Wages and

Goverment. Because

By the late Act of this State Regulating Prices such Articles are generally set Higher than they were at the Time of their Inlistment, by which means if said Act should be carried into Execution and no other Provision made in their Behalf, they would be deprived of Part of their Dues, and if not executed most probably of a much greater Part — And

Because under the present Embarrassments of Trade it is extremely difficult for them to procure some Articles with their Money at any Rate: — The following may be the Outlines of the Bill Proposed: a Sufficient number of Commissaries or Committees may be appointed in the most convenient Towns in this State who may buy up or import such needful Articles on the best Terms they can for the Use and on Account of the State: Let these Commissaries deal out as directed and at such Prices as may be affixed by the Assembly, and keeping fair Accounts of all their Proceedings exhibit them when required, and be paid for their Trouble; and let the State sink all the Expences and Loss upon the Sale of such Articles by a general Tax upon the Inhabitants. ——————

By these means the Burthen which now falls heavily on some Individuals by whose industry and Zeal in the Common Cause the publick are supplied with Articles much wanted will fall equally upon all the Interest in the State —— A plan some what similar to this was adopted last War ——

As soon as adequate Provision shall be made for supplying our Troops in the above said or any other Equitable mode, You are Instructed and Directed to move for and exert your best Endeavours to obtain an immediate and Total Repeal of the Late Act of this State regulating Prices &c ——

Because

The great End of that Law will then be answered and the only plausible Reason of it Removed ——

And Because We find by Experience that the Subject of said Act is so intricate variable and complicated, that it cannot be and remain any Term of Time equitable, and hath a Tendency to frustrate and defeat its own purposes ..... It was made to cheapen the Articles of Life; but it has in fact raised their Prices by producing an artificial and in some Articles a Real Scarcity: —— It was made to unite us in good Agreement respecting Prices; but hath produced Animosity and ill will between Town and Country and between Buyers and Sellers in Generale: —— It was made to bring us up to some equitable Standard of honesty and make fair Dealers but hath produced a Sharping Set of Mushroom Peddlers, who adulterate their Commodities, and take every Advantage to evade the Force of the Act by the most pitiful Evasions Quibles and Lies —— It was made to give credit to our Currency; but hath done it much Injury; it tends to introduce Barterring and make a Currency of almost every Thing but Money —

And Because We, by Experience, as well as the Inhabitants of the other States find it almost impossible to execute Such Acts at least without a Degree of Rigour and Severity hereto fore unknown in these free States and while it remains in its present Situation, it tends only to weaken Government and bring all Laws into Contempt: and even if it could be executed it would operate as a very heavy and unreasonable Tax upon the Sellers, who are generally the enterprizing and industrious: —— It would prevent Foreigners from Shipping Goods to our Coasts and cause our own Merchants to order them to the Southern States; and in generale Discourage foreign Trade, in carrying on which the Risque is great and very uncertain and varyable according to Circumstances from time to time and therefore not accurately computable Three Years before hand: — It would also tend to discourage Agriculture and Manufactures among ourselves, as the Prospect of some extraordinary Gain generally excites Men to extraordinary Exertions in all the different Branches of Business: — It hath a Tendency to exclude from our Markets every thing extraordinary in its kind and of Course to prevent all Improvements: — to Discourage industrious Labourers by allowing the indolent the same Wages; for the Scarcity of Labourers will find Employment for all as the Scarcity of Goods will bring nearly all Qualities up to the Prices of the First Rate, by which Means Articles of an Inferior Quality will be sold Dearer to the Poor than what they would be afforded at if those of the first Quality should be sold higher — It would multiply Oaths and Law Suits Marriage needless and

Prove a Strong Temptation to Perjury and Knavery of every Kind and in some Cases put a Man at needless Expence in the Disposal of his own Property; It would render a Man's House and Store liable to be opened and Searched in a Manner most ignominious and unworthy of a Freeman, and deprive him of the Privilige of complaining of it under the Penalty of Ten Pounds — It would promote Suspicions and Jealousies in Neighbourhoods, and a Medling with other Folks goods and Business, ruinous to the Peace and good Order of Society —

If regulating Acts should Succeed one another in Time as the Last has the first in this State and some Articles be raised accordingly in Each Succeeding Act, they would rise faster than they did before any Such Acts were made and at the end of three Years be higher than it is probable they would were no Such Acts in Being —

The Fact above referred to may convince all that the Rise of Prices in general is not so much owing to a Spirit of Monopoly and Oppression as to the Scarcity of Goods and Plenty of Money as our Harbour has been blocked up and the Goods formerly in Exchange turned into Money

The Act Stipulating Prices &c is an Attempt to make an Article (viz) Money worth as much when plenty as when it was more Scarce; and to continue it of a uniform Value for a Term of Time notwithstanding the entire Uncertainty of the Quantity that may be thrown into Circulation by future Emissions or Gathered in by Taxation or otherwise: and therefore cannot without Injustice take Place

Time was when a pair of Shoes in England was commonly sold for Four pence and an Ox for Fourteen Shillings; but the Price of those Articles there has since been greatly enhanced owing to the great Plenty of Gold and Silver Since introduced which has depreciated the Value of the Coin: It is not therefore Strange that a Similar Event should take Place with Respect to a Paper Currency and that no Law should be able to prevent it —

The Money in a Country is only the Measure of the Value of its transferrable Property — The Decrease of Property or Increase of Money, will raise the Price of Commodities and both Operating at once will produce a more Sudden and Sensible Effect — This has been our Case — and if the whole Money only measures the whole Property, a Proportionable Part of the Money ought to measure a proportionable Part of the Property and neither more nor less for either would be Injustice: Therefore Stipulating Prices below this Proportion is as Real Injustice as raising them above it; and this Proportion is so nice a Point that Nothing but the Wants of Mankind can accurately hit upon it — Trade, when left free from Fetters and Embarrasments will of itself Settle down Nicely to this Proportion and keep to it Closer than any Force whatever can bring it — If the Prices of Commodities are arbitrarily fixed below this Proportion the Redundency of money will fix itself upon Such Articles as are not limited and raise them as much above it as the others are below it for the Money will not satisfy unless it circulates, the whole of it, till thrown into Some Form of Drawing Interest — — — —

You are also directed to move that immediate application be made to Congress that all the States Money might be redeemed with Continental Currency and each State charged by the Continent for what they Receive; should this be accomplished and the Money redeemed by Loan Office Certificates, it would take large Sums out of Circulation and so raise the Value of the Remainder, Some Such Modes together with heavy Taxes a Free Trade and Domestick Industry would bid much fairer for Lowering the Articles of Life than any Regulating Acts that can be adopted

You are likewise Directed to move in the General Assembly that the other New England States be addressed upon the Subject of their Late Embargoes and endeavour to obtain a general Repeal of all their Land Embargoes as Soon as may be and that ours be repealed immediately

Because all embargoes in Measure produce the same bad Effects and ought never to be adopted except in Cases of the greatest Necessity; and because no Such Necessity will remain after the Acts regulating Prices are repealed ——

And the Foregoing Instructions having been Thrice distinctly Read are accepted and ordered to be Published in the next Providence Gazette and the Clerk is ordered to make over and Deliver a Copy thereof to the said Representatives for their Use and Direction ——

Resolved That Welcome Arnold Esq. be and he hereby is Chosen and Elected one of the Town Audit in the Room of Samuel Butler Esq. who refuses to Serve ——

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of Town of Providence on the 8th Day of July 1777 ——

Benjamin Cushing Esq. Moderator ——

The following Persons are drafted from the Jury Box to Serve at the Hon.ble the Superior Court of Judicature to be Especially holden in this Town on Monday next pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly passed at their Last Sessions viz

Nehemiah Sweet Grand Juror
Allen Peck ... Petit-Juror —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled according to Law on Tuesday the 26th Day of August Anno Domini 1777 — at the State House ——

Col.o Jabez Bowen Moderator ——

The following Gentlemen are chosen Deputies to Represent said Town in the General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden according to Law in October next and in all Sessions of the Assembly after October untill the General Election in May next (viz)

The Hon.ble Stephen Hopkins Esq.r 1.st Deputy
Capt. John Updike 2.d D.o
Col.o Jabez Bowen 3.d D.o
Theodore Foster Esq.r 4.th D.o —

Resolved That Capt. Elijah Bacon be and he hereby is appointed to make a proper Apartment in the Market House for the Security of the Fire Engine N.o 1 as soon as may be and that he also make such Repairs as he shall judge Necessary for the Engine House at the North

Whereas the following Petition is presented to this Meeting (viz)

To the Moderator and Freemen of the Town and Corporation of Providence in Meeting assembled on the 26th Day of August A. D. 1777–

John Fitton and Terence Reily Freemen of said Providence as well in Behalf of others as themselves Shew

That the Town's Land neat Weybosset Bridge and on the South Side of Market Street lieth in such Shape that by the Junction of the South Line of said Street with the Westerly End of the North Line of a Gang way which said Reily was lately permitted to fill for the Use of the Town, an Acute Angle is formed ——— That the Street at that most important pass is so much crowded and Straitened for room that many Times people as they passed, have been put into eminent Danger of their Lives ——— That they have had the Opinion of divers judicious Men of the Town that the Continuance of that Sharpe Gore or Point in its present State cannot be attended with any Utility to the Town but on the Contrary with many Inconveniences ——— They cannot entertain a Doubt but the Town before this Time would have caused the same to be filled, had it not been for the Troubles Confusions and Expences which they have experienced of Late Years. and the Necessity they were under to give Attention to other Objects ..... Wherefore they Request that they may be permitted under the Inspection of a Committee to be purposely appointed, at their own Cost, but for the use of the Town in the same Manner as if they had done it themselves. to fill up said Peak from a Point on the southerly side of Market Street — Ten Feet Distant from the South East Corner of the Butment of the Bridge over to a Point in the North side of said Gangway Seventy Feet from the aforesaid acute angular Point at the Street and Fifty Six Feet from the Easterly End of the filled Gangway and to make in the Cross wall good and convenient Stairs Or to run the Cross-Wall from the very Corner of said Butment to the Place aforesaid ———

They further Represent that by the Effecting this Work a little commodious Basson or Harbour will be formed for small Vessels and Craft as still as a Pond for by the particular Direction and Range of Mr Fitton's Wharff Wall on the North Side of the Street by the Bridge the Stream or Current from the Cove, by Running against it is diverted and Sent so much to the Eastward that there is little or no current near said Butment ———

Notwithstanding the foregoing Representation and Request they expressly pray that Provision may be made against the Commission of Nusances on the Spot; and that upon a Grant of Permission to them to fill up the Same for the Towns Use, as a Condition of their doing the same a Vote excompanying such Grant of of Leave may be passed prohibiting all Persons themselves as well as others from continuing on that Place anything whatsoever more than Twenty Four Hours under Liability of having the Same removed by any Scavenger on complaint made and at the Owners Cost being answerable at Law for the Nusance ———

And the said Petition having been Twice Read and duly considered it is thereupon Resolved That the Prayer thereof be granted and That the Petitioners have Liberty to fill up said Land from the Corner of the Abutment of the Bridge to the Point mentioned in Mr Reily's Wharff: Provided that they do no Damage to the Conduit or Pipe belonging to Fields Fountain Society and that they continue the said Pipe through the Walls they shall Erect — That Messrs John Jenckes Jonas Arnold and Zephaniah Andrews be a Committee for the Purposes mentioned in said Petition That said Committee See that a good and Sufficient Wall with a good Cap Log and Dog

and that proper and convenient Stairs be made as mentioned in said Petition ———

And it is also Resolved that all Persons be and they hereby are prohibited from continuing on the Place to be filled up any thing whatsoever more than Twenty Four Hours under the Penalty of having the same Removed by any Scavenger on Complaint made at the Owner's Cost and being Prosecuted for a Nusance according to Law ———

Mr Coomer Hale is chosen and elected Overseer of the Two Bridges called Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge in the Room of John Smith who was chosen the 2d Day of June Last and Refuses to Serve ———

Mr James Arnold is chosen and appointed to Receive 34 Barrels of Flour and Ten Hundred and Three Quarters and Five Pounds Weight of Iron being the Proportion ordered to this Town by the General Assembly in May Last and Sell the Same to the best Advantage and put the Money arising from the Sale thereof into the Town Treasury and that he be allowed what shall be Reasonable for his Services herein ———

Resolved That Messrs John Brown, David Howell Jonathan Arnold. Capt John Updike and Martin Seamans with the Present Assessors for the Town be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to draught a Petition and Remonstrance to the General Assembly respecting the heavy and unequal Assessment of the State Tax as assessed upon this Town by the General Assembly — To examin, and make proper Lists of all Persons who have removed from this Town with their Personal Estate so that it cannot be assessed by this Town and that they make Report on Saturday the 6th Day of September next at the State House at 3 o'Clock PM— to which Time and Place this Meting is adjourned it being ordered That the Town Sergeant give Notice of the Adjournment and Business in the Usual Manner by Beat of Drum in the Forenoon of that Day

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment and legally assembled on Saturday the 6th Day of September Anno Domini 1777 ———

Col. Jabez Bowen Moderator

The Committee appointed at the Last Meeting now made Report as Follows (viz) ———

Report of a Committee appointed to examin into the Property Removed from this Town the Depreciation of Property in the Town &c &c since the Tax of last February was assessed upon the Town ———

We compute that 130 Poles have removed out of this Town: the Real Estates in Town have Sunk 25 pr Cent and that it has cost the Inhabitants upon an Average 25 pr Ct more than their Earnings since the Blockade, all which being added to the Personal Property removed out of the Town, and which by Law is not liable to Taxation here, stands in Proportion to the Value of the Town at the Time of proportioning the said £16.000 Tax as the Numbers 83.278 to 225.000 and Consequently the Proportion of the present 32.000 Pounds Tax upon this Town instead of £3. 418. 4. 0 ought to be only £2. 113. 8. 0 = By which it appears that this Town is assessed more than one Third —

Providence Sept. 5th 1777 –

John Updike
John Brown
William Wheaton
Lewis Peck
David Howell

The said Committee also made Report of the following Draught of a Petition to the General Assembly Viz

To the Honble General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island &c to be holden at South Kingstown on the 1st Monday of September 1777

The Remonstrance and Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Providence in Town Meeting assembled Sheweth

That in the Last General Estimate this Town stood valued at £125,000 that from a Partial Estimation made by a Committee in February last; the Sum of £100,000 was added to said Valuation and a State Tax of £16,000 apportioned upon said Town accordingly — The Inhabitants in general felt themselves aggrieved by so great an Addition, Nevertheless convinced of the Necessity of Taxation and confiding (perhaps too much) in the Faith & Honour of the General Assembly expressed in a Resolve passed at their Sessions in Last importing that the Manner of apportioning said Tax should not be considered as a Rule or drawn into Precedent for proportionng any future Tax but the same should be reconsidered and upon a General Estimate being taken if it should appear that any Town had been over-rated Such Town should be entituled to draw the Monies by them paid over their Just Proportion out of the General Treasury they proceeded to Levy collect and pay in said Tax with chearfulness — But they cannot sufficiently express the Surprise and Uneasiness they Suffered when they were informed by their Representatives that the General Assembly in direct Violation of their Resolution above referred to, and as they conceive contrary to every Dictate of Humanity and Common Equity at their Last Session Voted a Tax of £32,000 to be assessed and Levied upon the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this State and made the Conjectural Estimate aforesaid the Rule and Precedent for apportioning the Same to the Several Towns Suffering as We were under the Calamities of War common to Seaport Towns from a Relentless Enemy We had a Right to expect, that our very Different Circumstances Since the former Tax (had not the Faith and Honour of the General Assembly been pledged for that purpose) might have merited at Least a Candid Consideration: But instead thereof We have the additional unhappiness to feel ourselves equally oppressed from those whom we wished to Esteem and hoped to find the Common Father and Protector of the State —

Although We think ourselves equally bound to Resist every Act of Violence and Injustice by whomsoever offered or done to our Persons or Properties; We equally detest and it is far from our Wish to oppose the Legal Authority of the State, more especially at this Time in a Manner that might throw the least Embarrassment upon a Just and equitable Taxation — for we consider it under God as the greatest Means to save from irretrievable Ruin our bleeding Distressed and Sinking Country being the only remaining Support to our publick Credit ... as friends therefore to our Liberties and the glorious Cause we Defend we most heartily pray for equitable Taxation.

In Order to determin whether our Complaints were well founded We appointed a Committee to enquire into and Report the different Circumstances of the Town from what it was when the Conjectural Estimate aforesaid was made ..... They Report the Town has since that Time suffered a Diminution of at least £83,277 in Raleable Property & Polls which is more than one Third it was estimated at in the former Tax and ought to have been deducted before apportioning the Present —

This Difference will not appear exaggerated when it is considered that comparitively but very few of the Inhabitants of the Town were really benefitted by the Advantages arising from Privateering the Sum and Sallies

the Year 1776 — That many of those Few have Since emigrated and carryd away their Hasty made Fortunes leaving the present Inhabitants a Frontier to protect them — That others have laid out large Sums of Money in Real Property in other Towns and States and which can be raised only where it lies — Others part through Fear of the Ravages of the Enemy, and part through absolute Necessity, from the Want of Employ, and the Scarcity and most exorbitant Prices of the Necessary Articles of Life, are driven to seek Asylums and the Means of Support elsewhere = and if the Blockade of the Port should continue many more of the Latter must soon follow them, Business of every Kind being nearly at an End — These are Facts — and this the present unhappy Situation of the Late Flourishing Town of Providence

Tis painful to reflect that the Hill of flourishing adjacent Country which heretofore with us Received it's encreasing Vigour by a Friendly and mutual Intercourse and Exchange of Benefits & Advantages and which from its present more happy Situation now enjoys all its Advantages, should in the Hour of Difficulty not only withdraw its friendly Deposition without Cause to the Distress of Thousands against whom they cannot justly impute the Shadow of a Crime under Pretence of punishing a few who they suppose guilty of Misconduct towards them, but wish to add as a weight to all their other Misfortunes an almost Double Proportion of Publick Taxes; however unaccountable however irreconcilable to Humanity Reason or Justice such conduct may appear it is a Melancholy Truth that we most feelingly experience it .... But although it is in the Nature of Man in general to err, that biassed by Passion they too often Judge without Enquiry and condemn without Evidence — We have however a just right to expect a Different Conduct from those who by the Publick Voice are singled out & empowered to restrain the Passions under the Bonds of Reason to illustrate by their publick Acts the Attributes of good and wise Government and who to this End are solemnly sworn to do equal Justice to all Men —

To your Wisdom therefore we now make our Appeal and from your Honours we Demand that equal Justice which by your Oaths you are bound to administer — Our Request is Reasonable — Tis Just —

That your Honors should take the Premises into Consideration and take off Such Part of the Tax last apportioned upon the Town of Providence, and such Part only as under our Present Circumstances is strictly Just and equitable — for which in Duty bound will ever pray &c

And the said Petition having been several Times read It is Voted and Resolved that the Same be copied and Signed by the Town Clerk and delivered to the Representatives of this Town by them to be laid before the Honble the General Assembly at their next Sessions —

Whereas a Number of Men are yet wanting to make up this Town's Proportion of the Men for filling the 15 Months Battalions which renders the Inhabitants liable to be draughted to do Military Duty for 15 Days pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly: It is therefore Resolved That Twelve Pounds Lawful Money including the Bounty allowed by the State be paid as a Bounty to each Person who shall inlist into the said Battalions towards making up said Proportion — That Col. Barzillai Richmond, Capt. James Snow Capt. Elijah Bacon, Capt Asa Franklin Mr Joseph Hoyle Mr Chace Herrington Capt James Burrell and Mr Samuel Black be and they hereby are appointed a Committee with the Officers of said Battalions to inlist said Men — That they be allowed Six Shillings for each person they shall inlist in addition to what is allowed by the State — That Mr Chace Herrington be requested to beat up through the Town for Volunteers —

Voted that the Assessors of Rates for this Town be and they hereby are directed not to assess the Tax upon this Town ordered by the General Assembly at their Last Sessions until the Town shall have been heard upon their Petition respecting the Same —

The following Petition was laid before this Meeting (Viz)

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Providence qualified to Vote in Town Meeting to meet by adjournment at the Court House in said Town on Saturday September 6th 1777 —

A Petition of a Number of said Inhabitants —

17

Gentlemen/ Your Petitioners beg Leave to present to you, that the Exorbitant Prices of many of the Necessary Articles of Life, the Produce of this and the neighbouring States is in a great Measure occasioned by the Injurious tho perhaps not Designing Conduct of a Number of Persons in this Town — These persons by giving greater Prices than the Inhabitants in General will submit to engross the greatest part of the Cloths, Butter Cheese Cyder Fruit &c brought to this Market — This Causing in some Sense an Artificial Scarcity many of the Good People of this Town, especially the Poor are obliged to draw out at those Places those Articles at an unreasonable Advance the Price of which before was intolerable —

Your Petitioners would further Observe that there has not nor probably will the Present Season come to this Market, greater Quantities of any of those Articles than will be wanted for the Use of the Inhabitants Therefore Retailers of them are by no means necessary but greatly Disserve the Town and injure the Public by establishing the Price of such Articles in the other Towns in this State and the other States —

Your Petitioners do not doubt but this Meeting after considering the Reasons which have been suggested and others perhaps more weighty which may occur will adopt some mode of Proceeding Speedily to Remedy this growing Evil — And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

Providence September 5th 1777 —

A. Fenner Jun^{r}	Joseph Cooke	Walker Harding	Henry Bacon
	Samuel b Hamlin	Gideon Young	Elijah Bacon
	Tho^{s} Bennet	Samuel b Thale Jr	Jon^{a} Hammon
	John Davis	Abiel Smith	Asa Franklin
	Timothy Sabin	Zephaniah Brown	Daniel b Branch
	Martin Seamans	Elijah Sheppardson	Grindall Rawson
	John Updike	Nath^{l} Clarke	William Hoyle
	Zach^{a} Allen	Benoni Pearce	Joseph Martin
	James Hill	John Atwood	Joseph Potter Jun^{r}
	Joseph Burrell	James Snow	Benjamin Hoppin
	Nath^{l} Greene	Barzillai Richmond	William Tyler
	Edward Spaulding	John Carpenter	David Martin —
	Levi Hall	Lewis Bosworth	James Burrill
	John Foster	John White	Jos Danforth —

And the aforesaid Petition having been Read and Duly considered It is thereupon Resolved That Judge Foster Mr David Howell Theodore Foster Esq Arthur Fenner Jun^{r} Esq Benoni Pearce Esq and Col Jonathan Arnold be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to take the said Petition into consideration and to draught such Regulations respecting the Matters set forth in said Petition as they may think best — And to make Report to the Town on Saturday next the 13th Day of the Month at 3 o Clock in the Afternoon at the State House to which Time and Place this Meeting is adjourned, it being ordered that the Town Serjeant give Notice of this Adjournment and Business in the Usual Manner by beat of Drum

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden at the State House pursuant to Adjournment on Saturday the 13th Day of September Anno Domini 1777

Col. Jonathan Arnold Moderator —

The Committee appointed at the Last Meeting made Report as follows viz,

We the Subscribers who were appointed a Committee to take the Petition of a Number of the Freemen of the Town into Consideration have met upon the Business and Draughted sundry Orders and Regulations which are herewith presented for the Consideration of the Town —

John Foster —
A. Fenner Jun^{r}
David Howell —
Theodore Foster

Acts and Orders of the Town of Providence for Preventing Ingrossing Forestalling and Regrating the Market &c.

Whereas the Town of Providence for a long Time has been and Still is blockaded by cruel and unnatural Enemies who prevent the Usual Supplies comming to it by Water: and Whereas Some persons in said Town moved by unbounded Avarice and Thirst for wicked Gain, taking the Advantage of the Wants and Necessities of their Neighbours have Ingrossed Forestalled and Regrated and continue by every Method and Means in their Power to Ingross Forestall and Regrate many of the Necessaries of Life; and by wicked Artifices and False Pretences of Scarcity of such Necessaries have raised and are still raising the Prices of the same to an intollerable Height; By Reason whereof the Inhabitants of said Town in general are greatly injured & Defrauded and most of the poorer sort are cruelly oppressed and as most Evils are rapidly increasing —

Therefore to prevent the same: by Virtue of the full Power and Authority given and granted to said Town by an Act of the General Assembly of this State "to make such Acts and Orders as they shall think meet and convenient for the Well Management Rule and ordering all their predential Affairs within the Bounds and Limits thereof —

It is Voted and Ordered That from and after the 25th Day of September A.D. 1777 - whenever any Linnen or woolen Cloths of American Manufacture any Flax, Corn, Rye Wheat Butter Cheese Eggs Cyder Apples or other Fruits; any Beef, Pork, Mutton Veal Lamb Poultrie or other Dead Victuals or any kind of Vegetables shall be brought into this Town for Sale thereon, the Sale of said Articles shall be made by the person or Persons who bring the same either in some publick Street open House Shop Store or in the Market House and not elsewhere within the Bounds and Limits thereof; and that No Person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town without Licence from the Town Council of said Town shall purchase within the same a greater Quantity of any of the aforesaid Articles than the Overseers of the Poor of said Town if Requested shall judge necessary for the Use and Consumption of the particular Family or Families of the Purchaser or Purchasers considering the Plenty or Real Scarcity of said Articles sold as aforesaid; and that if any Person or Persons shall purchase a greater Quantity of any of said Articles without such Licence than is above Limited within said Town or shall purchase them on any other Place than those abovementioned within said Town, he she or they so offending shall forfeit the Articles so purchased to be destributed and given to the Poor of said Town by the said Overseers as they shall think fit: and also shall forfeit and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds for every Offence One half for the Use of said Poor, and the other Half for the Use of any Person or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be Recovered by Bill Plaint or Information before any Two or more Justices of the Peace within said Town and That if any Agent Factor Child within Age or Servant shall offend therein the Person or Persons for or under whom they Acted shall be personally liable to be prosecuted as aforesaid —

It is further Voted and Ordered That No Person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town without Licence from said Town Council and during the Continuance of such Licence shall be permitted to sell any of the aforesaid Articles by Retail in any Place whatsoever within the Bounds of said Town; and That if any such person or Persons without such Licence shall upon any Pretence whatsoever sell or Expose to Sale by Retail in any House Shop Store Market House or in any other Place within the Bounds of said Town

aforementioned Articles the Person or Persons so offending shall forfeit every Article so Sold or exposed to Sale for the
Use of said Poor and shall also Forfeit and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds One Half thereof for the Use of said Poor
and the other Half for the Use of any Person or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be Recovered in the
same Manner as aforesaid—

It is further Voted and Ordered That if any person belonging to
or Residing in said Town shall directly or indirectly by any ways or Means whatsoever Ingross or Forestall or
procure to be Ingrossed or Forestalled for him her or them any of the aforementioned Articles such Person or Persons
upon Conviction thereof shall forfeit every Article so Ingrossed and Forestalled and the same shall be distributed and
given to the said Poor as the said Overseers shall think fit and the Person or Persons so offending shall also Forfeit
and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds the One Half thereof for the Use of the said Poor and the other half to any Person
or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be recovered in the same Manner as aforesaid—

And It is further Voted and Ordered That if any Person or Persons
shall know or have probable Cause to suspect that any of the aforementioned Articles have been Ingrossed Monopolized
or Forestalled by any person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town, and that the said Article or Articles
are Stored or Secreted in any Building or Place within said Town, and that the person or persons who ingrossed
them, have sold the same at an advanced Price the person or Persons knowing or suspecting as aforesaid may
make Information and Complaint thereof to the said Justices, and if they shall think the said Information
Sufficient they shall immediately issue their Warrant to the said Overseers, to take Sufficient Aid if they shall
think Aid to be Necessary and immediately to go to the Owner or Owners of the Building or Place where the
said Article or Articles are said or Suspected to be Stored or Secreted and to Request the Owner or Owners
or the Keeper of such Building or Place, to open and permit the same to be Searched, and if Refused
to enter the same by Force and Search for said Article or Articles and if found upon such Search to take
such Article or Articles into their Possession and give Information thereof to the said Justices who shall
thereupon proceed to Trial of the Offender or Offenders and if upon Trial he or they shall be convicted
the whole of said Article or Articles shall be declared Forfeited and shall be given and Distributed to
the Poor as aforesaid and the Offender or Offenders shall also Forfeit and Pay a Fine of Ten Pounds
the One Half thereof for the Use of said Poor and the other Half to the said Person who informed as aforesaid

Provided always that the aforesaid Votes and Orders or any Part thereof shall
not extend or be construed to extend to prevent any Butcher belonging to or Residing in said Town from Buying
Live Meat killing and Selling the same by Retail within said Town; nor to prevent any person authorized
or empowered by the Continental Congress or by this State from purchasing any of the aforementioned
Articles for the Use of the Army and Navy

Provided also that if any person or Persons who shall be convicted of any offence
mentioned in the aforesaid Orders shall be Dissatisfied with the Judgement or Sentence of said Justices
he or they shall have the Benefit of Appealing therefrom to the Next Court of General Sessions
of the Peace to be held within the County of Providence which Appeal shall be allowed and
Prosecuted in the Same Manner as Appeals are allowed and Prosecuted from Justices Courts in other criminal
Cases—

And the aforesaid Report having ben Several Times Read It is Voted and Resolved that
That the same be accepted and the Votes and Orders therein contained be Established and that the same be copied
and Delivered to the Town Sergeant by him to be published by Beat of Drum and reading the same through
the Town on Monday or Tuesday next in the Same Manner as Town Meetings are usually warned—

Whereas Dr. Jonathan Arnold hath represented to this Meeting that he is about to erect
Works for making Salt upon a Construction New and which if it succeeds will prove greatly advantageous
to the Publick in promoting a Larger Supply of that Necessary Article and that he is nearly ready to make the
Necessary Trials and Prays the Town to grant him Liberty to set his Works for the Purpose aforesaid upon the Town's
Land at Great-Point and the Premises being Considered It is Voted and Resolved That the Town
Treasurer be and he hereby is authorized and Directed to Lease out to the said Jonathan Arnold his Heirs and Assigns
all the Towns Land at Great Point for the Purpose aforesaid for so long a Time as he or they shall carry on the
said Business at that Place not exceeding Ten Years and that he or they shall have Liberty when they think fit or at
the Expiration of said Term of Ten Years to remove all such Buildings and other Works as they may or shall Erect thereon
he or they paying as an Acknowledgment to the Town for the Use of said Land so long as he or they may improve the
same yearly and every year the Sum of Six Pounds and Reserving in the said Lease the Privilige of taking
away Earth or Clay from the remaining Earth there for the Use of the Inhabitants in Manner as heretofore by the
Way of the West Side thereof at the Place now used for that purpose so as not to injure or incommode the said Works

Whereas Doct. Thomas Truman hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Medicens and Attendance
upon Sarah Olney from Sept. 8th to Dec. 6th A.D. 1776 and for Visiting the Widow Thurber taken with the Small
Pox at Widow Randalls House and the said Account being duly considered: It is Voted and Resolved That Three Pounds
Eleven Shillings and Six Pence being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Thomas Truman and that
he have an Order for the same upon the Town Treasurer—

Whereas Doct. Thomas Truman exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Money
advanced in Making up the Towns Stock of Powder and Lead into Cartridges in May 1775— and the said Account being
duly considered It is Voted & Resolved That Two Pounds Eleven Shillings and Three Pence being the Amount
thereof be paid to the said Thomas Truman out of the Town Treasury and That the Town Clerk give him
an Order accordingly—

Whereas Capt Benjamin Hopkins hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Expences in Collecting
this Town's Proportion of the Men for filling the 15 Months Battalions and the said Account being duly considered It is Voted
and Resolved That Five Pounds and Eight Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Benjamin Hopkins
out of the Town Treasury and that the Town Clerk give him an Order accordingly

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence especially called and Legally Assembled on the
29th Day of September Anno Domini 1777—

Col. John Mathewson Moderator—

Whereas the General Assembly at their Last Session passed an Act Requiring one Half of all Able bodied Male Persons
in this State to be draughted to do Military Duty for one Month, from the Third Day of October Next—
and Directed that if any persons so draughted should Refuse to Serve himself or hire a person to serve in his Room
That the Town Council of the Towns to which such persons belong should at their Expence hire persons to serve
in the Room of such Delinquents: and as a Number of Persons in this Town are Returned Delinquent and
cannot be so readily hired without the Ready Money It is Therefore Voted and Resolved
The Town Council draws upon the Town Treasurer for Sufficient Sums of Money to pay the Men hired to
Supply the Place of those Delinquents and if the Treasurer hath not enough on hand he is hereby Ordered to
a Sufficient Sum for a short Time until it can be obtained of such Delinquent persons according to Law—

Theodore Foster Town

NUMBERING ERROR

17

Gentlemen/

Your Petitioners beg Leave to present to you, that the Exorbitant Prices of many of the Necessary Articles of Life, the Produce of this and the neighbouring States is in a great Measure occasioned by the Injurious tho perhaps not Designing Conduct of a Number of Persons in this Town — These persons by giving greater Prices than the Inhabitants in General will submit to engross the greatest part of the Cloths, Butter Cheese Cider Fruit &c brought to this Market — This Causing in some Sense an Artificial Scarcity many of the Good People of this Town, especially the Poor are obliged to draw out at those Places those Articles at an unreasonable Advance the Price of which before was intolerable —

Your Petitioners would further Observe that there has not nor probably will the Present Season come to this Market, greater Quantities of any of those Articles than will be wanted for the Use of the Inhabitants Therefore Retailers of them are by no means necessary but greatly Disserve the Town and injure the Public by establishing the Price of such Articles in the other Towns in this State and the other States —

Your Petitioners do not doubt but this Meeting after considering the Reasons which have been suggested and others perhaps more weighty which may occur will adopt some mode of Proceeding Speedily to Remedy this growing Evil — And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

Providence September 5th 1777 —

A. Fenner Jun^{d}	Joseph Cooke	Walker Harding	Henry Bacon
	Samuel Hamlin	Gideon Young	Elijah Bacon
	Tho^{s} Bennet	Samuel Chace Jr^{s}	Jon^{a} Hammon
	John Davis	Abiel Smith	Asa Franklin
	Timothy Sabin	Zephaniah Brown	Daniel Branch
	Martin Seamans	Elijah Sheppardson	Grindall Rawson
	John Updike	Ruth^{d} Clarke	William Hoyle
	Zach^{h} Allen	Benoni Pearce	Joseph Martin
	James Hill	John Atwood	Joseph Potter Jun^{r}
	Joseph Burrell	James Snow	Benjamin Hopper
	Nath^{l} Greene	Barzillai Richmond	William Tyler
	Edward Spaulding	John Carpenter	David Martin
	Levi Hall	Lewis Bosworth	James Burrill
	John Foster	John White	Job Danforth

And the aforesaid Petition having been Read and Duly considered It is thereupon Resolved That Judge Foster Mr David Howell Theodore Foster Esq^{r} Arthur Fenner Jun^{r} Esq^{r} Benoni Pearce Esq^{r} and Col Jonathan Arnold be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to take the said Petition into consideration and to draught such Regulations respecting the Matters set forth in said Petition as they may think best — And to make Report to the Town on Saturday next the 13th Day of the Month at 3 o Clock in the Afternoon at the State House to which time and Place this Meeting is adjourned it being ordered that the Town Sergeant give Notice of this Adjournment and Business in the Usual Manner by beat of Drum

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden at the State House pursuant to Adjournment on Saturday the 13th Day of September Anno Domini 1777

Col. Jonathan Arnold Moderator —

The Committee appointed at the Last Meeting made Report as follows viz,

We the Subscribers who were appointed a Committee to take the Petition of a Number of the Freemen of the Town into Consideration have met upon the Business and Draughted sundry Orders and Regulations which are herewith presented for the Consideration of the Town —

John Foster
A. Fenner Jun^{r}
David Howell
Theodore Foster

Acts and Orders of the Town of Providence for Preventing Ingrossing Forestalling and Regrating the Market &c.

