

Research Notes
NARA Trip
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Microfilm Publication M247, Papers of the Continental Congress

Item 1, Roll 13: Rough Journal 1782-1785

Searched Nov 1783-Jan 1784; difficult to browse; probably easier to use Journals, online at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjc.html>

>Scanned the entries re: GW's resignation speech:

20 Dec 1783: "A letter of this day from the Commander in chief was read informing Congress of his arrival in this city with the intention of asking leave to resign the commission he has the honor of holding in their service, and desiring to know their pleasure in what manner it will be most proper to offer his resignation, whether in writing or at an Audience. Whereupon,

Resolved that his Excellency the Commander in chief be admitted to a public Audience on Tuesday next at 12 O'clock.

Resolved that a public Entertainment be given to the commander in chief on Monday next..."

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28jc02561%29%29>:

22 Dec 1783: "Resolved, That the order for the public audience of General Washington be as follows..."

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hlaw:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28jc02562%29%29>:

Note: Most of GW's speech is in the Rough Journal in ornate script—very cool looking

Item 10, Roll 22: Journal of the Committee of the States

Proceedings of Congress as it met June-August 1784; Congress officially adjourned, but a small portion remained in Annapolis and carried out some business, although there was no clear idea what powers the committee had.

Proposals/resolutions about moving Congress's records from Annapolis to Trenton:

29 July 1784:

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=027/lljc027.db&recNum=248&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28jc02754%29%29%230270249&linkText=1>

3 August 1784

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=027/lljc027.db&recNum=267&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28jc02757%29%29%230270268&linkText=1>

14 August 1784

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=027/lljc027.db&recNum=273&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28jc02766%29%29%230270274&linkText=1>

Charles Thompson to Govs, 27 September 1784

The Chairman of the Committee of the States in his letter of the 19 August informed your Excellency of the situation of the Committee and the arrangements taken for removal of the papers & records of Congress from Annapolis. Five states, namely Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware & Pennsylvania have, in pursuance of the recommendation contained in the said letter, met at Philadelphia where the papers and records are at present; And being of Opinion that it is of Great importance to the Confederacy that A Committee of the States should assemble as speedily as possible, they have desired me to inform your Excellency of their Meeting and most earnestly request you to send on a Delegate from your state to meet them at this place. They wish for an immediate answer to this, that if there be no hopes of a committee assembling they may not be unnecessarily detained.

With the most perfect respect, I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's Most obedient & Most humble Servant,
Cha Thomson

Item 12, Roll 22: Book of Estimates, 1781-1786

All re: foreign- and state-held debt, military supplies and pay; no itemized accounts until 1785

Item 26, Roll 33: Reports on operation of Board of Treasury

Nothing relevant

Item 46, Roll 60: Proposals on Locating the Seat of Government

Proposals from various cities to host Congress. Many sent detailed information about their inns, etc., and the benefits of their location. Copied everything Annapolis sent, which was much less than other places did, mostly resolutions from the House of Delegates and City Council.

See Journal of the House, 24 May 1783:

<http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4800/sc4872/003197/html/m3197-0140.html>

Journal of the House, 2 December 1783:

<http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4800/sc4872/003197/html/m3197-0207.html>

“...and whereas by their resolution of the Twenty First of October it is the intention of Congress to erect a federal Town at or near George Town or on the Potaowmack, therefore, Resolved unanimously that whenever the United States in Congress assembled shall determine on a Place with in this Sate for a federal Town the extent of ground and the Nature and Boundaries of its jurisdiction that the General Assembly will take Measure to make their Residence in this State as agreeable as in their Power.”

Proceedings of Corporation of the City of Annapolis:

Annapolis would welcome Congress and be a good spot; city held mass meeting 14 May 1783

“Resolved that if the Honourable General Assembly will offer this City and its precincts containing above Three Hundred Acres of Land to the Honourable Congress for the permanent Residence of the Body and their successors, that this Corporation, and their Constituents most Chearfully agree to such offer...”

Item 140, Roll 153: Letter to the Board of Treasury

Nothing relevant

Item 141, Roll 154: Estimate and Statements of Receipts and Expenditures

No itemized spending by Congress recorded for period it met in Annapolis; nearly all financial records are re: military supplies and pay and war debt.

Item 142, Roll 155: Accounts of the Register's Office, 1781-1783

Financial records, too early, not helpful

Item 144, Roll 156: Estimates and Other Papers Relating to the Treasury, 1780-1788

All re: war debt, owed to domestic and foreign bankers

Note:

Did not examine any of the alphabetically-organized letters, petitions, etc. to Congress

>Items 41-43 (Rolls 53-57) and Items 79-81 (Rolls 90-104)

>all indexed by *Index to Papers of Continental Congress*