

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CONVENTIONS  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF MARYLAND,  
HELD AT  
THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS,  
IN  
1774, 1775, & 1776.

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BALTIMORE:  
JAMES LUCAS & E. K. DEEVER.  
ANNAPOLIS—JONAS GREEN.  
.....  
1836.

the expenses of defending this province; and Mr. Hollyday, Mr. T. Johnson, Mr. Hooe, Mr. Rumsey, and Mr. J. Tilghman, were elected by ballot a committee for that purpose.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the instructions for the deputies representing this province in congress, be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The convention adjourns till to-morrow morning half after nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Sim, Mr. Mackall, and Mr. John Allen Thomas, appeared in the house.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the instructions for the deputies representing this province in congress, being read, the same were taken into consideration, and after some debate thereon, the convention adjourned.

THURSDAY, January 11, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Smith, Mr. Jordan, and Mr. Gilpin, have leave of absence.

The convention resumed the consideration of the instructions for the deputies representing this province in congress, which were read, considered, and agreed to; and are as follow:

In CONVENTION, January 12th, 1776.

To the honorable Matthew Tilghman, Esq., Thomas Johnson, jr., Robert Goldsborough, William Paca, Samuel Chase, Thomas Stone, Robert Alexander, and John Rogers, Esquires.

The convention taking into their most serious consideration, the present state of the unhappy dispute between Great Britain and the united colonies, think it proper to deliver you their sentiments, and to instruct you in certain points, relative to your conduct in congress, as representatives of this province.

The experience we and our ancestors have had of the mildness and equity of the English constitution, under which we have grown up to and enjoyed a state of felicity, not exceeded among any people we know of, until the grounds of the present controversy were laid by the ministry and parliament of Great Britain, has most strongly endeared to us that form of government from whence these blessings have been derived, and makes us ardently wish for a reconciliation with the mother country, upon terms that may insure to these colonies an equal and permanent freedom.

To this constitution we are attached, not merely by habit, but by principle, being in our judgments persuaded, it is of all known systems best calculated to secure the liberty of the subject, to guard against despotism on the one hand, and licentiousness on the other.

Impressed with these sentiments, we warmly recommend to you, to keep constantly in your view the avowed end and purpose for which these colonies originally associated, the redress of American grievances, and securing the rights of the colonists.

As upon the attainment of these great objects, we shall think it our greatest happiness to be thus firmly united to Great Britain, we think proper to instruct you, that should any proposition be happily made by the crown or parliament, that may lead to or lay a rational and probable ground for reconciliation, you use your utmost endeavors to cultivate and improve it into a happy settlement and lasting amity, taking care to secure the colonies against the exercise of the right assumed by parliament to tax them, and to alter and change their charters, constitutions, and internal polity, without their consent,—powers incompatible with the essential securities of the lives, liberties, and properties of the colonists.

We further instruct you, that you do not without the previous knowledge and approbation of the convention of this province, assent to any proposition to declare these colonies independent of the crown of Great Britain, nor to any proposition for making or entering into alliance with any foreign power, nor to any union or confederation of these colonies, which may necessarily lead to a separation from the mother country, unless in your judgments, or in the judgments of any four of you, or of a majority of the whole of you, if all shall be then attending in congress, it shall be thought absolutely necessary for the preservation of the liberties of the united colonies; and should a majority of the colonies in congress, against such your judgment, resolve to declare these colonies independent of the crown of Great Britain, or to make or enter into alliance with any foreign power, or into any union or confederation of these colonies, which may necessarily lead to a separation from the mother country, then we instruct you immediately to call the convention of this province, and repair thereto with such proposition and resolve, and lay the same before the said convention, for their consideration, and this convention will not hold this province bound by such majority in congress, until the representative body of the province in convention assent thereto.

Desirous as we are of peace with Great Britain upon safe and honourable terms, we wish you nevertheless, and instruct you, to

join with the other colonies in such military operations as may be judged proper and necessary for the common defence, until such a peace can be hapily obtained.

At the same time we assure you that we have an entire confidence in your abilities and integrity in the discharge of the great trust reposed in you, we must observe to you as our opinion, that in the relation of constituent and representative, one principal security of the former is, the right he holds to be fully informed of the conduct of the latter: we can conceive no case to exist, in which it would be of more importance to exercise this right than the present, nor any in which we can suppose the representative would more willingly acquiesce in the exercise of it. We therefore instruct you, that you move for and endeavor to obtain a resolve of congress, that the votes given by the colonies on every question agitated in congress, shall appear upon the journals thereof; and if such resolve be obtained, that you, at the expense of this province, procure copies of the said journals, except such parts thereof as relate to military operations, and measures taken to procure arms and ammunition, and from time to time lay the same before the convention of this province, shewing the part you, as representatives of the province, take in such qestions.