Whereas the Town of Providence for a long Time has been and still is blockaded by cruel and unnatural Enemies who prevent the Usual Supplies comming to it by Water; and Whereas some persons in said Town moved by unbounded Avarice and Thirst for wicked Gain, taking the Advantage of the Wants and Necessities of their Neighbours have Ingrossed Forestalled and Regrated and continue by every Method and Means in their Power to Ingross Forestall and Regrate many of the Necessaries of Life; and by wicked Artifices and False Pretences of Scarcity of such Necessaries have raised and are still raising the Prices of the same to an intollerable Height; By Reason whereof the Inhabitants of said Town in general are greatly injured & Defrauded and most of the poorer sort are cruelly oppressed and as most Evils are rapidly increasing ——————

Therefore to prevent the same: by Virtue of the full Power and Authority given and granted to said Town by an Act of the General Assembly of this State "to make such Acts and Orders as they shall think meet and convenient for the Well Management Rule and ordering all their prudential Affairs within the Bounds and Limits thereof —

It is Voted and Ordered That from and after the 25th Day of September A.D. 1777 - whenever any Linnen or woollen Cloths of American Manufacture any Flax, Corn, Rye Wheat Butter Cheese Eggs Cyder Apples or other Fruits; any Beef, Pork, Mutton Veal Lamb Poultrie or other Dead Victuals or any kind of Vegetables shall be brought into this Town for Sale thereon, the Sale of said Articles shall be made by the person or Persons who bring the same either in some publick Street open House Shop Store or in the Market House and not elsewhere within the Bounds and Limits thereof; and that No Person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town without Licence from the Town Council of said Town shall purchase within the same a greater Quantity of any of the aforesaid Articles than the Overseers of the Poor of said Town if Requested shall Judge necessary for the Use and Consumption of the particular Family or Families of the Purchaser or Purchasers considering the Plenty or Real Scarcity of said Articles sold as aforesaid; and that if any Person or Persons shall purchase a greater Quantity of any of said Articles without such Licence than is above Limited within said Town or shall purchase them on any other Place than those abovementioned within said Town, he she or they so offending shall forfeit the Articles so purchased to be distributed and given to the Poor of said Town by the said Overseers as they shall think fit: and also shall forfeit and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds for every Offence One half for the Use of said Poor, and the other Half for the Use of any Person or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be Recovered by Bill Plaint or Information before any Two or more Justices of the Peace within said Town and That if any Agent Factor Child within Age or Servant shall offend therein the Person or Persons for or under whom they Acted shall be personally liable to be prosecuted as aforesaid ——————

It is further Voted and Ordered That No Person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town without Licence from said Town Council and during the Continuance of such Licence shall be permitted to sell any of the aforesaid Articles by Retail in any Place whatsoever within the Bounds of said Town; and That if any such person or persons without such Licence shall upon any Pretence whatsoever sell or Expose to Sale by Retail in any House Shop Store Market House or in any other Place within the Bounds of said Town

aforementioned Articles the Person or Persons so offending shall forfeit every Article so Sold or exposed to Sale for the Use of said Poor and shall also Forfeit and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds One Half thereof for the Use of said Poor and the other Half for the Use of any Person or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be Recovered in the same Manner as aforesaid —

It is further Voted and Ordered That if any person belonging to or Residing in said Town shall directly or indirectly by any ways or Means whatsoever Ingross or Forestall or procure to be Ingrossed or Forestalled for him her or them any of the aforementioned Articles Such Person or Persons upon Conviction thereof shall forfeit every Article so Ingrossed and Forestalled and the same shall be distributed and given to the said Poor as the said Overseers shall think fit and the Person or Persons so offending shall also Forfeit and pay a Fine of Ten Pounds the One Half thereof for the Use of the said Poor and the other half to any Person or Persons who shall inform and Sue for the same to be recovered in the same Manner as aforesaid —

And It is further Voted and Ordered That if any Person or Persons shall know or have probable Cause to suspect that any of the aforementioned Articles have been Ingrossed Monopolized or Forestalled by any person or Persons belonging to or Residing in said Town, and that the said Articles or Articles are stored or Secreted in any Building or Place within said Town, and that the person or persons who ingrossed them, have sold the same at an advanced Price the person or Persons knowing or suspecting as aforesaid may make Information and Complaint thereof to the said Justices, and if they shall think the said Information sufficient they shall immediately issue their Warrant to the said Overseers, to take Sufficient Aid if they shall think Aid to be Necessary and immediately to go to the Owner or Owners of the Building or Place where the said Articles or Articles are said or Suspected to be Stored or Secreted and to Request the Owner or Owners or the Keeper of such Building or Place, to open and permit the same to be Searched, and if Refused to enter the same by Force and Search for said Article or Articles and if found upon such Search to take such Article or Articles into their Possession and give Information thereof to the said Justices who shall thereupon proceed to Trial of the Offender or Offenders and if upon Trial he or they shall be convicted the whole of said Article or Articles shall be declared Forfeited and shall be given and Distributed to the Poor as aforesaid and the Offender or Offenders shall also Forfeit and Pay a Fine of Ten Pounds the One Half thereof for the Use of said Poor and the other Half to the said Person who informed as aforesaid

Provided always that the aforesaid Votes and Orders or any Part thereof shall not extend or be construed to extend to prevent any Butcher belonging to or Residing in said Town from Buying Live Meat killing and Selling the same by Retail within said Town; nor to prevent any person authorized or empowered by the Continental Congress or by this State from purchasing any of the aforementioned Articles for the Use of the Army and Navy

Provided also that if any person or Persons who shall be convicted of any offence mentioned in the aforesaid Orders shall be Dissatisfied with the Judgment or Sentence of said Justices he or they shall have the Benefit of Appealing therefrom to the Next Court of General Sessions of the Peace to be held within the County of Providence which Appeal shall be allowed and Prosecuted in the Same Manner as Appeals are allowed and Prosecuted from Justices Courts in other criminal Cases —

And the aforesaid Report having ban Several Times Read It is Voted and Resolved that the same be accepted and that the Votes and Orders therein contained be Established and that the same be copied and Delivered to the Town Sergeant by him to be published by Beat of Drum and reading the same through the Town on Monday or Tuesday next in the Same Manner as Town Meetings are usually warned —

Whereas Dr Jonathan Arnold hath represented to this Meeting that he is about to erect Works for making Salt upon a Construction New and which if it succeeds will prove greatly Advantageous to the Publick in promoting a Larger Supply of that Necessary Article and that he is nearly ready to make that Necessary Trial and Prays the Town to grant him Liberty to set his Works for the Purpose aforesaid upon the Town Land at Great Point and the Premises being Considered It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer be and he hereby is authorized and Directed to Lease out to the said Jonathan Arnold his Heirs and Assigns all the Towns Land at Great Point for the Purpose aforesaid for so long a Time as he or they shall carry on the said Business at that Place not exceeding Ten Years and that he or they shall have Liberty when they think fit or at the Expiration of said Term of Ten Years to remove all such Buildings and other Works as they may or shall Erect thereon he or they paying as an Acknowledgment to the Town for the Use of said Land so long as he or they may improve the Same yearly and every year the Sum of Six Pounds and Reserving in the said Lease the Privilige of taking away Earth or Clay from the remaining Bank there for the Use of the Inhabitants in Manner as heretofore by the Way of the West Side thereof at the Place now used for that purpose so as not to injure or encommode the said Works

Whereas Doct. Thomas Truman hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Medicens and Attendance upon Sarah Olney from Sept. 8th to Dec. 6th A.D. 1776 and for Visiting the Widow Thurber taken with the Small Pox at Widow Randalls House and the said Account being duly considered: It is Voted and Resolved That Five Pounds Eleven Shillings and Six Pence being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Thomas Truman and that he have an Order for the same upon the Town Treasurer —

Whereas Doct. Thomas Truman exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Money advanced in Making up the Towns Rock of Powder and Lead into Cartridges in May 1775 — and the said Account being duly considered It is Voted & Resolved That Two Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five Pence being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Thomas Truman out of the Town Treasury and that the Town Clerk give him an Order accordingly —

Whereas Capt. Benjamin Hoppin has exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Expences in Guarding this Town's Proportion of the Men for filling the 15 Months Battalions and the said Account being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That Five Pounds and Eight Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Benjamin Hoppin out of the Town Treasury and that the Town Clerk give him an Order accordingly

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence especially called and Legally Assembled on the 29th Day of September Anno Domini 1777 —

Col. John Mathewson Moderator —

Whereas the General Assembly at their Last Session passed an Act Requiring one Half of all Able bodied male Persons in this State to be draughted to do Military Duty for one Month from the Third Day of October Next: and Directed that if any persons so draughted should Refuse to Serve himself or hire a person to serve in his Room That the Town Councils of the Towns to which such persons belong should at their Expence hire persons to serve in the Room of such Delinquents: and as a Number of Persons in this Town are Returned Delinquent and cannot be so readily hired without the Ready Money It is therefore Voted and Resolved The Town Council draw upon the Town Treasurer for Sufficient Sums of Money to pay the Men hired to supply the Place of such Delinquents and if the Treasurer hath not enough on hand he is hereby Ordered to Issue a Sufficient Sum for a Short Time until it can be obtained of such Delinquent persons according to Law —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled in Town Meeting in Providence on the 21st Day of November A.D. 1777

Col Barzillai Richmond Moderator

This Meeting proceeded to take into Consideration the Business mentioned in the Warrant and after Debate

Resolved That Mr James Arnold be and he hereby is appointed and empowered to Receive and take into his Possession all the Salt heretofore assigned to this Town by the General Assembly which now remains undistributed, and exchange the same upon the best Terms he can for Indian Corn, and that he keep the Corn until further Orders from the Town — That he also Receive all the Iron belonging to the Town wherever the same is and exchange the same as aforesaid or Sell the same upon the best Terms he can as he shall think best —

On Motion made Resolved That the Town Audit as soon as may be Audit the Account of Martin Seamans Esq. Collector of Taxes for bad Debts &c in order that he may Settle with the Town Treasurer.

On Motion made. Resolved That John Updike Esq. be and he is hereby appointed in Behalf of the Town to make Application to the Council of War and to Request them to order that the Proportion of Salt and Iron heretofore ordered to this Town by the General Assembly be immediately delivered to Mr James Arnold —

Whereas Mr James Arnold exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Trouble in Receiving from the General Treasurer £872 6 0 for the Bounties allowed to the Continental Soldiers enlisted in this Town and paying the same out upon which Sum he charged 2½ pr Cent for his Services: and the said Account being duly considered it is Resolved that Thirty Nine Pounds and Twelve Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said James Arnold out of the Town Treasury

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services in Warning and Attending Town Meetings &c: and the said Account being duly Considered; It is Resolved That Three Pounds Lawful Money being the Amount thereof be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury — Order Granted —

The Meeting Dissolved ——— Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally Warned and Assembled in Town Meeting at the State House in said Providence on the 10th Day of December A.D. 1777 —

Col. Barzillai Richmond Moderator ——

There being but Few of the Freemen present and the Business being of Importance It is Voted that this Meeting be adjourned until next Day after To-Morrow at 3 o'C P.M. then to meet at the State House. that in the Mean Time the Town Serjeant by Beat of Drum and Warrant from the Town Clerk warn all the Freemen then to Meet at this Place ——

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled in Town Meeting at the State House in said Town on the 12th Day of December A.D. 1777

Col. Barzillai Richmond Moderator

The Business mentioned in the Warrant having been taken into Consideration it is thereupon Resolved. That the following Persons in Addition to the Collector of Taxes for this Town be and they hereby are appointed to Collect the Stockings ordered by the General Assembly at their Last Sessions to be procured by this Town for the Use of the Troops in the Service of the State Viz Messrs William Tyler, Samuel Young, Timothy Dodson Junr, Winsor and Comstock, Joseph Lawrence, Nathaniel Wheaton Miner Thayer Elisha Brown Junr Benjamin Gladding, Jeremiah Ruiley, Robert Taylor Gideon Young Whipple and Marsh, Deacon James Greene, Welcome Arnold John Sutton, William James, Ritto and Hawkins William Peckham and Timothy Brownell, That Each and Every of the said Persons collect as many good Yarn Stockings suitable for the Troops upon as good Terms as they can and Deliver the same to Martin Seamans Esq within 30 Days

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled in Town Meeting at the State House in said Town on Friday January 23: 1778 ——

Benoni Pearce Esqr Moderator —

This Meeting having been warned in order to agree upon a Petition to the General Assembly to relieve the Town in the State Tax ordered in December last; and to set aside the Estimate made in February last and in all future Assessments to adopt the Estimate legally taken in the Year 1767 until another Estimate can be had: the proceeded upon the Business mentioned in the Warrant and on Motion Made Resolved That a Committee be appointed to to draft a Petition respecting the Matter above mentioned — The Committee Chosen are Messrs David Howell John Brown and William Rhodes to make Report at the next Meeting ——

Whereas on the 23d Day of August Last the General Assembly passed an Act for assessing and apportioning a Tax of £32,000 upon the Inhabitants of this State: and on the 6th Day of December Last passed another Act for assessing and apportioning another Tax of £48,000 and in apportioning the said Taxes to the Several Towns a certain Conjectural Estimate adopted by the General Assembly in March Last was made the Rule and Guide for apportioning the same, notwithstanding that Estimate when adopted was designed for apportioning Only One Single Tax. Viz the £16,000 Tax ordered in March Last: it having been expressly Declared and Enacted by the General Assembly, "That the Proportion of said Tax in that Act laid upon Each Town shall not be drawn into Precedent, or be considered as a Rule for apportioning any future Tax" — And as proportioning the said Taxes by said Conjectural Estimate, thereby an almost Double proportion of the Public Taxes is assigned to this Town, in its present most Distressed and Calamitous Situation, is in direct Violation and Breach of that Act and contrary to the known and Standing Laws of the State now in full Force and unrepealed which have in the most Express and clear Manner provided, that the Estimate taken in the Year 1767 "shall be the Standard and Rule by which Rates and Taxes shall be apportioned unto and upon the several Towns in this Colony until a New Estimate shall be taken" — And as proportioning Taxes to the several Towns in the State and thereby the Property of the Subject by Guess and Conjecture in this new and unprecedented Manner is of Dangerous Precedent and highly Subversive of the Rights of the People, it being an Evident Truth that the Legislative or Supreme Authority in the State cannot assume to itself a Power to Rule by extemporary arbitrary Decrees contrary to the plain Principals of Natural Equity and Justice, and in the Matter of Taxation in a Special Manner is bound to see that Equity and Justice is done to every part of the State, and the Apportionment of said Taxes in Manner aforesaid being highly injurious and cruelly oppressive upon this Distressed Town, and being vastly more than its Just Proportion of said Taxes;

It is Therefore Resolved That the Collector of Taxes for this Town be and he hereby is ordered and Directed to pay One Ninth Part of the Tax assigned by

General Assembly on this Town the 23d Day of August Last into the Town Treasury of this Town, the Remainder to be paid into the General Treasury:— And

It is also Resolved that the said Collector of Taxes for this Town be and he hereby is ordered and Directed to pay into the General Treasury Such Part of the State Tax apportioned to this Town by the General Assembly on the 24th Day of December Last as would have been this Towns Proportion of said Tax had the same been assessed agreeable to the General Estimate taken in the Year 1767 and that he pay the Overplus into the Town Treasury of this Town —

Whereas a Number of Gentlemen offer to collect the Taxes for Less much Lower than 5 ℔ Cent: which hath lately been allowed the Collector; It is therefore Resolved that only 3½ ℔ Cent be allowed for Collecting the Publick Taxes in this Town, and that if Martin Seamans Esqr the present Collector will still continue to collect the same at 3½ ℔ Cent: he be continued in the Office otherwise that the Town will choose some other Suitable Person in his Room agreable to an Act of the General Assembly passed at the Last Sessions: And the said Martin Seamans Esqr being now present agrees to Collect the Publick Taxes in this Town for 3½ ℔ Cent —

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meeting &c and the same being duly considered Resolved that the amount of said Account being Fifteen Shillings be paid said Compton out of the General Treasury —

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned until Friday next 3 o Clock P M then to meet at this Place ..... Theodore Foster Town Clerk

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At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment at the State House in said Town on Friday the 30th Day of January A.D. 1778 —

Benoni Pearce Esqr Moderator

The Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to draft a Petition to the General Assembly made Report which being several Times Read is approved and adopted and is as follows Viz

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be holden at East Greenwich in said State on the Second Monday of February A.D. 1778. The Address Petition and Remonstrance of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Providence in Town Meeting legally assembled on the 30th Day of January A.D. 1778 —

Humbly Sheweth That

Whereas the Honble the General Assembly of this Government at their Session in June 1767 passed "An Act for taking a Just Estimate of the Rateable Estates in this Colony in order that the Rates and Taxes may be Equally assessed upon the Inhabitants" which contained among other Things the following Clause "And be it further Enacted that NO Colony Tax shall be levied upon the Inhabitants of this Colony until the said Estimate or Valuation shall be compleated and approved by the General Assembly, and that the said Estimate when compleated shall be the Standard and Rule by which Rates and Taxes shall be apportioned unto and upon the Several Towns in this Colony until a New Estimate shall be taken" which said Estimate or Valuation was accordingly taken with Great Labour Diligence and Accuracy as well as no Small Expence to the Government by the Worthy Gentlemen the Committee appointed for that purpose and being laid before the General Assembly finally Received their Approbation and Sanction and became and Continued the Standard and Rule for apportioning Rates and Taxes upon the Several Towns for more than Nine Years and [illegible] Right and Justice your Petitioners with becoming Deference apprehend ought still to continue be and remain according to the Express Letter thereof until another new Estimate can in like Manner be taken —

Your Petitioners would beg Leave to observe that in their Opinion and Judgement the above said Act and Order of Assembly establishing the only Just and Equitable Mode of Apportioning the Rates and Taxes to the Several Towns being in its own Nature preferrable to all others and being founded on Examples Custom and Usage in this and all other Free Governments time immemorial became so essential a Part of the Laws and Constitution of this State that it ought not neither could legally and Constitutionally be set aside and annihilated by the Conjectural Estimate made and adopted as it was by the General Assembly in March 1777, wherein the Proportion of Taxes upon the Several Towns is so widely different from the Former and manifestly unequal — Legislative Bodies as well as Individuals persons are Subject to Errors and Mistakes as well as Prepossessions and Prejudices the Objects therefore of their Power are no less defined and Circumscribed by the Laws and Constitution of their Country, the Rules of Justice common Reason and Humanity than those of a Judicial Court or even an Individual Subject in the State — Taxation being the most delicate and critical object before Legislators their Conduct respecting the same ought always to be such as will bear the most Strict and Scrutinous Examination of their Constituents. Small Deviations from the Constitution drawn into Precedent may in time terminate in Fatal Innovation — It is an old Maxim that Mankind are not to be Trusted where they are interested against you.. and it is equally true that they are not to act in Matters where they are ignorant and it is no less evident that it is the Interest of a Majority in the House to assign an undue Proportion of a Tax to any particular Town, than it is that they cannot know accurately what Proportion to assign without having before them an Exact List of all the Rateable Estates in all the Towns — Such List or Estimate therefore taken by good and Sufficient Men is essentially necessary to just and Legal Taxation — And no other way of apportioning a Tax can be binding except it be adopted by all the Inhabitants at Large and approved of by every particular Town — No General Assembly therefore in the Humble Opinion and Judgment of your Petitioners have or ought to have any Legal Power of themselves so far to alter the Constitution and invade the Privileges of their Constituents as to vote away their money at Random by Lot Guess or Conjectural Estimate Neither can it be expected that Freemen will easily part with their Money upon so unequal and precarious a Footing; it savours too much of the Capricious and arbitrary Measures of raising Money from their Subjects adopted by absolute Monarchs —

The Town of Providence through a Singular Zeal for introducing Taxation though Sensible they were overrated Submitted to pay the proportion assigned them in the conjectural Estimate of March 1777 in the £16,000 Tax confiding in the Honour of the General Assembly expressed in the following Clause of the Act. It is [illegible] Resolved that the Proportion of said Tax in the Act laid upon each Town shall not be drawn into Precedent or be considered as a Rule for apportioning any future Tax but shall be [illegible]

The

as soon as a proper Estimate can be made to ascertain the same." Notwithstanding which Resolve a Tax of £32,000 was ordered the Next August and another Tax of £48,000 the next December, to be apportioned levied and collected in the same Manner by the same uncertain Conjectural Estimate and notwithstanding our Earnest Entreaties and Supplications to the Contrary. ——

Thus that which was designed and intended as only the Creature of a Day is inflexibly adhered to and perpetuated as though it had been the Utmost Effort of the United Wisdom of the State and Established like the Laws of the Medes and Persians irrevocable. ——

When a Tax is to be assessed upon the Inhabitants of a Particular Town the Law and Constitution Requireth that the Inhabitants render unto the Assessors an Exact List of all their Raleable Estates that it may be Levied upon them according to Equity and Justice much more forceably and strongly do the same Reasons operate when a Tax is to be apportioned to the several Towns by the General Assembly the Supreme Assessors in the State; — and as it would be Iniquity and Injustice in the Assessors of a Particular Town to Refuse an Inhabitant the Benefit and Privilege of exhibiting a List of his Raleable Estate, so your Petitioners humbly apprehend it can be no less in the General Assembly to Refuse them the Benefit and Advantage of the only Legal and constitutional Estimate taken in the Year 1767 until can be taken in Like Manner as that was .....

Were it needful to urge more Arguments in Support of the above Principal of apportioning Taxes only by Just and Legal Estimate, your Petitioners would produce the Example and Authority of the Hon.ble the Continental Congress in their Order for apportioning the Continental Expences to the Several States; The following is extracted from the Eighth Article of Confederation and perpetual Union "All the Charges of War and all other Expences that shall be incurred for the Common Defence or General Welfare and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled shall be defrayed out of a common Treasury which shall be supplied by the several States in Proportion to the Value of all Land within Each State granted to or Surveyed for any person, as such Land and the Buildings and improvements thereon shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled shall from Time to Time direct and appoint:" — Thus the several States are to bear their True and Just Proportion of the Continental Expences according to an accurate continental Estimate, and not to be saddled with Burthens Haphazzard or conjecturally — And in the Present continental Tax the several States are only to be credited with what they pay until such Estimate be taken — Here is the United Wisdom of all America, an Ordinance truly worthy of so august an Assembly! ——

What has been said being sufficient to show that the Mode of apportioning the Three Last Taxes upon the Several Towns in this State was improper and illegal; your Petitioners would beg your further Patience and Indulgence while they observe and Endeavour to make appear that it has Operated greatly to their Disadvantage in Particular. —

In the Year 1767 when the Last Legal Estimate was taken, the Town of Providence was in its most Flourishing Circumstances: — It's Trade was open to almost all Parts of the World; — It's Navigation Extensive and Prosperous; its Stores and Ware Houses crouded with all Sorts of Merchandize; — Its Streets thronged with Foreigners who came hither to advance their Fortunes by Trade and Commerce. —— Shipwrights House Carpenters Masons and all Sorts of Mechanics and Labouring Men prosed with useful and profitable Business and Employment; — and its extensive Foreign Trade which is the very Being and Life of a Sea Port furnished Business and Support for all it's numerous Dependents, and invigorated every Class of People in the Town: But how amazingly is the Scene now Reversed! — Our Port has been blocked up for more than Twelve Months: — Our Stores and Shops almost Empty; — Our Navigation demolished — Our Ship Building at an End: — Our Houses already built many of them standing Empty and going to Decay by Degrees, or more suddenly and wantonly ruined and Destroyed by Barracking Troops in them — Many Foreigners residing among us as well as others of our most wealthy Inhabitants, who made a principal Figure in our Trade have packed up their Fortunes and Removed to Places of Greater Security — The common Sort of People who are left behind are mostly out of Employment and the Poor are all Yet among us to be Supported by the Remaining Persons of Property. ——

This is but a Brief and imperfect though Real and True Representation of our Circumstances at these Two Periods of Time. Notwithstanding which and to crown all our Distress we find ourselves now burthened with a Vastly larger Proportion of the Public Expences than what we bore in the Year 1767 and it is conjectured or Guessed that we are able to bear it. ——

Your Petitioners would beg leave further to observe that a great Part of this Interest consisteth in Houses Stores and Wharves the Value of which hath depreciated more than any other kind of Interest — The Reason of paying Taxes being principally founded in Present Rents and Profits excepting in the Case of Wild or uncultivated Land, which however yieldeth its Profit to the Owner by its increasing Value, this being an Established Principal of Taxation and upon which the Valuation in 1767 was entirely founded. It is plain that an Interest in the Town of Providence consisting of an House Stores and Wharves valued in 1767 at 2.000 Dollars and bringing in at 5 p.r Cent 100 Dollars Yearly profits and a Farm in the Country of the same Value and Yielding the same Yearly Profits, ought then to be taxed equally; whereas it is an undeniable Fact that such an Estate in Town at present would not rent for more than 50 Dollars p.r Annum and much less upon an Average and that the Farm in the Country would rent for at Least 400 Dollars p.r Annum and therefore they ought now in Justice to be taxed according to 8 Yearly profits or as one is to Eight. And instead of the Houses &c growing more valuable as is the Case of wild Land, they are daily decaying and exposed to the Ravages and Destruction of War more than any other Kind of Interest — This also applieth in Part to other Sea Port Towns although now in the State have so large a Proportion of this Kind of Interest as the Town of Providence We shall not mention the Shipping which lies rotting in our Harbour. .....

As to the Comparitive Advantages which Town and Country have enjoyed by the late Rise of the Prices of things among us it is obviously in favour of the Country — The Profits of Privateering were shared by few some of whom have moved away and

their Wealth with them; others have laid out their Money in Lands in other Town and State so that it is not now here to be taxed and but few goods remain among us which the Country are disposed to purchase; they can and Do live almost independent while we are Dependeat upon them for nearly all the Necessaries of Life — The most rapid Rise of Prices hath been within a Year past, if the Merchants withheld their Goods for a high Price, when they arose to a high Price the Country had the good Sense not to purchase, being able to do without them; but in favour of the Farmer Nature withheld the bigger Part of the Years Produce till the Last Fall when Country Produce nearly equalled if not exceeded foreign Goods and Necessity obliged us to purchase his produce at their exorbitant Price which hath most amazingly drained and still continueth to drain the Town of its Money; by which it hath happened that the Country adjacent in General circuitously enjoys more benefit from the High Prices of things, and the Wealth and Treasures which have arrived in our Port and passed through this Town of Late, than Nine Tenths of its own Inhabitants ....

Having set forth many of these Things at Large in a Former Petition & Remonstrance to the Hon.ble the General Assembly, your Petitioners will presume no further on your Patience at present, trusting that we have sufficiently made appear that the Town of Providence ought not in Justice to be taxed higher than, if so high as their Proportion would be by the Estimate taken in the Year 1767, and that the Uncertain conjectural Estimate of March 1777 is unjust and illegal and ought to be set aside and abolished —

Your Petitioners therefore beseech and intreat you by all the Sacred Obligations of Reason Justice and Humanity that you would immediately and totally disannul and abolish the said conjectural and illegal Estimate of March 1777 and establish Ratify and confirm the only certain just and legal Estimate taken and established in the Year 1767 as a Standard and Rule for apportioning Rates and Taxes unto and upon the Several Towns until another new Estimate or Valluation can in like Manner according to Law and the Constitution of this State be taken approved and adopted and that you would forthwith take such Measures that the same be Speedily brought about and accomplished as to your Wisdom and Discretion shall seem most suitable and convenient

And your Petitioners as in Duty Bound will ever pray &c

Resolved Unanimously that the said Petition be copied and Signed for and in Behalf of the Town by the Town Clerk and laid before the General Assembly at their next Sessions by the Representatives of the Town who are hereby Directed and Instructed to use their utmost Endeavour to procure the Prayer thereof to be Granted —

Whereas Doct. William Bowen exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Medicines and Attendence for some poor persons belonging to the Town; and the said Account being duly considered: It is Resolved that the Amount thereof being Thirteen Pounds and Nine Shillings Lawful Money be paid to the said William Bowen out of the Town Treasury —

Whereas Mr. Joseph Hawkins exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for boarding and Providing for several poor Persons at the Work House; and the said Account being duly considered: It is Resolved That Thirteen Pounds and Ten Shillings Lawful Money thereof be paid to the said Joseph Hawkins out of the Town Treasury —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in said Town on the 20th Day of February A.D. 1778 —

Major Elihu Robinson Moderator —

Whereas an Execution in Behalf of the State hath been issued by the General Treasurer against the Town Treasurer of this Town for the Deficiency in Payment of the State Tax apportioned to this Town on the 23d Day of August Last: the Payment whereof hath been Stopped pursuant to a Vote of the Town passed at their Last Meeting for the Reasons mentioned in said Vote; It is therefore Resolved That if the said James Arnold as Town Treasurer of this Town shall be committed to Goal upon said Execution and shall give Bond for the Liberty of the Yard and shall then Return home from his Confinement, That this Town will Indemnify and save Harmless the said James Arnold and his Bondsmen from all Costs and Charges which shall by any Ways or Means accrue to him or them by Means thereof —

This Meeting fully Sensible of the Necessity of Reducing the Publick Expences as much as possible and being of Opinion that the Meeting of the Council of War every Day in the Week as hath been Practised would be unnecessary if public was given in the Newspapers that they would meet to do the Public Business upon particular Days assigned for that Purpose; —

It is therefore Resolved that the Deputies of this Town be and they hereby are instructed to use their Endeavours in the General Assembly to procure an Order to be passed that the Council of War meet at the Expence of the State no more than Three Days in the Week and that they give Public Notice of the Times they shall appoint for transacting the Public Business

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meeting &c: and the said Account being duly Examined: It is Resolved that the Amount thereof being One pound and One Shilling be paid to said William Compton out of the Town Treasury

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in said Town on the 9th Day of March A.D. 1778 —

Col. Barzillai Richmond Moderator —

This having taken into their most Serious Consideration a Bill now pending before the Hon.ble the General Assembly intituled An Act for Prescribing and Establishing an Oath of Fidelity and Allegiance" are of Opinion that it will be for the Public Good that a Bill Similar to that under Consideration should be passed into a Law. with the following Amendments Viz,

That instead of the Affirmation mentioned in the Bill one of the following form be inserted to be administered to the Denomination of People called Friends Viz

I. A B. Do affirm that I will be a Quiet and Peaceable Subject to the United States of America in General and to the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in Particular and that I will not be concerned either Directly or Indirectly in any Plott or Conspiracy whatever against all or either of said States".

That those who shall Sustain any Office in the State shall take the Oath prescribed in the Act, and that such a Form be adopted for a General Test as the General Assembly shall in their Wisdom think best: — And that those who shall not take the Affirmation instead of being Banished shall be confined in some public Prison &c

at their own Expence unless Released by the General Assembly: Provided Nevertheless that if any such Person shall choose to go to the Enemy he have permission therefor in the Manner provided by the Act —

Resolved that the Assessors of Rates for this Town be and they hereby are empowered to Reduce the Poll Tax which now Stand at 6d to 4½ for every Thousand Pound of the State Tax or wholly to omit the same upon such of the Inhabitants as they shall Judge best as is permitted by Law —

Whereas since the Commencement of the Present War many Persons taking an unjust advantage of the Distressed and Calamitous Situation of this Country have purchased large Quantities of Goods and many of them the Necessary Articles of Life at Low Prices and have Refused to Sell the same again unless at most exorbitant and Extravagant Rates; and such wicked Conduct is still pursued many Designing Persons having lately purchased up large Quantities of Country Produce for the Purpose of Greatly enhancing the Price by means whereof the Distresses and Calamities of the Country which are already very great are greatly increased; and most grievous and intollerable Burthens are thrown upon the Poorer Part of the Community who are obliged to purchase of these Monopolizers at their own unreasonable Prices, and it being from the Nature of things impossible by Laws wholly to Restrain the Evil; and as it is Just and Right that those who make their Fortunes by the Distresses of this Country should contribute in a larger Degree to the Support of the War; and that a Check may be put to this growing Evil of Monopoly and Oppression by means thereof. It is Resolved That the Deputies of this Town be and they hereby instructed and Directed to use their Endeavours in the General Assembly to procure a Law to be Enacted empowering the Assessors of Rates in the several Towns in the State to tax for their Faculties such persons as are publickly and Notoriously known to come within the Meaning and Purview of the above Description such a Sum in Addition to what should their Proportion of the publick Taxes as the Laws now stands as the General Assembly in their Wisdom shall see fit having due Respect to the Circumstances of Each Individual —

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meeting &c and the said Account being duly considered: It is Resolved that the Amount thereof being Eighteen Shillings be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —

Whereas Lieut: Gabriel Allen exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for inlisting 7 Men of this Town's Proportion of the 15 Months Brigade: and the said Account having been duly considered It is Resolved that Two Pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount thereof be paid to the said Gabriel Allen out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled on said Town on the 16th Day of March A.D. 1778 —

Ephraim Bowen Esq[r] Moderator —

Capt: James Burrill as Grandjuror and Mr John Jenkes as Petit Jurors are drawn to Serve at the Honorable the Superior Court of Judicature Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of March A.D. 1778 —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House in said Town on the 9th Day of April A.D. 1778

Mr David Howell Moderator

Whereas in all Communities it is a Duty incumbent upon Each Individual to pay his or her Just and Equitable Proportion of all Charges and Expences for the Support of Good Regulation and Government in Proportion to the Property owned by Such Individual: and whereas after the Commencement of the Present War for defraying the Necessary Charges of Government the Representative and Legislative Authority of the State issued Bills of Credit for Redeeming which the Publick Faith was pledged and Each Individual who was a Subject of the State and Represented in the General Assembly became personally obligated to the Possessors of such Bills to pay his or her Just Proportion of the same; Since which Time on Account of the Calamitous and Exposed Situation of the Town many of the Inhabitants possessed of Great Personal Estates have removed the same to other Towns and other States, but are still considered as Inhabitants and Freemen of this Town and allowed to Vote in our Town Meetings; and Whereas Taxes are continually apportioned to this Town by the General Assembly for Redeeming the said Bills and defraying the Necessary Expences of the State: and in apportioning the same upon the Towns Such personal Estates are considered and the Sum assigned to the Town by the General Assembly is in a Proportion which greatly Exceeds the whole Value of the Estates belonging to the Town both Real and Personal and in case such personal Estates should not be taxed towards this Towns Proportion of the State Taxes, great unequal and Oppression will accrue to those Inhabitants who remain in the Town: —

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Assessors of Rates for this Town be and they hereby are Directed in assessing the Publick Taxes to assess all Raleable personal Estate which hath been removed by the Inhabitants since the 9th Day of November A.D. 1776 which hath not been laid out Elsewhere in Real Estate —

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning a Town Meeting &c: and the said Account having been duly examined: It is Resolved that the Amount thereof being One Pound and Four Shillings be paid to him out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally held and assembled at the State House in said Town on Wednesday the 15th Day of April A.D. 1778 being the Day by Law appointed for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and shifting all Boxes for General Officers —

The Hon[ble] Nicholas Cooke Esq[r] Moderator

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter mentioned are duly Elected and Chosen Deputies to represent said Town in the General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden at the General Election at Newport in May next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the Last Wednesday in October next Viz[t]

John Updike Esq[r] First Deputy —
Major Elihu Robinson 2d Do —
Theodore Foster Esq[r] 3d Do —
Mr Paul Allen 4th Do —

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Resolved That Capt. William Rhodes and Theodore Foster with the Town Treasurer be and they hereby appointed a Committee in behalf of the Town to make Defence to the Action or Actions which are or may be commenced by the State against the Town Treasurer of this Town — and that they be empowered to employ such Council in the Law as they shall think best

A Register of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Proxes for the General Officers of the State on Wednesday the 15th Day of April A.D. 1778 to be Returned to the General Election as follows, Viz;

Gideon Crawford Junr	Col. Barzellai Richmond	Abraham Whipple	David Lawrence
Zephaniah Brown	John Fitton	John Mumford	John Brown
Eleazer Harding	John Pettey	Ephraim Bowen Esqr	Elias Callender
Joseph Arnold	Gideon Young	Christopher Olney	Nathan Angell
Jonathan Arnold Esqr	Samuel Bliss	Joseph Russell	James Burrill
Charles Keene	Peter Ritto	William Seamans	William Tyler
Abiel Smith	Silas Talbot	Joseph Cooke	Richard Olney
Benjamin Man Esq	Gershom Carpenter	Silvanus Jenckes	Stephen Hopkins Esq
Benjamin Allen	Benj. Cushing	Joseph Olney	Joseph Lawrence
Joseph Snow Junr	Elijah Bacon	Martin Seamans	Thomas Sabin
Samuel Thurber Junr	Henry Bacon	Daniel Stillwell	Asa Franklin
Welcome Arnold	Archibald Stuart	Arthur Fenner Junr	William Tillinghast
Job Danforth	John Carpenter	John Updike	Joseph Martin
Obediah Sprague	William Barton	Thomas Greene	Samuel Smith
Benjamin Comstock	Edward Spaulding	Thomas Bennet	Robert Taylor
Lewis Peck	Benjamin Cushing Jr	James Sabin	William Compton
Joseph Potter Junr	Charles Holden	Daniel Tillinghast	Paul Allen
John Field	Samuel Coy	William Rhodes	Robert Sterry
Robert Newell	Nehemiah Sweet	Charles Bowler	Jonathan Olney
Saunders Pitman	Comfort Wheaton	David Martin	James Arnold
William Thurber	Hon. Nicholas Cooke Esq.		Theodore Foster
Levi Burr	Benj. Bowen		

Proxes for the the Hon. William Greene Esq as Governor 44
Proxes for the Hon. William Bradford Esq as Governor 41
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The Proxes were taken in open Town Meeting and Sealed up and Delivered to John Updike Esq as the Law Direct.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in said Town on Monday the 27th Day of April A.D. 1778

Col. John Mathewson Moderator

This Meeting was called pursuant to the following Request viz,

To Theodore Foster Esqr Town Clerk of Providence

Sir/ General Pigot having transmitted to General Sullivan Copies of the Draughts of Two Bills lately in the British House of Commons on the 19th Day of February Last being the same which were published in the Royal Providence Gazette, and Subjoined to them a most Insolent Address; and the Subscribers being of Opinion that it will be best to take the Sentiments of the Inhabitants respecting said Papers request that a Town Meeting may be called To-Morrow at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon to Consider the same and to take Suitable Measures thereon; and also to do such other Business as may be proper

We are, Sir,
your most Humble Servants
Wm Wall
Jos. Nightingale
Jos. Cooke
Sil. Jenckes
Joseph Olney
Jr. Carter
Dexter Brown

Providence April 26th 1778

The Request for calling the Meeting and Warrant for warning the same are Read — and Information being made to the Meeting the Copies aforesd are lodged with the Hon.ble the Council of War, on Motion made

Resolved That Messrs. William Wall and Joseph Cooke be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon the said Council of War to request of them to furnish this Meeting with Copies of the aforesaid Bills ..... The said Committee having waited on the Council of War procured said Copies entitled as follows Viz

No 1. Copy of a Bill for Declaring the Intentions of Parliament of Great Britain concerning the Exercise of the Right of Imposing Taxes within his Majestys Colonies Provinces and Plantations in North America

No 2: Copy of a Bill to enable his Majesty to appoint Commissioners with Sufficient Powers to Treat, Consult and agree upon the Means of Quieting the Disorders now Subsisting in certain of the Colonies Plantations and Provinces of North America .....

These Copies were several Times read and after Several Motions debated upon, it was the Prevailing Opinion that it would not be Advisable or expedient for the Town as a Town to pass any Resolutions respecting the same the Matters therein Contained being Cognizable properly only before Congress — and A Motion was made for Adjourning the Meeting which was done after passing the Two following Resolves —

Resolved that One Pound and Sixteen Shillings Lawful Money be paid to Mr William Compton out of the Town Treasury being the Amount of the Account by him Charged for warning and attending this Meeting ....

Resolved that Capt. James Burrill be and he is hereby Chosen and appointed Collector of Taxes in the Room of Martin Seamans Esqr who declines Serving

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled according to Law on Monday the First Day of June A.D. 1778 being the Anniversary Election for Town Officers, the Gentlemen hereafter mentioned were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names for the Year ensuing Viz,

Mr John Brown Moderator

Town Clerk	Theodore Foster Esqr
Town Treasurer	James Arnold Esqr
Town Sergeant	Mr William Compton
Town Council	Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr President. Capt. Christopher Sheldon, Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Elihu Robinson, Zephaniah Andrews and William Wall Esqr
Town Audit	Welcome Arnold Esqr Capt. David Lawrence and Mr John [illegible]
Constables	Messrs William Compton, Job Danforth, Nicholas Thurber and Samuel Coy .....

