

from engaging their Recruitment by Actions: I think it my Duty to make this
Representation to your Excellency, and hope you will not be able to countenance
such Orders, otherwise I shall find myself under a necessity of asserting their Power,
with which I am inclosed to preserve the Peace of the Province &c.

February 2^d 1756. To General Shirley

To all Officers employed in raising of Recruits for any of his Majesty's Regiments
in North America.

It is his Excellency General Shirley's Order, if amongst the indentured Servants
you may have enlisted any of them are willing to return to their Masters, that you are
to destroy their Writations, provided the Masters to whom such Servants belong do furnish
an able Bodico Manfit for the Kings Service, in lieu of every Servant they get back.

Roger Morris
Aid de Camp.

Boston 29th February 1756.

I yesterday late in the Evening received the favour of your Letter dated the 16th
Instant, enclosing a Copy of the Assembly's Address to you on the 11th containing a
Remonstrance against the Practice used at present by the Officers now recruiting within
your Province of entertaining indentured Servants.

The I have very lately wrote to you for upon this Head, and might rest the point
in dispute upon your very reasonable, 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 further Sentiments and final
Determination thereon:

The Restriction I lately laid the recruiting Officers under by forbidding them to
enlist indentured Servants, which the Assembly themselves refer to in their Address, must
convinced them how tender I am of suffering his Majesty's Service 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 indentured for, though it was
my well considered clear opinion that the King has a Right to the Service of indentured Servants
as well as other Volunteers, 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 complete their Regiments in time for the Kings Service without
entertaining indentured Servants, I chose to put them under this Restriction, rather
than subject the Masters to the ill Consequences, and Hardships, which I am very
sensible they frequently suffer from their Servants being indiscriminately enlisted
into his Majesty's Service, for this Reason, I never allowed the Officers either of my