And we further instruct you, to move for and endeavor to obtain a resolve of congress, that no person who holds any military command in the continental or any provincial regular forces, or marine service, nor any person who holds or enjoys any office of profit under the continental congress, or under any government assumed since the present controversy with Great Britain began, or which shall hereafter be assumed, or who directly or indirectly receives the profits or any part of the profits of such command or office, shall, during the time of his holding or receiving the same, be eligible to sit in congress.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning half after 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, January 12, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday, except Mr. S. Chase, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Gilpin. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. President communicates to the convention several resolutions of congress, which were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ware has leave of absence.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

## POST MERIDIEM.

Convention met.

Mr. Hollyday brings in and delivers to Mr. President, a report from the committee appointed to prepare and report a scheme for the emission of bills of credit, to defray the expenses of defending this province, and other purposes therein mentioned, which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A report from the committee appointed to receive proposals relating to the establishment of manufactories of any kind within this province, was read and considered; and thereupon *Resolved*, That six hundred pounds in bills of credit out of the public treasury, be advanced to Mr. William Whetcroft of the city of Annapolis, for the term of two years, without interest, he giving bond with good security to repay the same; the said William Whetcroft to contract to build and complete, within the space of six months, at his own risk, a rolling, sheeting, and slitting mill, within twenty miles of Baltimore town, or in any other part of the province that this convention shall appoint; and therefrom to supply the public and individuals with slit or sheet iron, at the price the same, at the time of sale thereof, can be purchased in Pennsylvania or Virginia, and that it shall never exceed the sum of thirty-five pounds common money per ton. The said William Whetcroft also to slit, roll, or make into sheet or flatted iron, any quantity thereof, the property of the public, brought to the said mill, at the rate of five pounds per ton; and any quantity thereof, the property of private persons, being inhabitants of this province, at the rate of six pounds per ton, if brought to the said mill.

*Ordered*, That no commission issue to Mr. John Thomas, first major of the South River battalion in Anne Arundel county, he having declined that office; or to any of the officers of Mr. John Burgess' company; or to Mr. William Gambrill, a lieutenant of Mr. John Boone's company, during the sitting of this convention, but that the same be referred to the council of safety.

The convention proceeded to ballot for the rank of counties and colonels, when the rank was settled as follows:

Somerset 1, Cecil 2, Dorchester 3, Talbot 4, Queen Anne's 5, St. Mary's 6, Anne Arundel 7, Harford 8, Baltimore 9, Worcester 10, Prince George's 11, Charles 12, Kent 13, Caroline 14, Calvert 15, Frederick 16.

*In Somerset county.* Col. George Dashiell of the first battalion, 1; col. Thomas Hayward, 17.

*Cecil county.* Col. Charles Rumsey, 2; col. John Veazey, 18; col. George Johnson, 30.

from the committee appointed to consider of the resolution of congress of the 15th instant, and report thereon; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

*Ordered*, That the committee of claims estimate and report to the convention a proper allowance to the surgeons and adjutant, who attended the minute companies commanded by the captains James Kent and William Henry, when ordered on duty to the assistance of Northampton and Accomack counties in Virginia.

*Ordered*, That the petition of the lieutenants Uriah Forrest, William Sprigg Bowie, and Benjamin Brooks, against captain John Gunby, be postponed for consideration till to-morrow.

On reading a second time the petition of the freemen belonging to the 29th battalion, and considering the same, *Resolved*, that it be dismissed.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the council of safety be empowered immediately to contract with proper persons to raise the vessels lately sunk in Patapsco river for the preservation of Baltimore town; and to rig and put those vessels in the same state that they were before they were sunk. And the said council of safety for the time being be also empowered to appoint proper persons, not less than three, who on oath shall ascertain and return the difference of value, if any, of the same vessels, occasioned by the sinking thereof. And that the same council of safety pay the expenses of raising the said vessels and putting them in order as aforesaid, out of the public money, as well as any actual expenses incurred by the owners for wages and maintenance of the crews of the said vessels, and a reasonable monthly allowance for the time the vessels have been and shall be out of the possession and power of their owners.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the late intercepted letters to governor Eden, the proceedings of the continental congress, and the council of safety of this province, thereupon, being read, *Ordered*, That the same be referred for further consideration till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

#### TUESDAY, May 21, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Tyler appeared in the house.

*Ordered*, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to captain William Henry five hundred and forty-four pounds fifteen shillings and six pence, to discharge the pay and subsistence of his minute company.