Sealer of Weights and Measures — Mr. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor — William Wheaton Esqr. Capt. Lewis Peck and Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr.

Surveyors of Joists and Boards — Mr. Christopher Arnold Capt. Elijah Bacon Mr. Jonathan Hammond Mr. John Smith Capt. Comfort Wheaton and Mr. Gershom Carpenter

Surveyors of Highways — Messrs. Paul Allen, Joseph Arnold, and Andrew Comstock

Gaugers of Casks — Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Esek Brown, Esek Eddy Archibald Young and Jonathan Jenkins

Vendue Master — Benoni Peare Esqr.

Packers of Beef and Pork — Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold William Smith (Cooper) and Joseph Field

Corders of Wood — Messrs. Samuel Black John Petty, John Atwood, Martin Thurber Recompence Healey, William Wheaton son of Ephraim, Joseph Hoyle James Field and Joseph Martin Esqrs.

Overseer of the Pest House — James Black Esqr.

Collector of Taxes — Martin Seamans Esqr. at 3½ pr. Cent Commissions for his Fees and on Giving Bond to the Town Treasurer in the Sum of £6000 previous to his Receiving the Rate Bill

Pound Keepers — Messrs. Nathan Waterman and John Petty

To Value Estates when disputed in Voting — Arthur Fenner Junr. Esqr. Samuel Butler Esqr. and Mr. John Brown

Fence Viewers — Benjamin Cushing Junr. Esqr. Deacon John Field Capt. Charles Keene and Mr. Christopher Arnold

Presidents of the Fire Wards — Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esqr. Mr. William Smith and Joseph Martin Esqr.

Fire Wards — Nicholas Brown, Thomas Greene, Amos Atwell, Daniel Tillinghast Esquires: Mr. Job Smith, Hon.ble John Foster Esqr. Capt. Robert Taylor Mr. Samuel Thurber and James Arnold Esqr.

Field Drivers — Capt. James Snow, Messrs. Phinehas Brown Gershom Carpenter and Samuel Thurber

Sealers of Leather — Samuel Butler Esqr. Mr. Martin Thurber

Scavengers — Messrs. Nathan Angell, Paul Allen, Samuel Black Joseph Crawford Sanders Pitman and William Wall

Persons belonging to the Engine near the Bridge — Messrs. Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter Col. Daniel Tillinghast Thomas Greene Esqr. Mr. John Brown, James Arnold Esqr. Fenner Junr. Esqr. Welcome Arnold Esqr. Mr. Thomas Bennet Mr. John White Col. William Wall and Capt. David Lawrence

Persons belonging to the Engine at the North End — Benjamin Cushing Junr. Esqr. Mr. Sanders Pitman, Capt. Charles Keene, Col. Levi Hall, Messrs. Martin Thurber Benjamin Allen, Zachariah Allen, Samuel Young, William Smith 2d. Benjamin Comstock Olney Winsor Benjamin Marshall

Persons belonging to the Engine on the West Side of the River — Col. John Mathewson, Col. Zephaniah Andrews Mr. Daniel Jackson James Black Esqr. Capt. Nathan Franklin, Capt. Elijah Bacon, Capt. Joseph Cooke Mr. Joseph Hoyle, Capt. Sylvanus Jenckes, William Rhodes Esqr. Mr. Samuel Black and Capt. Zephaniah Brown

Town Cryer — Mr. Daniel Branch

Clerk of the Market — Silas Downer Esqr.

Persons to remove or pull down Houses in Case of Fire — Joseph Martin Esqr. Mr. Jonathan Hammond Capt. Comfort Wheaton Capt. James Snow Mr. John Smith Martin Seamans Esqr. Mr. Oliver Carpenter and Mr. John Carlile

Persons to order when and where to remove Goods in Case of Fire — Solomon Drown Esqr. Col. Barzillai Richmond David Wilkinson Esqr. Deacon Henry Bacon Messrs. Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber, with all the Powers contained in a Vote passed by the Town on the 3d. Monday of June A.D. 1777

Overseer of the Work House — Mr. John Demount

Overseer of the Bridge near Jonathan Olney's — Major Christopher Olney

Overseer of the Two Bridges called Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge: Mr. John Smith

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge — Mr. Jonathan Hammond

The following Persons are drawn to serve as Jurors at the Hon.ble the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of June A.D. 1778 Viz

Daniel Tillwell Grandjuror

John Carpenter Petit Juror

Resolved that Mr. David Howell Col. John Mathewson, William Rhodes Esqr. Col. Levi Hall, Col. William Wall Arthur Fenner Junr. Esqr. Col. Zephaniah Andrews and Joseph Hoyle be and they hereby are appointed a Committee in Behalf of the Town with all the Power and Authority which this Town can Grant to Transact the whole Business of Inlisting and engaging this Town's Proportion of the Men ordered by the General Assembly at their Last Sessions to be raised by this Town for filling the Battalions now raising by this State; That they be empowered to appoint any other persons as they see fit to inlist the Men and jointly or Severally to draw Orders upon the Town Treasury for defreying any Expence which may arise to the Town by inlisting the said Men and the Town Treasurer is hereby ordered to pay and Discharge Such Orders out of the Money now in the Treasury and to hire Money for this Purpose if necessary This Town agreeing to Ratify and Establish whatever shall be done by the said Committee in the aforesaid Business

Whereas an Execution hath been issued by the General Treasurer in behalf of the State against the Town Treasurer of this Town for the Deficiency of the Payment of the State Tax apportioned to this Town on the 4th Day of December Last: the Payment of which hath been Stopped pursuant to a Vote of the Town passed at their Meeting on the 23d Day of January Last for the Reasons mentioned in said Vote: It is therefore Resolved that the and hereby is Recommended to the said Town Treasurer to suffer himself to be com

upon said Execution and to give Bond for the Liberty of the Yard and then Return Home; and as Mr. John Brown and Ephraim Bowen Esqr. have offered to be Bondsmen or Sureties for the said Town Treasurer — It is also Resolved that that this Town will indemnify and Save Harmless the said James Arnold and his Bondsmen from all Costs and Charges which shall by any Ways and Means accrue to him or them by Reason thereof ——

Resolved that James Arnold Esqr. Town Treasurer exchange the Bills issued by this State now in the Town Treasury for part of this Town's Proportion of the Loan Office Certificates agreeable to the Act of the Assembly passed at their Last Sessions —

This Meeting is adjourned to Monday next at 3 Clock PM. —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

NB. No Meeting was held pursuant to the above adjournment

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on Monday the 15th Day of July AD. 1778 —

Major Elihu Robinson Moderator —

RESOLVED That a Tax of Two Thousand and Four Hundred Pounds Lawful Money be immediately assessed upon the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town to Supply the Town Treasury for Defreying the Expences of Raising this Towns Proportion of the Men for filling the State Battalions and other necessary Charges: — That the same be assessed immediately agreeable to Law and that One Half of said Sum be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the 1st Day of July next: and that the other Half of said Sum be collected and paid into the Town Treasury between the said 1st Day of July and the 10th Day of August next: and that the Pole Tax be Ten Shillings upon Each Pole — Liable by Law to be Taxed ——

Whereas by an Act of the General Assembly passed at their Last Sessions a Number of Continental Certificates were proportioned to the Several Towns in the State for Redeeming an Equal Sum in Bills of Credit issued by this State ——

Resolved that James Arnold Esqr. Town Treasurer receive from the General Treasurer pursuant to said Act of Assembly a Sum Equal to Seven Thousand Dollars in said Certificates including what he hath already Received: and that Joseph Clarke Esqr. the General Treasurer be and he is hereby empowered and requested to deliver the Remainder of this Towns proportion of said Certificates to any of the Inhabitants of this Town who shall first apply for the same after 8 Clock in the Forenoon of Monday the 22: Instant to the Amount of one Certificate to Each Individual upon such Individual paying to him the Amount thereof in Bills emitted by this State: Provided that the General Treasurer do not deliver out a Larger Sum in said Certificate than would have been this Towns Proportion had the same been apportioned to the Several Towns agreeable to the General Estimate taken in the Year 1767 — That the Town Clerk of certain said Proportion and Deliver the Same to the General Treasurer; and that the purport of this Vote be advertised to the Inhabitants by the Town Clerk by his posting up Three Advertisements in the most public Parts of the Town ——

Theodore Foster Town Clerk ——

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 22: Day of July AD 1778 ——

Mr. David Howell Moderator ——

Whereas the Honble the General Assembly of this State at their Last Sessions passed a Resolve Setting forth that "Whereas it had been Represented to said Assembly that Mr. John Read who had lately come off from the Island of Rhode Island, had voluntarily joined the Enemy on said Island put himself under the Protection: and acknowledged himself a Subject of his Britannic Majesty: and thereby forfeited the Protection of this State and the United States: and therefore Resolving that it should be Recommended to the Honble Major General Sullivan to order the said John Read to be apprehended and confined: and that he General as soon as no Convenience would admit should send said John Read back to the Enemy upon Rhode Island" ——

And as the said John Read is Esteemed by the Public as a person Enemical to the Liberties and Independence of the United States: and great Uneasiness prevails in the Minds of the People at Large on Account of his remaining upon the Main where he may be capable of Doing Essential Service to the Enemy: — It is Therefore Resolved That Capt. Benjamin Church Mr. Paul Allen William Wheaton Esqr. and Col. William Wall be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to wait upon the Honble Major General Sullivan to request him to send the said John Read to Rhode Island as soon as a suitable Opportunity presents. ——

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning the Last and the Present Town Meeting which having been duly considered It is Resolved That the Amount of said Account being Two Pounds and Five Shillings Lawful Money be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —— Order Granted ——

Theodore Foster Town Clerk ——

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled on the 31st Day of July AD 1778 —

Col. Zephaniah Andrews Moderator ——

Whereas on the 29th Instant the Honble Council of War of this State passed a Resolution for Drafting one Half of the Militia Alarm and Independent Companies throughout this State on the First Day of August next to Do Military Duty for 30 Days in an Expedition against the Enemy upon Rhode Island: and this Meeting considering that the said Expedition may be probably attended with peculiar Hardships and Difficulties and that thus Suddenly calling People from their Business and Employments Subjects those who are drafted to more than Usual Inconveniencies Do Therefore Vote and Resolve That the Sum of Twenty Four Shillings Lawful Money per Man in Addition to what hath been Voted by the Council of War be paid by this Town to Each person who shall be Drafted in this Town to Do said Tour of Duty and shall perform the same either himself or by hiring another to Serve in his Room: And that the Persons thus Drafted be paid by the Town the Sum for the same Number of Days as they shall be in Actual Service ——

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned until To Morrow Morning at 8 o'Clock then to meet here in order to Adopt some proper Measures either by a Tax or otherwise for Raising a Sum of Money Sufficient to pay the Bounty Voted by the Town as aforesaid and that the Clerk issue this Warrant for giving Notice of the Adjournment and the Business then to be acted upon —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden pursuant to the Adjournment and Legally warned and assembled on the 1st Day of August AD 1778 —

Col. Zephaniah Andrews Moderator —

The Proceedings of the Town Meeting Yesterday being now again taken into Consideration in a Full Town Town Meeting and fully Debated —

Resolved That the same be approved with the following Amendments, That the Allowance made by the Town be extended to the Commissioned Officers of the First Regiment in this County belonging to this Town who shall command the Persons draffted to Serve in the Expedition against the Enemy upon Rhode Island — and that only Three Dollars per Day to Each Man be paid by the Town —

Also Resolved That in case the Remainder of the Militia Alarm and Independent Companies shall be called Forth to serve in the aforesaid Expedition before the First Draft shall be Dismissed from the Service, That the Pay of Three Dollars pr Day allowed by the Town shall Cease from the Time the Second Draft shall Join them in actual Service. from which Time the whole to have only the Bounty and Wages allowed by the State; And that the Town Treasurer be empowered and Directed to hire the Sum of one Thousand Pounds Lawful Money for the aforesaid Purpose and that Capt. Charles Keene and Wellcome Arnold Esq be appointed to assist the Town Treasurer in hiring said Money — And that the Overseers of the Poor Jointly or Severally be empowered to draw Orders upon the Town Treasurer in Favour of such Persons as they shall think fit as fast as the Money shall become due to them — Theodr Foster Town Clerk

Resolved That a Tax of Two Thousand Pounds Lawful Money be assessed as soon as may be upon the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town for Supplying the Town Treasury — That the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury by the 20th Day of September next and that 10/ be assessed on Each Pole —

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited to this Meting an Account by him charged against the Town for warning this and the preceedeng Meeting &c: and the said Account being duly considered. Resolved that the Amount thereof being One pound and Sixteen Shillings Lawful Money be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence Legally Warned and assembled on Thusday the 24th Day of September AD 1778 —

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator

This Meeting is holden pursuant to Act of the General Assembly passed at their Last Sessions for the purpose of choosing Deputies to represent the Town in the General Assembly &c.

The Warrant being Read the Meeting proceeded upon Business.

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter mentioned are duly Elected and Chosen Deputies to Represent said Town in the General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden at South Kingstown on the Last Monday of October Next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the General Election in May next Viz

Mr. John Brown unanimously chosen	1st	Deputy
Theodore Foster Esqr. —	2d	Do
Welcome Arnold Esqr.	3d	Do
Thomas Greene Esqr. —	4th	Do

The Following persons are drawn to Serve as Jurors at the Honble the Superior Court of Judicature be to be holden in this County on the First Monday of October next Viz

Benjamin Eddy Grandjuror
John Mumford Petit Juror —

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meeting &c and the said Account being duly considered — Resolved That the Amount thereof being One Pound and Ten Shillings be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on the 16th Day of November A.D. 1778 —

The Honourable Jabez Bowen Esq Moderator —

Resolved That Col. John Mathewson be and he is hereby Requested to attend at the Adjournment of this Meeting with an abstract of all those whom he thinks intitled to the Bounty or allowance of Three Dollars per Day Voted by the Town on the First Day of August Last to those were draffted and served in the First Division against the Enemy upon Rhode Island in the Last Expedition —

Whereas the General Assembly in assessing Several of the Late State Taxes have apportioned the same by the Coneeleural Estimate adopted in March 1777 and assigned a much larger Proportion thereof to this Town than was Supposed by the Town to have been their Just Part. the payment of Part whereof hath been Stopped by Order of the Town; its Great Difficulties and Uneasiness have arisen on that Account: and there is great Danger that Taxation will be wholly Stopped and the Government Dissolved: and as the General Assembly at their Last Sessions passed an Act for

General Estimate and have proceeded to apportion a Tax of £30,000 for our Respects this Town agreeable to the Estimate of 1767 and as the General Assembly have Ordered that the Towns which shall appear to have been overrated shall be Reimbursed It is therefore Voted and Resolved That this Town approve of the Conduct of their Deputies at the Last Sessions of the Assembly and thank them for their Services and Engage to Give Effect and Validety to their Sportion made in the Towns Behalf repeating the Paying in the Arrearage Taxes; And That James Arnold Esq. the Town Treasurer as soon as maybe pay into the General Treasury All Taxes in arrear from the Town to the State the payment whereof hath been heretofore Stopped pursuant to Votes of the Town.

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meetings &c. and the said Account being duly examined It is Resolved That Two pounds and Two Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled and holden by Adjournment on the 17th Day of November A.D. 1778.

Capt. John Updike Moderator.

Resolved That Col. John Mathewson Capt David Lawrence and Capt John Updike be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the Abstracts of those who were draftted in this Town to Serve in the First Division of the Militia &c in the Late Expedition against the Enemy upon Rhode Island and who are to be paid 18/ per Day pursuant to a Vote of the Town on the 31st Day of July and 1st Day of August Last and to make Report to this Meeting at the Adjournment of the Names of those who in their Opinion are entitled to said Pay of Eighteen Shillings per Day.

Resolved That the Overseers of the Poor be Requested to make immediate Application to the Barrack Master to remove the Troops from the South Room and Chamber in the Work House in order that the Poor of the Town may be accommodated there and make Report at the Next Meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned to Tuesday next at 2 o'Clock P.M.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment on the 24th Day of November A.D. 1778.

Capt. John Updike Moderator.

The Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to examine the Abstracts &c. made Report as on File which is accepted. And it is Resolved That the Bounty or Wages of 18/ per Day Voted by the Town be allowed to Messrs. James Sabin, Benjamin Jones and Benjamin Aplin.

Resolved That the same Committee Reconsider the Abstract of Col. Levi Hall's Company and Report thereon to the Town at their next Meeting.

Resolved That the said Abstracts when properly authenticated be Delivered to the Town Treasurer and That he be empowered to pay off the same.

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next at 2 o'Clock P.M. and that a Warrant be issued by the Clerk to warn the Town by Beat of Drum then to meet in order to raise a Tax for Supplying the Town Treasury.

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on the 1st Day of December A.D. 1778.

Capt. John Updike Moderator.

Whereas it is necessary that the Town Treasury should be supplied with Money for Defraying the Necessary Contingent Charges of the Town Maintaining the Poor &c It is therefore Voted and Resolved That a Tax of One Thousand and Five Hundred Pounds Lawful Money be assessed as soon as may be upon the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town and that the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of February next and that the Poll Tax be 9/ for Each Poll.

Whereas Information is made to this Meeting that an Action at Law is commenced by James Angell Esq. against the Collector of Taxes for this Town for having distrained his Property for the Payment of a Tax ordered by the Town on the First Day of August Last upon the Principal that the Town by Law had no power to Order such a Tax:

It is therefore Voted and Resolved that Defence be made to said Action at the Expence of the Town and that for this Purpose the Collector of Taxes with Col. Amos Atwell Col. Zephaniah Andrews and William Wheaton Esq. be Requested and Empowered to employ suitable Council to Defend the same.

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday next at 2 o'Clock P.M. in order to Determine whether the Town will Rescind their Order of the 7th of April Last Directing that Non Resident Inhabitants should be Taxed &c and Give such Directions to the Assessors as may be thought best: and that the Town Clerk advertize the Adjournment by setting up Notifications thereof and the Business to be Transacted in Three Public Places in the Town.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on Saturday the 5th Day of December A.D. 1778 Legally warned and Assembled at the State House

Mr. Paul Allen Moderator

The Meeting having taken into Consideration the Business proposed at the Last Meeting Viz. "To Determine whether the Town will Rescind their Order of the 7th of April Last Directing the Assessors of Rates to assess all Taxable personal Estate which hath been removed by the Inhabitants to other Towns since the 9th Day of November 1776 and to give such Directions relative to Taxing the Non Resident Inhabitants as may be thought best" came to a Resolution to leave the Matter wholly with the Assessors and Empowering them to act therein as they shall think Just and Right. The above being the Sense of the Meeting but no Vote is proposed.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Overseers of the Poor examine what Goods were delivered to Joseph Hawkins late Keeper of the Work House belonging to the Town and do Settle with him for any Deficiencies there may now be in the same.

Whereas Mr. William Compton exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meetings &c and the said Account being duly examined it is Resolved That Two Pound and Fourteen Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount thereof be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on Thursday the 31st Day of December A.D. 1778. legally warned and Assembled in Town Meeting

Capt. John Updike Moderator

The Request for calling the Meeting and the Warrant being Read after Debate It is Voted and Resolved That Amos Atwell, William Wheaton and Zephaniah Andrews Esqrs be and they hereby are appointed a Committee in behalf of this Town to make Application by Petition to the General Assembly now Setting to pass an Act Declaratory of the Powers and Authorities of Towns as Corporate Bodies Relative to Giving and Granting Monies in Town Meetings to be assessed upon the Inhabitants or Estates in their Respective Towns — And that the Representatives of the Town be and they hereby are instructed to use their Endeavours to procure such an Act to be passed —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled in Town Meeting on the 19th Day of February A.D. 1779 —

Doct. Ephraim Bowen Moderator

Resolved as the Opinion of this Town that Capt. Asa Waterman is liable to be Taxed in this Town for any Mercantile Buysings done here on his own Private Account —

Resolved that the Town Audit be appointed a Committee to Examine the several Assessments of Taxes which have been made upon the Estate of Messrs Brown and Power and John Jenckes and if it shall appear to said Committee that they have been over-rated: That said Committee be and they hereby are empowered to make such Deductions from their several Taxes which are now supposed as upon Consideration of all circumstances the said Committee shall think right upon the Principles of Equity and Justice and in Case it shall happen that Welcome Arnold Esq. one of the Town Audit shall be absent from Town as is Suggested he may be that Mr Amos Atwell be added to said Committee to serve in his Room —

Resolved That the Order of the Town Meeting on the 7th Day of April Last for assessing the Personal Estates of Non Resident Inhabitants be Repealed the Reasons being now removed which induced the Town then to pass said Order —

Resolved That the Deputies of this Town be instructed to make Application to the General Assembly at their Next Sessions requesting them to assign a Certain Proportion of the Corn to be imported from Connecticut for the Use of the Inhabitants of this Town: and that the Inhabitants may be permitted to advance a Sufficient Sum of Money for purchasing the Quantity of Corn assigned to the Town. That the Deputies also use their Endeavours for procuring an Act to be passed so far similar to that lately passed in the State of the Massachusetts Bay for preventing the Forestalling the Market Monopolizing Goods &c. as may be thought expedient ...

It is also Resolved that in Case the General Assembly shall assign a Quantity of Corn as aforesaid for the Use of the Inhabitants: That the Town Treasurer be empowered to hire a Sufficient Sum of Money for the Purpose aforesaid —

Resolved That Doct. Ephraim Bowen Arthur Fenner Junr Esq. and Col. William Wall be a Committee to be Stiled Inspectors of the Market for preventing the Abuses which now prevail + and for this Purpose that the said Committee be empowered to take away the Privilege of any Butcher or other Person from selling in the Market House as they shall see fit. it being the Meaning of this that said Committee have the whole Direction of the Market House and that the Market House be Cleared and and the Doors be Shut at 12 Clock at Noon Saturdays excepted —

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning this Meeting be and the said Account being duly examined It is Voted and Resolved That the Amount thereof being Two Pounds and Two Shillings be paid to said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled in Town Meeting on Monday the 1st Day of March A.D. 1779 ...

Mr John Brown Moderator

Whereas there is a great Scarcity of Bread Corn now in this Town which is increasing in an alarming Manner whereby many of the Inhabitants are reduced to great Necessity and Distress; and as the General Assembly by an Act passed at their Last Sessions have empowered this Town to raise the Sum of 43,200 Dollars or any part thereof in such Manner as the Town should think proper to be paid into the Hands of Capt. John Updike to be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Quantity of Corn to be imported from the State of Connecticut agreeable to an Act of that State ...

It is therefore Resolved That James Arnold Esq. Town Treasurer be and he hereby is empowered to hire the aforesaid Sum of 43,200 Dollars as soon as may be of such persons as shall be willing to furnish the same and that he give his Note in behalf of the Town to such Person or Persons as shall furnish Money as aforesaid Which Note shall be of the following Form, Viz.

I James Arnold Town Treasurer of the Town of Providence pursuant to a Resolve of a Town Meeting on the First Day of March 1779 having Borrowed and Received of the Inhabitants. The Sum of for the purpose of purchasing a Quantity of Bread Corn for supplying DO promise to pay him or his order the said Sum of within Three Months with Interest thereon until paid —

Witness my Hand this Day of 1779 —

And it is also Voted and Resolved That William Wheaton Esq. Martin Seamans Esq and Capt. Lewis Peck be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to assist the Town Treasurer in hiring the said Money and that any Money hired as aforesaid be paid into the Hands of Capt. John Updike for the aforesaid Purpose

Whereas Col. John Waterman of Johnston exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Removing the Town Records and Papers and keeping them at his House for about Seven Years past and bringing them again into Town: and the said Account being duly examined + It is Voted and Resolved That Seven Pounds and Ten Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to the said John Waterman out of the Town Treasury —

It is Voted and Resolved That Messrs John Brown, Welcome Arnold and Paul Allen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to advise with and give Directions to the said John Updike Relative to the Manner in which the Corn to be imported from Connecticut shall be purchased and brought into this Town: and that the Directions by them so given shall have the same Force and Validity and be as binding on the Town as if made in Open Town Meeting —

It is also further Voted and Resolved That if the said Corn or Rye or any thereof shall be imported by Water that the same shall be insured by the Town as soon

From Connecticut River to Norwich Landing at the Rate of Five per Cent ÷ From Connecticut River to the Town of Providence at the Rate of Fifteen per Cent ÷ From any Part of Connecticut Westward of the River to the Town of Providence at the Rate of Twenty per Cent ÷ and that the same Premium be allowed on any Vessel or Vessels in which the said Corn shall be imported. And that a Premium of Ten per Cent be allowed on the Vessel or Vessels and their Cargoes from this Town to Connecticut which shall be sent after the Corn and Fifteen Per Cent to any Part of Connecticut westward of the River. And that the said Premiums with all Expences accruing be charged upon the whole Quantity of Corn which shall be purchased and shipped by Water accordingly and that the Corn or Rye be delivered to the Inhabitants charged with the aforesaid Expences—

Whereas it is Represented unto this Meeting that the Timber of Weybosset Bridge in this Town is much Decayed and become so Rotten as soon to Require Repairs and that it is necessary the Timber should be cut before the Season of the Year advances which will render it not so lasting as if cut soon. It is Therefore Resolved That Mr Jonathan Hammon be and he hereby is empowered to procure such Timber and in such way and Manner as he shall Judge best for repairing the said Bridge ÷ and to make all such Repairs to said Bridge as he shall think really necessary at the Expence of the Town—

Resolved That Two Pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Money the Amount of Mr Wms Compts Account for warning this Meeting be paid to him out of the Town Treasury

Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment on the 6th Day of March 1779

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esq Moderator—

Resolved That the Town will allow One Hundred Dollars for Ringing the Bell as Usual in the Revd Mr Snows Meeting House for the Ensuing Year and that Capt John Field be and hereby is appointed to procure some Suitable Person to ring the same provided he can procure it to be done for that Sum .....

It is Voted and Resolved, That the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to hire Money for the purpose of purchasing Corn be requested to continue their Endeavours to have a Sufficient Sum of Money and that Doct. Ephraim Bowen, Mr Moses Brown William Rhodes Esq Col. Zephaniah Andrews, and Welcome Arnold Esq be also added to said Committee for the purpose of having Money as aforesaid & That this Meeting be adjourned until Saturday next at 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon— That the Committee may then make Report

Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence by Adjournment on the 13th Day of March A.D. 1779

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esq Moderator—

Whereas the several Acts of this Town relative to keeping the Streets clean have proved ineffectual. It is Therefore Resolved That any Freeman of the Town shall and may have full Liberty to gather and Scrape up in Heaps and take and carry away from any Part of the Streets in this Town all the Dung Manure or Filth. And it is also Voted and Resolved that if any person shall so gather and Scrape up in Heaps any Manure &c as aforesaid and shall leave the same in the Street in Heaps for more than Six Days it shall and may be Lawful for any Freeholder of said Town to take and Carry off the said Dung Manure &c and appropriate the same to his own Use on his Land or elsewhere any Law or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Whereas Capt. Samuel Chace hath represented to this Meeting that he hath purchased in Connecticut about One Hundred Bushels of Corn and [illegible] he now hath on Board the Sloop Dolphin Capt Lewis Thomas Master at Stonington which cannot be imported into this State unless the same is considered as Part of the Corn to be imported from Connecticut pursuant to an Act of the State of Connecticut Lately passed: and that the said Corn and Rye is owned by said Samuel Chace Martin Thurber James Wheaton, William Wheaton & Elisha Brown Junr all of this Town — And as the said Samuel Chace hath engaged that the said Corn and Rye shall be disposed of for Supplying the Inhabitants where the same is now greatly wanted: and not be sold out of the Town

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the said One Hundred Bushels of Corn and Rye shall be Considered as Part of the Quota of the Corn allowed to be imported from Connecticut into this Town and that a Certificate hereof be granted accordingly — Provided nevertheless that if the said Corn shall arrive in this Town the same shall be considered as the Proportion of the aforesaid Five Persons unless it shall appear that they shall not have Rec. their Proportion of the whole Quantity —

Whereas Capt. William Brown hath represented to this Meeting that he hath on Board the Schooner Speedwell in Stonington aforesaid One Hundred Bushels of Grain consisting of Corn and Rye and that the same is owned by William Rhodes Elijah Sheppard[illegible] John Humphrey William Brown Jacob Meirs and John Newton all of this Town which is under the same Circumstances as the aforesaid Corn of Capt Chace and others as mentioned in the preceding Vote

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the said One Hundred Bushels of Corn and Rye on Board said Schooner be also considered as part of this Towns Quota of the Corn to be imported from Connecticut provided the same shall be imported into this Town and shall be disposed of under the same Restrictions as the Corn owned by Capt. Chace and others as mentioned in the preceding Vote—

The following persons are drawn to serve as Jurors at the Honble the Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the 3d Monday of March instant Viz. Rufus Waterman Grand juror and — William Thurber Petit Juror. —

The Committee appointed to hire Money to purchase Corn at Preceding Meetings reported that they had hired about 28,000 Dollar

Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled in Town Meeting on Saturday the 19th Day of March A. D. 1779 —

Samuel Chace Esq Moderator —

This Meeting having been warned in order to present an Address of Thanks to the Honble Major General Sullivan who is about Leaving the Command of the Army at this Post in Consequence of Orders from his Excellency General Washington: And the following Draft of an Address being laid before the Meeting, Viz,

To the Honourable John Sullivan Esq Major General in the Army of the United States of America,

Sir

As You have Sustained the High Office of Commander in Chief at this Post for about a Year Past and during that whole Time have carefully attended to and cordially promoted the Peace Interest and Safety of the State in General and of this Town in particular; all that Providence could Suggest, that Diligence and Effort could do has been done for us ... But as the Service of America is now to deprive us of your continuance here and calls you to fill the same high Office in more important [illegible] We can do no less than honestly return you our Sincere Thanks and [illegible]

Acknowledgements: Wishing you the Blessings of Heaven, Success in all your Efforts to serve your Country, that you may happily tread the Courts of Vertue and finally reach the Temple of Fame

We are Sir with every Sentiment of Gratitude and the Highest Respect Your Honor's most Obedient Humble Servants

Signed by the Unanemous Order and in Behalf of a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled on the 19th Day of March A.D. 1779

It is Unanimously Voted and Resolved That the Foregoing Address be copied and Signed in Behalf of the Town by the Town by the Town Clerk and that his Honor the Deputy Governor Mr. John Brown and Mr. David Howell be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to present the said Address to the Honourable Major General Sullivan

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled on Saturday the 27th Day of March A.D. 1779.

Doct. Ephraim Bowen Moderator

This Meeting having been warned in order to agree with the Present Collector of Taxes or some other Person for collecting the Continental and State Taxes now assessed upon this Town on Motion Made it is Voted and Resolved That Collector of Taxes for this Town be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury at and after the Rate of Three and one Half p.r Cent for all Monies he shall collect for the Town until the annual Election of Town Offices in June next...

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meetings &c. and the same being duly examined: It is Voted and Resolved That Three pounds and Twelve Shillings being the Amount of said Account be allowed and paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on Wednesday the 21st Day of April A.D. 1779 at the State House being the Day by Law appointed for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and pulling in Proxes for General Officers

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator

The Following Persons being duly qualified as the Law requires It is Voted and Resolved that they be and they hereby are accepted as Freemen of the Town Viz,

Joseph Smith, William Clarke, John White, William Peckham William Brayton, William Dagget, Eleazer Peck, David Howell, Thomas Munro, Thomas Rutenbourgh Joseph Rogers John Rogers, John Pitts, Wm. Clark son of James, Peter Reno, William Tyler, James Wheaton, son of Ephraim Anthony Westcot Alexander Sampson Timothy Sheldon, Jun.r William Tyler 2. John Burrough Nathaniel Jenekes, William Basto, Ralph Merry Benjamin Cuzzens Jun.r John Cuzzens Henry Rice James Munro William Martin Dwight Foster, Edward Taylor Joseph Cleveland William Bowen Amos Throop James Wheaton, Silvanus Jenecks Elijah Sheppard Jon.a Thomas Jones, Joseph Comstock, Isaac Brown, Robert Stewell, Philip Harden Daniel Jackson, John Clifford, Joseph Allen, Peleg Greene, John Davis John Tillinghast

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter mentioned are duly Elected and chosen Deputies to repre the Town in the General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden at the General Election in Providence in May next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the Last Wednesday of October next, Viz,

Mr. John Brown chosen 1.st Deputy
Theodore Foster Esq.r 2.d Do.
Welcome Arnold Esq.r 3.d Do.
Mr. David Howell 4.th Do.

Whereas it is Represented to this Meeting that the Officers of the United Train of Artillery have Advanced Money to Sundry Persons of that Company who were intitled to the Bounty of 18/ per Day Voted by the Town on the First Day of August Last, in Expectation that they should Receive the Money to pay out to them, and Great Inconveniences will arise to the Officers if the said Bounty should be paid to the several Individuals of the Company: It is therefore Voted and Resolved, That the said Bounty of 18/ per Day now due to said Company be paid to Col. Levi Hall or the Commanding Officer of the Company by him to be delivered to the Individuals to whom the same is due: Excepting and Reserving in the Hands of the Town Treasurer the Sum of One Hundred Pounds until further Order from the Town

Whereas it is Represented to this Meeting that Col. James Angell and his Son John Angell have commenced Actions against the Town Treasurer of this Town for the Payment of the Bounty of 18/ per Day Voted by the Town on the 1.st Day of August Last to those who did Duty in the 1.st Division of the Militia in the Late Expedition against the Enemy upon Rhode Island: their Names having been omitted in the Abstract of those who were dressed and Did Duty as aforesaid.....

It is therefor Voted and Resolved that if the said James Angell shall produce Certificates from the proper Officers that they were dressed and performed said Duty that the Town Treasurer pay what shall be due to them agreeable to the Vote of the Town.

A Register of the Names of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Proxey Votes for the General Officers of the State and Delegates in Congress on the Wednesday the 21.st Day of April A.D. 1779 to be returned to the General Election as Follows, Viz —

Silvanus Jenekes	William Barton	Samuel Chace	Edward Thurber
Joseph Rinnicut	Zephaniah Andrews	30 Nathaniel Gladding	Welcome Arnold
Henry Rice	John Mathewson	Arthur Fenner	John Carter
Nehemiah Sweet	Joseph Smith	Samuel Young	Benoni Pearce
5. Samuel Westcot	Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r	Job Smith	William Wheaton
John Field	20 John Smith	Jn.o Innes Clarke	Christopher Olney
Benjamin Stille	Arthur Fenner Jun.r	Nicholas Brown	Hon.r Stephen Hopkins Esq.r
Gideon Young	Joseph Lawrence	John Mathewson	50 Henry H. Tillinghast
Eleazer Harding	Jonathan Arnold Esq.r	Joseph Fuller	Comfort Barden
Dwight Foster	Samuel Hamlin	Thomas Rone	James Arnold
Samuel Butler Jun.r	25. Joseph Cooke	David Lawrence	Joseph Comstock
Samuel Chace Jun.r	Ralph Merry	40 Saunders Pitman	Joseph Martin
Jon.a Olney	John Davis	Ephraim Bowen	Abiel Smith
Samuel Black	Benjamin Comstock	Barzillia Richmond	Samuel Thurber

Joseph Potter Junr
William Rhodes
Daniel Killingheast
Peter Pettis
Nathaniel Jenkes
Obadiah Sprague
William Clarke
Paul Allen
Samuel Thurber Junr
John White
Martin Thurber
Thomas Bennet
William Tyler 2d
John Whipple
William Corlis
David Wilkinson
Theodore Foster
Elias Callender
James Snow
Zachariah Allen
Charles Holden
William Thurber
Levi Hall
Simeon Thayer
James M Varnum
Elihu Robinson
James Wheaton
Benjamin Cushing Junr
James Burrell

Joseph Hoyle
Benjamin Cushing Junr
Joseph Arnold
Levi Burr
William Fillingheast
James Sabin
Comfort Wheaton
Aaron Throop
William Smith
John Fitton
Nathaniel Gellmor
Samuel Smith
Benjamin Hopper
William Compton
John Chace
Jos. Dolb. Russell
James Black
Nathaniel Jacobs Junr
Samuel Butler
Walker Harding
Elijah Sheppard Jon
David Martin
Nathaniel Wheaton
Jacob Whitman
William Pitkham
Elisha Brown
Solomon Drown
Robert Newell
Enoch Brown

William Brayton
Edward Spaulding
Solomon Brown Junr
William Russell
Allen Peck
Benjamin Man
Thomas Sabin
Asa Franklin
William Seamans
Archibald Young
William Bowen
John Lawton
David Tefft
John Angell
Benjamen Cozzens
Christr Arnold Junr
John Lawrence Junr
David Smith
John Cozzens
Andrew Williams
Anthony Wastcot
Daniel Stillwell
William Cozzens
Christopher Robinson
Joseph Crawford
Philip Martin
Caleb Wheaton
Ebenezer Peck
Daniel Bucklin

Joseph Ingraham
Christopher Sheldon
Benjamin Greene
Joseph Field
Samuel Warner Junr
Joseph Allen
William Bucklin
Gershom Carpenter
Benjamin Aplin
William Morris
John Grainger
Nathan Arnold
Thomas Greene
Lewis Peck
John Pelley
Edward Hawkins
David Howell
Jonathan Ellis
James Field
Christopher Arnold Junr
Nathan Angell

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meting &c and the said Account being duly examined It is Voted and Resolved That Two pounds Eight Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount thereof be paid to said William Compton out of the Town Treasury —

Whereas Capt James Snow exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Ringing the Bell for the Year 1778 and the said Account being duly examined It is Voted and Resolved that Fifteen Pounds Lawful Money being the Amount thereof be paid to the said James Snow out of the Town Treasury —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the 17th Day of May AD. 1779 —

Mr John Updike Moderator —

It is Voted and Resolved That it be and it is hereby Recommended to the Committee appointed on the 1st Day of March last to advise and Direct in the Mode of purchasing Grain for the Town to Reserve and keep on hand One Hundred Bushels of Corn and Twelve Bushels of Rye and to Store the same in some Suitable place to be delivered out from Time in Small Quantities under the Direction of the Town Council to the poor Inhabitants of the Town as their Necessities may Require they paying for the same at the Rate of Twenty Dollars pr Bushel for the Corn and Twenty Five Dollars pr Bushel for the Rye and for the Flour to be sold and delivered out at the Rate of 4/ pr lb and the Wheat Flour at the Rate of 6/ pr lb and the Wheat at the Rate of [illegible] pr Bushel —

It is also Voted and Resolved That James Arnold and Zephaniah Andrews Esqr be added to said Committee with the same Power and authority as the other Members of said Committee —

It is Voted and Resolved That Capt David Lawrence be and he is hereby appointed to proceed to Bedford and there purchase on account of the Town Twenty Teirces of Rice and procure the same to be brought to this Town — To be delivered out to the Inhabitants by James Arnold Esqr Town Treasurer under the Direction of the aforesaid Committee: and that for this purpose said Lawrence be and he is hereby empowered to draw Such a Sum out of the Town Treasury as said Committee shall Direct and that the Committee write to Capt Hoyoted Hacker Requesting him to assist Mr Lawrence in procuring the Rice —

And in order that the Town may be further supplied with Bread Corn It is also Voted and Resolved That Capt John Updike be requested with the Advice and Direction of said Committee to procure Two Suitable Vessels and Cargoes and again proceed to Connecticutt for the purpose of purchasing another Quantity of Corn under the same Insurance and Premiums for the Vessels Cargoes and Corn as was agreed upon and Voted by the Town on the said Tenth Day of March Last —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled at the State House on Monday the 7th Day of June AD 1779 being the anniversary Election appointed by Laws for Town Officers the Gentlemen hereafter mentioned were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names for the Year Ensuing Viz

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator —

Town Clerk — Theodore Foster Esqr —

Town Treasurer — James Arnold Esqr —

Town Serjeant — Mr William Compton —

Town Council — Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr President Capt Christopher Sheldon, Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Capt Paul Allen, Samuel Butler Esqr and Capt David Lawrence

Town Audit — Welcome Arnold Esqr Capt David Lawrence and Mr John Fitton —

Constables — Messrs William Compton, Job Danforth Martin Thurber Samuel Coy and James Snow Junr

Sealer of Weights and Measures — Mr Jacob Whitman —

On Motion made Resolved that the Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor who are now to be chosen by the Town be allowed only 1½ per Pound for their Services in assessing and apportioning the Taxes upon the Town and it is understood that those Gentlemen who shall now be chosen in that Office are to accept the same upon this Condition —

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor — William Wheaton Esqr Nathan Waterman and Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr

Surveyors of Joists and Boards — Mr Christopher Arnold Capt Elijah Bacon, Mr Jonathan Nameron Mr John Smith, Capt Comfort Wheaton and Mr Gershom Carpenter —

Surveyors of Highways — Capt Paul Allen, Mr Joseph Arnold and Obadiah Sprague

Gaugers of Cask — Messrs Samuel Jackson, Enoch Brown, Ezek Eddy Archibald Young and Jonathan Jenkins

Verdue Master — Benoni Pearce Esqr —

Packers of Beef & Pork — Messrs Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle Nathan Arnold William Cooper and Joseph Field

Corders of Wood — Messrs Samuel Black John Pettey, John Atwood. Martin Thurber. Reuben Healey, William Wheaton (son of Ephraim) Joseph Hoyle James Field and Joseph Martin Esqr .....

