

Patrick Hart and James Walker being both duly sworne do ^{C. J.²} depose and declare that John Williams did censure them both for mustering and said they took up Arms against their King, and were Fools.

And it further appears to this Committee that when Companies were first formed agreeable to the Recommendation of the Provincial Convention, that the said Williams joined a certain John Cooper in forming a Company to act in opposition to said recommendation, and after Cooper had renounced those principles & resigned his post in said Company, he the said Williams did persist and endeavour to keep up said Company, and now declares that he never will exercise on the principles now adopted for the preservation of our Constitutional Rights.

Resolved, that he be kept by the Sheriff of this County, assisted by a Guard of a Sergeant & six men, in the Goal, until otherwise ordered, by the Provincial Convention or this Committee.

Resolved, that M^r Thomas Hardcastle be appointed to go to Annapolis and present a copy of this days proceedings to the Provincial Convention now sitting, and there beg their instructions in writing to this Committee respecting the above named John Williams.

The Committee adjourns to Monday next. A true Copy
P. Henry Downes Jun^r Clk.

(N^o 8)

To the Honourable Convention at Annapolis.
The Petition of Richard Henderson of Bladensburgh humbly sheweth.

That your Petitioner being in great hazard of his Person & property: thro' the means of another begs leave to lay before you the following facts, which are substantially true; altho' from the confusion usually thrown upon the mind in time of extreme and unexpected danger, they may not be in every minute point, fully related.

On Monday last the 31st of July, being for the day commanding Officer of the Bladensburgh Company, a letter from Col^o Joshua Beall, was put into my hands to be read to the Company. Our Company was not full, wherefore I put the Letter into my pocket, intending to wait the coming of more men. But the Company being impatient I opened it, and to my astonishment found that it contained an intercepted Letter, written by a youth who assisted at my Store, expressing the strangest sentiments.

I called for the Clerk to read it, but he being absent, I was forced to read it.