

our Companies who are stationed at the Courthouse got down a little after dark; and as there was a ship and 5 small craft in the offing that we supposed to be the man of War and Tenders that were up the Bay with you, we planted centinals along the bay shore, and went to heaving up an Intrenchment opposite to Cap^t Kells schooner, we discovered nothing of the Tender till the morning when she weighed anchor & came too opposite our little breast work & an engagement ensued which lasted about an hour, when we obliged the Tender to retreat without carrying out the schooner. We shall be exceedingly thankfull for the continental regulations relative to victualing and paying off troops; We were oblig'd to send M^r Bruff to the Treasurer for the money to pay one months wages to our Companies. We hope your honors will make some provision for get^g the companies home, as also for our surgeons, we are very respectfully

Gentⁿ Your very hble Servt^s
James Kent. William Henry.

P. S. As Captⁿ Kell will return here again has promised to wait on you for any Commands you may have to us.

[Minute of Northampton Committee.]

Northampton County Virginia 20th March 1776. In Committee. Cap^t Thomas Kell commander of the schooner Dolphin having put into Charriton Harbour being chased by one of the Tenders who have made several attempts to take possession of her since and the said Cap^t Kell having appeared before the committee and desired their opinion what part to act, and there appearing no probability of getting safe out, and thinking it would be attended with fatal consequences to suffer such a valuable cargo to fall into the hands of the enemy, Recommend to the captain to unload her without loss of time and run her up the creek, and wait the farther direction of the owners.

Extract from the minutes.

Drury Stith C. Com.

[Hands to Council.]

Gentlemen. M^r Houston just now returned from Philadelphia and delivered me the inclosed letter which I should have sent unopened but he told me he had directions from M^r Alexander to deliver the letter to either M^r Smyth or myself if in this town and to desire us to open it and see the contents and carefully to transmit it to you, as it might be imprudent to