Overseer of the Pest House .. Mr James Black —

On Motion made Resolved That in Case the Collector of Taxes for this Town Shall Refuse or Neglect to Settle his Accounts as Collector for any Longer Term than Four Months with the Town Auditors he shall be liable to be dismissed from his Office at any Legal Town Meeting and another person chosen in his Room; and That he be allowed only Two per Cent for Collecting the Same; and give Sufficient Bonds for every Rate Bill he shall Receive; and that the person now to be chosen into that Office accept the same upon these Conditions: and that the Town Treasurer call upon the Town Auditors and Collector for the Settlement of said Accounts as aforesaid Every Four Months. and See that Sufficient Bonds are given —

Collector of Taxes .. Martin Seamans Esqr

Pound Keepers .... Messrs Nathan Waterman and John Pettey. —

To value Estates when disputed in Voting: Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr Mr Samuel Black and Mr John Brown

Fence-Viewers .... Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Deacon John Field Capt Charles Keene and Mr Christopher Arnold —

Presidents of the Five Wards: Hon. Jabez Bowen Esqr Mr William Smith and Joseph Martin Esqr

Fire Wards — Nicholas Brown Thomas Greene Amos Atwell Daniel Jillinghast Esqr Mr Job Smith Hon. John Foster Esqr Capt Robert Taylor Mr Samuel Thurber and James Arnold Esqr

Field Drivers — Messrs David Jeffet Phinehas Brown Gershom Carpenter and Saml Thurber ...

Sealers of Leather — Samuel Butler Esqr and Mr Martin Thurber .....

Scavengers .... Messrs Nathan Angell Paul Allen, Samuel Black, Joseph Crawford Sanders Pitman, William Wall and Baxter Brown —

Persons belonging to the Engine No 1. Near the Bridge — Messrs Nathan Angell, Gershom Carpenter, John James Clarke, Thomas Greene Esqr Mr John Brown, James Arnold Esqr Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr Welcome Arnold Esqr Mr Thomas Bennet Mr John White Col. Wilkins Hall and Capt. David Lawrence —

Persons belonging to the Engine No 2 at the North End — Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Mr Sanders Pitman, Capt. Charles Keene Col. Levi Hall Messrs Martin Thurber, Benjamin Allen, Zachariah Allen Samuel Young, William Smith 2d Benjamin Comstock Olney Winsor and Benjamin Marshal —

Persons belonging to the Engine No 3 on the West Side of the River — Col. John Mathewson Capt. Zephaniah Andrews Mr Daniel Jackson, James Black Esqr Capt. Asa Franklin, Capt. Elijah Bacon, Capt. Joseph Cooke Mr Joseph Hoyle, Capt Sylvanus Jenckes William Rhodes Esqr & Samuel Black and Capt. Zephaniah Brown —

Town Cryer. — Mr Daniel Branch —

Clerk of the Market .. Silas Downer. Esqr. —

Persons to remove or pull down Houses in Case of Fire — Joseph Martin Esqr Mr Jonathan Hammon, Capt. Comfort Wheaton, Capt. James Jones Mr John Smith Martin Seamans Esqr Mr Oliver Carpenter and Mr John Cobb

Persons to order When and Where to remove Goods in Case of Fire .... — Solomon Drown Esqr Col. Barzillai Richmond David Wilkinson Esqr Deacon Henry Bacon, Messrs Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber — with all the Power contained in a Vote of the Town on the Third Monday of June 1772 —

Overseer of the Work House .. Mr John Dennount. .

Overseer of the Bridge near Jonas Olneys : Major Christopher Olney ..
Overseer of Weyboset Bridge — Mr Jonathan Hammon.
Overseer of the two Bridges called Mill-Bridge and Rivers-ab Bridge — Mr John Smith —

Resolved That One Hundred Pounds be paid to Col. Lewis [illegible] Treasury to enable him to discharge what remains due for the Bounty allowed by [illegible] on the Third Day of August Last: Notwithstanding the Vote of this Town on the 21st Day of August Last: and that Col. Hall account for the Same — ...

Whereas Many of the Inhabitants of this Town, have been at Great Expence and have Suffered much on account of the Troops having been Barracked upon the Inhabitants since the Enemy have been in Possession of Rhode Island: and it is Just and Right that the Expence of Providing Barracks for the Troops should be defrayed and borne by the Public in General; It is therefore Voted and Resolved that Mr John Brown, The Hon.ble Jabez. Bowen Esqr Col. Jonathan Arnold, Welcome Arnold Esqr and David Howell Esqr be and they hereby appointed a Committee to draft a proper Representation of this Matter and wait upon the Hon.ble Major General Gates, requesting the General to direct that Suitable Barracks be built at the Expence of the Continent for the Troops in Case any Shall be Barracked in this Town the Next Winter —

And that said Committee also request the General to Direct that the Work Houses which has been improved the Winter past for Barracks and Damaged thereby be repaired at the General Expence —

Whereas Miss Ruth Tufts preferred a Petition to this Meeting representing that She is an Inhabitant of Boston and hath been unduly Taxed in this Town and praying to be Relieved therefrom: It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That the Consideration of said Petition be referred to the Town Auditors to act and finally determine thereon as they shall think right and just —

Whereas Mr Daniel Major late of Newport hath represented to this Meeting that he hath been much overtaxed Since he hath Resided in this Town and prays to be Relieved: It is Voted and Resolved that the Consideration of this Matter be also referred to the Town Auditors and that they Act and finally determine thereon as they shall think right and just .....

Whereas Doct. Ebenezer Richmond preferred a Petition and Represented to this Meeting That he was drafted and did duty in the Expedition against the Enemy on Rhode Island in August Last and therefore conceives himself intitled to the additional Bounty granted by the Town on the First Day of said August which has not been allowed to him and praying that an Order on the Town Treasurer may be granted for the payment thereof to his Father Col. Barzillai Richmond: It is thereupon Voted and Resolved that the Consideration thereof be referred to the Committee appointed by the Town on the 17th Day of November Last to examine the Abstracts and Report who were entitled to said Bounty and if they shall find the Doctor intitled thereto agreeable to the Meaning and Intention of said Vote of the Town that they draw an Order for what is due to him to be paid out of the Town Treasury —

And as Mr Saunders Pitman hath made similar Application respecting himself it is also Resolved that the Consideration thereof be referred to the same Committee and that they proceed thereon as directed in the above Vote respecting Doct. Richmond Application . . .

The Following persons are drafted to Serve as Jurors at the Hon.ble the Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Third Monday of June A.D. 1779
Viz John Grainger Grand-Juror — and William Tyler (Hatter) Petit Juror —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on Friday the 2d Day of July A.D. 1779 — to take into Consideration the alarming State of the Public Currency and consider of Measures necessary to be adopted on the Occasion ..

Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator .....

The Address of Congress to the Inhabitants of the United States on the Subject of the [illegible] with the Proceedings of the Citizens of Philadelphia and Boston were Read — After full [illegible] and Debate had upon the Subject. The Meeting came to the following Resolutions Viz —

Whereas our currency has lately Depreciated in a very rapid Manner and it is highly necessary that Measures be adopted for preventing the like Evil in Future and Reducing Prices of the Necessaries of Life: Resolved That the Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq Mr James Mitchel Varnum Jonathan Arnold David Howell William Wheaton and Foster Esqrs be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make a Draft [illegible]

and Regulations as may be necessary to be adopted by this Town for that Salutary Purpose

Resolved That said Committee meet as soon as may be and make Report to this Town To-Morrow Morning at 5 o'Clock to which Time this Meeting is adjourned then to Meet at this Place . . . . . Dwight Foster Clerk pro Tempore

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1779 July 3:—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by adjournment at the State House in Providence on Saturday the 3d Day of July AD. 1779 —

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator . . .

The Appeal of the Committee appointed Yesterday. Rec.d

The Committee appointed to make a Draught of Resolves and Regulations to be adopted by this Town relative to the Depreciation of our Publick Currency laid the following Report before the Town which was unanimously accepted and approved by the Town, and is as follows Viz

The Report.

The General Utility secures the Happiness of Individuals; and Individuals are bound by irresistable Motives, to aim at the publick Good, as their Supreme Political Object. Protection Demands Obedience to the Laws and External Defence results from the United Exertions of all the Members of the Community: Personal Services decide the Fate of Battle and form the Triumphs of Victory; but their Continuance depends upon the Distribution of Property. These cannot be equally ascertained but by a Common Medium, a Standard to which every other Article must be referred for its Real Estimation — In defending against the Lawless Invasions of Great Britain, the United States of America have created a Currency upon their own Credit, for the Support of which they have pledged their Property and plighted their Faith. Confiding in Principles of Rectitude and Virtue the Worthy Citizens viewed their Calamities as Momentary Evils Speedily to be removed by Spirited Exertions; but with Astonishment and Indignation they find the Accomplishment of their Wishes protracted, by the Base intriguing Arts of Many, who, regardless of the Laws of GOD and Man, have exerted every possible Effort to depreciate the Currency — So far have these abandoned Tools of inhuman Despotism succeeded in their attrocious Villainy as justly to rouse the Attention of Every part of the Community — The Inhabitants of this Town feel themselves too nearly connected with and interested in the Cause of America in particular and the Rights of Mankind at Large to be silent upon this important occasion: and while they declare their own Sentiments and fixed Determination, they anticipate with Rapture the desired Event — They are confident of expressing the Feelings of Millions while they act in obedience to a Requisition of Congress, declared in their Spirited Judicious and Patriotic Address —

WE do therefore RESOLVE

1st That We will to the Utmost of our Power give effect to the Salutary purpose of Congress, expressed in their late Address, for Restoring the Credit of the Continental Currency —

2dly That as, in our Views, the most capital Means of accomplishing this will be effectually to supply the Continental Treasury; we will immediately promote Subscriptions in this Town for the purpose of Loaning Money to the Continent. And We do also recommend to all others to pursue Similar Measures. particularly those who have Deposited Money of the Emissions of May 20. 1777 and April 11: 1778 that in Lieu of their Monies they Receive Loan Office Certificate . . . .

3dly That We will cooperate with our Brethren the Worthy Citizens of Philadelphia and Boston in reducing the Prices of Articles by them enumerated as well as others . —

4thly That that Merchants and Traders in this Town be Requested to convene in order to ascertain the Prices at which the several Articles of Merchandize ought to be sold in this Town so as effectually to unite and well comport with what may be done in the same way by the Merchants and Traders in other Places, and our Brethren in the Country, and Report the Same to this Town on the 20th Instant and it is Recommended to the Tradesmen and Mechanics to Reduce their Prices from Time to Time according to the Prices of Merchandize and Country Produce

5thly That for the aforesaid Purposes, we will appoint a Standing Committee to Address and Correspond with the other Towns in this State as well as such Committees in other States as may be appointed for Similar Purposes.

6thly That We most cordially invite our Brethren in the Country who command the Necessaries of Life chearfully to Join us in So laudable an undertaking, as without their Spirited Concurrence all our Efforts must be ineffectual — assuring them of our Sincerity and Fixed Determination to persevere till the Good Purposes of Congress aforesaid shall be fully accomplished . —

WE must observe to the publick that we cannot entertain the Least Doubt but our Virtuous endeavours will be crowned with Success:

Because the United States have plighted their Faith and Pledged their Estates for the Value of their Currency which Sooner or Later it must obtain: and perhaps a Gradual Appreciation is best —

Because the Success hitherto attending our Arms in the Present Campaign, affords us the most Flattering Prospect of a Speedy and Final Expulsion of the Enemy from our Country —

Because by the Blessing of Heaven, there is a Prospect of the most Fruitful Season for all Kinds of Produce ever known in this Country; and should the Crops answer our Expectations, their Prices must of Consequence be Reduced

Because the Large continental Tax of Sixty Millions of Dollars and Sums of Money which we doubt not will soon be Loaned to the Continent must effectually supply the Treasury and prevent the Necessity of Future Emissions . . .

Resolved That the Hon. Jabez Bowen Esq.r Mr. John Brown, James Mitchel Varnum Jonathan Arnold, David Howell William Wheaton and Dwight Foster Esqrs. or the Major Part of them be and they are hereby appointed a Standing committee to address and correspond with the other Towns in this State, as well as the Committee of Correspondence in other States agreeable to the 5th Resolve of this Meeting . . . .

Resolved That the Proceedings of this Meeting be immediately printed in Hand Bills, and Transmitted by the Town Clerk to the several Town Clerks in this State, and to the Committee of our Brethren of Philadelphia and Boston as soon as may be —

Whereas many of the Inhabitants of this Town have been at great Expence and have suffered much on Account of the Troops having been Harrassed upon their Duty, the Troops have been in Possession of Rhode Island, and as the whole Community of the United States are equally concerned and benefited by the Duty so far as may be should equally bear and Sustain the Burthen thereof, and it is Right and Just that the Expence of Erecting Barracks for the Troops, should be borne and defrayed by the Publick General. This Meeting do Resolve and . . . . Resolved That Nicholas Brown Esq.r Doct.r Ephraim Bowen, and James Mitchel Varnum Esq.r be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to draft a Letter to the Delegates in Congress from this State requesting them to use their Influence that Barracks be provided at the Expence of the United States for the Accommodation of the Troops in Case it shall be necessary that any be quartered here this Town the Ensuing Winter

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meetings this Attendance and the same being duly considered and Examined This Vote and Resolved That Three pounds being the Amount thereof be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury — Order is Granted.

Dwight Foster Clerk pro Tempore —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden pursuant to the above Adjournment on Tuesday the 20th Day of July AD 1779 —

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator.

The Merchants and Traders of this Town having met yesterday pursuant to the Request of this Town on the 3d Instant in order to agree upon and Regulate the Prices of Goods &c but as they have not yet made Report It is Resolved This Meeting be adjourned for the Purpose of Receiving their

Whereas some of the Inhabitants of this Town apprehend that they are Taxed more than their Just Proportion of the Continental and State Taxes now assessed; It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Mr. Paul Allen, Benjamin Cushing Junr. Esqr. and Capt. David Lawrence be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to enquire into the Matter. That said Committee hear such persons as suppose themselves aggrieved and shall apply for Redress immediately after the Estimate of this Town is finished by the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to take the General Estimate of the State and that such persons be Refunded such Sums out of the Town Treasury with the Interest as they shall appear by said Estimate to be overtaxed —

It is Voted and Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned until Friday next at 2 o Clock in the Afternoon then to meet at this Place — That the clerk issue a Warrant to warn the Freemen then to meet to Receive the Report of the Merchants and Traders on the Regulation of the Prices of Goods &c and also to chuse a Collector of Taxes for the Town in the Room of M. Seamans who declines Serving &c . . .

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House on the 23d Day of July 1779 .

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator . . .

The Warrant for calling the Meeting being read after some Debate it was finally

Resolved as the Opinion of this Meeting that in the present Situation of public Affairs it will be advisable, that a Convention of Delegates from the Several Towns in this State be held at East Greenwich on the 2d Tuesday of August next, in order unitedly to agree upon some proper Measures for preventing any further Depreciation of the Continental Currency and for Rumping and supporting the Credit thereof, pursuant to the Recommendation of Congress in their Address of the 26th of May last by agreeing upon Regulated Prices for the Articles of Life and adopting Measures for furnishing Money by Loan Subscription or otherwise for the Use of the Continent; thereby to prevent the Necessity of any further Emissions; It is therefore unanimously

Voted and Resolved That the Committee of Correspondence appointed by the Town on the 3d Instant draft and forward a proper Address to each of the Towns upon this Subject Requesting them to come into the Measures; That said Address be forwarded by Express where necessary as soon as may be to each of the Town Clerks by them to be communicated to their Respective Towns; And that the Honble Stephen Hopkins Esqr the Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Mr. John Brown, Welcome Arnold Esqr and Mr. John Innes Clarke or the major Part of them be and they hereby are appointed in Behalf of this Town to meet Delegates from the other Towns in Convention, on the said 2d Tuesday of August for the purposes aforesaid —

Martin Seamans Esq who was appointed Collector of Taxes for this Town at the Annual Meeting in June last having declined Serving in that Office this meeting now proceeded to Elect another Person in his Room and the Ballots being Taken it appears That Dwight Foster Esqr is duly Elected and Chosen Collector of Taxes for the ensuing Year upon the same Terms and conditions as the said Martin Seamans was chosen in June Last —

Whereas Mr. William Compton exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meeting attendence &c and the same being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That the Amount of said Account being Five Pounds and Two shillings Lawful Money be paid to the said William Compton out of the Town Treasury — Order Granted

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on Friday the 20th Day of August 1779 .

Nicholas Brown Esqr Moderator

This Meeting called to take into Consideration the Proceedings of the Convention held at East Greenwich on the 2d Instant to act upon the same and enter into such Measures as may be necessary to give Force to and carry into Effect the Resolves and Regulations therein contained after having the same Read and Considered Do Vote and Resolve That the Doings of said Convention be and they hereby are accepted and Approved; and as the Business therein Recommended is of the utmost Importance, and the Present Day not sufficient to finish the same

It is Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned until To-Morrow at Two o Clock in the Afternoon in order to appoint the Committees and further to act upon the Important Matters recommended by said Convention: That this Resolve be inserted in the Providence Gazette and that the Freemen be warned by Beat of Drum to meet for the purposes aforesaid when it is Request that there may be a full and general Attendance —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment on Saturday the 21st Day of August 1779 . Nicholas Brown Esqr Moderator

Whereas the Honorable the Continental Congress in their Address of the 26th of May last have Earnestly called upon the People of these States for their most Vigilant Attention to the Conduct of Inferior Officers employed in the Public Service with Respect to every Species of Misbehaviour whether Proceeding from Ignorance Negligence or Fraud; and by their Resolution of the 9th of July last have Earnestly requested the Legislative Powers of each State instantly to make the strictest Enquiry into the Conduct of every Officer in the Quarter Master Generals or Purchasing or Issuing commissary Generals Departments; and in Case of any Kind of Misbehaviour or strong Suspicion thereof in any such Person not being an Officer immediately appointed by Congress to remove or Suspend every such Persons; and also to enquire into the Number of Persons employed in said Departments and immediately to discharge such as shall be Judged unnecessary

And this Meeting impressed with a Sense of the absolute Necessity of making the aforesaid Enquiries; It is therefore Resolved That the Representatives of this Town be and they hereby are Instructed to use their Endeavours that the General Assembly take the most Effectual Measures for making the said Enquiries and carrying the said Resolve of Congress into Execution; and also particularly to enquire into the Conduct of the Present Barrack Master in this Town and all other Staff Officers in this Department of the Army . . .

Pursuant to the Recommendation of the Convention held at East Greenwich on the 10th Instant, It is Voted and Resolved That the following Gentlemen, Viz, The Honble Stephen Hopkins Esq the Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Mr. John Brown Welcome Arnold Esqr Mr. John Innes Clarke Col. Amos Atwell, William Wheaton Esqr Samuel Butler Esqr Mr. Jonathan Hamonson, Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr and Mr. Paul Allen be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to affix the Prices of European Goods in an Average Proportion with the Articles of West India Produce as Regulated by said Convention, and to Regulate the Prices of Innholders Labour Teaming Manufactures and other Articles; and make such further Regulations as they may think necessary for carrying into Execution the Doings of said Convention: and that said Committee make Report to the Town Meeting on the last Tuesday of this Month .

It is also Voted and Resolved That the following Gentlemen, Viz, Ephraim Bowen Esq Col. John Mathewson Col. Levi Hall, William Wheaton Esqr Joseph G. Wanton Esqr Capt. Sylvanus Jenckes Major Christopher Olney, Mr. Nehemiah Sweet, Capt. Zachariah Allen, Mr. Steven Mason Mr. Caleb Carpenter Mr. Joseph Hoyle Mr. John Atwood, Mr. Asa Franklin, Mr. William Tyler Jr. Mr. Thomas Sabin, Mr. Josiah Gifford, Capt. Samuel Warner, Mr. Joseph Arnold, Mr. Hezekiah Baxter Mr. Noah Smith Mr. Abner Thayer Mr. Timothy Fuller and Mr. Obadiah Gregory be and they hereby are appointed a Committee of Inspection for the Purposes mentioned in the Doings of said Convention —

Resolved That the Tax assessed upon Samuel Stevens in July last, who was killed on board the Brigantine Saratoga commanded by Capt. James Munro be remitted —

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for attending Town Meetings for an Head to made for the Drum belonging to the Town &c and the said Account being duly considered it is Voted and Resolved That Nine Pound and Twelve Shillings being the amount thereof be paid to him out of the Town Treasury—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled according to Law at the State House for the Election of Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly &c. on the Tuesday the 31st Day of August in the Year of our LORD 1779...

The Hon:ble John Foster Esq. Moderator—

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter mentioned are duly Elected and chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden according to Law in October next and in all Sessions of the Assembly (after October) until the General Election in May next Viz,

Theodore Foster Esq. Elected 1st Deputy—
Welcome Arnold ... Esq. ... 2d Do.
David Howell ... Esq. ... 3d Do.
Mr John Innes Clarke ... 4th Do.

NB Mr John Brown was chosen Fifth Deputy (but declined) Serving previous to the Election of the persons abovementioned as aforesaid.....

The committee appointed by the Town on the 21st Instant to affix the Prices of the several Articles mentioned in the 4th and 5th Resolves of the Convention held at East Greenwich on the 10th Instant made Report which was agreed to and is as follows, Viz,

"Whereas the Goods imported from Europe are so various in their Qualities as to render it impossible to affix the Exact Prices at which Every Article recommended to be sold; It is therefore Resolved That all Holders and Retailers of European Goods shall in Future sell all the said Goods at Twenty per cent or one Fifth part less than the Prices at which the same Articles were sold the 1st of August that being the Average Reduction in the Prices of West India Goods.

Resolved That the following Prices for Labour Manufactures &c be the Highest which shall be taken in this Town Viz

Common Labourers 8/ per day they finding themselves. Ship Carpenters Caulkers, and Masons 7/ per Day. House Carpenters Ship-Joiners and Riggers 7/ per Day...

Blacksmiths Work 10/ per lb. For Shoeing a Horse all round £1. 10. 0 For Heeling and corking all round £6. 0. 0 For New-fitting all round £1. 7. 0 For a Hoed Axe well Steeled £6. 0. 0 and other work in Proportion..

Tanners 18/ per lb. for good Sole Leather and other Leather in Proportion

Shoe-Makers For best Customers Shoes £6. 6. 0 per pair and other Work in Proportion. Best Boots £25. 4s. per Pair.

Painters Physicians Apothecaries Block Makers Cabinet-Makers Pewterers. Rope Makers Boat Builders Tin-Men and Painters shall reduce their Prices Twenty per Cent.

Leather-Dressers For the best Deers Leather Breeches £33. 0. 0 and other work in Proportion—

Hatters for the best Beaver Hats £35. 0. 0 best Castor Ditto £21. 0. 0 best Felt Do £12. 0. 0—

Tailors For making a Plain Suit of Broadcloth Cloathes £17. 0. 0 and other Cloathes in Proportion—

Card-Makers For best Wool-Cards made in this State £39. 12/ per Doz. and £3. 12/ per single pair—

Glaziers For setting Glass and Finding Puttey 4/ per Square.

Inn-Holders and Victualers shall reduce their Prices for Victualing and Horse-Keeping Twenty Per Cent—

Gold-Smiths shall not take more than the Weight of the Plate they work and Sixteen Pence what they [illegible] for their Labour in the Year 1774

Saddlers For a Good Plain Saddle with a Housing or Saddle Cloth £13. 0. 0 For a Good Bridle £1. 10. 0 [illegible] in Proportion...

Sail Makers For working New Duck £5.. 8.. 0 per Bolt.....

Milk 4/ per Quart Rough Tallow 6/6 per lb. Candles 12/ per Box and 18/ per single Pound—

And all other Tradesmen and Mechanics not before mentioned shall reduce their Work and Manufactures in an Average Proportion with the above.

We the subscribers being appointed a Committee to affix the Prices of European Goods and to Regulate the Prices of Innholders Labourers Manufacturers &c having met on the said Business do present the foregoing Report for the Consideration of the Town Meeting... Step. Hopkins. Jabez Bowen, John Brown, Welcome Arnold. Amos Atwell, William Wheaton Jdn.e Butler Jonathan Clarkson, Nathan.l Wheaton, Paul Allen John J. Clark."....

And the said Report having been several Times Read and fully considered It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That the same be and hereby is accepted.

It is also Voted and Resolved That the said Report be published in both the Newspapers in this Town and that the Orders and Regulations therein contained take Place on Monday the Sixth Day of September 1779.. of which the Inhabitants are to take Notice and Govern themselves accordingly.....

Resolved That the Committee of Inspection appointed on the 21st Instant be empowered to inquire into the Conduct and Receive complaints against all Persons offending against any of the preceding Resolves and upon Evidence obtained to report the same to the Committee of Correspondence appointed on the 2d Day of July last, who are empowered either to proceed to inflict a proper Punishment by Advertising them as Enemies to their Country or in Cases of any peculiar Difficulty to lay the whole before the Town to be finally Determined....

Pursuant to the Recommendation of the Honorable General Assembly at their last Session It is Voted and Resolved That Nicholas Brown Esq. Col. Zephaniah Andrews and Mr John Mumford be a Committee to open a Subscription for Loaning Money in this Town for the Use of the Continent and that the said Committee make Report to one of the Deputies previous to the Meeting of the General Assembly on the 13th of next Month.

The following Persons are drafted according to Law to serve as Jurors at the Hon.ble the Superior Court of Judicature &c to be holden at Providence within and for the County of Providence on the Second Monday of September 1779 Viz Capt. John Updike Grandjuror
Edward Spaulding Petit Juror.... and
Daniel Snow to serve at the Admiralty Court on the 6th of next Month

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Services as Serjeant: and the said Account being duly considered it is Voted and Resolved That Four Pounds and Ten Shillings the Amount thereof be paid him out of the Town Treasury —

Resolved That Mr John White be appointed Clerk of the Market in the Room of Silas Downer Esq. who is now Absent from Town —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.—

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House on the 13th Day of September A.D. 1779.

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator..

Whereas at the last Convention held at East Greenwich it was recommended to the several Towns in this State to affix Reasonable Prices for Labour Innholders Mechanicks &c in their Respective Towns; in pursuance of which Recommendation a Number of the Towns have affixed the said Prices upon different Principles and at different Rates and great Inconveniences will arise unless some General Regulation are fixed upon in this Matter to extend throughout the State; Therefore Pursuant to the Recommendation of the Town of Warwick at a Town Meeting held there the 31st of August last and published in the Providence Gazette of the 4th Instant:

It is Voted and Resolved That the Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. and [illegible] whatever of this Town or any of them be and they hereby are authorized and empowered to

[illegible] to meet the Delegates from the other Towns in this State at East Greenwich this Day in order to consult together and Regulate the Prices of Tinbuders, Labour and all Articles not Stated by said Convention and make Report of the Proceedings of said Convention to this Town on Tuesday the 21st Instant—

Mr Jeremiah Brown having represented to this Meeting that a Quantity of Stone belonging to the Work Roop Wharf hath been thrown into the Channel of the River and that it is necessary the same should be taken up; It is Voted and Resolved That he be permitted to take up the said Stones and put the same upon said Wharff and if the Town shall Refuse to make him Reasonable Satisfaction for his service That he have Liberty to take the said Stone to his own Use. And that he be permitted to take to his own Use any of the Stones not belonging to the said Wharff lying in the Channell of the River between the Bridge and the Lower Mill after Six Days previous Notice to the Owners of the Adjacent Land to Remove the same if they see fit. —

Resolved That Mr Thomas Bennet be and he is hereby appointed a Surveyor of Highways in the Room of Joseph Arnold who declines Serving. . .

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

Sept. 21st At a Town Meeting legally holden by Adjournment in Providence on the 21st Day of Septem. 1779—

Ephraim Bowen Esq. Moderator.

Gov. Cooke is attend the . . State Convention.

Whereas the Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. who was appointed at the Last Meeting to attend the Convention at East Greenwich on the 13th Instant hath represented That the said Convention is adjourned to the 27th Instant and that he cannot then attend the same being under Obligations to attend other Publick Business: It is Therefore Voted and Resolved That the Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq be and he is hereby appointed in the Room of the said Jabez Bowen Esq. in Behalf of this Town to meet the Delegates from the other Towns in this State at the General Convention to be holden at East Greenwich by Adjournment on the 27th Instant for Regulating the Prices of Articles not Stated —

P. Allen to . . collect and . . Repair Firelocks

Resolved That Capt Paul Allen be and he is hereby appointed to examine the Situation of the Fire Arms and Accoutrement belonging to the Town;— To examine in whose Hands the same now are, and to collect all the Arms which have been delivered out to the Inhabitants and Repair such as Require it and Deliver the same to the Captains of the several Companies taking their Receipts:— That he examine whether the General Assembly have made any Order for Repairing those Arms belonging to the State assigned for the Use of this Town; and to apply to the Assemblys Committee to see the same Done; and if no order of the Assembly hath been made Relative thereto, that he proceed with the said Arms belonging to the State as directed respecting the Town Arms aforesaid; it being of importance that all said Arms should be Ready for Use and that he apply to the General Assembly or Council of War for defraying the Expence of Repairing the Arms belonging to the State as aforesaid —

Committee to inquire & report in T. Riggs's Affair . . .

Whereas Representation is made to this Meeting that an Action is commenced against the Town Serjeant in Consequence of his having executed a Warrant from the Assessors of Rates for Distraining a Tax assessed upon Thomas Rigg . . It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Col. Amos Atwell Capt. Paul Allen and Theodore Foster be a Committee to examine into the Circumstances of the Affair and Report at the next Meeting —

W. Compston . . allowed £6. 18. 0

Whereas Mr William Compston exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for attending this Committee of Inspection and warning and Attending Town Meetings &c. and the said Account being duly Considered; It is Voted and Resolved That Six Pounds and Eighteen Shillings being the Amount thereof be paid to him out of the Town Treasury . .

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting legally warned and holden in Providence on the 28th Day of [illegible] in the Year of our Lord 1779

Ephraim Bowen Esq. Moderator

Whereas it is of Importance that the Inhabitants of the Town who have not Returned Lists of their Ratable Property to the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to take the General Estimate should make the same as soon as may: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Capt. Lewis Peck Nathaniel Wheaton and Martin Seamans Esquires be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to go through the Different parts of the Town and to call upon all the said Persons who have not Returned said Lists and represent to them the Necessity of their Rendering an Account immediately of their Ratable property to the Committee for taking the General Estimate that a just proportion and no more of the Expences of Government may be assigned to this Town —

Resolved That the other Business mentioned in the Warrant be Referred for Consideration to the Next Meeting — and That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next at 2 o'Clock P.M. That Notice of this Adjournment and Business be given by the Town Serjeant by Beat of Drum and that the Clerk issue his Warrant accordingly —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally warned and holden by Adjournment in Providence on the 29th Day of November A.D. 1779—

Ephraim Bowen Esq. Moderator.

Whereas Dwight Foster Esq Collector of Taxes for the present Year, hath Represented that by the Death of his late Hon.d Father on the 17th of October last it has become Necessary for him to remove to Brookfield in the State of Massachusetts Bay and for that Reason hath Requested Leave to Resign the Office of Collector: Therefore

Resolved That the Resignation of the said Dwight Foster be and the same is hereby accepted —

The following persons are drafted to serve as Juror at the next Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden in Providence. Viz; Job Danforth, Grand-Juror— Joseph Russell Petit Juror —

Resolved That the Deputies of this Town be and they hereby are directed to make Application to the General Assembly at their next Sessions requesting them to take proper Measures for Repairing the Work House which has been improved for Barracking the Troops and thereby greatly damaged.

Resolved That Capt. Lewis Peck and Col. John Mathewson be added to the Committee appointed on the 21st Day of September last to examine the Circumstances of the Affair of the Assessment against Thomas Rigas and the Action Commenced thereon against the Town Serjeant — That said Committee be empowered to do every thing respecting the said Matter which they shall think proper and most conducive to the Interest of the Town and to settle and Reject the Dispute or otherwise proceed as said Committee shall think fit.

Whereas Mr William Compston hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning and Attending Town Meetings &c and the same being duly considered, It is Voted and Resolved That Seven pounds and Four shillings being the Amount of said Account be paid to him out of the Town Treasury — Order Granted —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting legally warned and held in Providence on the 10th Day of January A.D. 17[illegible]

Ephraim Bowen Esq. Moderator

Whereas Mary Clarke Wife of Jonathan Clarke Senr and Mother of Jonathan Clarke Junr both of Charleston in South Carolina for a considerable Time past has been supported in part at the Expence of this Town and it is represented that her said Husband and Son are in good circumstances and able to support the said Mary Clarke —

It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Town Clerk be and he is hereby appointed and Directed to write to the said Jonathan Clarke and his Son upon this Subject and to inform them that the Town conceive that as the Ties of Natural Justice and humanity Require that Mrs Clarke should be supported by her Husband and Son — That the Town will therefore order that she be sent to them at Charleston unless they prevent her being an Expence to the Town in future: That Duplicate Letter be forwarded [illegible] the Post Office the other by Land —

Whereas Pero Brown formerly Servant of James Brown is now supported at the Expence of the Town: and as Dispute have arisen respecting the Manner and the person or persons by whom he ought to be supported + It is therefore Resolved That a Committee be appointed to examine the Circumstances attending the said Pero and to enquire who by Law is liable to Maintain said Pero — That said Committee make Report to the Overseers of the Poor who are directed to apply to such person for his Maintenance as the said Committee shall judge liable by Law to support him — And that General Varnum Ephraim Bowen and Joseph Mawlin Esq.rs be the said Committee.

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next at 2 o'clock P.M.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting holden by Adjournment in Providence on Wednesday January 12th A.D. 1780.

Ephraim Bowen Esq.r Moderator —

Resolved That Mr. James Lovett be and he is hereby Elected and Appointed Collector of Taxes in the Room of Dwight Foster Esq. whose Resignation of that Office was accepted at a Town Meeting held on the 29th Day of November last to serve until the Annual Election in June next upon the same Terms and conditions as the Collector was appointed on the 7th Day of June last and that he be allowed for his Services Two per cent upon all the Monies he shall collect for the Town —

Resolved That the Town Treasurer be and he is hereby Directed to call upon Martin Leamans Esq. heretofore Collector of Taxes for this Town for a Settlement of his Accounts; and that the Treasurer inform him that it is the Request and Expectation that he settle all his Accounts as Collector and pay the Monies due from him within one Month from this Time ——————

Resolved That the Committee appointed to make Defence to the Action commenced by Lemuel Storrs against the Town Serjeant on Account of the Assessment of a Tax upon Thomas Rigge be empowered to draw Fifty Pounds Lawful Money out of the Town Treasury for the purpose of making defence to said Action: said Committee to be accountable for the same ——————

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meetings Attendance &c and the same being duly considered: It is Resolved That the Sum of Nine Pounds being the Amount of said Account be paid him out of the Town Treasury — Order Granted —

Whereas Benoni Pearce Esq.r hath laid before this Meeting Proposals in Writing in the Words following Viz.

