

Lib. J. R. be averse to countermanding such Orders, otherwise I shall  
& U. S. find myself under a necessity of exerting the Power with  
which I am invested to preserve the peace of the province &c.  
February 2<sup>d</sup> 1756. To General Shirley

To all Officers employed in raising of Recruits for any of  
his Majesty's Regim<sup>ts</sup> in North America.

It is his Excellency General Shirley's Orders if amongst  
the indented Servants you may have enlisted any of them  
are willing to return to their Masters; that you are to destroy  
their Attestations, provided the Masters to whom such  
Servants belong do furnish an able Bodied Man fit for the  
Kings Service, in lieu of every Servant they get back:

Roger Morris  
Aid de Camp.

Boston 29<sup>th</sup> February 1756.

S<sup>r</sup>

Yesterday late in the Evening I received the Favour of  
your Letter dated the 16<sup>th</sup> Instant, inclosing a Copy of the  
Assemblys Address to you on the 11<sup>th</sup> containing a Re-  
monstrance against the Practice used at present by the  
officers now recruiting within your Province of entertaining  
indented Servants.

Tho I have very lately wrote to you Sir upon this Head,  
and might rest the point in dispute upon your very reas-  
onable, just and clear Answer to the Address, yet at the  
Instance of your Assembly to lay the Matter complained of  
before me for my Consideration I have reconsidered it, and  
now transmit to you my farther Sentiments and final De-  
termination thereon:

The Restraint I lately laid the recruiting Officers under,  
by forbidding them to enlist indented Servants (which the  
Assembly themselves referr to in their Address), must con-  
vince them how tender I am of suffering his Majesty's Ser-  
vice under my Care to break unnecessarily into the Contracts  
of these Servants with their Masters or their Assigns &  
depriving the latter of any part of the Service they originally  
indented for, though it was my settled clear opinion that the  
King has a Right to the Service of indented servants as well  
as other Voluntiers; and it is evident that a Liberty to enlist  
them must make the recruiting Officers Duty easier, and fill  
his Majesty's Regiments much sooner and at a less Expence  
to them, yet whilst I flattered myself with Hopes that the  
Officers might be able to compleat their Regiments in time  
for the Kings Service without entertaining indented servants,