The convention took into their consideration the report from the committee appointed to report on the resolution of congress of the 15th instant, and thereupon came to the following resolutions.

*Resolved unanimously,* That the people of this province have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police of this province.

*Resolved unanimously,* That it is the opinion of this convention, that this convention hath ample power to draw the whole force of this province into action against the armed force that is, or may be employed to carry into execution the several unconstitutional and oppressive acts of the British parliament for laying taxes in America, to enforce the collection of those taxes, and for altering and changing the constitution and internal police of some of the united colonies.

*Resolved unanimously,* That this province has hitherto exerted itself, and will upon all occasions continue to exert itself, with cheerfulness and alacrity, in the common cause, agreeable to the faith pledged in the union of the colonies: and if it shall appear to this province necessary to enter into a further compact with the other colonies for the preservation of the constitutional rights of America, this province will enter into such further engagement for that purpose.

*Resolved unanimously,* That this convention, by a resolution of the 15th day of this instant, hath made sufficient provision to prevent a necessity for any person within this province now taking the oaths for the support of government under the crown of Great Britain, and that it is the opinion of this convention, that it is not necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be now totally suppressd in this province, and all the powers of government exerted under the authority of the people.

*Resolved,* That the honorable Matthew Tilghman, Esq., and Thomas Johnson, jun., Robert Alexander, Samuel Chase, Robert Goldsborough, William Paca, Thomas Stone, and John Rogers, Esquires, deputies now re-elected by ballot to represent this province in congress, be, and they or any three or more of them are, empowered to represent this province in congress until the end of the next session of convention, as fully as they might, until the end of this session of convention have done the same, under their former appointment.

*Resolved unanimously,* That as this convention is firmly persuaded that a re-union with Great Britain on constitutional principles would most effectually secure the rights and liberties, and increase

the strength and promote the happiness of the whole empire, objects which this province hath ever had in view, the said deputies are bound and directed to govern themselves by the instructions given to them by this convention in its session of December last, in the same manner as if the said instructions were particularly repeated.

Agreeable to the order of the day the convention proceeded to take into consideration the petition of lieutenant Uriah Forrest, preferred on behalf of himself and lieutenants William Sprigg Bowie, and Benjamin Brooks, setting forth, that from the conduct of their captain, John Gunby, of the second independent company of regular troops, they had cause to suspect his zeal for the rights and liberties of America, and praying to be removed from said company; and on hearing and considering the proofs and allegations offered, as well by the petitioners as the said John Gunby, *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this convention that the said captain John Gunby, far from having given any just cause to suspect his zeal for the rights and liberties of America, hath by his conduct manifested a laudable zeal in defence of the rights and liberties of America in general, and this province in particular.

*Resolved*, therefore, that the said petition be rejected.

Mr. Bond has leave of absence for a few days.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the late intercepted letters to governor Eden, the proceedings of the continental congress, and of the council of safety of this province, being read, *Ordered*, That the same be referred for further consideration till to-morrow.

The order of the day for taking into consideration the proceeding of the committee of Calvert county, on the complaint of Joseph Wilkinson against James Weems, was referred for consideration till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

### WEDNESDAY, May 22, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday, except Mr. Potter. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The committee for that purpose appointed, bring in and deliver to Mr. President, a report on the proposals of Henry Hollingsworth, to manufacture gun barrels; also a report on the terms offered by Elisha Winters of Chestertown, in Kent county, to manufacture fire arms, which were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

The proceedings of the committee of Baltimore county, on the



conduct of Alexander M'Gee, a petition from Joseph Renshaw of Baltimore county, and a petition from the freeholders and associators of Sassafras neck, Cecil county, were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

The convention taking into consideration the resolutions of Saturday last on the charge against Samuel Purviance, jun., of Baltimore town,