"Providence January 11th 1780 ——————

Whereas there has arose a Dispute concerning an old Negro Servant named Pero belonging to the Estate of James Brown late of Providence Deceased: and as some Gentlemen conclude he ought to be supported by the Subscriber, I hereby voluntarily offer to Submit to have the whole Merits of the Matter tried by a Court of Conscience — or a Quorum of Attornies — Physically — Mercantilely — or Mechanically — or in a Military Way — and for this End present the Town with a Number of the Principal Gentlemens Names and Bind myself by all the Ties of Honour and Every thing else to stand to the Determination of a Quorum of said Gentlemen ——————

The Rev.d Mr. Manning, Mr. Moses Brown, Amasa Gray ——————
General Varnum John Foster, Theodore Foster, David Howell, Dwight Foster, Esquires ——————
The Hon.d Nicholas Cooke, Col. Joseph Nightingale, Mr. John Brown, Welcome Arnold, Esq.r Mr. John J. Clarke, Joseph D. Russell A.M. Mr. Paul Allen, Mr. Nicholas Brown, Robert Taylor Esq.r Mr. Nathan Angell, Mr. Joseph Cooke, Mr. Elijah Sheppardson Mr. Samuel Hamlen ——————
— Col. Amos Atwell, Col. Jon.a Arnold, Col. Levi Hall, Col. William Barton, Col. Silas Talbot Col. Zephaniah Andrews Col. William Wall ——————— Mr. Rufus Waterman. Capt. Daniel Buckler, Joseph G. Wanton Esq.r Henry Ward Esq. Col. Bazellai Richmond ——— Doct.r Ephraim Bowen Mr. Ebenezer Richmond Capt. John Larcher, Capt. Elijah Bacon — Mr. John Carter Capt. Phenehas Potter William Wheaton ——————— Witness my Hand

Benoni Pearce"

And the same being duly considered It is thereupon Resolved That Mr. Moses Brown, Doct.r Jonathan Arnold and Col. Amos Atwell be and they hereby are appointed by Mutual Consent and Agreement between the Town and the said Benoni Pearce Esq.r to settle and determine the Dispute above mentioned + And it is agreed by this Meeting in Behalf of the Town and by the said Benoni Pearce That the Award and Determination of the said Arbitrators shall be final and binding upon the Parties ...

And it is Voted and Resolved That Col. Zephaniah Andrews and Capt. David Lawrence be and they hereby are appointed to appear in Behalf of the Town before the said Arbitrators to represent the Circumstances attending the said Pero and the Reasons why the Town ought not to be liable to Support him —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally warned and held in Providence on the 21st Day of March A.D. 1780

Col. Zephaniah Andrews Moderator —

The following Instructions to the Representatives of the Town being laid before this Meeting Viz

To the Deputies who Represent the Town of Providence in the General Assembly

Gentlemen,

We the Freemen of the Town of Providence who are assembled in Town Meeting March 21st A.D. 1780 taking into our Serious Consideration the Necessity of a due Attention to the Expenditure of the publick Monies and that it is of great Importance that the publick should be charged with no unnecessary Expences think proper to communicate our Sentiments and Instructions upon this Subject to our Representatives in the General Assembly ——

We consider it as of the utmost Importance for the preservation of the Liberty and Happiness of these States that no persons be supported at the publick Expence as Pensioners and Paupers merely on Account of their having been employed in the Service of the publick in Offices of Trust and Consequence however faithfully they may have executed the same. ——— It is the Glory and Happiness of a free People that those whom they may call forth to serve in Public Stations when occasion for their Services shall cease shall then put off the Garb of Office and Reassume the Place of common Citizens ... The Rulers in that Case can have no Interests seperate from the People at Large and can impose no Burthens but those of which they themselves must participate and will therefore in all their Determinations be led to seek the publick Good .....

The Voice of Reason informs us — "That the Labourer is worthy of his Hire" — Compensation ought therefore to be made for Services done for the publick as well as Individuals — But this ought to be in proportion to the Time, the Abilities and the Skill of the person employed, taking care at the same Time that no greater perquisites be annexed to an Office than shall be sufficient to induce Suitable persons to Serve therein. —

We think it very ill policy to support any persons at the publick Expence when it can be avoided and as we conceive that there is a greater proportion of Officers now in the pay of this State than is necessary We have therefore have thought proper to direct and instruct you who represent the Town of Providence to use your Endeavours at the Next Sessions of the General Assembly that due Examination be made into into this Matter and that all Supernumerary Officers now in the pay of this State be discharged as soon as may be. —

And as We are informed that there is a Number of Officers who have drawn large Sums of Money out of the General Treasury and never accounted for the Expenditure of the same it is our Earnest and positive Request that such persons be immediately called to an Account and settled with — Delays are dangerous — Life is uncertain — Therefore let us leave nothing to be done to Morrow that we can do to Day. —

It is Voted and Resolved That the foregoing Prose as Instructions to the Representatives of this Town in the General Assembly and that the same be copied and Delivered to them for their Use and Direction accordingly. ... ——

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning and attending this Meeting and the said Account being duly considered it is Voted and Resolved That Seven Pounds and Sixteen Shillings Lawful Money being the Amount said Account be paid to him out of the Town Treasury. — Theodore Foster Town Clerk

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At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled on Wednesday the 19th Day of April in the Year of our LORD 1780 at the State House being the Day appointed by Law for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and putting in Votes for General Officers and Delegates in Congress

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator —

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter mentioned are duly Elected and Chosen Deputies to

the Town in General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden at the General Election in Providence on the first Wednesday of May next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the Last Wednesday of October next Viz

Welcome Arnold Esq. 1st — Deputy
David Howell Esq. — 2d — Do
Hon. Darius Sessions Esq 3d — Do
Benoni Pearce Esq. 4th — Do

Resolved That David Howell Esq. be and he hereby is Elected and appointed Collector of Taxes for this Town in the Room of Mr James Lovett who has now Resigned that Office on said David Howell's giving Bond according to Law

Whereas the Hon.ble Council of War by a Resolution passed on the 7th Day of April AD 1780 have Recommended to this Town That they furnish a Guard to consist of a Serjeant a Corporal and Twelve Privates to guard the Magazines in said Town by Night — That they be allowed to draw one Ration per Day each out of the Commissaries Store in full compensation for their services & That in case the above Recommendation is complied with by the Town of Providence That it be recommended to Col.o Christopher Greene Commanding Officer in this State to order all the Troops from Providence to Newport there to do Duty

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the consideration thereof be referred to a Committee who are hereby empowered to act and proceed thereon as they shall think most advisable for the Interest of the Town and the publick — And if said Committee shall think it best to establish said Guard that they appoint a proper Person to inlist the Men — and give all the Necessary Directions — And that Col. William Hall Mr David Lawrence and Mr Paul Allen be the said Committee.

This Meeting sensible of the Good Services of Brigadier General Ezekiel Cornell while commanding the Troops employed in the publick Defence, especially of his Exemplary Care in preventing a Misexpenditure of the publick Money and a Waste of the publick property, whereby the publick in General as well as this Town in Particular have received essential Benefits and Advantages

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Thanks of this Meeting be and they hereby are given to the said Brigadier General Cornell for his Services while in Command as aforesaid and that a Copy of this Vote be Transmitted to General Cornell

Whereas Town Meetings have heretofore been frequently called in Consequence of Requests from persons who have not attended the Same Meetings which they requested might be called and difficulties have thereby arisen; It is therefore Voted and Resolved That in case any person or persons shall sign a Request for calling a Town Meeting and shall not attend such Meeting such person or persons shall pay the Expence of calling such Meeting unless he or they shall render a Satisfactory Excuse for not attending to be recovered by the Town Treasurer by Bill Plaint or Information before any Two Justices of the Peace in the Town on Certificate of such Absence from the Moderator of such Meeting.

A Register of the Names of the Freemen of the Town of [illegible] who put in their Proxy Votes for the General Officers of the State and Delegates in Congress to be returned to the General Election as follows (Viz)

John White
Charles Lee
Nathan Waterman
Timothy Sabin
Oliver Carpenter
Timothy Gladding
Joshua Burr
Nehemiah Sweet
Ralph Merry
Oliver Carpenter Wheelwright
William Compton
Walker Harding
Daniel Kilbwell
Samuel Warner Junr
Joseph Potter Junr
Benjamin Randall
Charles Keene
Samuel Hamlin
William Morris
John Grainger
Borders Pitman
Silvanus Jenckes
Jonathan Gladding
Arthur Fenner Jun
Simeon H. Olney
Benjamin Allen
Reuben Potter
Joseph Snow Junr
Levi Burr
James Snow Junr
Isaac Brown
Christopher Arnold Junr
William Page
William Scothans
Zephaniah Brown
Christopher Sheldon
Joseph Martin
Henry Ward
James Lovet
Thomas Jones
John Fitton
James Snow
Paul Allen
Jehu Smith

Nathan Angell
William Russell
Philip Martin
William Barton
John Pettey
Joseph D. Russell
Stephen Hopkins
John Mumford
David Wilkinson
Elisha Brown
John Atwood
Joshua Ashton
Caleb Wheaton
James Sabin
William Bowen
Obadiah Sprague
Andrew Williams
Joseph Arnold
Thomas Bennet
Nicholas Cooke
John Innes Clarke
Joseph Clarke
James Burril
Ebenezer Burrill
Amos Throop
Joseph Burrill
Joseph Comstock
Daniel Branch
William Tillinghast
Gideon Crawford Junr
Jacob Whitman
Zachariah Allen
Benjamin Alger
Robert Rowell
Joseph Olney
Benjamin Cushing Junr
David Martin
Gershom Carpenter
Benjamin Cushing
Thomas Sabin
John Brown
William Tyler
Joseph Nightingale
William Smith

Zephaniah Andrews
Henry Bacon
Benjamin Stille
Thomas Rone
John Larethet
Amos Horton
John Mathewson
Samuel Black
Thomas Perry
James Arnold
Benjamin Gladding
William Hall
Joseph Eddy
Daniel Snow
Barzellai Richmond
David Lawrence
Benjamin Cozzens
Elijah Bacon
John Davis
J. M. Varnum
Samuel Smith
Samuel Yates
Joseph Allen
Nathaniel Gillmor
Daniel Buckin
George Beverley
John Dermont
Nicholas Brown
Ephraim Wheaton
John Field
Charles Holden
Robert Taylor
Samuel Butler
Edward Thurber
Thomas Rustenborough
Eleazer Peck
William Thurber
William Cozzens
Phineas Potter
Edward Hawkings
William Brayton
Samuel Thurber Junr
Arthur Fenner Senr
David Burr

Levi Hall
James Black
James Wheaton
Nathaniel Gladding
Archibald Stewart
Benjamin Lindsey
Joseph Smith
Jno. Samel Chace
Samuel Young
Henry H. Tillinghast
Comfort Wheaton
Joshua Walker
Joseph Lawrence
Edward Taylor
Daniel Carbon
John Cozzens
John Carter
Job Smith
Ephraim Bowen
John Rogers
Christo.r Olney
Levi Whipple
Nathaniel Wheaton
Benjamin Bowen
Solomon Brown Junr
Edward Spaulding
Jeremiah Olney
James Berry
John Lawrence
Joseph Field
Christopher Arnold
Jabez Bowen
Elias Callender
David Howell
William Ashton
Josiah Gifford
John Cross
Samuel Coy
William Martin
Stephen Hartshorn
Alexander S. Shelden
John Vial
Benjamin Eddy
Theodore Foster

Proxies of the Freemen above named for his Excellency William Greene Esq.r as Governor — 175
for the Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq.r as Deputy Governor — 175
Proxies —

Memorandum April 19th 1780. There were Five printed Proxies laid before the Freemen of the State this Day nominating Persons to the Offices of Governor and one after by other Electors this Evening [illegible]

At a Town Meeting duly warned and holden at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on Monday the first Day of May AD 1780 —

Capt David Lawrence Moderator

The following persons being duly Qualified as the Law requires It is Voted and Resolved That they be and they hereby are admitted as Freemen of the Town (Viz) Ebenezer White Obed Seaver Richard Malven, George Goodwin, Samuel Snow Thomas Truman Thomas Smart and Charles Smith.

Whereas David Howell Esq. who was appointed Collector of Taxes for the Town on the 19th Day of April Last hath Requested that another person might be appointed in his Room — It is thereupon Resolved That Mr. Ralph Merry be appointed Collector of Taxes for this Town with said Mr. Howell on his Giving Bond in double the Sums of the Taxes he shall have to Collect: and That he be allowed Three per Cent for his Service in collecting the same: and That Mr. Howell be dismissed from said Office as soon as he shall have collected and paid £7000 of the Tax lest assessed into the General Treasury it being now agreed between the said Mr. Howell and Mr. Merry that said Merry shall Receive the whole Fees for collecting all the Taxes assessed in said Rate Bill at the Rate of £3 per Cent —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk —

At a Town Meeting legally warned and holden at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on Friday Morning at 8 o Clock on the 5th Day of May AD 1780 —

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins Esq. Moderator —

Whereas the Hon. Darius Sessions Esq. on the 19th Day of April Last was Elected a Deputy to represent this Town in the General Assembly and the Lower House having Declared his Election void by Reason that he had not Subscribed the Test required of all Persons to qualify them to be Elected and thereupon passed a Resolve empowering the Town to choose a Deputy for the said Town in his Room and the Freemen being now Convened for this Purpose and the said Darius Sessions Esq. having subscribed the said Test before the House of Deputies; — and being again Nominated as a Deputy and the Ballots being taken it appears That the said Darius Sessions Esq. is again Elected by a great Majority to represent this Town in the General Assembly. — . . . . . .

Theodore Foster Town-Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence Legally assembled at the State House on Monday the Fifth Day of June AD 1780 being the Anniversary Election for Town Officers the Gentlemen hereafter mentioned were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names for the Year ensuing (Viz)

Ephraim Bowen Esqr Moderator. — — —

Town-Clerk . . .	Theodore Foster Esqr
Town-Council . . .	Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr President Capt Christopher Sheldon Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Capt Paul Allen Samuel Butler Esqr and Capt David Lawrence
Town Treasurer . .	James Arnold Esqr
Town-Sergeant . —	Mr William Compton
Town-Audit . . .	Welcome Arnold Esqr Capt David Lawrence and Mr John Fitton. —
Constables	Messrs William Compton Ralph Merry Martin Thurber and Joseph Allen
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Mr Jacob Whitman
Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor	William Wheaton Esqr Mr Nathan Waterman and Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr on the same Conditions as last Year . . —

Surveyors

Surveyors of Joists and Boards. Messrs Christopher Arnold Elijah Bacon, Jonathan Hammon John Smith Comfort Wheaton and Gershom Carpenter. —

Surveyors of Highways — Capt Paul Allen, Col. Levi Hall and Mr Thomas Bennet

Gaugers of Cask . . — Messrs Samuel Jackson Ezek Brown, Ezek Eddy Archibald Young Jon Jenks

Vendue Master . . Benoni Pearce Esqr

Packers of Beef and Pork . . Messrs Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold William Smith (Cooper) and Joseph Field . . —

Corders of Wood . — Messrs Samuel Black John Pettey, John Atwood Martin Thurber Recompence Healy William Wheaton Son of Ephraim Joseph Hoyle James Field and Joseph Morton Esq

Overseer of the Pest-House . . James Black Esq

Collector of Taxes . . John Beverly Esqr on the same conditions as the Collector was chosen last Year saving that by Agreement he is to be allowed 3 per cent upon all Taxes he shall collect

Pound-Keepers . . . . Messrs Nathan Waterman and John Pettey

To Value Estates when Disputed in Voting. Arthur Fenner Junr Esqr Mr Samuel Black Mr John Brown —

Fence-Viewers . . . . Benjamin Cushing Junr Esqr Deacon John Field Major Charles Keene and Mr Christopher Arnold.

Presidents of the Firewards. Hon. Jabez Bowen Esqr Mr William Smith and Joseph Martin Esqr —

Firewards . . . Nicholas Brown Esqr Col. Joseph Nightingale Col. Amos Atwell Col. Daniel Tillinghast Mr Job Smith Hon. John Foster Esqr Capt Robert Taylor Mr Samuel Thurber and James Arnold Esqr. —

Persons belonging to the Fire Engine No. 1. near the Bridge . . . Messrs Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter John Innes Clarke Joseph Nightingale John Brown James Arnold Arthur Fenner Junr Welcome Arnold Thomas Bennet John White William Wall and David Lawrence

Persons belonging to the Fire Engine No. 2 at the North End . . . Benjamin Cushing Junr Sanders Pitman Charles Keene, Levi Hall Martin Thurber Benjamin Allen Zachariah Allen Samuel Young William Wheaton Junr Benjamin Comstock Olney Winsor and Benjamin Marshall —

Persons belonging to the Fire Engine No. 3 on the West Side of the River . . . Messrs John Mathewson Zephaniah Andrews Daniel Jackson James Black Asa Franklin Elijah Bacon Joseph Cooke Joseph Hoyle Sylvanus Jenckes Paul Allen Samuel Black and Zephaniah Brown —

Persons to remove or pull down Houses in case of Fire . . . Messrs Joseph Martin Jonathan Hammon Comfort Wheaton James Snow John Smith Martin Seamans Oliver Carpenter and John Carlisle

Persons to order when and where to Remove Goods in case of Fire . . . Messrs Solomon Drown Barzillai Richmond David Wilkinson Henry Bacon Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber: with all the Powers contained in a Vote of the Town passed on the Third Monday of June AD 1772.

Field Drivers . . . Messrs Gershom Carpenter Thomas Bennet John Jones Benjamin Cushing Junr Ralph Merry and Tilley Merrick Olney

Sealers of Leather . . . Samuel Butler Esqr Mr Martin Thurber —

Scavengers — Messrs Nathan Angell Samuel Black Joseph Crawford Sanders Pitman William Wall and Benoni Brown —

Town Cryer . . Mr Daniel Branch.

Overseer of the Work-House Mr John Dermount.

Overseer of the Bridge near Mr Jonathan Olneys . Major Christopher Olney. — — —

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge . . Mr Jonathan Hammon —

Overseer of the Two Bridges called Mill-Bridge and Stevens's Bridge — Mr Obadiah Sprague. —

Resolved That the Hon. Jabez Bowen Nicholas Brown and Arthur Fenner Junr Esqrs be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to agree with some suitable Person to serve as Clerk of the Market and to draft such further Rules and Regulations for the Market and pointing out the Duty of the Clerk of the Market as said Committee shall judge necessary and report at the next Meeting. — — — — —

Resolved That the Overseers of the Poor with Mr Comfort Wheaton be a Committee to inspect the Situation of the Work House and to Estimate the Expence of making the Repairs necessary for Rendering the same Habitable by a Master and Family and Receiving such persons as may be properly sent there and prevent the Building from going to Ruin . . . . . — —

Whereas David Howell Esq. who was chosen a Deputy to represent this Town in General Assembly has Resigned his Seat in the Lower House on Account of his Inconvenient

Justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas in this County and the Freemen of the Town having now been warned to choose another person in his Room pursuant to a Warrant from the Hon. William Bradford Esq. Speaker of the House of Deputies: and Major Charles Keene being nominated to duly chosen and elected to represent this Town in the General Assembly in the Room of the said David Howell Esq.

The following Persons are drafted to serve as Jurors at the Hon. Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence Viz Mr Comfort Wheaton Grand-Juror — and Mr Caleb Greene Petit Juror.

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Hon. John Foster Esq. Judge of the Admiralty Court — Col. Zephaniah Andrew is now drafted to serve as a Juror at said Court on the 8th Instant to serve in the Trial of the Ships Glasgow &c.

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Service as Serjeant in Warning and attending Town Meetings &c and the said Account being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved that the Amount thereof being Twenty Nine Pounds and Eight Shillings lawful Money be paid to him out of the Town Treasury.

Resolved That Messrs Jonathan Hammond John Smith and Capt James Sneed be a Committee to look up the Fire-Hooks belonging to the Town and put them in Repair and if there is not a sufficient Number to procure so many New Ones as are necessary at the Expence of the Town

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday the 19th Instant at 3 Clock in the Afternoon then to meet at the State House and that the Clerk issue a Warrant to warn the Freemen then to meet to grant such Tax for supplying the Town Treasury as shall be thought necessary.

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in said Providence on the 15th Day of June AD 1780

The Hon. Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator.

This Meeting having been called to adopt some Legal and proper Measures to prevent the Establishment of an Hospital in this Town for Receiving the Sick on Board the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty daily expected to arrive in this State from Europe — Resolved that a Petition on the Subject be prepared in Behalf of the Town to the Hon the General Assembly and That the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, the Rev. Mr James Manning and Theodore Foster be a Committee to draft said Petition and Report as soon as may be —

The said Committee reported the Draft of a Petition which being repeatedly Read was agreed to and is as follows, Viz,

To the Hon. the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island be holden at South Kingstown in said State on the second Monday of June AD 1780.

The Town of Providence assembled in Town Meeting on this 15th Day of June 1780 humbly Shew. That We have Rec'd Information that application hath been made to your Honors at the present Session for Leave to appropriate the College Edifice in this Town to the Use of an Hospital for Receiving the Sick that may be on board his most Christian Majesty's Fleet daily expected to arrive in this State: and though we entertain the highest Idea of the Generosity of our Illustrious Ally and would chearfully concur to do every thing in our Power in Providing Suitable Accomodations and Refreshments for their Comfort: Yet Duty to ourselves and a due Regard to the public Safety compell us to remonstrate against establishing an Hospital in this Town for their Sick which will tend to communicate contagious Fevers and other Diseases and greatly endanger the Healths and Lives of the Inhabitants.

Nothing but the utmost Necessity can Justify introducing a Large Number of Sick into a Populous Town. — We apprehend no such Necessity exists in the present Case and as there are many Places in the State where the Sick can be as well accommodated and provided for We are therefore greatly surprised considering all Circumstances that it should be so strongly insisted upon that the Hospital should be provided in this Place. ...

We have felt with the deepest Sensibility the Distresses of many of our Fellow Citizens who have already left their Lives upon a similar Occasion of a few Ships of our own Fleet barracking their Sick in this Town. And as no good General would ever Establish an Hospital in the Midst of his Encampment So We Trust the Supreme Legislature of this State will in like manner avert the Equal Danger of their own Constituents the Numerous Inhabitants of a populous Town ..... In order to apologize for a Measure so extraordinary We are informed it is proposed to plant in this Town only Those who are called Convalescents on such as are on their Recovery — We cannot see the Necessity of this as we are well informed that it is the Universal Practice to place Hospitals in Tents and not in Barracks as conducing more to their Health. — — —

We therefore Unanimously pray that said Hospital may not be established here

Signed by order and in Behalf of said Town Meeting by

Moderator.

It is Voted and Resolved That the said Draft be copied and Signed in behalf of the Town by the Moderator of this Meeting and that Theodore Foster Esq and Col William Barton be and they hereby are appointed to wait upon the Honorable and that they together with the Members of the Upper and Lower Houses belonging to this Town be and they hereby are requested to use their Endeavours that the Intention of the Petition may be accomplished and that the said Foster and Barton be paid out of the Town Treasury for their Services and Expences in attending the General Assembly upon this Business.

This Meeting Resolved .. Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Town of Providence holden pursuant to an Adjournment from the 5th Instant and also pursuant to a Warrant issued Warning the same on this 19th Day of June AD 1780.

Benoni Pearce Esq Moderator.

This Meeting was warned in order to assess a Tax upon the Inhabitants but it appearing necessary that Measures should be taken by the Town for raising and inlisting their Quota of the Men ordered by the General Assembly for filling the Continental Regiments belonging to this State and it is not yet determined what Measures will be taken therein therefor on Motion made the Business of assessing a Tax is deferred to the next Meeting.

Theodore Foster made Report that pursuant to his Appointment at the Last Meeting he on Friday the 16th Instant in Company with Col. Barton he waited upon the Hon the General Assembly with the Petition of the Town: — That in Consequence of the Petition and the Representations made the General Assembly on the 17th Instant set aside the Vote which had been passed for appropriating the College Edifice to the Use of an Hospital and Directed that the Buildings on Josiah's Farm in Bristol should be first appropriated for that Use and if other Buildings were wanted Such should be occupied as a Committee appointed for that purpose should point out.

Whereas it is necessary that the Pound on the Land belonging to the Town called Walkers Land should be repaired and its present Situation is not so convenient as a Place on the opposite side of the Way on the Town's Land as aforesaid: and Mr Nathan Waterman the Pound Keeper hath Resigned his Office and Mr John White hath agreed to Serve therein — It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Resignation of said Waterman be accepted and that the said John White be appointed Pound Keeper in his Place and it is also Resolved That the said Nathan Waterman be appointed to Remove the said Pound to the opposite side of the Way from where it now is and make such Repairs as he shall judge necessary ....

James Arnold Esq Town Treasurer exhibited his Account against the Town with the following Report thereon, Viz, "June 17th 1780 We the subscribers having carefully examined this Account and overhauled the Vouchers do find the Balance of £247. 7s 6 due from the Treasurer to the Town

David Lawrence } Town Audit
John Sutton. }

It is thereupon Resolved that the said Report be accepted and the said Account is adjusted accordingly The said Account and the Report thereon as aforesaid remaining in the Hands of the Town Treasurer —

Whereas Theodore Foster Esq exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services and Expences in attending upon the Hon. the General Assembly at South Kingstown in Company Col. William Barton with a Petition from the Town to prevent the Establishment of an Hospital in this Place & a Vote of the Town on the 15th Instant and the said Account being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved the Amount thereof being One Hundred and Nineteen Pounds and Shillings be paid to the said Foster out of the Town Treasury. —

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned until To Morrow at Two O'Clock in the Afternoon that the Freemen and other Inhabitants be warned by Beat of Drums and Notified of the Business to be Transacted —

At a Town Meeting legally warned and assembled at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on Tuesday the 20th Day of June Ad. 1780—

Benoni Pearce Esqr Moderator—

Whereas the Hon. the General Assembly at their Last Sessions ordered Seven Hundred and Ten Men to be raised as soon as possible for filling the Continental Battalions belonging to this State commanded by Col. Christopher Greene and Col. Israel Angell and apportioned Forty Two of the said Men to be recruited and enlisted by this Town:— and that all possible Encouragement may be given to the Raising and Inlisting the said Men: It is Voted and Resolved That a Tax of Seven Hundred and Twenty Pounds in Silver and Gold at the Rate of Six Shillings for a Spanish Milled Dollar and in no other Money whatever be immediately assessed and Levied upon the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town to be appropriated for inlisting the Towns Proportion of said Men and that Nine Pence be assessed on Each Pole:— And as the said Money or part thereof will be immediately wanted It is Voted and Resolved That the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Nicholas Brown John Brown Clarke and Nightingale Welcome Arnold Archibald Stewart Robert Taylor Nicholas Power and John Bernount with the Town Treasurer be appointed a Committee to hire the said Sum of Money or as much thereof as may be and that the Town Treasurer or the said Committee of the Lender shall chuse it give his or their Notes for the Money which shall be Lent as aforesaid payable in 60 Days with Interest till paid and that the said Committee have all that Power the Town can grant in Transacting the said Business the Town agreeing to Ratify and Establish whatever shall be done by the said Committee therein and that the Town Treasurer receive of the General Treasurer the Sum of Six Hundred and Thirty Pounds in Bills of the new Emission of this State allowed by the General Assembly as the Bounty for Inlisting the said Men to be disposed of as the Town shall hereafter order unless exchanged for Silver or Gold or used in Inlisting the said Men. .

And it is also Voted and Resolved That Col. Levi Hally Major Charles Keene Doct. Thomas Truman, Messr. Paul Allen, Joseph Hoyle David Lawrence John Waterly Arthur Fenner Junr, Asa Franklin, Edward Spaulding Hezekiah Dayton Lewis Peck and Samuel Hazelin, be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to inlist the said Forty Two Men, and that Each of said Committee draw orders on the Town Treasurer for the Money wanted from Time to Time and that the said Committee shall be paid for their Services out of the Town Treasury—

Whereas by the Last Will and Testament of Mr John Kent heretofore of this Town Cordwainer lately Deceased a Legacy was Left in the following Words Viz.

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Item My Will is that all the Residue and Remainder part of my Estate of what name or Nature soever shall be taken by my Executor and put to Interest for the Space of Thirty Years adding the Interest to the Principal and after the Thirty Years are expired the whole Sum of Principal and Interest to be let to Interest and the Interest arising therefrom annually to be disposed of by my Executor to and for the Use of the Poor forever to Set up a Free School any where in the County of Providence for Schooling Poor Children and to Cloath or Board poor Children and for the Relief of the Poor as my Executor or his Successor shall think fit that Principal after the Interest hath been added to it for Thirty Years as aforesaid to be and Remain forever or be kept good and the Interest arising therefrom to be disposed of for the Poor as aforesaid forever"— That after the Decease of my Executor I Do hereby empower the Town of Providence to appoint a good Honest Man from Time to Time to execute this my last Will and Testament &c: and in said Will nominated and appointed his Trusty Friend Richard Stafford of Coventry sole Executor thereof:— And Whereas Previous to the Death of the said John Kent the said Richard Stafford Died whereby the Right of appointing a person agreeable to said Will to execute and Discharge the Trust reposed in and as the Successor of the said Richard Stafford Deceased devolves upon this Town:— And Mr James Arnold the present Town Treasurer of this Town being nominated is by an unanimous Vote of the Town appointed Trustee as the Successor of the said Richard Stafford to execute the said Will agreeable to the Benevolent Intentions of the Testator and as the Estate by said Will given to the Town of Providence aforesaid lays in Dutchess County in the State of New York the said James Arnold is hereby empowered to substitute and empower some proper person to take immediate Charge of said Estate and to cause a Draft of the same both Real and personal to be laid before this Town as soon as possible and take such other Measures as the Law requires to secure and confirm the said Estate for the Uses and Designs of the worthy Donor—

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning and attending Town Meetings &c and the same being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That the Amount of said Account being Thirty Pounds be paid to said William Compton out of the Town Treasury—

This Meeting is adjourned to the First Day of July next then to meet at the State House at 2 Clock P. M.—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally holden by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on the 1st Day of July AD 1780—

Benoni Pearce Esqr Moderator—

Whereas Representation is made to this Meeting That Samuel Young son of Samuel and Jeremiah Lawton now Residing in this Town have been Active in Discouraging the Recruiting Service for the Army of the United States and more is Reason to apprehend from their Conduct that they are highly Inimical to the United States — It is Voted and Resolved That it be and it is hereby Recommended to James Arnold Thomas Truman and Theodore Foster Esqrs Three of the Justices of the Peace to issue a Warrant for apprehending Examining and Committing the said Persons to Goal until they shall be duly discharged. —

Whereas it appears to this Meeting that the Estate of which Mr John Kent was possessed at the Time of his Death is claimed by Mr Joseph Stone and his Wife Mrs Anne Stone who is Sister of the said John Kent notwithstanding the Instrument exhibited to the Town Meeting on the 20th Day of June Last as his Last Will and Testament and a Dispute is like to arise respecting the Validity of said Will and the Conveyance of the Estate thereby: It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Town Council be empowered and Directed to take Advice of Council learned in the Law respecting the same and Report to the next Meeting. - - - - -

Whereas the College Edifice in this Town is appropriated by order of the Council of War since the Rising of the General Assembly for the Use of an Hospital for the Sick on Board his most Christian Majestys Fleet and it is of great Importance to the Publick that Knowledge in the Arts and Sciences should be cultivated and promoted and to this End That the Students of the College and the Grammar School kept there should have a Suitable Place provided where they may prosecute their Studies:— It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Deputies of this Town be instructed to use the best Means to obtain an Order of the General Assembly that the Brick School House in this Town be put in proper Order for this purpose

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Hon. John Foster Esq: .. Capt: Robert Taylor is drawn to serve as a Juror at the Admiralty Court to be holden on the 3d Instant. - - - - - - - -

On Motion of the Request of Martin Martin Seamans Esq. Voted That James Arnold Esq be directed to examine the Rate Bills in the Possession of said Martin Seamans and if he finds any Errors in Casting to make Report thereof to the Town Auditor that they may be rectified —

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next at 2 Clock P. M. then to meet at the State House That in the Mean Time the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to enlist their Quota of the Men for Recruiting the Continental Ballalions be requested to continue their best Endeavours for inlisting the said Men till the next Meeting and That they continue to offer Silver Money for the Bounty in that Time —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting Legally holden by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on the 3d Day of July Ad. 1780. David Howell Esqr Moderator. —

Whereas the Hon. Darius Sessions Esq. who was chosen a Deputy to Represent this Town in the General Assembly has Resigned his Seat in the Lower House in the Same House on account of his Absence and the Aforesaid of the Town having been warned to choose another person in his Room for that purpose from the Hon. William Bradford Esq. Speaker of the House of Deputies and Mr Joseph Brown being nominated chosen and Elected to Represent this Town in the General Assembly in the Room of the said Darius

Resolved That Mess.rs Martin Thurber Elisha Brown and John Whipple and Majr William Ives and Mr Josiah Gifford be added to the Committee for enlisting this Town's Quota of the Men for Recruiting the Continental Battalions of this State and Committee to continue to enlist the Men till the Quota is Compleated.—

Whereas Representation is made to this Meeting that the Presbeterian Meeting House in this Town is about to be appropriated for the Use of Barracking the Troops daily arriving in this Town;—

It is Voted and Resolved That Nicholas Brown Esq.r the Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r and Theodore Foster Esq.r be a Committee to remonstrate with the proper Officer on the strongest Terms against appropriating Building in this Town Erected for the publick Worship of GOD to the Use of Barracks and to endeavour to procure the Troops to be placed in Tents or Barracked in such Manner as shall be least prejudicial to the Inhabitants..

Resolved That the Committee appointed to make Defence to the Action commenced by Samuel Nown against the Town Serjeant be empowered to draw Two Hundred Pounds out of the Town Treasury for the purpose of Defending against said Action for which Sum they are to be accountable.—

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning Town Meetings Attendance &c and the said Account being duly considered. It is Voted and Resolved That the Amount thereof being Twenty One pounds be paid to him out of the Town Town Treasury.—

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday the 8.th Instant at 2 Clock P.M. then to meet at the State House to accomplish the Business of enlisting the Town's Quota of Men

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally holden by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on the 8.th Day of July A.D. 1780.

The Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator..

An Act of the Honorable the General Assembly passed at their Sessions in this Town this Week was Read requiring that all the Inhabitants of the Respective Towns in the State should be divided into Classes equal in Number to the Men they are respectively deficient in their Quotas for Recruiting the Ballalions of this State in the Continental Army pursuant to an Act passed in June Last and that Each Class shall procure one Recruit.— It is thereupon Resolved That the Town Sergeant wait upon the Gentlemen appointed by the General Assembly to class the Inhabitants of this Town with a Billet from the Town Clerk requesting them to meet To Morrow Morning at 8 Clock in order to Class the Inhabitants agreeable to said Act and that the Town Sergeant attend upon the said Committee...

Whereas Col. William Barton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Town Expences and Horse to South Kingstown pursuant to a Vote of the Town and the same being duly considered; it is Voted and Resolved That the Amount of said Account being One Hundred and Five pounds and Fourteen Shillings be paid to Col. Barton out of the Town Treasury.—

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Monday next at 4 Clock P.M. in order to Receive the Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to Class the Inhabitants— That the Town Clerk Write a Billet to Rev.d President Manning and to Rev.d Mr Joseph Snow requesting them to inform their Congregations of the Adjournment and the Business to be Transacted—and also to issue a Warrant warning all the Male Inhabitants above 16 Years of Age then to meet in Order to carry the said Act into execution as soon as possible—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk—

At a Town Meeting legally warned and holden also by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on Monday the 10.th Day of July A.D. 1780— being a very full and General Meeting

The Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator.——

The Warrant and Act of the Assembly for Classing the Inhabitants are Read— The Report of the Committee for Classing the Inhabitants was Rec.d Read and Accepted whereby it appears that the Number of Men the Town is Deficient in their Quota is 17 that the Inhabitants are therefore Divided into Seventeen Classes as by the Report of the Committee on File will appear: and it being recommended to the Persons to Meet at the Houses of the Head of the Respective Classes to Morrow Morning in order to procure the said Recruits— The Meeting was then Dissolved—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House in said Town on the 22.d Day of August A.D. 1780—

Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator.—

Whereas the Hon.r the General Assembly at their Last Sessions granted a Tax to be paid into the General Treasury either in the Paper Money Bills last Emitted by the General Assembly or in Silver and Gold and apportioned £709. 16. 4 to this Town and there is now in the General Treasury belonging to the Town the Sum of £600 on account of the Soldiers enlisted by the Town to Serve till the First Day of January next It is Voted and Resolved That the said Six Hundred and Thirty Pounds with the Interest due thereon be appropriated towards discharging the said Tax and that only One Hundred and Twenty Pounds in said Bills or Silver and Gold of the Tax ordered by the General Assembly be assessed and that the Poll Tax therein be one shilling that Sum being sufficient to discharge the same with the Expenses of collecting &c.—

Whereas it is necessary that a Tax should be assessed for Discharging the Debts due from the Town and defraying Charges for supporting the Poor &c It is Voted and Resolved That a Tax of Nine Thousand Pounds Lawful Money be assessed on the Polls and Estate of the Inhabitants of this Town for supplying the Town Treasury and that the same be assessed within Thirty Days and be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the Day that the State Tax is payable and that the Sum of Three Pounds be assessed on each Poll.—

Resolved That James Arnold Esq.r Mess.rs Zephaniah Andrews and Nathan Waterman be a Committee to examine the Situation of Weybosset Bridge and that the same be repaired by Mr Jonathan Hamonon in such Manner as said Committee shall direct.—

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Sundry Services as Serjeant and the same being duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That the Amount of said Account being Forty Five pounds be paid to said William Compton out of the Town Treasury.—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence assembled according to Law at the State House for the Election of Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly to be on Tuesday the Twenty Ninth Day of August in the Year of our LORD 1780—

The Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator.