*Resolved*, That Samuel Purviance, jun., be called before this convention, and be informed by Mr. President of the resolutions had on Saturday last on the articles of charge against him, and further, that this convention highly disapprove and condemn his conduct in usurping the power to direct the operations of the military force of this province, and in using his character of chairman, and engaging the countenance and promising the protection and indemnity of the committee, without the orders of the committee, assembled as such. That it appears to this convention, that the said Samuel Purviance in his usurpation of the power to direct the military force of this province, was considerably influenced by a person not residing in this province, nor having any interest or property therein, and that it would be of the most dangerous tendency to the peace of this province, and to the safety and security of the good people thereof, to suffer any person or persons, other than those entrusted with the proper authority by this province, and more especially such as do not reside nor have any interest therein, to interfere in the direction of the internal affairs, civil or military, of the said province. That this convention hath no intention or desire to prevent any person from freely examining into the conduct of the convention, or any other public body within this province, or into the conduct of any individuals thereof, or to exercise his judgment, or to communicate his sentiments as to the abilities or fitness of any man to fill the office to which he is appointed. That it is necessary for the purpose of filling the places of highest trust with the best and most approved characters in the community, and for the preservation of public liberty, that there should be such free investigations. But that it is equally necessary for maintaining order, that the public bodies should not be wantonly and licentiously traduced by misrepresentations of them and their conduct, to those especially who stand high in the present system of authority or command in America. That if the representations of the said Samuel Purviance concerning the convention and council of safety to the president of the congress and general Lee were true, such representations could not be serviceable to the public, because neither the president of the congress nor general Lee could

quiry it appearing that the said Bishop had been so aiding and assisting, it is *Resolved*, That the said Bishop give bond with security, payable to the president, in the sum of two hundred pounds common money, for his appearance at the next convention, and for his good behaviour in the mean time.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

#### THURSDAY, June 27, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday, except Mr. J. Tilghman, absent on account of the indisposition of one of his children. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

A petition from Robert Long of Baltimore county, and a representation from John Clapham and William Eddis of the city of Annapolis, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Hall appeared in the house.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the proportion of militia to be furnished by this province for the flying camp, be composed of one company from St. Mary's county, two companies from Charles, one from Calvert, three from Prince George's, five from Anne Arundel nine from Frederick, four from Baltimore, two from Harford, two from Cecil, two from Kent, two from Queen Anne's, one from Talbot, and two from Caroline, to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and seventy-six privates; and one company from Dorchester county, to be composed of one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ninety-six privates.

The convention proceeded to the election of officers for the militia to be raised for the flying camp.

Mr. Thomas Johnson, jr., was elected brigadier-general to command the said militia.

For the battalion to be raised in Frederick county, Mr. Otho Holland Williams, colonel, Mr. Charles Greenbury Griffith, lieutenant-colonel, and Mr. Henry Shryock, major.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

#### POST MERIDIEM.

Convention met, and resumed the election of officers.

For the battalion to be raised on the eastern shore, Mr. James Kent was elected colonel, Mr. Joseph Earle, lieutenant-colonel, and Mr. William Hopewell, major.

For the lower battalion to be raised on the western shore, Mr. John Dent was appointed colonel, Mr. John Addison lieutenant-colonel, and Mr. James Eden, major.

For the upper battalion, Mr. Josiah Carvil Hall, was elected colonel.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, June 28, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the council of safety be directed to provide a magazine in some convenient place on the eastern shore, for the reception of warlike stores.

On reading a letter from the committee of observation for Somerset county, *Ordered*, That major Price take command of, and direct so many of the independent companies on the eastern shore to march immediately to the lower part of Somerset county, as he may think proper; and that if necessary, he be assisted with, and command such of the militia as shall be called on by a committee to be appointed by this convention; that he proceed to disarm all such persons in that county as shall from good grounds appear to such committee to be disaffected, and to take into custody all such disaffected persons as shall be ordered by the said committee.

*Resolved*, That George Plater and John Hall, esqrs., be a committee, and repair as soon as may be to Somerset county, and there take such measures as may unite that county with the other counties of this province; that they direct all persons who shall on good grounds appear to them to be disaffected, to be disarmed, and any disaffected persons to be taken into custody and sent to the council of safety, as they may think proper; that they have powers to make such regulations and orders as may in their judgment best secure obedience to the resolves of the convention, and peace and good order in that county; that major Price, the independent companies, and the militia, be subject to the control and orders of the said committee, and that they report their proceedings to the next convention.

On reading a letter from captain James Hindman, *Ordered*, That James Dickinson, William Thomas, John Stevens, and Nicholas Martin, appear before this convention on Tuesday next, to answer for their conduct in carrying live stock on board the Fowey.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

POST MERIDIEM.

Convention met.

A memorial from the council of safety was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Gantt has leave of absence till Monday next.

*Resolved unanimously*, That the instructions given by the convention of December last (and renewed by the convention in May) to the deputies of this colony in congress, be recalled, and the restrictions therein contained removed; that the deputies of this colony attending in congress, or a majority of them, or any three or more of them, be authorised and empowered to concur with the other united colonies, or a majority of them in declaring the united colonies free and independent states, in forming such further compact and confederation between them, in making foreign alliances, and in adopting such other measures as shall be adjudged necessary for securing the liberties of America, and this colony will hold itself bound by the resolutions of a majority of the united colonies in the premises: provided, the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police of this colony be reserved to the people thereof. Mr. Sluby appeared in the house.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

#### SATURDAY, June 29, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday, except Mr. Gantt. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the bills of credit issued by the congress and the conventions of this province, be received by the commissioners of the loan office in payment of any interest due to the said office.