The Gentlemen whose Names are hereafter written are duly Elected and chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Sessions to be holden according to Law in October next and in all Sessions of said Assembly after October until the General Election in May next (Viz.t)

Welcome Arnold Esq.r 1.st Deputy
Major Charles Keene 2.d Do.
Joseph Brown Esq.r 3.d Do.
Theodore Foster Esq.r 4.th Do.

The Meeting Dissolved—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled on Wednesday the Sixth Day of September A.D. 1780 at the State House—

David Howell Esq.r Moderator

Whereas a very large Quantity of Powder belonging to the publick is now stored at the School House at the Northerly part of the Town called Whipple Hall and is in such a Situation as to be much exposed to Fire and the Northerly part of the Town is in eminent Danger of Destruction therefrom— It is Resolved That David Howell Esq Major Charles Keene and Theodore Foster be a Committee to draft a proper Representation of the Matter representing the Great Danger of the Inhabitants on Account of the Situation of the Powder— That the Deputies who represent the Town in General Assembly be requested to wait upon the Hon.r Major General [illegible]

and request him to cause the said Powder to be removed to a Place of Greater Safety ——
And in case General Heath shall not see fit to remove the said Powder that the Deputies be instructed to make the most Earnest Application to the General Assembly for their Interposition in the Matter and Requesting their Order for the Removal of the same ——

1780 Sept. 6th

Resolved That Mr. Obadiah Sprague be empowered to Draw One Hundred Pounds Lawful Money to be appropriated for repairing the Bridges of which he is Overseer by Appointment from the Town for which Money he is to be accountable ——

The Meeting Dissolved. —— Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Providence on the 16th Day of October, 1780

Mr. John Brown Moderator

Whereas the Council of War by a Resolve passed Yesterday have directed this Town to provide Suitable Rooms for the Officers of the Corps of Cavalry under the Command of the Baron de Lauzerne while in Quarters in this Town: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Messrs David Lawrence Paul Allen and Benoni Pearce with the Deputy Quarter Master General be a Committee to procure such Rooms as shall be requisite for the said Officers and if it shall be necessary that said Committee agree to pay to the Owners of the Rooms such Rent therefor as said Committee shall Judge reasonable to be paid out of the Town Treasury. ——

Resolved That Messrs Welcome Arnold and John Brown be appointed to attend the Committee of the General Assembly for Revising the General Estimate to represent the circumstances of the Town and the Losses the Town has Sustained. ——

The Meeting Dissolved Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting Legally warned and held in and for the Town of Providence on the 11th Day of November A.D. 1780 ——

Nicholas Brown Esqr Moderator

Whereas the General Assembly at their Last Session passed a Resolve for enlisting 220 Men for the Term of Three Years or during the War to complete the Quota assigned by Congress to this State and Enacted that each person so enlisting shall finally be accredited to the Town to which he shall belong and this Meeting having taken the said Act into Consideration and being desirous of promoting the Public Weal by enlisting their Proportion of the Number of Men aforesaid DO therefore Vote and Resolve and It is Voted and Resolved That Messrs Nicholas Brown John Brown, Jabez Bowen Joseph Nightingale Charles Keene Nicholas Power and Samuel Butler be a Committee to hire on Account of the Town the Sum of Nine Hundred Dollars in Silver Money to be advanced in Behalf of the State towards paying the Bounty allowed by the State to each person so inlisting. That the Town Treasurer give his Note for the Money on behalf of the Town to the persons who shall lend Money for the purpose aforesaid payable with Interest within Three Months. — And that Benoni Pearce Esq and Capt Paul Allen with the Officers of Col. Greenes Regiment be a Committee to inlist the Number of Fourteen Men belonging to the Town as the Town's Quota of the Men aforesaid. — That said Committee be empowered to advance to each person enlisting of the Six Months Men the Sum of Nine pounds on account of the Wages due to them for their Services in Col. Greene's Regiment and the Sum of Nine to any person inlisting on account of the Bounty allowed by the State and That the Town Treasurer give Notice of this Resolve to Col. Greene and pay the said Sums to the person so enlisting on their producing an Order from Col. Greene therefor with a Certificate of their adherent of Wages due to them. ——

The Council of War having apportioned Forty Two pair of Mens Stockings to be furnished by this Town for the Use of Col. Angells Regement and

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And the Collector of Taxes who was appointed to procure the same meeting with Difficulty in obtaining the said Stockings: — It is Voted and Resolved That the said Collector of Taxes for this Town be empowered and Directed to purchase the said Stockings upon the best Terms he can and in case the same shall cost more than the Price allowed by the Council of War he shall be paid the Surplus price out of the Town Treasury and that he immediately procure the said Stockings and the Blankets ordered by the Council of War and Deliver the same to the Regiment Quartermaster. —

Whereas Mr. Paul Allen Surveyor of the Highways hath represented to this Meeting That William Latham of Johnston hath turned a Run of Water through the Land just beyond Mr. Jonathan Olneys whereby it overflows the Road to the great Detriment of the publick: It is therefore Resolved That the said Paul Allen Capt Ephraim Bowen and Theodore Foster be a Committee to apply to the said Latham for removing the said Nusance and in case he shall not immediately remove the same that the said Committee procure him to be indicted. ——

Mr. William Compton having exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for sundry services as Town Serjeant and the same having been duly examined: It is Voted and Resolved that the Amount of said Account being Fifty Seven pounds be paid to him out of the Town Treasury

The Meeting Dissolved Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting held in and for the Town of Providence on the 15th Day of December A.D. 1780.

Col. Jonathan Arnold Moderator. —

Whereas the General Assembly at their Session in June last apportioned the Number of Forty Two Men to this Town to Serve for Six Months in the Regiment commanded by Col Christopher Greene in consequence whereof the said Number of Men were inlisted in this Town who by the Town Committee and the several Officers into which the Town was divided were promised to have their Wages Viz Forty Shillings per Month in Silver or Gold or other Money Equivalent thereto: and Whereas the General Assembly at their last Sessions passed an Act declaring that in case any Town or Committee who had contracted to pay the said Men and should pay the same should be repaid out of out of the General Treasury in the same currency which should be advanced by such Town or Committee and it is necessary that said Wages should be paid by the Laperation of the Term for which the said Men were inlisted (Viz) by the First Day of January next: ——

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer make Application immediately to Col. Greene requesting him to furnish an Abstract duly attested and Certified according to Law of the Wages due to the Men inlisted by the Town to serve in this Regiment as aforesaid and That a Tax of Fifteen Hundred Pounds in Silver and Gold be immediately assessed according to Law upon the Inhabitants of this Town to be appropriated for paying of said Abstract and paying the Bounties of those who shall inlist as this Town's Quota of the Men to be inlisted for the New Continental Army for Three Years or during the War which said Bounties last mentioned are to be repaid out of the General Treasury agreeable to the Act of the General Assembly for raising the said Men: That the said Tax be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of January next and That Each Poll pay Ten shillings of said Tax

And it is Voted and Resolved That James Arnold Esqr be appointed to pay the Wages due on said Abstract and that he be empowered to hire such a Sum of Money for this purpose as any of the said Soldiers shall be willing to receive in Lieu of the Silver or Gold at the common Exchange. —

It is Voted and Resolved That James Arnold Esqr and Capt Benjamin Hoppen Col. Charles Holden and Mr. Joseph Doyle be a Committee to enlist their Several Proportions of the Men for the New Army and that the said Committee be empowered to guarantee the payment of the Wages of the Soldiers as engaged by the General Assembly.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer be empowered to hire the Sum of Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Continental Bills to be appropriated for paying the debts due from the Town and for supporting the Poor: That he give his Security

payable in the Months of Delivery or Gold reckoning the Exchange Seventy five for one with Interest till paid. —

It is Voted That the Assessors be directed not to assess the State Hard Money Taxe ordered at the Last Session of the Assembly, this Meeting having made Provision for Discharging the same by Town Taxe until the further Order of this Meeting. —

Resolved That Forty Two pounds and Twelve Shillings be allowed and paid to William Compton out of the Town Treasury for his Services as pr his Account now exhibited. —

It is Voted and Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to the 1st Day of January next at 2 Clock P.M. then to meet at the State House —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1781. Jany. 1st

At a Town Meeting holden by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on the First Day of January AD. 1781. —

The Hon. Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator.

Capt Benj. Hopkins appointed Collector of Taxes. —

John Beverly Esq having requested that another Person may be appointed Collector of Taxes in his Room It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Capt. Benjamin Hoppen be and he is hereby Elected and Chosen Collector of Taxes for this Town until the Annual Election in June next and that he be allowed Three per Cent for all the Monies he shall collect for the Town and have Liberty of Resigning after Collecting the present Taxe if he shall see fit. —

David Howell Esq to enquire respecting J. Rents Will

It is Voted and Resolved That David Howell Esq be appointed to examine the Laws and to consider all the circumstances attending the Estate of which Mr. John Rent died seized and to report to the next Meeting his Opinion whether the Real Estate of the said John Rent of which he was possessed at the Time of his Death is conveyed by said Will or not. —

Col. Arnold to write for Abstract —

Resolved That Welcome Arnold Esq be and he is hereby appointed to write to his Excellency Governor Greene urging the Necessity of the Town's being furnished with an Abstract of the Wages due to the Men enlisted by this Town to serve in Col. Greene's Regiment and requesting his Excellency's Order for the same being furnished —

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday the Sixth Day of January instant at 2 Clock PM then to meet at the State House. —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1781 Jany. 6th

At a Town Meeting legally holden by Adjournment at the State House in and for the Town of Providence on the Sixth Day of January A.D. 1781.

Col. Jonathan Arnold Moderator —

Town divided into 21 Classes

The Committee appointed by the General Assembly to class the Inhabitants for the purpose of Raising Recruits for the Continental Army made their Report having divided the Inhabitants of the Town into Twenty One Classes there being 21 Men required to be raised as this Towns Proportion of the New Levies. A List of each Class delivered to some of the Classes respectively. ——

Town Treasurer to pay Soldiers of this Town who served in Col. Greene's Regiment —

Whereas no Abstract has as yet been obtained from proper Authority whereby the Town Treasurer might be regulated in the Payment of the Wages due to the Men who were enlisted by this Town and who have done Duty in Col. Greene's Regiment the Last Campaign and it is Necessary that those Men should be paid off as soon as possible: Therefore it is hereby Resolved That James Arnold Esq Town Treasurer be directed and Required to make out an Abstract from the Muster Rolls in his Possession and pay off the Men agreeable thereto according to the Vote of the Town at their Meeting on the 15th of last Month. ——

And it is Voted that the Clerk pro Tempore† furnish Mr. Arnold with a Copy both of this Vote and of that passed the 15th of December last wherein he was appointed to pay the Wages aforesaid. —

† NB. At this Meeting Doct. Thomas Truman attended and served as Clerk pro Tempore in the place of the Town Clerk who was then unable, residing at Brookfield in the Common Wealth of Massachusetts and the above proceedings are entered from Memoranda Doct. Truman then made. —

At a Town Meeting legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the 26th Day of January AD. 1781.

Doct. Ephraim Bowen Esqr Moderator —

Whereas the Honble the General Assembly at their last Session apportioned apportioned to this Town pounds Weight of Fresh Beef to the several Towns in this State for the use of the Army providing counties lye in the Act apportioning the same that any of the Towns might pay Money in Lieu of the Beef in such proportions as by the said Act directed: Therefore in compliance with the said Act it is Voted and Resolved That Ephraim Bowen Esqr Samuel Butler Esq Major Charles Keene Welcome Arnold Esq and Mr. Nicholas Power with the Town Treasurer be a Committee to Hire the Sum of One Hundred Pounds Lawfull Money in Silver or Gold and the Sum of Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pounds in the Paper Currency. That the Town Treasurer give his Notes to the person who shall lend the same payable in Six Weeks with Interest from the Time the Money shall be advanced —

And in order that the Gentlemen who may furnish the Money may be assured of the Repayment of the same within the Time aforesaid It is Voted and Resolved That a Taxe for the said Sum of one Hundred Pounds in Silver or Gold and the said Sum of Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pounds in the Paper Currency be granted by this Meeting that the same be assessed and collected according to Law and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the 20th Day of February next and that the Pole Taxe be 6d in the Silver or Gold Money Taxe and Five pounds and Eight Shillings in the Paper Currency Taxe. —

And it is Voted and Resolved That Mr. John Dumont be appointed to purchase Beef on account of the Town to the Amount of the Sum of Ninety Two pounds and Ten Shillings in the Silver or Gold Money and to the Amount of Seven Thousand & Two Hundred Pounds in the Paper Money and procure the Beef so purchased to be delivered to Stephen Mumford Esq agreeable to said Act of Assembly taking his Receipt for the same. Provided Never the less that in case Mr. Dumont shall think it not advisable to purchase the Beef that the Money ordered to be laid out as aforesaid be delivered by the Town Treasurer to the said Stephen Mumford

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for his Services in attending the Committee appointed to Clase the Inhabitants and for warning and attending Town Meetings Viz and the said Account being duly examined it Voted and Resolved That the Amount thereof being One Hundred and Twenty Five pounds be paid to him out of the Town Treasury. — —

The Meeting Dissolved Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1781 Feby. 6th

At a Town Meting legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the Sixth Day of February AD. 1781.

The Hon. Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator. —

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to hire Money to procure Beef &c. made report whereby it appears that the sum of Paper Money hired falls far short of the sum proposed to be hired it is thereupon determined not to send forward or lay out any more money on account of the Beef Man is required by the Act of the General Assembly Viz the Sum of £92.11.0 in Silver or Gold —

It is Voted and Resolved That James Arnold Esqr Town Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to receive the whole of the Silver or Gold Money hired by the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting for procuring Beef and in case there is not a sufficient Sum of Money now hired as required by the Act of the General Assembly that he make up the Deficiency out of the Monies in the Town Treasury and forward the same to Stephen Mumford Esq at Coventry To-Morrow and procure his Receipt. —

Whereas the General Assembly have called upon the several Towns in this State to furnish their Quota of Troops with Blankets: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer purchase of Col. William Wall Twenty One Blankets at the Price of Three Dollars Silver Money or other Money equivalent for each Blanket and give his Note for the same to be paid when the next State Taxe shall be assessed upon this Town and that the Town Treasurer deliver the said Blankets to Lieutenant Colonel Jeremiah Olney taking his Receipt for the same. —

It is Voted and Resolved That David Howell Esq Col. Amos Atwell and Major Charles Committee to enquire what are the Usages and Customs and Regulations of the Hay wards or Sealers for weighing

It is Voted and Resolved That Capt. Benjamin Hopkin be allowed Five per cent for his Services in Collecting the Town Tax ordered at the last Meeting.

This Meeting Dissolved — Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the Third Day of March A.D. 1781.

The Hon. Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer be empowered and Directed to hire the Sum of Seven Thousand Dollars in Continental Bills of the old Emission now in Circulation for the purpose of procuring Ninety Two Bushels of Indian Corn for Supplying the Militia with Bread agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly passed at the last Session.—

Whereas Mr. William Potter hath requested this Meeting to grant him the Liberty and Privilege of erecting a pair of Scales for weighing Loads of Hay or other Loads in Carts or Waggons on the Town's Land at the Parting of the Roads near Mr. Snows Meeting House by the Land of Anthony Westcoat on the West side of the River; It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That the said William Potter have Liberty of erecting the said Scales at the Place aforesaid subject to such Rules and Regulations as may be made by the Town from Time to Time.—

It is also Voted and Resolved at the Request of Mr. Jacob Whitman that he have Permission to erect a Pair of Scales for weighing Hay be on his own Land at the parting of the Highway near his House on the West side of the River, Subject to such Rules and Regulations as may be made by the Town from Time to Time

It is Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer hire Seven Thousand Dollars to be appropriated for hiring a Man to inlist into the State Battalion in the Continental Army for one of the Delinquent Classes in this Town to repaid to the Town Treasurer by the said Class

The Meeting Dissolved — Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting legally warned and holden in Providence at the State House on Monday the Fifth Day of March A.D. 1781—

Col. Zephaniah Andrews Moderator.—

Whereas the Hon. the General Assembly at their last Session ordered Seventy Two Men of the Militia to be furnished by this Town to serve in this State for one Month from the Time of their Rendezvous; Therefore as an Encouragement for the Men voluntarily to turn out to serve as aforesaid It is Voted and Resolved That a Bounty or Gratuity of Forty Shillings in Silver or Gold or other Money equivalent be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury to each person who shall turn out as aforesaid and shall serve as a Soldier during the said Month in addition to what is allowed and paid by the State, or in case the said Men shall be discharged before the Expiration of said Month that they be allowed a Sum in proportion with the said Forty Shillings compared with the Time they shall Serve and that the same shall be paid out of the next Town Tax assessed on this Town

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for warning and attending this Meeting as Serjeant: It is Voted and Resolved that the Amount of said Account being Twenty Four Pounds be paid to him out of the Town Treasury.—

The Meeting Dissolved.— Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the 9th Day of April A.D. 1781.

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator.

Whereas the Quarter-Master General of his his most Christian Majesty's Army now in this State hath requested permission to appropriate the Market House in this Town to Store the Baggage of the Army in and this meeting having taken the said Request into Consideration:—

It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That Permission be Granted to the said Quarter master general to make use of the upper Loft of the Market House Building as long as he shall want the same for the Use of the said Army; on Condition of his laying a Tight double Floor in the Middle Loft and keeping and leaving the Windows and that part of said Building which shall be occupied by the Army in as good Repair as the same now are (casing the natural Decay) and building such a Pair of Stairs as he may think proper in such place as shall be directed by the Gentlemen here named Viz, Nicholas Brown Esq. Mr. Eleazer Harding, and James Lovett Esq. who are appointed a Committee to point out the Place where the said Stairs may be erected.—

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meetings &c and the same being duly considered it is Voted That Eighteen Pounds in continental Bills be paid to him out of the Town Treasury.—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled on Wednesday the 18th Day of April in the Year of our LORD 1781 being the Day appointed by Law for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and filing Proxy Votes for General Officers and Delegates to represent the State in the General Congress of the United States:—

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator.—

The Gentlemen hereafter named are duly Elected and Chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at this Session to be holden at the General Election in Newport on the Third Wednesday of May next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the last Wednesday of October next Viz

Welcome Arnold Esq.
Major Charles Keene...
Mr. Joseph Brown...
Theodore Foster Esq.

Resolved That the Town Treasurer be empowered and Directed to hire the sum of Four Hundred spanish milled Dollars for the purpose of Paying what is now due on Account of Beef furnished by Stephen Mumford Esq. agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly and for hiring a Recruit to serve as a Soldier for a Delinquent Class in this Town and that the same be paid and discharged out of the first Town Tax which shall be assessed.

Whereas Major Damas Aid-de-camp to General Count Rochambeau hath laid a Memorial before this Meeting requesting that Quarters be provided in this Town for the Officers of the Army of his most Christian Majesty in this State;— It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Capt. Paul Allen, Col. William Wall and Edward Thurber Esq. with the Barrack Masters be and they hereby are appointed a Committee immediately to provide such Rooms as shall be requisite for the said Officers and that said Committee agree with and pay to the Owners of the Rooms such Rent therefor as said Committee shall Judge Reasonable, to be paid out of the Town Treasury; and in case it shall be necessary that the said Committee be empowered to agree for the Necessary Quarters notwithstanding they cannot agree with the Owners.—

And as Major Damas hath also requested that the Supreme Court

Market House and such part of the Lower Room thereof as can be Spared may be appropriated for Storing the Baggage of the said Army) It is Resolved That one Half of that part of the Market House Building now improved for the Market with all the upper Part thereof be appropriated as soon to be divided off by a Partition in such Place as shall be directed by Mr Eleazer Harding James Lovet and Welcome Arnold Esqrs

Whereas the Hon. the General Assembly at their last Session appointed a Committee to examine the several Estimates of the Ratable Property in this State which have been heretofore taken and to enquire into the Complaints of the several Towns respecting the present Mode of Taxation and to make Report to the Assembly of such an apportionment of the Taxes as said Committee shall think Just and Right which Committee are to Meet in this Town on the 25. Instant; - It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Mr John Brown and William Wheaton be and they hereby are appointed to attend the said Committee to represent the Circumstances of the Town and the Losses which have been sustained therein on Account of the War. ——

Whereas pernicious Consequences arise from the Great Number of Cows which now run at Large in the Common, in this Town some of which are very ungovernable, breaking through Lawful Fence into the Inclosures of the Inhabitants: and it is absolutely necessary that Measures be adopted for preventing the Mischiefs arising from Breachey and ungovernable Cows.

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Job Sweeting Esq: Mr Obadiah Sprague and Mr Nathan Waterman, or either Two of them be and they hereby are empowed to determine what Cows shall not be permitted to go on the Common, belonging and if any Cow shall be found running at Large on the Common belonging to any Inhabitant of this Town whose Cow shall be prohibited by the said Committee from going on the Common, without a Permit therefor from said Committee, it shall be Lawful for any one of the Inhabitants of this Town to take up such Cow and the same Secure in the Pound: and the owner thereof before he shall be permitted to take her out shall pay a Fine the sum of Twelve Shillings Silver Lawful Money and the Lawful Fees due to the Keeper of the Pound: and that the said Cows after being impounded as aforesaid be proceeded with as in other Cases where Cattle are impounded according to Law. And it is Voted and Resolved that said Committee give no permit to any person to have more than one Cow on the Common at the same Time. ——

Whereas Ringing the Bell in Mr Snow's Meeting House at Noon and Night hath been found beneficial in promoting Order and Regularity and Mr Joseph Whittemore hath agreed to ring the same as usual for one Year from this Time for the Price of Twenty Five Spanish Milled Dollars: It is therefore Voted and Resolved that in Case the said Joseph Whittemore shall ring the said Bell at 12 o'Clock at Noon and at Eight o'Clock in the Evening of each Day for one Year from this Time as hath of late been done that he shall be paid for the said Service the said Sum of Twenty Five Spanish Milled Dollars out of the Town Treasury. ——

A Register of the Names of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Votes for the General Officers of the State and Delegates in Congress to be returned to the General Election as follows Viz

Samuel Butler	Simeon Thayer	Nicholas Branch	Lewis Peck
Zachariah Allen	William Corlis	Nicholas Power	Benoni Pearce
Benjamin Comstock	Nicholas Cooke	William Taylor	Joseph Wanton
Joshua Burr.	Nathaniel Jacobs Jun^{r}	James Talbin	James Field
William Seamans	John Mumford	Paul Allen	Job Smith
Zephaniah Andrews	Philip Martin	Thomas Bennet	John J. Clarke
Joseph Lawrence	James Berry	John Smith	Solomon Brown
Joseph Russell	Jonathan Gladding	Daniel Stillwell	George Beverly
David Howell	John Carter	Samuel Hamlin	Wm Compton
James Arnold	Amos Atwell	Daniel Bucklin	Nicholas Brown
Joseph Nightingale	Thomas Jones	Edward Hawkins	Arthur Fenner Jun^{r}
Henry Rice	Joseph Doyle	Nathan Angell	Arthur Fenner
John Brown	Pardon Sheldon	Phinehas Potter	Benjamin Cushing
Nehemiah Sweat	Jonathan Olney	Jacob Whitman	Benjamin Allen
Reuben Brown	John B Hopkins	Gideon Young	Ab^{m} Franklin
Daniel Branch	Joseph Martin	Benjamin Bowen	Welcome Arnold
Daniel Snow	George Corlis^{s}	James Snow	John Mathewson
James Burrill	John Updike	David Martin	Joseph Clarke
Christopher Sheldon	John Field	John Fetton	Jeremiah Olney
Joseph Cooke	Joseph Comstock	Joseph Hawkins	Ephraim Bowen
Timothy Gladding	Obadiah Sprague	Gersham Carpenter	William Brown
Henry H. Fellinghast	Samuel Chace	Eleazer Peck	Jabez Bowen
Joseph Brown	Joseph Potter Jun^{r}	Joseph Snow Jun^{r}	John White
Ebenezer White	Elihu Robinson	William Wall	John Larcher
Comfort Wheaton	William Russell	Edward Thurber	Henry Ward
Ralph Merry	James Wheaton	John Curzens	Robert Terry
Richard Marven	Thomas Smart	Charles Keene	Walter Hendrick
Eleazer Harding	Christopher Olney	George Olney	Nathaniel Wheaton
			Joseph Smith
			Thomas Perry
			Samuel Jenckes
			Elisha Carpenter
			Clarke Bailey.

Proxies for his Excellency William Greene Esq^{r} as Governor 120. ——
For the Hon^{ble} Jabez Bowen Esq^{r} as Dep^{t} Governor 120. ——

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House in Providence on the 7th Day of May A.D. 1781. —

Mr. Joseph Brown Moderator.

Whereas it is absolutely necessary that a Sum of Money in Silver or Gold should be immediately procured for discharging the Execution issued by the General Treasurer of the State against the Town Treasurer for the Deficiency of the Town's Proportion of the Seaven Thousand Pounds Tax in Silver or Gold Granted by the General Assembly in November last: and for paying for the Town's Quota of Beef and hiring a Man to enlist as a Soldier as one of their Quota

It is Voted and Resolved that the Town Treasurer be empowered and Directed to the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds in Silver or Gold that he give his Notes payable out of the next Town Tax on Interest at the Rate of Six per Cent and it is earnestly Recommended to the Inhabitants to lend an assisting Hand to the Town Treasurer by furnishing Sums as shall be in their Power as they will thereby essentially serve their Town and Country; It being now Resolved by this Meeting that a Tax shall be granted at the annual Meeting on the first Wednesday of June next and assessed and collected as soon as possible for discharging the said Notes and that the Town Clerk Notify the Inhabitants of this Request and that a Town Tax will then be assessed by affixing a Copy hereof in Three public Places in the Town and that this Meeting be adjourned to the First Monday of June next at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon - at the State House

Witness Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment and legally assembled at the State House in said Providence on Monday the 4th Day of June A.D. 1781 being the Anniversary Election of Town Officers the Gentlemen here after named were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names, Viz.

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr. Moderator

Town Clerk. Theodore Foster

Town-Council { Col. Amos Atwell Esq President, Capt. Christopher Sheldon, Mr. Paul Allen, Samuel Butler, Nathaniel Wheaton, and Benoni Pearce Esqrs

Town Serjeant. Mr. William Compton

Town Treasurer. James Arnold Esqr.

Town Assessors — Capt David Lawrence, Mr. John Sutton, Mr. Nicholas Power

Constables. — Messrs. Nathaniel Jenckes, John Jones and Anthony Wessels

Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mr. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor Col. John Matteson, Mr. Nathan Waterman and Nathaniel Wheaton Esqr. on same conditions as last Year —

Surveyors of Joists and Boards { Messrs. Christopher Arnold, Elijah Bacon, Jonathan Hammon, John Smith, Comfort Wheaton and Gershom Carpenter. —

Surveyors of Highways. Messrs. Dexter Brown, Thomas Bennet, Paul Allen, Zephaniah Andrews and Martin Thurber. —

Gaugers of Cask. Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Ezek. Brown, Ezek. Eddy, Arch. Young, Jon. Jenks

Vendue Master. Benoni Pearce Esq.

Packers of Beef & Pork. Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold, William Smith (Cooper) and Joseph Field.

Corders of Wood. Messrs. Samuel Black, John Pettey, John Atwood, Martin [illegible], Recompence Healey, William Wheaton Son of Ephraim, Joseph Hoyle, James Field and Joseph Martin Esqr.

Collector of Taxes. Mr. Anthony Westcoat on the same Conditions as the Collector was chosen the Last Year save that Mr. Westcoat shall be allowed 1½ per Cent upon all the Monies which he shall collect for the Town. —

Overseer of the Pest House. Mr. James Black

Pound Keepers .... Messrs. John White and John Pettey

To Value Estates when disputed in Voting. Arthur Fenner Junr. Esq. Mr. Samuel Black, Mr. John Brown. —

Fence Viewers ... Messrs. Samuel Thurber Junr. John Field, Major Charles Keene, Mr. W. Christopher Arnold

Presidents of the Firewards. Hon. Jabez Bowen Esq. Mr. Joseph Brown and Joseph Martin Esq.

Firewards — { Nicholas Brown Esqr. Col. Joseph Nightingale, Col. Amos Atwell, Col. Daniel Tillinghast, Mr. Job Smith, Hon. John Foster Esq. Capt. Robert Taylor, Mr. Samuel Thurber and James Arnold Esqr. .....

Persons belonging to the Fire Engine No. 1. near the Bridge { Messrs. Nathan Angell, Gershom Carpenter, John Innes Clarke, Joseph Nightingale, John Brown, James Arnold, Arthur Fenner Junr. Welcome Arnold, Thomas Bennet, John White, William Wall and David Lawrence

Persons belonging to the Fire Engine No. 2 at the North End. { Benjamin Cushing Junr. Sanders Pitman, Charles Keene, Levi Hall, Martin Thurber, Benjamin Allen, Zachariah Allen, Samuel Young, William Wheaton Junr. Benjamin Comstock, Olney Winsor and Benjamin Marshall —

Persons belonging to the Fire-Engine No. 3 on the West side of the River { Messrs. John Mathewson, Zephaniah Andrews, Daniel Jackson, James Black, Asa Franklin, Elijah Bacon, Joseph Cooke, Joseph Hoyle, Sylvanus Jenckes, Paul Allen, Samuel Black and Zephaniah Brown. —

Persons to remove or pull down Houses in Case of Fire { Messrs. Joseph Martin, Jonathan Hammon, Comfort Wheaton, James Snow, John Smith, Martin Seamans, Oliver Carpenter and John Carlisle

Persons to order when and where to remove Goods in Case of Fire { Messrs. Barzillai Richmond, David Wilkinson, Henry Bacon, Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber with all the Powers contained in a Vote of the Town passed on the Third Monday of June A.D. 1772.

Field Drivers Messrs. Job Sweeting, Christopher Arnold, William Tillinghast and John Jones. —

Sealers of Leather Samuel Butler Esq. Mr. Martin Thurber

Scavengers ... Messrs. Nathan Angell, Samuel Black, Joseph Crawford, Sanders Pitman, William Wall and Dexter Brown. —

Town Cryer. Mr. Daniel Branch.

Overseer of the Work House Mr. John Demount.

Overseer of the Bridge near Mr. Jon. Olney's Col. Christopher Olney.

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge Mr. Jonathan Hammon

Overseer of the Two Bridges called Mill's Bridge and Stevens's Bridge. Mr. Obadiah Sprague. ———

Resolved that Major Charles Keene be and he is hereby appointed empowered and Directed to make such Repairs to the Engine No. 2 at the North End as he shall think necessary and that he lay an Account of the Expence thereof before the Town for Settlement. ———

Whereas it is Represented that there is a Small Peice of Land at the Meeting of the Streets on Constitution Hill owned by Mr. Rich and Brown and that it will be for the Benefit of the Town to purchase the same It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Mr. Benjamin West, Major Charles Keene and Mr. Samuel Thurber Junr. be a Committee to order a Plat thereof to enquire of said Richard Brown his Price for the same and that said Committee make Report as soon as may be. —

Whereas it is necessary that a Tax should be granted by the Town for discharging the Town's Debts It is therefore Voted and Resolved

Tax of Seven Hundred Pounds Lawful Money in Silver or Gold be assessed on the Polls and Estates of the Inhabitants of this Town and that the same be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of August next and that the Pole Tax be Four Shillings and Sixpence. —

Resolved That the Collector of Taxes appointed this Day shall apply for settlement of his Account for Allowance of Bad Taxes by the Third Day of August next or otherwise shall not be intitled to any Allowance on such Account. — and shall Pay Interest for any Part of the Town Tax now Granted which shall remain unpaid on the First Day of said August. —

Resolved That the Vote of the Town heretofore passed for Repairing the Highways by Taxes to be paid out of the Town Treasury be repealed and that the Town Council, assign Districts to the Surveyors as heretofore and that the same be repaired as Directed by the Act of Government intituled a "An Act for Mending the Highways". ——

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

1781. —
June 13th

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House in Providence on the 13th Day of June A.D. 1781.

The Honble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator.

Whereas the Honble General Assembly at their last Session passed an Act requiring this Town to furnish 4314 pounds Weight of Beef or in lieu thereof £86 5 8 Lawful Silver Money by the 15th Day of August and the same Quantity by the Fifteenth Day of September next for its Quota of that Article for supplying the Army and also Required That Twenty Nine Bushels of Indian Corn or Rye be immediately furnished by the Town: —

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That James Arnold Esq the Town Treasurer be empowered and directed to procure and Deliver the said Beef or in lieu thereof, that he pay to William Rhodes Esq the Amount of the Money required by the Act of the General Assembly out of the Monies now collecting in the State Tax due to the Town for the Wages advanced in Behalf of the State to the Six Months Men who served in Col. Greenes Regiment the last Campaign. — And that the Town Treasurer also procure and Deliver the Corn or Rye as required by the Act of Assembly Together with Thirteen Bushels of Indian Corn for which Quantity the Town was in arrear in the last Apportionment of Corn upon the State for supplying the Militia at Newport. —

Whereas in the Settlement of Capt. Benjamin Hoppen's Account as Collector with the Town a Deduction and an Allowance was made to him on Account of persons absent from Town not having at that Time any Estate which could then be found by the Collector since which some of those persons have Returned: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the said Capt. Hoppen and the Collector of Taxes for the Time being from Time to Time collect such Taxes as shall be assessed against persons absent and afterwards returning which in the Settlement of the Collectors Account shall be remitted to him and that such Collector account with the Town Treasurer for the same. —

Whereas James Arnold Esq. hath exhibited an Account to this Meeting charging against the Town for having Supplied Poor persons with Candles to illuminate the Town when General Washington was last in Town: and the said Account being considered it is Voted and Resolved That Two pounds Ten Shillings and Eight Pence Silver Money the Amount thereof be paid to said James Arnold out of the Town Treasury. —

Whereas Mr William Compton exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged to the Town for Warning and attending Town Meetings &c and the said Account being duly considered it is Voted and Resolved That Eighteen Shillings the Amount thereof be paid to said Mr Compton out of the Town Treasury.

Resolved That all Debts due from the Town in Continental Money either by Notes signed by the Town Treasurer or otherwise be paid and discharged in Silver Money according to the Scale of Depreciation and that all Debts due to the Town in Continental Money for Taxes or otherwise in Silver Money at the same Rate aforesaid.

Whereas Mr Jacob Whitman hath requested this Meeting to grant him Liberty to raise and fill up part of the Gangway leading into the Water adjoining his Dock on the West side of the River near the Great Bridge by casting Sand & Earth onto the same to make it level & of the same Height as his Land adjoining for the purpose of rendering it convenient for him to weigh Hay in his new Hay-Scales erected on his own Land near said Gangway and the said Request being duly considered it is thereupon Resolved That the said Jacob Whitman have Liberty to fill up such part of said Gangway as he shall choose for the aforesaid Purpose leaving a Way of sufficient Width for Carts and Horses to go into the Water at said Place in such manner and of such Width as William Wheaton Esq shall direct and that the said Gangway remain at the Disposal of the Town in the same Manner as if this Vote had not been passed. —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.

1781
June 30th

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the 30th Day of June A.D. 1781.

Ephraim Bowen Esqr Moderator.

Benja Hoppen appointed Collector of Taxes.

Whereas Mr Anthony Westcoat who was chosen Collector of Taxes for this Town on the 1st Instant hath declined Serving in that Office It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Capt. Benjamin Hoppen be and he is appointed Elected and Chosen Collector of Taxes for the Town of Providence for the Ensuing year on the same conditions as the said Anthony Westcoat was chosen Saving that the said Benjamin Hoppen shall be allowed Five per Cent Commissions upon all the Monies which he shall collect for the Town. —

Theodore Foster Town Clerk. —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled at the State House on Tuesday the Twenty Eighth Day of August A.D. 1781. the Day appointed by Law for the Election of Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session in October next and in all Sessions of the Assembly afterwards till the annual Election in May next. —

The Hon David Howell Esq Moderator. —

The Following Gentlemen are duly Elected and Chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session to be holden at South Kingstown in October next and afterward till the annual Election in May next, Viz

Welcome Arnold Esq
Major Charles Keene
Mr Joseph Brown
Theodore Foster Esq

+ Whereas Col. Jonathan Arnold and Benjamin Bourne Esq who were appointed by the General Assembly at their last Session to provide Quarters for the French Officers and Sergeants belonging the Army Stationed in Providence have made application to this Meeting for their Assistance in procuring the said Quarters It is therefore Voted and Resolved that those Gentlemen be and they are Requested to take up such Quarters in the Town as shall be suitable and most convenient for the Officers and Inhabitants and that they be and hereby are empowered to agree for the Rent of such Rooms as shall be occupied and in order to enable them to procure the same in Manner the least Burthensome and disagreable the Rents there for shall be

out of the Town Treasury of this Town until such Time as Application can be made therefor to the General Assembly for Repayment. — Which Rents so agreed for shall be paid to the owners of the Rooms so occupied out of the next Town Tax. — and in case Suitable Quarters cannot be agreed for as aforesaid the said Col. Arnold and Benj.ª Bourne Esq.ª are empowered to assign the necessary Quarters — Rent therefor to be paid as aforesaid and that they make Report of their Proceedings to the next Town Meeting. —

Resolved that the Committee appointed on the 18th Day of April last to procure Quarters for the French Officers be requested to lay before the next Meeting an Account of the Rents agreed for and allowed by them for the Rooms taken up for the aforesaid purpose —

Mr Benjamin Cozzens as Grandjuror and Mr Levi Burr as Petit Juror are drawn according to Law to serve at the Superior Court of Judicature &c to be holden in Providence on the Third Monday of September next. —

Resolved that this Meeting be adjourned to 2 Clock in the Afternoon of Thursday next and that the Clerk issue his Warrant notifying the Adjournment and Meeting mentioning in the Warrant the following Matters for Consideration. Viz

1. Whether the Freemen will make any allowance or Grant of payment out of the Town Treasury to their Deputies, for their Services or Expences while attending the General Assembly. —

2. To Reconsider the Vote passed at the Annal Meeting in June for repealing the Vote of the Town for repairing the Highways by Taxes to be paid out of the Town Treasury and whether the Highways shall be repaired by a Tax upon the Town or otherwise. —

3. Whether the Freemen will make any Grant to be paid out of the Town Treasury to those who have been drafted or shall be drafted to do Military Duty the present or next Month on Rhode Island in addition to the Wages allowed by the State. and to make Provision by a Tax for this purpose.

4. To make Provision for furnishing the Town's Quota of Bread Corn and Fresh Beef for the Use of the Army agreeable to Act of Assembly. —

Theodore Foster T. C.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled and adjourned by Adjournment on the 30th Day of August Ad. 1781.

The Hon. David Howell Esqr. Moderator. —

It is Voted and Resolved in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly at the last Session that James Arnold Esq. the Town Treasurer be empowered and directed to pay Twenty Nine Dollar Silver Money out of the Town Treasury to the Commissary General of Issues for procuring their proportion of Bread Corn or Flour for the Month of September next. —

Whereas an Abstract of the Wages or Gratuity due from the Town to the Men who did Military Duty on Rhode Island in March last in Consequence of a Vote passed in Town Meeting here on the 5th of said Month amounting to the Sum of One Hundred and Thirteen Pounds and Eighteen Shillings hard Money hath been laid before this Meeting and the said Abstract having been duly examined and Certified: It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Town Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to pay the Amount of the said Abstract to Major John Whipp (the Commander of the Company at that Time in which the men served) and that Major Whipple lodge with the Town Treasurer the Receipts of the said Men within six Months and if any overplus Money shall then remain that he pay the same into the Town Treasury. —

Whereas the Hon.ble General Assembly at their last Session allowed an Account of Mr John Dexter for Provisions supplied the Guards &c in Providence amounting to Thirty Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Ten pence Lawful Silver Money and ordered the same to be paid to him by the Town of Providence to be allowed Credit of the said Towns next Proportion of Beef. — It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Town Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to pay the said Sum to said John Dexter out of the Town Treasury and that the same be deducted from the Towns Proportion of Beef for the next month as aforesaid. —

Whereas the Hon.ble General Assembly at their last Session ordered 34 Men [illegible] to be furnished by this Town to serve in this State for one Month from the 5th Day of September

It is therefore Voted and Resolved that a Committee be appointed to engage the said Men to do said Months Tour of Duty upon the best Terms they can and that said Committee be and they hereby are empowered to draw any Sum of Money not exceeding Four Pounds Silver Money out of the Town Treasury to be appropriated for engaging said Men for which they are to be accountable proper Allowance to be made them for their Services and Expences and in case there is not a sufficient Sum of Money in the Town Treasury that the Treasurer hire a Sum sufficient for the Purpose and that Nicholas Brown Esq.ª Major Simeon Thayer and Mr Reuben Potter be the said Committee. —

And for Providing a sufficient Fund for discharging the Engagements which shall be made by said Committee and the other Debts due from the Town It is Voted and Resolved that a Tax of Seven Hundred Pounds in Gold or Silver be assessed on the Polls and Estates in this Town and be collected and paid into the Town Treasury on or before the First Day of November next and that the Poll Tax be Six Shillings.

It is Voted and Resolved That the Vote of the Town Meeting passed on the 11th Day of June last, repealing a former Vote, that the Highways, in the Town, should be repaired by Taxes, to be paid out of the Town Treasury, be and the same is hereby repealed, and made null, and Void; and that for the Future the Highways be repaired in the same Method as they have been for about Eight Years last past, agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly in August Ad. 1773. — And that Equal Justice may be done to every part of the Town and the Individual Inhabitants It is further Voted and Resolved That Mr Joseph Brown, Col. Amos Atwell, and Major Charles Keene be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to direct where, and in What Manner the Money granted for repairing the Highways shall be laid out — and that the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds, Lawful Money, in Silver or Gold, be now Granted for the purpose of repairing the Highways, and the Bridges in the Town, exclusive of Weybosset Bridge, and that the Assessors assess the same with the other Town Tax ordered at this Meeting, and when repairs or work shall be wanted on the highways or Bridges the Surveyor of the District shall shall notify the Inhabitants thereof of it and shall receive of any person, who shall offer in Labour or work, to the Amount of such persons proportion of the said Tax of Two Hundred Pounds. —

It is Voted and Resolved That James Arnold Esq.ª be and he is hereby appointed to have the Overseight and Care of Weybosset Bridge and that he make the Repairs which it now Wants and such Repairs as shall be needful from Time to Time at the Expence of the Town.

On the Question whether the Freemen will make any Grant of pecuniary payment out of the Town Treasury to their Deputies for their Services or Expences while attending the General Assembly — Passed in the Negative. — [It seeming to be the sense of the Meeting that their Deputies shall serve like the high Officers of State in the Antient and Great Republick of Carthage without Fee or Reward.]

It is Voted and Resolved that Mr John Dexter overseer of the Work be directed immediately to clear the same of all the persons now therein and that the Possession of said Building be and the same is hereby delivered to Major Bowen for the purpose of Barracking the Troops of his Most Christian Majesty until further Order from the Town Such Repairs or Additions as he shall see fit to make therein to be left with the said Building when the same shall be quitted by the Troops: —

Voted that Fifteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid to Mr William Compton out of the Town Treasury being the amount of his Account against the Town now exhibited for warning and attending Town Meetings

This Meeting is Dissolved at about 10 Minutes after 11 Clock at Night

Theodore Foster T. C.

Sept.r 4.th 1781.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and Assembled at the State House on the 4.th Day of September A.D. 1781.—

Hon.r Jabez Bowen Esq.r Moderator.—

Whereas the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to enlist this Towns Proportion of the Militia to serve one Month from the 8.th Day of September Instant have represented to this Meeting that said Men cannot be voluntarily enlisted unless payment of the Wages is inspected to be paid to them when discharged:— It is therefore Voted and Resolved that the Sum of One Hundred and Seventy Pounds be added to the Tax granted at the last Meeting and that the said Sum be assessed with the Tax then granted to be collected raised and paid in at the same time and that the first Monies collected shall be appropriated for paying the said Wages and in case any Gentlemen shall so far befriend the Town as to advance the said Money it shall be wanted before it is Collected Interest shall be allowed to him for the same to be paid out of the Town Treasury.

Theodore Foster T. C.

Oct.r 5.th A.D. 1781.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled on the 5.th Day of October A.D. 1781.

Col. Amos Atwell Moderator.

Whereas the Hon.ble the Council of War on Saturday last passed an Order for calling into Service the same Number of Men as served the Last Month to do Military Duty one Month from the 8.th Day of October Instant It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Major Simeon Thayer and Mr. Reuben Potter Two of the Committee appointed at the last Meeting for procuring the said Men be reappointed and continued to hire this Town's Quota of said Men on the best Terms they can to serve one Month from the 8.th Instant and as it will be necessary to advance Money to the persons engaged It is Voted that the Town Treasurer be empowered and directed to hire such a Sum of Money as shall be necessary for the purpose not exceeding Two Hundred Spanish Milled Dollars;— and that he pay the same to Major Simeon Thayer who is to be accountable therefor and that the same be repaid out of the Town Tax last assessed and that James Black Esq.r be appointed to assist the Town Treasurer in hiring the said Money.

It is Voted and resolved That James Arnold Esq.r Town Treasurer be and he is hereby appointed to procure and furnish the Beef and Corn proportioned to and Required of this Town by Government

Whereas Since May last Sundry Inhabitants of this Town have been drafted and have done military Duty and no extra allowance hath been made by the Town therefor and for the last and present Month the Town at Large have hired the Men called for from the Town. Therefore That equal Justice may be done It is Voted that the Sum of Five Dollars Silver Money be paid by the Town Treasurer to each of the persons who have been drafted and have done Duty as aforesaid by themselves or Substitutes on their producing a Certificate from the Captain of the Company in which such person Served that such person regularly did his Tour of Duty.—

Whereas the Committee appointed at the last Meeting to hire this Towns Quota of Men who did Military Duty the last Month engaged to pay the said Men the Wages which should become due from the State; It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to pay to the Committee who enlisted the said Men the amount of the Wages which have become due to them from the State for their Services the last and the present Month and that the said Committee pay the same to the said Men on their giving an order in Favor of the Town Treasurer upon the Officer who shall be appointed by the State to pay said Wages and that the said Committee receive the said Order and the proper Certificates from their Officers that such Wages are due.—

It is Voted and Resolved That Mess.r Benjamin West, David Howell and Nathan Waterman be a Committee to review the Bounds of the Highway leading from the Mill Bridge to Fenners Bridge and Report forward to the Top of the Hill.— and make report to the Town of their Doings at some future Meeting.

It is Voted and Resolved That Major Simeon Thayer be allowed four Dollars p.r Day for his Service Time and Expence during the Time he has been or shall be employed in enlisting this Towns proportion of Men to do Military Duty on Rhode Island.—

Resolved.—

At a Town Meeting Legally warned and assembled at the State House in Providence on the 15.th Day of March A.D. 1782.

Nicholas Brown Esq.r Moderator.

This Meeting having been called pursuant to Act of the Hon.ble the General Assembly at their Last Session in Order to make known an Act then passed for Raising Two Hundred and Sixty Nine Men to make up the Full Quota of this State Forces in the Army of the United States and to transport the other Business mentioned in the Warrant— The said Act of the General Assembly is therefore publickly Twice Read in Open Town Meeting

And another Act of the General Assembly requiring this Town to furnish 252 Yards of good whitened Tow Cloth and 36 Pair of good Yarn Stockings being also Read It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That Mr. Archibald Stewart and the Collector of Taxes with the Town Treasurer be a Committee for procuring the Tow Cloth and Stockings aforesaid and that said Committee wrote to Col. Archibald Cravey requesting him to permit part of the Shirts Trowsers and Overalls to be made up in this Town— The Inhabitants engaging to do the work equally well and on as reasonable prices as it can be done for elsewhere.

Whereas it is Represented to this Meeting that it will be Beneficial to the Town to purchase a Small Strip of Land belonging to Mr. Jonathan Olney adjoining the Highway at Bennets Hell for the purpose of Widening the said Highway at that Place It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Mr. John Brown, Mr. Paul Allen, Col. William Wall Col. Joseph Nightingale and Col. Amos Atwell or any Three of them be a Committee to enquire of Mr. Olney upon what Terms he will Sell the Land Necessary for the aforesaid Purpose and that they Review the said Highway at that Place and make Report of the whole to the next Meeting.—

And it is also Voted and Resolved That the same Committee examine what parts of the Several Streets in the Town it may now be proper to procure to be paved and the Expence necessary for that Purpose and to devise Ways and Means for having the same Done and Report to the next Meeting.—

The following Persons are duly drawn according to Law Jurors to serve at the Honorable the Superior Court of Judicature to be holden in Providence in and for this County of Providence on the Third Monday of March A.D. 1782 (Viz.)

Squire Thurber Grandjuror
Elisha Brown Jun.r Petit Juror

Resolved upon this Meeting

Whereas Doct.r Thomas Truman hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Medicines and Attendence of one Widow Morehead a poor Woman and Sick and the said Account having been duly considered and Examined It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That the Amount thereof being Three pounds and Thirteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money be paid to the Thomas Truman out of the Town Treasury.—

Whereas Mr. William Compton hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town for Warning Town Meetings be and the same having been considered it is Voted and Resolved that the Amount thereof being One Pound and Seateen Shillings Lawful Silver Money be paid to him out of the Town Treasury.

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Saturday at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon the Twenty Third Day of March Instant to receive the Report of the Committee appointed at this Meeting — To Enquire what Rooms have been hired on Account of the Town.— what Rents are now Contracted for and to adopt Measures for Collecting the same out of the Taxes already assessed &c. and that the Clerk issue his Warrant warning the said Meeting and Notifying said Business.—

Theodore F.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence Legally warned and assembled and also holden by Adjournment at the State House in Providence on Saturday the 23d Day of March Ad. 1782.

Nicholas Brown Esqr Moderator.

The Committee appointed at the last Town Meting to examine the Highway at Bennets Hill and to agree with Col. Christopher Olney for Land to make the said Highway Wider at that Place Reported Verbally that they had conferred with Col. Olney who generously offerred to give to the Town as much of the Land at the Curve of the Road round said Hill as will make the Highway there Two Rods wider than the same now is gradually running to a Point at each End of the Curve: and Col. Christopher Olney having now appeared in this Town Meting and publickly Declared that he freely gave the said Land of the Width aforesaid for the Use of the Town: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the said Land be accepted for the aforesaid Purpose and that the Thanks of the Town be Returned to Col. Olney for the same and that the Town Clerk draft a Deed accordingly.—

Mr. John Brown having laid before this Meting a Writing containing Proposals for Paving a part of the Street to the Southward of his House in the following Words viz

"Providence March 23: 1782.

To the Moderator and Freemen of the Town to be convened in Town Meeting this Day

Gentlemen, Whereas it seemed to be the General Opinion of the Freemen that attended the last Town Town Meeting that it would be greatly to the Advantage of the Town in General to have the Streets Paved in every part of the Town and more particularly in such Parts as is the most Muddy and nearly unpassable in Several Seasons of the Year I do hereby Offer for the Benefit of the Town to Lend them on Interest a Sufficient Sum to continue the Paving from where it now Ends near Col. Walls House One Hundred yards Southward which will about Reach the Middle of Capt. Archibald Youngs House and will pay the same to the person or Persons they may appoint to provide the Materials and Effect the Work. One Half in Cash and one Half in any Articles of Merchandize I may have, which shall be supplied at the Cash Price, the Interest to commence from the Advancing the same till convenient for the Town to Repay the same not exceeding Two Years after the War. I suppose the said 100 yards of Pavement will Cost about Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars. and as there is other People who will Doubtless furnish the Town in a Similar Way I Recommend with all Submission that the Pavement may be continued as far Southward as Governor Bookers which will be about one Hundred and Seaty Yards Farther. And that there be also about the same Quantity of Paving to the Northward of the Church up Town".

John Brown

And the aforesaid Proposal having been duly considered It is Voted and Resolved that the same be accepted and agreed to and That Mr. Thomas Jenkins, William Wheaton Esqr and Col. Zephaniah Andrews be and they hereby are appointed a Committee for Procuring the said Pavement from Col. William Walls One Hundred and Twenty Yards Southward to be done and Finished as soon as may be in the Cheapest and best Manner. And it is further Agreed and Resolved by the Town that they will encourage and prosecute the Pavement of all the Principal Streets [illegible] Time to Time upon the same Principales.—

Whereas the Greatest Part of the Troops of his most Christian Majesty who were Stationed in this Town have Removed whereby that Elegant Large and Capacious Building with many Rooms therein handsomely Finished built for and improved as an Hospital at present in the Possession of the Commanding Officer of said Troops now is left almost Empty; and a Number of Rooms have been taken up for some of the Officers of the Army from the Inhabitants at the Expence of the Town which Rooms belonging to the Inhabitants are in some Instances much wanted and the Burthen of Taxes unavoidably accruing to the Town on Account of the War are such as absolutely require the utmost Oeconomy in the Expenditure of money collected by Taxes

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Metcalf Bowler Esq and Theodore Foster Esq be a Committee to wait upon the Gentlemen who occupy the said Rooms for which the Town pay Rent and to inform them that this Meeting impress with a high Sense of Gratitude for the most Exemplary Good Conduct Order and Regularity Observed by the said Officers and Troops at all Times since their Residence in this Town and having experienced so much of their Candour and Generosity are perswaded they will not be Offended considering the Great Burthen upon the Town, while they themselves (in being Requested) contract with the Owners of the Rooms they now improve to take Quarters in a Building so Elegant commodious well Finished and so beautifully Situated as the Edifice aforesaid especially when the Finances of the Town will not admit of Rent being paid by the Town for the said Rooms for any Longer Time than till the First Day of April next.

Resolved That all Persons having Demands against the Town on Account of Contracts made by Committees appointed to procure Rooms for the French Officers, bring in the same to the Town Audit, who are requested and Directed to take the same into Consideration and that they draw orders on the Town Treasury for payment of the Rents duly contracted for and Certified by said Committee excepting for Two Weeks at the Time when Count Rochambeaus Army passed through the Town the last Year for which Time it is Reputed no Charges will be made or allowed.—

Resolved That it be Recommended to the Committee of the Market House to cause the same to be opened the whole of Every Day excepting Sundays when it is not to be opened at all— and that the Stalls be Rented out to the best Advantage

Whereas Col. Amos Atwell exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Rent due to him pursuant to Contracts of the Committee of the Town for the Use of part of his House for a French Officer and his Attendants in August Last and for Quarters for Captain De La Barroliere and his Attendants 7 Months and 2 Days viz from the First of September Last to the First of April next.— and the said Account having been duly Certified and Examined It is Voted and Resolved that the Amount thereof being Eighteen Pounds Two Shillings and Six pence Lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid to the said Amos Atwell out of the Town Treasury.

Whereas Capt. William Chace exhibited a Certificate to this Meeting from the Committee appointed on the 18th Day of April Last whereby it appears that the Sum of Four Pounds and Ten Shillings Silver Money is due to him for 1½ Months Rent of half his House occupied by Capt. Jaimalco an Officer in Count Rochambeaus Army It is therefore Resolved that said Sum be paid to said William Chace out of the Town Treasury—

Whereas Major Elihu Robinson hath exhibited to this Meeting a Certificate from the same Committee that there is due to him Two pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Silver for the Use of his Great Room Seven Weeks by Mr. Demas: It is therefore Voted that said Sum be paid to said Elihu Robinson out of the Town Treasury—

£1.16.0 allowed to Mrs P. Peck

£6.2.0 allowed to John Larcher

£1.13.0 are allowed to said John Larcher

J. Lawrence to have a Room in the Market House on Conditions

Whereas Mrs. Penelope Peck hath exhibited an Account, by her charged against the Town, for Rooms furnished Doct. Forror, principal Marine Physician of the Navy of Arms, in this State, from Oct. 4th to Nov. 8th at 6/ per week and the said Account having been duly examined and considered It is Resolved that the Amount thereof being One Pound and fourteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money be paid to her out of the Town Treasury.—

Whereas Mr John Larcher hath exhibited an Account by him charged against the Town, for Rent for Lenaten, for Two French Sergeans, Viz, for Mons. Townee from Aug. 28. to Dec. 16th 1781, 15 Weeks and Six Days, and for Mons. Segar from Aug. 28. to Feb. 15th being 24 Weeks and 5 Days, at 3/ per Week. in the whole amounting to Six pounds and Two Shilling Lawful Silver Money, and the said Account having been duly certified and examined it is Voted and Resolved that the said Sum be paid to said John Larcher, out of the Town Treasury.

And Whereas the said John Larcher hath exhibited one other Account, duly certified for Lenaten for another French Officer, from April 4th to July 3: 1781, 11 Weeks It is Resolved that the Sum of One Pound and Thirteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money, the Amount of said last mentioned Account, be also allowed and paid to said John Larcher out of the Town Treasury.—

*Resolved That, when the French Troops shall have done making use of the Market House, and shall have delivered the same up again for the use of the Town, that Mr. Joseph Lawrence be permitted to improve a Room in the upper Part thereof for an Insurance Office, on his agreeing with the Committee who have the Care of the Market House, for the Use of the same and paying as much Rent as any other person will appear to give for the same Room.—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled according to Law on Wednesday the 17th Day of April in the Year of our LORD 1782 being the Day appointed by Law for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and filing Proxey Votes for General Officers and Delegates to represent the State in the Congress of the United

Welcome Arnold Esq. Moderator.—

The Gentlemen hereafter named are duly elected and Chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session to be holden at the General Election in Newport on the first Wednesday of May next and in all Sessions of said Assembly until the Last Wednesday of October next Viz,

Welcome Arnold Esq	1st Deputy.
Mr John Smith	2d Deputy
Mr John Brown	3d Deputy
Col. William Barton	4th Deputy.—

The following Vote having been drafted by the Honorable Jonathan Arnold Esq. was moved for by him and Seconded passed Unanimously, Viz,

Whereas Major Charles Keen and Theodore Foster Esqrs have for several Years past served this Town as Deputies to represent them in General Assembly, in a Manner highly Satisfactory to their Constituents and with Reputation to themselves and now decline serving any longer in said Office

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Charles Keen and Theodore Foster for their said Services.—

A Register of the Names of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Proxey Votes for the General Officers of the State and Delegates in Congress to be delivered to the General Election as follows, Viz,

1 George Olney
Giles Packham
Stephen Beverly
Benjamin Talbot
Nathaniel Southingham
Jacob Whitman
Joseph Hawkins
George Beverly
John Updike
10 Theodore Foster
John Demount
William Whipple
Benjamin Man
Joshua Burr
Phenehas Brown
Paul Allen
Ralph Merry
Aaron Wright
John Clifford
20 David Burr
Simeon Thayer
Samuel Nightingale
William Compton Jun.
William Wheaton
John Smith
Joseph Burrell
David Martin
Charles Keene
Jeremiah Jenckes
30 Nehemiah Sweet
[illegible]

Elijah Baron
John Mumford Jun.
Robert Newell
Terrence Daily
James Burr
Joseph Hoyle
Comfort Wheaton
Elijah Sheppardson
Caleb Sheldon
Timothy Mason
Henry Ward
Recompence Healy
Edward Hawkins
Geek Eddy
William Sheldon
Joseph Burrill Jun.
70 Thomas Jones
Reuben Potter
Christopher Sheldon
Levi Burr
John J. Clarke
Joseph Field
Joseph Potter Jun.
John Tillinghast
Gershom Jones
William Creed
80 Olney Winsor
Samuel Thaw Jun.
Nicholas Brown
Benjamin Stille

William Packham
William Thayer
Anthony Westcot
Levi Hall
110 Jehabod Brown
John Matthewson
Samuel Young
Benjamin Lindsey
James Wheaton
Daniel Tillinghast
Abiel Smith
Daniel Snow
Elias Callender
Christopher Olney
120 Philip Allen
Charles Holden
Benjamin Hopper
Joseph Comstock
John Whipple
Joseph Potter
John W. Gladding
John Carpenter
Ephraim Peabody
Benjamen Randall
130 Samuel Westcot
Elisha Brown
Benjamin Shurbo
Nathaniel Jacobs Jun.
Holliman Warner
Decater Brown
[illegible] Martin
[illegible] Rogers
[illegible] Tucker
[illegible] Potter
[illegible] Hamlin
[illegible] Tillinghast
[illegible] Warner.
[illegible] Richmond
[illegible]
[illegible] Allen
[illegible] Young
[illegible] Howell
[illegible] Throop
[illegible] James
[illegible] Smart

Joseph Clarke
David Jeffe
John Brown
John Carter.
John Mumford
Benoni Pearce
James M. Varnum
Oliver Carpenter 2
Nathaniel Wheaton
Elihu Robinson
Caleb Wheaton
William Morris
Daniel Branch
William Walker
Richard Marvin
John Smith
Tilley Merrick Olney
Joseph Buchlin
Robert Carver
Nathan Brown
John Beverly
Daniel Peirce
Thomas Freeman
Nicholas Cooke
Joseph Nightingale
Levi Ham
Michael Field
William Potter
Edmond Arrowsmith
Benjamin Aplin
John White
Christopher Arnold Jun.
190 James Burroughs
Joshua Burr
Nathan Arnold
Ebenezer Thompson
Nathaniel Jenckes
John Pettey
Joseph Snow Jun.
Benjamin Comstock
William Sutton
John Jones
200 Levi Whipple
James Seamons
John Vial
Charles Lee
Arthur Fenner Jun.
Joseph Olney
John Cole
Ezekiel [illegible]
[illegible]

Whereas Major Charles Keen & Theodore Foster have for several years past served this Town to represent them in General Assembly, in a manner highly satisfactory to their Constituents, and with reputation to themselves, and now decline serving any longer in said Office.

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Charles Keen and Theodore Foster for their said Services.

Thomas Buttenbor
Samuel Smith
50 Jeremiah Olney
Ebenezer White
Ephraim Bowen

100 Jonathan Knowles
Zachariah Allen
William Brown
Joseph Rogers
Timothy Waldron
James Crowell

Gideon Crawford
Benjamin Cushing
Nathaniel Greene
Daniel Bucklin
Philip Martin
Joseph [illegible]

£1.16.0 allowed to Mrs P. Peck

£6.2.0 allowed to John Larcher

£1.13.0 more allowed to said John Larcher

J. Lawrence to have a Room in the Market House on Conditions

Whereas Mrs Penelope Peck hath exhibited an Account, by her charged against the Town, for Rooms furnished Doctr Gorton, principal Marine Physician of the Navy of Arones, in this State, from Octr 11th to Novr 8th at 6/ per week and the said Account having been duly examind and considered It is Resolved That the Amount thereof being One Pound and fourteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money be paid to her out of the Town Treasury.—

Whereas Mr John Larcher hath exhibited an Account, by him charged against the Town for Rent for Quarters, for Two French Surgeons, Viz, for Monsr Fournier from Augt 28. to Decr 15th 1781, 15 Weeks and Six Days, and for Monsr Seper from Augt. 28. to Feb. 15th being 24 Weeks and 5 Days, at 3/ per Week in the whole amounting to Six pounds and Two Shillings Lawful Silver Money, and the said Account having been duly certified and examined it is Voted and Resolved that the said Sum be paid to said John Larcher, out of the Town Treasury

And Whereas the said John Larcher hath exhibited one other Account, duly certified for Quarters for another French Officer, from April 4th to July 3. 1781, 11 Weeks It is Resolved That the Sum of One Pound and Thirteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money, the Amount of said last mentioned Account, be also allowed and paid to said John Larcher out of the Town Treasury.—

*Resolved That, when the French Troops shall have done making use of the Market House, and shall have delivered the same up again for the use of the Town, that Mr Joseph Lawrence be permitted to improve a Room in the upper Part thereof, for an Insurance Office, on his agreeing with the Committee who have the care of the Market House, for the Use of the same and paying as much Rent as any other person will appear to give for the same Room.—

Theodore Foster Town Clerk.—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled according to Law on Wednesday the 17th Day of April in the Year of our LORD 1782 being the Day appointed by Law for choosing Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly and filing Proxy Votes for General Officers and Delegates to represent the State in the Congress of the United

Welcome Arnold Esq Moderator.—

The Gentlemen hereafter named are duly elected and Chosen Deputies to represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session to Wednesday of May next and in all October next Viz,

Wel
Mr
Jr
Col.

The following Vote having been d
by him and Seconded.

Whereas
for several Years past served
Assembly, in a Manner highly Satisfactory
to themselves and now decline serving any longer in said Office

Voted that the Thanks of the Town be and hereby are given to the said Charles Keen and Theodore Foster for their said Services.—

A Register of the Names of the Freemen of the Town of Providence who put in their Proxy Votes for the General Officers of the State and Delegates in Congress to be ballotted for at General Election as follows, Viz,

George Olney
Giles Packham
Stephen Beverly
Benjamin Talbot
Nathaniel Scottingham
Jacob Whitman
Joseph Hawkins
George Beverly
John Updike
10 Theodore Foster
John Demount
William Whipple
Benjamin Man
Joshua Burr
Penehas Brown
Paul Allen
Ralph Merry
Aaron Wright
John Clifford
20 David Burr
Simeon Thayer
Samuel Nightingale
William Compton Jun
William Wheaton
John Smith
Joseph Burrel
David Martin
Charles Keene
Jeremiah Jenckes
38 Nehemiah Sweet
Oliver Carpenter
Samuel Warner
Zephaniah Andrews
John Tritton
Edward Knowles
Abner Thayer
John Larcher
Joseph Crawford
William Thurber
Nathan Field
Gerstrom Carpenter
Samuel Haley
William Bowen
Thomas Bennet
Samuel Chace
Benjamin Gladding
James Field
Thomas Buttenbor
Samuel Smith
50 Jeremiah Olney
Ebenezer White
Ephraim Bowen
Elijah Bacon
John Mumford Jun
Robert Newell
Terrence Daily
James Burr
Joseph Hoyle
Comfort Wheaton
Elijah Sheppardson
Caleb Sheldon
Timothy Mason
Henry Ward
Recompence Healy
Edward Hawkins
Ezek Eddy
William Sheldon
Joseph Burrill Jun
70 Thomas Jones
Reuben Potter
Christopher Sheldon
Levi Burr
John J. Clarke
Joseph Field
Joseph Potter Jun
John Tillinghast
Gershom Jones
William Creed
80 Olney Winsor
Samuel Shaw Jun
Nicholas Brown
Benjamin Stille
Robert Sterry
Martin Thurber
Samuel Thurber Jun
Archibald Stewart
Solomon Drown
Jonathan Russell
90 Samuel Knowles
Daniel Tuttellot
Samuel Black
Walter Harding
Jonathan Olney
Samuel Angell
Joseph Brown
Samuel Yates
George Curtis
Thomas Perry
100 Jonathan Knowles
Zacharias Allen
William Brown
Joseph Rogers
Timothy Waldron
James Snow
William Packham
William Thayer
Anthony Westcot
Levi Hall
110 Jehabod Brown
John Matthewson
Samuel Young
Benjamin Lindsey
James Wheaton
Daniel Tillinghast
Abiel Smith
Daniel Snow
Elias Callender
Christopher Olney
120 Philip Allen
Charles Holden
Benjamin Hopper
Joseph Comstock
John Whipple
Joseph Potter
John W. Gladding
John Carpenter
Ephraim Peabody
Benjamen Randall
130 Samuel Westcot
Elisha Brown
Benjamin Thurber
Nathaniel Jacobs Jun
Holliman Warner
Dexter Brown
Joseph Martin
John Rogers
Joshua Tucker
George Potter
140 Samuel Hamlin
Obadiah Sprague
Henry St. Tillinghast
Nathan Warner
Barzillai Richmond
Henry Bacon
Joseph Allen
Gideon Young
Amos Atwell
Amos Throop
150 Samuel James
Thomas Smart
Gideon Crawford
Benjamin Cushing
Nathaniel Greene
Daniel Bucklin
Philip Martin
Joseph Russell
Joseph Clarke
David Tefft
John Brown
John Carter
John Mumford
Benoni Pearce
James N. Varnum
Oliver Carpenter 2
Nathaniel Wheaton
Elihu Robinson
Caleb Wheaton
William Morris
Daniel Branch
William Walker
Richard Marvin
John Smith
Tilley Merrick Olney
Joseph Bucklin
Robert Carver
Nathan Brown
John Beverly
Daniel Peirce
Thomas Truman
Nicholas Cooke
Joseph Nightingale
Levi Ham
Michael Field
William Potter
Edmond Arrowsmith
Benjamin Aplin
John White
Christopher Arnold Jun
190 James Burrough
Joshua Burr
Nathan Arnold
Ebenezer Thompson
Nathaniel Jenckes
John Petty
Joseph Snow Jun
Benjamin Comstock
William Sutton
John Jones
200 Levi Whipple
James Seamon
John Vial
Charles Lee
Arthur Fenner Jun
Joseph Olney
John Cole
Ezekiel

210 James Berry
William Wall
John Sabin
William Cozzens
James Black
David Wilkinson
Daniel Killisell
Abel Peavey
David Lawrence
Comfort Bardin
220 John Grainger
Christopher Arnold
Eleazer Peck
William Compton
Lewis Peck
William Tyler.

Daniel Jackson
Josiah Gifford
William Barton
Ephraim Walker
Thomas Sabin
Joshua Ashton
Timothy Sabin
Isaac Bowen
Benjamin Eddy
Arthur Fenner
Timothy Brownell
Benjamin Allen
Stephen Thurber
William Tillinghast
240 Joseph Tillinghast
Edward Thurber.—

Nicholas Power
Jonathan Gladding
John Atwood
Joseph Lawrence
Samuel Wilkey
Philip Peckham
Nathan Williams
Daniel Brown
250 John Davis
Joseph Arnold
William Corlis
William Martin
Samuel Nightingale Jun.
Joseph Cleaveland
James Burrill
Samuel Thurber 3.

Alexander Sampson
Peter Taylor
260 William Harding
William Barclay
Oliver Luther
Sanders Pitman
William Danforth
Jonathan Arnold
David Howell.
Welcome Arnold
Samuel Butler
Amos Allen—
270 John Lawrence
Benjamin Snow
Samuel Butler Junr.

Proxes for the Honble William Greene Esqr. as Governor . . 268
For the Hon. Jabez Bowen Esq. as Deputy Governor. 267—

The following Persons being duly Qualified according to Law It was Voted and Resolved at the Opening of this Meeting that they be and they hereby are Admitted Freemen of this Town, Viz, Aaron Wright, Daniel Tourtellot, Levi Ham, Daniel Pearce William Creed, Charles Smith, Thomas Smart, Thomas Perry, Richard Marvin Samuel Snow, Samuel Dunn, Thomas Touman, Olney Winsor, Thomas Jenkins, Oliver Luther, Edmond Arrowsmith, Jonathan Marsh, Othniel Foppe William Potter, Seth Davis, Ephraim Bowen Junr, John Beverly, William Packham, Capt. William Allen of the Continental Army, Jeremiah Olney, James Aborn, Charles Jenckes, Jeremiah Jenckes, Gershom Jones, Benjamin Snow, Jilley Metcalf Olney, George Olney William Brown, William Sheldon William Sessions John Mumford Junr Robert Taylor Junr Stephen Beverly William Thayer John Saben Joseph Burrill Junr and Samuel Angell. —

Resolved That When the French Troops shall have Finished using this Market House which they now improve that the Town Treasurer take down the Partition in the Lower Part thereof and Place the Boards and Timber in the upper Lofts until further Orders of the Town.

The Meeting Dissolved.—

At a Town Meting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden according to Law at the State House in said Providence on Monday the Third Day of June AD 1782 being the anniversary Election of Town Officers the Gentlemen here after named were chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names Viz,

The Honorable Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator

Town Clerk. Theodore Foster
Town Council Col. Amos Atwell, President Christopher Sheldon Paul Allen Samuel Butler, Nathaniel Wheaton and Benoni Pearce Esquires
Town Serjeant Mr William Compton.
Town Treasurer. James Arnold Esq.
Town Audit .... Capt. David Lawrence, Mr John Filton and Capt. Nicholas Power.—
Constables Messrs Nathaniel Jenckes, John Jones and Anthony Westcot.—
[illegible] Mr Jacob Thurber—

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor { Col. John Mathewson, Mr Nathan Waterman and [illegible] Wheaton Esq. —

Surveyors of Roads & Bounds { Messrs Christopher Arnold Elijah Bacon, Jonathan Hammon, John Smith Comfort Wheaton and Gershom Carpenter.

Surveyors of Highways . . Messrs Paul Allen, Zephaniah Andrews Dexter Brown Thomas Benn[illegible] & Joseph [illegible] Wheeler

Gaugers of Cask . . . Messrs Samuel Jackson, Eph. Brown, Eph. Eddy, Archibald Young and Jonathan Jenkins —

Vendue Master Capt. Benjamin Hoppen.

Packers of Beef and Pork. Messrs Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle, Nathan Arnold, and Joseph Field. ——

Corders of Wood . . . . { Messrs Samuel Black, John Pettey, John Atwood Thurber Thurber, Ascomp Healy, William Wheaton, Junr Joseph Hoyle, James Field and Joseph Martin Esq

Collector of Taxes . . . Capt. Benjamin Hoppen. Capt. Hoppen having agreed to collect all the Taxes assessed on this Town within the Ensuing year for Four per Cent in Consideration of the Office of Vendue Master being annexed to that of Collector of Taxes. —

Overseer of the Poor House . . . James Black Esq.

Pound Keepers. Messrs Charles Holden and John Pettey.

To Value Estates when Disputed in Voting. Arthur Fenner Junr Esq. Mr Samuel Black Mr John Brown.

Fence Viewers . . . Messrs Samuel Thurber Junr John Field Major Charles Keene and Mr Christopher Arnold.

Presidents of the Firewards. Hon. Jabez Bowen, Joseph Brown and Joseph Martin Esquires

Fire Wards . . . { Nicholas Brown Esq. Col. Joseph Nightingale. Col. Amos Atwell. Col. Daniel Tillinghast Mr Job Smith Hon. John Foster Esq Major Robert Taylor Mr Samuel Thurber Junr and James Arnold Esq.

Engine Company No. 1 Near the Bridge { Messrs Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter John Innes Clark Esq. Col. Joseph Nightingale Mr John Brown, James Arnold Esq. Arthur Fenner Junr Esq. Welcome Arnold Esq Messrs Thomas Bennet John White Col. William Wall and Capt. David Lawrence

Engine Company No. 2. { Benjamin Cushing Junr Esq. Mr Sanders Pitman Major Charles Keene, Col. Levi Hall Messrs Martin Thurber Benjamin Allen, Capt Zachariah Allen, Mr Samuel Young William Wheaton Junr Benjamin Comstock Olney Winsor and Benjamin Mitchel

Engine Company No. 3 On West Side of the River { Col. John Mathewson Zephaniah Andrews Esq. Mr Daniel Jackson, James Black Esq Messrs Asa Franklin, Elijah Bacon, Joseph Cooke, Joseph Hoyle Paul Allen James Black Zephaniah Brown and Capt. Benjamin Hoppen. . . . . ——

Committee to pull down or Remove Houses in case of Fire . . { Joseph Martin Esq. Mr Jonathan Hammon Comfort Wheaton James Innes Johnson Smith Martin Seamen Oliver Carpenter and John Carlile. . . . . ——

Committee to order when and where to remove Goods in Case of Fire . . { Col. Barzillai Richmond, David Wilkinson Esq Messrs Henry Bacon, Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber. . . . . ——

Field Drivers . . . Capt. Job Sweeting, Messrs Christopher Arnold William Tillinghast and John Tillinghast

Sealers of Leather . . . Samuel Butler Esq. and Mr Martin Thurber. . . . . ——

Scavengers { Messrs Nathan Angell Samuel Black Joseph Crawford Sanders Pitman Col. William Wall and Mr Dexter Brown. .

Town Cryer. Mr Daniel Branch.

Overseer of the Work House. Mr John Demount.

Overseer of the Bridge near col. Olney's Col. Christopher Olney.

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge. James Arnold Esq.