*Ordered*, That the above resolution be published in the Maryland Gazette.

The convention resumed the election of officers. Mr. William Hyde was elected lieutenant-colonel of the upper battalion on the western shore, and Dr. John Cradock major.

For the company to be raised in St. Mary's county, Uriah Forrest was appointed captain, Wm. Bond, 1st lieutenant; Moses Tabbs 2d lieutenant, and Edward Mattinly ensign.

For the companies in Charles county, Thomas Hanson, captain; George Dent 3d, 1st lieutenant; Samuel Jones, 2d lieutenant; and William Adams, ensign. Belain Posey, captain; Henry Boarman, 1st lieutenant; John Forbes, 2d lieutenant; and Gerard Fowke, ensign.

*Calvert*. John Brooke, captain; Frederick Skinner, 1st lieutenant; Nathaniel Wilson, 2d lieutenant, and James Somerville, ensign.

*Prince George's*. John Hawkins Lowe, captain; John Magruder Burgess, 1st lieutenant; William Duvall, 2d lieutenant; and

Horatio Clagett, ensign. Robert Bowie, captain; Benjamin Brooks, 1st lieutenant; William Dent Beall, 2d lieutenant; and Colmore Beans, ensign. Alexander Howard Magruder, captain; William Sprigg Bowie, 1st lieutenant; Benjamin Contee, 2d lieutenant; and Alexander Truman, ensign.

*Anne Arundel county.* Edward Norwood, captain; Samuel Godman, 1st lieutenant; John W. Dorsey, 2d lieutenant; and Richard Talbott, ensign. Edward Tillard, captain; Samuel Lloyd Chew, 1st lieutenant; John Sprigg Belt, 2d lieutenant; and John Gasaway, ensign. Daniel Dorsey, captain; Joseph Burgess, 1st lieutenant; John Lorah, 2d lieutenant; and Michael Burgess, ensign. James Disney, captain; Henry Ridgely, 1st lieutenant; Jonathan Sellman, 2d lieutenant; and Edward Spurrier, ensign. Thomas Hammond, captain; Thomas Mayo, 1st lieutenant; Joshua Merriken, 2d lieutenant; and Andrew Hammond, ensign.

*Frederick. Lower district.* Edward Burgess, captain; John Gaither, 1st lieutenant; Thaddeus Beall, 2d lieutenant; and Thomas Edmondson, ensign. Leonard Deakins, captain; Thomas Nowland, 1st lieutenant; Elisha Williams, 2d lieutenant; and John Griffith, ensign. Benjamin Spyker, captain; Greenbury Gaither, 1st lieutenant; Richard Anderson, 2d lieutenant; and Nicholas, Scybert, ensign.

*Middle District.* Philip Meroney, captain; Elisha Beall, 1st lieutenant; John Hellen, 2d lieutenant; and William Beatty, jun., ensign. Jacob Good, captain; John Baptist Thompson, 1st lieutenant; John Ghiselin, 2d lieutenant; and John Smith, ensign. Peter Mantz, captain; Adam Groth, 1st lieutenant; Peter Adams, 2d lieutenant; and John Richardson, ensign.

*Upper district.* Æneas Campbell, captain; Clement Hollyday, 1st lieutenant; John Courts Jones, 2d lieutenant; and David Lynn, ensign. John Reynolds, captain; Moses Chapline, 1st lieutenant; Christian Orndorff, 2d lieutenant; and Nathan Williams, ensign. Henry Hardman, captain; Daniel Stull, 1st lieutenant; Peter Contee Hanson, 2d lieutenant; and John Rench, ensign.

*Baltimore.* Zachariah Maccubbin, captain; Thomas Yates, 1st lieutenant, John Christie, 2d lieutenant; and Thomas Lingan, ensign. John E. Howard, captain; Thomas Lansdale, 1st lieutenant; William Riley, 2d lieutenant; and Robert Morrow, ensign. — John Stevenson, captain; Edward Oldham, 1st lieutenant; James Ogleby, 2d lieutenant; and Joseph Lewis, ensign. James Young, captain; James Bond, 1st lieutenant; John Smith, 2d lieutenant; and James Tool, ensign.

*Harford.* Aquila Paca, captain; John Beedle Hall, 1st lieutenant.