Overseer of Mill Bridge and Stevens's Bridge Mr Obadiah Sprague. —

Committee to prevent Encroachments on the Streets, Highways Lanes Gangways and Commons of the Town by Buildings or Fences erected by any of the Inhabitants { The Hon Nicholas Cooke Esq. Joseph Brown Esq Benjamin Allen Esq. Charles Keene Esq and Capt Andrews Esq. . . . . ——

Resolved that the Committee last mentioned be in Future chosen annually on the First Monday of June. —

Resolved That Capt. Paul Allen be and he is hereby appointed to enquire what Rents are due to the Town for Lands belonging to the Town occupied by Individuals from whom the same is due and to make Report at the Next Town Meeting. . . .

Resolved That the Town Treasurer be directed to call on the Collector

hereto fore appointed for a Settlement of their Accounts and ordered they shall Settle the same within one Month. that he commence Actions at Special Courts against those Delinquent. —

Resolved that Nicholas Brown, Esq: Rev. Jonathan Arnold Esq: Col. Amos Atwell and Theodore Foster be a Committee to draft a Recommendatory Address from the Town Meeting to the Inhabitants on the Subject of preserving good Order and Regularity on the Sabbath and during the Night Season and to Report to the next Town Meeting. —

This Meeting being informed that James Angell proposes to lay a Highway through his Land from the Back Street opposite the Baptist Meeting House into the Neck provided he can have some Consideration for the same and as some Exchange of Ways is proposed in order to carry the Road directly through to the Head of the Ferry Lane as well as some other Exchanges which may accomode the Publick and Moses Brown appearing in this Meeting and Offering to give One Hundred Dollars towards the Expence thereof and some others stand Ready to do more than to that Amount if the Town upon consideration and Inspection of the proposed New Way and the Exchanges of others shall think proper to direct the said Way to be laid out. and Effectually put in order

Whereupon Messrs. John Brown, Welcome Arnold, Ebenezer Thompson, Samuel Butler and William Barton are appointed a Committee to inspect the Premises and Report their Judgment to the next Town Meeting ....

The Following persons are drafted according to law to serve as Jurors at the next Inferior Court of common Pleas to be holden at Providence in the County of Providence on the Third Monday of June instant, Viz. Mr Samuel Snow Grand Juror. —
Mr Samuel Westcot Petit Juror. —

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to the Monday of July next at 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon and that the Clerk issue his Warrant warning the said Meeting and notifying the Business then to be Transacted.....

Theodore Foster Town Clerk..

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Adjournment at the State House in Providence on the 8th Day of July AD. 1782.

The Honble Joseph Brown Esq: Moderator

The Committee appointed at the last Meeting to examine the proposed New Way from near the Baptist Meeting House to the Head of Ferry Lane made Report which was Read and is as follows

Agreable to our Appointment We have veiwed the Place for the Proposed Road adjoyning Southerly on the Dividing Line between Col: James Angell and Mr Amaziah Waterman as also through said Waterman's Land to the Ferry Lane. And are of Opinion that a Road of Thirty Six Feet Wide from the Back Street through the Head of the Ferry Lane would greatly commode the public as well as the Owners of the Land and other Individuals: And it is our Judgment that the same ought to be laid open and just in good Order when ever the Owners of the Land become satisfied for the same either by their veiwing the Advantages to themselves as well as the public or by Subscription of others or by such exchange of Roads as may appear best by the Town Council to make

We have also veiwed the Road by Cat Swamp and are of Opinion that Forty Dollars be applied to putting the same in Repair —

And as Mr Moses Brown proposes to advance the Money to the Town for the purpose of putting the said Road in Order. We think it best that some Suitable Person be now appointed to lay out the same as soon as may be after the Road are opened

We are also of Opinion and Do Recommend that When the Road through Mr Angells Land is opened That there is also another Road opened on or near the Line of the Hill from the Road now proposed to Olney Lane so called which is Submitted to the Town Meeting by their Humble Servants Welcome Arnold
John Brown
Ebenezer Thompson

Providence 6th of July 1782..

And the said Report having been duly Considered It is thereupon Voted and Resolved that the same be accepted. And it is also Voted and Resolved That as soon as the Owners of the Land through which the proposed Highway from Benefit Street nearly opposite the Baptist Meeting House to Ferry Lane is to Run shall acknowledge themselves satisfied and paid for the Land which will be occupied thereby without Expence to the Town for the Purchase of the Land in the Manner mentioned in said Report and Shall by proper Sealed Instruments in Writing convey the same to the Town for the purpose of an Highway and Provided that Mr Moses Brown will then undertake to put the said Way in good passable Order for Carriages for One Hundred and Seaty Spanish Milled Dollars and will Advance the Money to that Amount that this Town will and do hereby grant that Sum for the aforesaid Purpose and that this Meeting will and they do hereby agree to allow and pay the said Moses Brown the said Sum of One Hundred and Seaty Spanish Milled Dollars with the Lawful Interest from the Time the same shall be advanced till the Money shall be repaid by the Town. And that on the Foregoing Conditions being complied with the said Highway be immediately laid out by the Town Council and properly Recorded and that a Plat thereof be lodged in the Office of the Town Clerk

And as it is Represented to this Meeting that said Mr Moses Brown is willing to advance the Sum mentioned in said Report for Repairing the Road through Cat Swamp It is Voted and Resolved that Mr Oliver Brown be and he is hereby empowered to appropriate the Sum of Forty Dollars for Repairing said Highway through Cat Swamp provided said Moses Brown will advance in Behalf of the Town that Sum on the same Conditions as aforesaid

It is Voted and Resolved that the Report of the Committee relative to the Streets Highways Lanes Gangways and common belonging to the Town accepted at a Town Meeting on the 17th Day of April AD. 1771. be fairly and exactly copied and Recorded by the Town Clerk into the Town Records and that the Original be delivered to the Town Treasurer to be safely kept in the Town Treasurer's Office, in Order that the Town may have the Benefit of the same Safely kept and Recorded in Two Places..

Resolved That Liberty and Permission be granted to Theodore Foster to occupy and improve an Apartment in the Second Story of the Market House Building in this Town for an Office on the same Conditions as Granted to Mr Joseph Lawrence by a Vote of a Town Meeting passed on the 23d Day of March Last saving that he is to agree for the Rent with Doct Ephraim Bowen, Col. William Wall and the Town Treasurer: —

Whereas Capt. Paul Allen who was appointed at the last Meeting to examine what Rents are due to the Town for Land belonging to the Town occupied by Individuals and from whom the same is due hath now Reported as on File. It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That Capt. John Updike Welcome Arnold Esq: Joseph Brown Esq: Col. William Barton and Ebenezer Thompson Esq: be and they hereby are appointed to Receive the Report of the Committee to Receive the Report of the Committee Relative to the Streets Highways and ways and Common of the Town accepted on the 17th Day of April 1771 and the Report made by Capt. Paul Allen at this Meeting and to examine what persons have complied with the Requisitions of the Town heretofore for Removing their Buildings from the Towns Land: and What persons have not complied with

of the Town and the Reasons why they have not complied and to endeavour to procure the Owners in an amicable and conciliating Manner to Remove the same agreable to the Wishes of the Town: and also to examine what Rents are due from those who have not Removed their said Buildings or Fences and to Report the whole to the next Town Meeting — And also to Report who ought to pay Rent and how much Yearly

Whereas Benoni Pearce Esq. who was Elected a Member of the Town Council at the Last Meeting hath declined Serving in that Office It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That Ebenezer Thompson Esq. be and he is hereby duly Elected and Chosen a Member of the Town Council in the Place of the said Benoni Pearce

For preventing Contests and Disputes hereafter It is Voted and Resolved that Nicholas Brown Ambrose Page Zephaniah Andrews Welcome Arnold and the Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq.r be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make a Plat of the Channel of the River from the Mill Bridge to opposite Messr.s Clarke and Nightingals Lower Wharff and to determin to what Distance on each side of the River into the Channel the Inhabitants may be permitted to build Wharves Set Stores &c.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on the 5.th Day of August AD 1782.

Nicholas Brown Esq.r Moderator...

Whereas on the 23.d Day of March last a Vote of a Town Meeting of this Town then holden was passed agreeing to the Proposition of Mr. John Brown for Paving Water Street One Hundred and Seventy Yards Southward from Col. William Wallis House since which Time the said Pavement hath been nearly completed and Sundry Gentlemen have offered to advance and Lend Money to Continue said Pavement from the Place where it will End pursuant to Contracts already made Still farther Southward upon the same Terms and Conditions as contained in the Proposal of said Mr. Brown on the said 23.d Day of March and Recorded in the Proceedings of that Day: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That John Brown, Zephaniah Andrews, and William Wheaton Esq.r be a Committee to procure the said Pavement to be continued as aforesaid in the said Street as far Southward as the Money advanced as aforesaid will procure to be done and that the same be done as soon as may be in the Cheapest and best Manner Provided nevertheless that the said Pavement be not extended farther Southward than to the North side of the dot of James Arnold Esq.r and that Interest shall be allowed to any person advancing Money as aforesaid as soon as the Money shall be appropriated. —

It is also Voted That Provided Money shall be lent and advanced on the same Terms as aforesaid sufficient for the purpose and any person or persons shall appear to contract with the said Committee that the Pavement be continued in Wells Street from where it ends at Meeting Street to opposite the Middle of the House of Benjamin Buckner Jun.r Esq.r and that the Pavement be continued from Constitution Hill Southward as far as opposite the Barge of Gideon Crawford Sen.r on the same Terms and Condition as aforesaid....

Whereas the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to determine the Boundaries of the Channel hath made the following Report Viz,

Providence August 5.th 1782.

Agreable to the Direction of the last Town Meeting We have Surveyed the Channel from the Mill Bridge to Weybosset Bridge and it is our Opinion that the Line on the East side of the said Channel ought to Run as follows Viz Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Eastern Abutment of said Mill Bridge and Running a Straight line to the Northwest Corner of Mr. Joseph Nash's: Thence to the North End of the Foundation Log of Mr. Crawfords now Stille's Old Wharff. Thence continuing nearly the same Course bearing a little Eastward to a Stake near the Northwest Corner of Paul Tew Esq.r Wharff: Then a Straight Line by the Head of Mr. Allen's Wharff to the Southwest Corner of Mr. John Smith's Wharff: Then to the Southwest Corner of Mr. David Harris's Wharff. Then to the Northwest Corner of the Easternmost Abutment of Weybosset Bridge which is Submitted to the Town by their most Obedient Servants

Nicho.s Cooke
Welcome Arnold
Nicho.s Brown
Zephaniah Andrews

And the said Report having been twice Read and duly Considered It is Voted and Resolved that the same be Received and that the Line therein mentioned be Established as the Eastern Boundary of the Channel so far as the said Report extends And it is Voted and Resolved That no person shall be permitted to build any Wharff or Erect any Building over the said Channel to the Westward of said Line under the Penalty of being Indicted as for committing a Common Nuisance And that the Town Clerk be appointed to inform Capt. Benjamin Stille of this Vote and that it is the particular Request of this Meeting that he will conform the Boundaries of his Wharff and Lot agreeable to the said Report by Removing such part thereof as is to the Westward of said Line —

Whereas Mr. James Snow hath laid before this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Repairing the Wheel and Rope appertaining to the Bell in Mr. Brown's Meeting House and the said Account having been duly considered it is Voted and Resolved that the amount thereof being be allowed and paid to said James Snow out of the Town Treasury

Whereas Mr. Levi Whipple hath exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for the Rent of part of his House occupied by some of the French Troops and the said Account having been examined and allowed by the Committee appointed to examine and adjust such Accounts and being now duly considered It is Voted and Resolved that Three pounds and Twelve Shillings Lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid to said Levi Whipple out of the Town Treasury. —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on Tuesday the 27.th Day of August AD. 1782 the day appointed by Laws for the Election of Deputies to Represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session in October next and in all Sessions of the Assembly afterwards till the annual Election in May next

Ebenezer Thompson Esq.r Moderator

The following Gentlemen are duly Elected and Chosen to Represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session in October next and afterwards till the annual Election in May next viz,

Welcome Arnold Esq.r
John Smith Esq.r
John Brown Esq.r
Capt. Paul Allen — —

Whereas Messr.s Nathan and Reuben Waterman have exhibited to this Meeting

of the Town and the Reasons why they have not complied and to endeavour to procure the Owners in an amicable and conciliating Manner to Remove the same agreable to the Wishes of the Town: and also to examine what Rents are due from those who have not Removed their said Buildings or Fences and to Report the whole to the next Town Meeting — And also to Report who ought to pay Rent and how much Yearly

Whereas Benoni Pearce Esq who was Elected a Member of the Town Council at the Last Meting hath declined Serving in that Office It is thereupon Voted and Resolved That Ebenezer Thompson Esq be and he is hereby duly Elected and Chosen a Member of the Town Council in the Place of the said Benoni Pearce

For preventing Contests and Disputes hereafter It is Voted and Resolved that Nicholas Brown Ambrose Page Zephaniah Andrews Welcome Arnold and the Hon.ble Nicholas Cooke Esq.r be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to make a Plat of the Channel of the River from the Mill Bridge to opposite Mess.rs Clarke and Nightingals Lower Wharff and to determin to what Distance on each side of the River into the Channel the Inhabitants may be permitted to build Wharves Set Stores &c.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally warned and assembled at the State House on the 5.th Day of August A.D 1782.

Nicholas Brown Esq.r Moderator....

Whereas on the 23.d Day of March last a Vote of a Town Meeting of this Town then holden was passed agreeing to the Proposition of Mr. John Brown for Paving Water Street One Hundred and Seventy Yards Southward from Col. William Wards House since which Time the said Pavement hath been nearly completed and Sundry Gentlemen have offered to advance and lend Money to continue said Pavement from the Place where it will End pursuant to Contract already made Still farther Southward upon the same Terms and Conditions as contained in the Proposal of said Mr. Brown on the said 23.d Day of March and Recorded in the Proceedings of that Day: — It is therefore Voted and Resolved that John Brown, Zephaniah Andrews, and William Wheaton Esq.r be a Committee to procure the said Pavement to be continued as aforesaid in the said Street as far Southward as the Money advanced as aforesaid will procure to be done and that the same be done as soon as may be in the Cheapest and best Manner Provided nevertheless that the said Pavement be not extended farther Southwards than to the North Side of the dwelling House of James Arnold Esq.r and that Interest shall be allowed to any person advancing Money as aforesaid as soon as the Money shall be appropriated. —

It is also Voted That Provided Money shall be lent and advanced on the same Terms as aforesaid sufficient for the purpose and any person or persons will appear to contract with the said Committee that the Pavement be continued in William Street from where it ends at Meeting Street to opposite the Middle of the House of Benjamin Buchanan Junr. Esq and that the Pavement be continued from Constitution Hill Southward as far as opposite the House of Gideon Crawford Senr. on the same Terms and Conditions as aforesaid....

Whereas the Committee appointed at the Last Meeting to determine the Boundaries of the Channel hath made the following Report Viz,

Providence August 5.th 1782.

Agreable to the Direction of the Last Town Meeting We have Surveyed the Channel from the Mill Bridge to Weybosset Bridge and it is our Opinion that the Line on the East side of the said Channel ought to Run as follows Viz Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the Eastern Abutment of said Mill Bridge and Running a Straight line to the Northwest Corner of Mr. Joseph Nash's: Thence to the North End of the Foundation Log of Mr. Crawford's now Stelle's Old Wharff. Thence continueing nearly the same Course bearing a little Eastward to a Stake near the Northwest Corner of Paul Tew Esq.r Wharff: Then a Straight Line by the Head of Mr. Allen's Wharff to the Southwest Corner of Mr. John Smith's Wharff: Then to the Southwest Corner of Mr. David Harris's Wharff. Then to the Northwest Corner of the Eastermost Abutment of Weybosset Bridge which is Submitted to the Town by their most Obedient Servants

Nich.o Cooke
Welcome Arnold
Nich.o Brown
Zephaniah Andrews

And the said Report having been twice Read and duly Considered It is Voted and Resolved that the same be Received and that the Line therein mentioned be Established as the Eastern Boundary of the Channel so far as the said Report extends And it is Voted and Resolved That no person shall be permitted to build any Wharff or Erect any Building over the said Channel to the Westward of said Line under the Penalty of being Indicted as for committing a Common Nuisance And that the Town Clerk be appointed to inform Capt. Benjamin Stelle of this Vote and that it is the particular Request of this Meeting that he will conform the Boundaries of his Wharff and Lot agreeable to the said Report by Removing such part thereof as is to the Westward of said Line —

Whereas Mr. James Snow hath laid before this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for Repairing the Wheel and Rope appertaining to the Bell in Mr. Crawford's Meeting House and the said Account having been duly considered it is Voted and Resolved that the amount thereof being be allowed and paid to said James Snow out of the Town Treasury

Whereas Mr. Levi Whipple hath exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for the Rent of part of his House occupied by some of the French Troops and the said Account having been examined and allowed by the Committee appointed to examine and adjust such Accounts and being now duly considered It is Voted and Resolved that three pounds and Twelve Shillings Lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid to said Levi Whipple out of the Town Treasury. —

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on Tuesday the 27.th Day of August A.D. 1782 the day appointed by Laws for the Election of Deputies to Represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session in October next and in all Sessions of the Year afterwards till the annual Election in May next

Ebenezer Thompson Esq.r Moderator

The following Gentlemen are duly Elected and Chosen to Represent the Town in General Assembly at their Session in October next and afterwards till the annual Election in May next viz,

Welcome Arnold Esq.r
John Smith Esq.r
John Brown Esq.r
Capt. Paul Allen — —

Whereas Mess.rs Nathan and Reuben Waterman have exhibited to this Meeting

by them charged against the Town for Repairing the Town pound be and the said Account having been duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That Seven pounds and Ten Shillings Lawfull Silver Money be allowed and paid to the said Nathan and Rufus Waterman out of the Town Treasury....

It is Voted and Resolved That Nathaniel Wheaton Esq. Mr Nathan Waterman and Capt. David Lawrence be and they hereby are appointed a Committee to examine the State of the Work House and to Estimate the Expence of making the Repair necessary for Rendering the same Habitable by a Master and Family and Receiveng such person as may be probably sent there and to make Report of the Expence which will probably accrue to the Town Meeting next holden....

Whereas Mr William Compton hath exhibited an Account to this Meeting by him charged against the Town for Service as Sergeant and the said Account having been duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That the amount thereof being Thirteen Shillings Lawfull Silver Money be allowed and paid to him out of the Town Treasury.

Whereas Doct Caleb Fisk of Scituate hath proposed to this Meeting to X Erect an Hospital within the limits of this Town for Inoculation for the Small Pox provided he can have granted to him the exclusive Right of Inoculation and as great Advantages would Result to the Town from having a Suitable place with good Accommodation for Receiving such persons as may be taken ill with that Disease: —

It is therefore Voted and Resolved That Nicholas Brown Esq. Arthur Fenner Junr. Esq. Capt David Lawrence William Wheaton Esq. and Capt Paul Allen be a Committee to confer with Doct Fisk on the Subject and to know upon what Terms and under what Regulations a Contract can be made with him upon the Plan proposed — And also to confer with any other person who may apply with a View of Erecting an Hospital for the purpose aforesaid and to examine where is the most Suitable Place for establishing the same and to Report at the Adjournment. —

Resolved That the Town Council be and they hereby are appointed to examine into the Circumstances of the Estate bequeathed to this Town by Mr John Kent and to take such Measures as they shall think best for procuring the same for the use of the poor of this Town agreeable to the Will of Mr Kent and that they immediately call upon Mr Joseph Stone for the property Estate in his Hands which belonged to said Kent and in Case of his Refusal to deliver the same that they see that a Suit is commenced against him therefor. —

Mr Samuel Nightingale Junr is drawn Grand Juror and Col. Barzillai Richmond Petit Juror to serve at the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence [illegible] and Legally assembled at the State House in Providence on the [illegible] A.D. 1783.

Ebenezer Thompson Esq. Moderator.

Resolved That this Meeting be adjourned to Thursday next at 3 Clock in the Afternoon — That the Clerk issue his Warrant notifying the Business to be acted upon Viz To take in consideration the Proposition made by Doct. Caleb Fisk for Erecting an Inoculating for the Small Pox and erecting an Hospital &c. — To Determine whether any and what money shall be taken for Repairing the work House and putting it in order for Use &c. — and to determine whether the Town will take any Measures for causing an Enquiry & be made into the Escape of William Prentice .....

Theodore Foster Town Clk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden by Warrant and also on Adjournment legally assembled at the State House in Providence on Thursday Septem. 11th A.D. 1783.

Ebenezer Thompson Esq. Moderator —

Whereas it hath been represented to this Town Meeting by a Number of the most Respectable Citizens that a certain Sloop called the Sally taken with British Goods bound from the City of New York in the Possession of the Enemy to a Port of the United States and under the Direction of a certain William Prentice a Citizen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was on the Thirteenth Day of August Last captured upon the High Seas and on the Fourteenth Day of September Instant brought into this port for Trial and Condemnation: And whereas it hath also been represented that the said Prentice was concerned in a Traiterous commerce and Correspondence with the Enemies of the United States and as such was apprehended and in Custody of Law by order of the Superior Court: Notwithstanding which the said Prentice on the Night of the 6th Instant made his Escape and hath not been re-apprehended —

This Meeting therefore taking into their most Serious Consideration the pernicious Nature and alarming Tendency of such Commerce and Correspondence and the absolute Necessity of its Detection and punishment Vote and Order That the Representatives of this Town in General Assembly cause full Information of the Premises to be made to the Legislature of the State at their next Session: — and that they use their utmost Exertion that full enquiry be made into the Transaction aforesaid to the End that the Author Aiders and Abetters of the Escape aforesaid be brought to Condign punishment and the said Representatives are hereby instructed accordingly

Ordered that the above Vote be published in the Providence and a Copy thereof delivered to the Representatives of the Town for their Direction —

Resolved That Nathaniel Wheaton Esq. be and he is hereby appointed to procure the Work House to be repaired in the best and most frugal Manner that for this purpose he be empowered to draw Money out of the Town Treasury to the Amount of Three Hundred Spanish Milled Dollars and that Capt. David Lawrence and Nathan Waterman be appointed Consult and advise with Mr Wheaton on the Mode of Repairing the same —

Voted That the Sealer of Weights and Measures be and he is hereby required and Directed immediately to examine the Weights and Scale Beams by which Goods are bought and sold in this Town and that where any are found Deficient that the owner making use of the same be prosecuted according to Law by the Town Treasurer.—

After much Debate upon the Propositions of Doct Fitch for erecting an Hospital and introducing Inoculation for the Small Pox It is finally determined that the Town cannot at present consent to the same.....

The Committee appointed on the 30th Day of August Last to examine the Situation of the Work House made Report as on File

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on the 11th Day of Dec. AD 1782

Ebenezer Thompson Esqr Moderator.

The following persons are drafted according to Law as Jurors to serve at the next inferior Court of Debt & Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the third Monday of December AD 1782 Viz

Caleb Greene Grandjuror
Ezek Eddy Petit Juror.

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence on the 15th Day of March 178

Mr Nathan Angell Moderator.

The Gentlemen whose Names here follow are drafted according to Law to serve as Jurors the Hon.ble the Superior Court of Judicature Court of Assize and General Goal Delivery to be holden at Providence in and for the County of Providence on the third Monday of March Instant viz

Mr Joseph Snow Junr Grandjuror
Petit Juror.

At a Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence legally assembled according to Law on Wednesday the 15th Day of April AD 1783 being the Day appointed by Law for electing Persons to Represent the Town in General Assembly and Filling Votes for General Officers and Delegates to represent the State in Congress.

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esqr Moderator.

The persons whose Names here follow being duly Qualified according to Law are now admitted and Voted as Freemen of the Town Viz, Stephen Thurber, Samuel Thurber the Third, Daniel Pettey, Seth Jenkins, John Olmsbee Daniel Comstock, Jacob Comstock, Peter Taylor, Abel Greene Thomas Wright, James Maltman, Samuel Yates Jr Seth Yates Samuel Bishop, Jonathan Foster, Wilson Jacobs, Isaac Angell, John Spen Jonathan Jenkins Thomas Salisbury Stephen Olney Amos Shaw Joseph Grafton Jeremiah Eddy Joseph Eddy Elisha Olney Peregrine Foster Gershom Jones Pelez Eddy Peris J. Tillinghast Benjamin Rathbun (son of Ebenezer) Seth Wheaton Michael Metcalf Joel Metcalf Nicholas Cooke Jesse Cooke Daniel Cooke Hezek Cooke Samuel Spooner Enoch Addison Ebenezer Sprout John Shaw son of William Joseph Arnold Junr John Sheldon John Goodrich Ebenezer Brenen Edward R. Thompson.

The Gentlemen whose names here follow are duly Elected and Qualified to represent this Town in the General Assembly at their Session to be holden at the General Election in Newport on the First Wednesday of May next and in all Sessions of the General Assembly until the Last Wednesday of Octr next viz

John Smith Esqr
John Brown Esqr
Capt Paul Allen
Hon.ble David Howell Esqr who Declining to serve
Mr Thomas Jenkins is chosen in his Place.

Whereas it is represented to this Meeting that it is necessary that the Highway leading from the Mill bridge over Stevens's Bridge by Constitution Hill and the Gangway leading out of the same should be revised: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Hon.ble David Howell Mr Nathan Waterman and Mr Aaron Mason be a Committee for Viewing the same to Report as soon as may be and that they employ a Surveyor if they think necessary...

Whereas Mr Robert Barrow Jones hath exhibited to this Meeting an Account by him charged against the Town for making Two Alphabets for the Town Record: and the said Account having been duly considered It is Voted and Resolved That the amount thereof being Eight Shillings lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid to him out of the Town Treasury.

Resolved that Twelve Shillings lawful Silver Money be allowed and paid out of the Town Treasury to Mr William Compton being the amount of his Account now exhibited for Attending Town Meeting Cleaning out the Court House &c

NB There were this Day 331 Votes of the Freemen Rec.d in and sealed up to be sent to the Election.— A List of the Freemen who Voted being on File.—

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Providence holden according to Law on the First Monday of June AD 1783 being the Second Day of the Month at the Anniversary Election of Town Officers the Gentlemen here after named were Chosen to the Offices respectively ascribed to their Names, Viz,

The Hon.ble Jabez Bowen Esq. Moderator

Town Clerk Theodore Foster.

Town Council { Col. Amos Atwell President Capt Christopher Sheldon Capt Paul Allen Samuel Butler Esq. Ebenezer Thompson Esq and Mr Aaron Mason...

Town Sergeant ... Mr William Compton ..

Town Treasurer James Arnold Esqr

Town Audit { Capt David Lawrence Capt. Nicholas Power Lewis Peck

Constables Messrs. John Jones, Samuel Thurber Junr. John Pelley James Hammond Edward Knowles and David Martin

Sealer of Weights and Measures. Mr. Jacob Whitman

Assessors of Rates and Overseers of the Poor Messrs. Nathan Waterman Archibald Sewart and Col. Levi Hall

Surveyors of Joists and Boards. Mr. Christopher Arnold Capt. Elijah Bacon Messrs. Jonathan Hammon John Smith, Comfort Wheaton and Gershom Carpenter

Surveyors of Highways Capt. Paul Allen Col. Zephaniah Andrews Messrs. Deaton Brown Thomas Bennet and Joseph Comstock

Guagers of Cask Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Ezek Brown Ezek Eddy Archibald Young Jonathan Jenkins and Samuel Wheden.

Vendue Master Capt. Benjamin Hoppen.

Packers of Beef and Pork. Messrs. Samuel Jackson, Joseph Hoyle Nathan Arnold and Joseph Field.

Corders of Wood. Messrs. Samuel Black John Pelley, John Atwood Martin Thurber Recompence Healey William Wheaton Junr. Joseph Hoyle James Field and Joseph Martin Esqr.

Collector of Taxes. Capt. Benjamin Hoppen On the [illegible] Condition of having only Three

Overseer of the Pest House. James Black Esqr.

Pound Keepers. Messrs. Charles Holden and John Pelley.

To Value Estates when Disputed in Voting Arthur Fenner Junr. Mr. Samuel Black and John Brown Esqr.

Fence Viewers Messrs. Samuel Thurber Junr. John Field Major Charles Keene and Mr. Christopher Arnold

Presidents of the Fire Wards Hon. Jabez Bowen Esqr. Joseph Brown Esq and Joseph Martin Esqr.

Fire Wards Nicholas Brown Esqr. Col. Joseph Nightingale Col Amos Atwell Col. Daniel Tillinghast Mr. Job Smith Hon. John Foster Esqr. Major Robert Taylor Mr. Samuel Thurber Junr. and James Arnold Esqr.

Fire Engine Company No. 1. near the Bridge — Messrs. Nathan Angell Gershom Carpenter, John James Clarke Esqr. Col Joseph Nightingale, John Brown Esqr. James Arnold Esqr. Arthur Fenner Junr. Esqr. Hon. Welcome Arnold Esqr. Mr. Thomas Bennet Mr. John White Col. William Wall and Capt David Lawrence

Fire Engine Company No. 2 at the North End — Ephraim Bowen Junr. Esqr. Mr. Michael Metcalf Capt. Nehemiah Sweet Col. Simeon Thayer Mr. William Brayton Major Whipple Messrs. George Olney John Dumount James Wheaton and Philip Martin.

Fire Engine Company No. 3 on the West side of the River — Col. John Matthewson Col. Zephaniah Andrews Mr. Daniel Jackson James Black Mr. Asa Franklin Capt. Paul Allen Capt Elijah Bacon, Capt. Joseph Goodwin Mr. Joseph Hoyle Mr. Samuel Black Capt Zephaniah Brown and Capt Benjamin Hoppen.

Persons to order when and where goods shall be removed in Case of Fire — Col. Barzellai Richmond David Wilkinson Esqr. Messrs. Henry Bacon Christopher Arnold and Samuel Thurber.

Persons to pull down Houses to remove Fire in Case of Fire — Joseph Martin Esqr. Messrs. Jonathan Hammon Comfort Wheaton James Snow John Smith Martin Seamans Oliver Carpenter and John Carlile

Field Drivers Capt Job Sweeting Messrs. Christopher Arnold Junr. Jones David Burr and Major Charles Keene.

Sealers of Leather Samuel Butler Esqr and Mr. Martin Thurber.

Scavengers Messrs. Nathan Angell, Samuel Black, Joseph Crawford Sanders Perman Col William Wall and Mr. Deater Brown.

Town Cryer Mr. Daniel Branch.

Overseer of the Work House Mr. Job Smith

Overseer of Weybosset Bridge James Arnold Esqr.

Committee to prevent Encroachments on the Streets Highways and Common of the Town.. — Hon. Joseph Brown Esqr. Benjamin Mann Esqr. Major Charles Keene Col. Zephaniah Andrews Mr. Obadiah Sprague Capt. Christopher Sheldon and Samuel Butler Esqr.

It being very necessary for the Safe Guard of the Town from Fire that all the Houskeepers in Town be furnished with Fire Buckets according to Law: It is therefore Voted and Resolved That the Town Treasurer Republish the Law requiring every House holder to be furnished with such Buckets. That a Committee in each District of the Respective Engine Companies be appointed to go to every House in his District to examine who are furnished with such Buckets and who are deficient and make an exact List of the whole Number of Buckets as well of those furnished as of those deficient. — That the said Committee make Report to the Town Council on the First Day of July next who are Requested to examine into the Circumstances of such persons as are reported Delinquent and to excuse only such persons as they shall Judge from their particular Situation ought to be excused from providing said Buckets: And that unless all the Houskeepers within the Compact part of the Town shall be furnished with said Buckets as by Law Required who shall not be excused by the said Town Council within Three Months. That all persons then delinquent be prosecuted by the Town Treasurer: and in order that the Law may be duly and Certainly executed It is Voted and Resolved that the same Committee make a Second Examination on the 10th Day of September next and to make Report of all persons then delinquent to the Town Treasurer who is directed immediately thereupon to prosecute such Delinquents: And that John Brown and John James Clarke Esqrs. be of the said Committee for the Southern District: Major John Whipple and Col. Simeon Thayer for the Northern District and Capt. Paul Allen for the West Side of the River. —

Resolved That the Hon.ble David Howell and Joseph Brown Esqr. and Mr. Benjamin West be a Committee to Revise the Width and Boundaries of the Public Highway from the West End of Westminster Street in this Town to the Brook running across the Highway near Col. Christopher Olney's and to make Report at the next Town Meeting

Whereas the Committee appointed on the 15th Day of April Last to Revise the Highway leading from Mill Bridge over Stevens's Bridge up and the Gangways leading out of the same have now attended

Report in Writing which is as follows Viz

To the Moderator and Freemen of the Town of Providence in Town Meting assembled June D. 1783

The underwritten Committee appointed on the 15th Day of April last To Survey the Highway leading from the Mill Bridge over Stevens's Bridge up the Hill and the Gangways leading out of the same Submit the Following Report

Your Committee chiefly directed by a certain Plat of Lots laid out in that part of the Town by the Proprietors in the Year 1747—8 have carefully Run by a Compass and measured the Several Courses and Distances of said Highway and Gangways and Find that the South Line of the Three Pole wide Highway leading down to the River by Stevens's Bridge runs Ten Feet South of the East Butterwood Tree Standing in said Highway and along the North Edge of the Foundation of the old Bark Mill and of Consequence that the Rail Fence of Paul Tew Esq against said Highway Stands from to Feet on said Highway and ought to be removed off for convenience of Watering at that Place

Your Committee also Find that the Rail Fence on the East side of the same Lot of Paul Tew Esquire under the Hill has been lately moved from the old Bounds Three or Four Feet in some places into the Highway and it is their Opinion that said Fence ought to be removed back again

Your Committee also Find that Mr Nehemiah Sweet has within a few Years covered Ten Feet of the North Side of the Gangway between the Lots Numbered 40 & 41 on said Platt with part of a Barn which with other Obstructions render part of said Gangway altogether unpassable. —

Your Committee also Find that the Gangway between the Lots Numbered 36 and 37 on said Platt is wholly occupied by a Barn belonging to Mr Edward Taylor. . . . . Notwithstanding the Steepness of the Hill may Render these Gangways less useful it is the Opinion of your Committee that these Obstructions ought to be Removed and the Ways left Open for such purposes to the Neighbours and the publick as they may answer. —

Your Committee beg leave further to Report that in the Range of Lots by said Gangway may be found Forty six Feet of Vacant Land which they recommend to be disposed of in the following Manner Viz, That two Feet be added to the Gangway between the Lots Numbered 40 and 41 — That Twenty Two Feet be added to the Gangway between the Lots numbered 36 and 37 and that the Remaining Twenty Two Feet be Drawn off from the Termination of said Range of Lots Northwardly whereby said Ways would be rendered more passable and Commodious

Nathan Waterman
David Howell
Aaron Mason

And the aforesaid Report having been Twice Read and duly Considered it thereupon Voted and Resolved That the same be and it is accepted and Received —

Resolved That Joseph [illegible] be [illegible] Twenty Five Spanish Milled Dollars to be paid out of the Town Treasury for Ringing the Bell as heretofore for One Year Three Times a Day Viz precisely at 6 at 12 o Clock at Noon and at 9 o Clock in the Evening. ——————

Whereas the Committee appointed on the 23d Day of March and 12th Day of August last to procure Water Street to be paved have Reported that there is due to John Brown Esq: One Hundred and Ninety Two Pounds and Three Shillings and to Miss Clarke and Nightingale the Sum of One Hundred and Ninety Five pounds and Fifteen Shillings on Account of the Pavement of said Street. — It is therefore Ordered that the Town Treasurer give his Notes to those Gentlemen Respectively or to such persons as they shall direct to the Amount of the Money Respectively due to them — and that also effectually to repair the Bridge over the Brook running across the Street through the Estate belonging to the Heirs of Elihu Robinson Deceased at the North End of the Town

Resolved That Timothy Mason and Amasa Gray be a Committee to Repair the Highway between between the Houses of Benjamin Cozzens and Amasa Gray at the North End of the Town in such Manner as they may judge best. — at the Expence of the Town. —

Resolved That Joseph Brown Esq: be appointed to procure at the Town's Expence a Chain Fifty Feet Long for the Purpose of Measuring and dayning out the Lots Streets &c in the Town. —

Resolved That any of the Inhabitants of the Town have Liberty to Pave Meeting Street, the Lane called Waterman's Lane running by the Baptist Meeting House Parade and Hannover Street running by the Presbyterian or Congregational Meeting House, at the Expence of the Town. Provided said Pavements shall be done for Prices common for such Work in Time of Peace — And that Messrs Joseph Brown John Brown Welcome Arnold and Ebenezer Thayer be a Committee for overseeing and directing in what Manner said Pavements shall be made and to Ascertain the Price with those who may subscribe to advance the Money. And the Treasurer is hereby directed to give Security in Behalf of the Town for the Sum said Committee shall certify the Pavements cost and to be payable in a Term not exceeding Two Years from the Time of the Pavements being finished. —

Resolved That Messrs Clarke and Nightingale be and hereby are appointed to procure the Street near their Shop to be Suitably Paved at the Expence of the Town. —

The Town School House, being out of Repair and especially to its being used as a Publick Arsenal — Ebenezer Thayer Smith and James Arnold Esqr are therefore appointed a Committee the same — Enquire into the Damages and make such Repairs

[illegible] Repairs as appears just
[illegible] should be entitled to Obtain the Money Due Legally that
they Have the same to be Glazed and Repaired and appoint some Suitable
Master or Mistress to Teach School therein and to Regulate and Govern the same
as the School Committee have heretofore been empowered to do. ——

Resolved That Welcome Arnold Esq. be appointed to wait
upon the Authority of North Providence and Request them to see that the Highways
leading from that Town to this be Suitably Repaired. ——

Resolved That the Town Clerk be empowered to procure at the Expence
of the Town Two Suitable Books for the Use of the Town Clerks Office Viz, One for Recording
Deeds the other for Entering and Recording Town Meeting Proceedings &c.

The Following Persons are drafted according to Law to Serve as Jurors at
the Next Inferior Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Providence within and for the
County of Providence on the Third Monday of June Current Viz

Grand Juror
Petit Juror

This Meeting Adjourned Sine Die. ——

Theodore Foster Town Clerk

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