

Subseries III: Susquehanna Controversy, 1758- 1841

Subseries III: Susquehanna Controversy, 1758- 1841, is arranged chronologically by date and contains correspondence, legal documents, lists, and booklets, written by various historical figures discussing the conflicts occurring within the Wyoming Valley during the 18th century. These conflicts were known as the Pennamite–Yankee Wars or Yankee–Pennamite Wars, or to be more specific, the First (1769-1770), Second (1775), and Third (1784) Pennamite Wars. These conflicts occurred due to the states of CT and PA both claiming to own the upper third of what is now northeastern Pennsylvania; however there is valid reasoning behind both claims. Connecticut had been granted a land claim to the area in 1662 by King Charles II, and in 1681 King Charles II granted the land again to William Penn on accident due to the local Iroquois reselling the land on account of, as historian Paul B. Moyer states, “... their decentralized political systems, their own jurisdictional controversies, and their distinctive cultural definitions of property rights.”

This subseries covers several different events in relation to the Susquehanna Claim. The bulk of items are from the period of the three Pennamite Wars (1770s- early 1780s), with the remainder of items highlighting the controversy’s legal aftermath (mid 1780s-1790s). This legal aftermath included the proposal, approval, and implementation of several bills which outline Pennsylvania’s ownership of the claim, as well as various other legal acts and decrees such as *Item 14.29: “An Act for offering compensation to the Susquehanna claimants of certain Lands within the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes therein mentioned”, copied by unknown, no date.*, which provided financial support to those affected.

Historical figures included in the second subseries are [Eliphalet Dyer](#), [Major John Durkee](#), [Lord Butler](#), [John Butler](#), [Zebulon Butler](#), [Moses Mather](#), [Roger Sherman](#), [Colonel Timothy Pickering](#), [Benjamin Franklin](#), [Jacob Shallus](#), [David Brearley](#), [George Clymer](#), [William Rawle](#), [Tench Coxe](#), [Eleazer McComb](#), [Matthias Hollenback](#), [Samuel Wyllys](#), and [Timothy Pitkin](#). Many of these individuals were part of the newly formed United States government and their letters provide researchers with a U.S. government officials' perspective on the conflicts through several legal documents relating to land ownership and the troubles between Pennsylvania and Connecticut. However, this subseries does not contain any items which reference the military aspects of this controversy. The items focus more on rising tensions between PA and CT as well as the legal aftermath which followed. The individual who collected these items, Gilbert Stuart McClintock, labeled these items as “The Susquehanna Controversy,” however the Library of Congress refers to the events as “The Susquehanna Claim.” Due to this in combination with the collection’s lack of reference to conflicts, the Wars shall be referred to as the Controversy, while everything else shall be referred to as the Claim.

The second subseries is closely tied with Subseries III: Butler Correspondence 1759-1846, as it contains many letters related to Zebulon Butler and his role as the Director of the Susquehanna Company, a Connecticut based company founded in 1753 with the intention of settling what they considered to be their land in the northern portion of Pennsylvania. He was heavily involved in the American Revolution

as well one of the bloodiest events in this region's history: the Wyoming Massacre or [The Battle of Wyoming](#), which was a military engagement during the American Revolutionary War between Patriot militia and a force of loyalist soldiers and Iroquois warriors. It took place on July 1778 in what is known now as Luzerne County. Along with Zebulon Butler's involvement in the lead up to the battle, this series also includes documents such as Elisha Blackman's letter to the publisher of the National Gazette, claiming that their narration of the Battle was incorrect and Eliphalet Follet's (Jr.) writings to the Wyoming Claim Committee to tell the story of his father who died in battle and of his mother's journey taking care of him and his siblings while grieving the death.

Another heavily referenced key figure within this subseries is Timothy Pickering, the third Secretary of State and Luzerne County resident. Within his correspondence, Pickering handled several legal matters in reference to the controversy. A few examples of topics which are mentioned within this subseries include the sale of land to both Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers by their respective states, the imprisonment of Major John Durkee, the purchase of the claim from Native Americans, the formation of committees to deal with the claim, various court trials regarding land ownership and compensation for those involved with the controversy, and mostly unfavorable opinions of Connecticut settlers by Pennsylvanians.

12.77 Item 37: Military equipment order by Simon Cridland, 1758 November 4.

Type of Material: Manuscript (Military Equipment order)

Title: N/A

Description: This is a list of military equipment written by Simon Cridland. Fort Edward was formerly known as Fort Lyman, Fort Edward was situated on the east bank of the Hudson, about fifty miles north of Albany. The [fort](#) was built in 1755 by General Phinneas Lyman of Connecticut while he was encamped there with six thousand troops waiting for General William Johnson, the commander-in-chief of the expedition against the French at Ticonderoga and Crown Point.

Dates: 4 November 1758

Creator: Cridland, Simon [Unknown B-D]

Subjects: Military List; [Fort Edward](#) (NY);

Locations: [Fort Edward, NY](#)

People: Cridland, Simon,

General Condition: Fair. Some rips and stained paper, but the ink is fresh and legible.

Measurements: 8 in. x 4 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Fort Edward Novb.^r 4th 1758

Reid into his majesty's story from Colonel Fitch Regt. the Underm
Arms &c^o

(Viz. 2)

Musquets ... Repair^{ble} ... 54

D ^o	...	unusable	...	7
Bayonets with Frags	Repar ^{ble}		...	29
Cartridge Boxes	D ^o		...	29
Musquet Shots	Cr		...	1
Slings	...	...	...	13

Sim:^{on} Cridland

Conductor of Story

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12.78 Item 38: A Receipt by Elijah Dyer to Jonathan Trumble, 1760 March.

Type of Material: Share Receipt; Receipt

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a receipt dated March 1760, written by Elijah Dyer, sitting committee member for the Susquehanna Company, to Colonel Jonathan Trumble. In the receipt, Dyer notes that he has received \$9.00 of Trumble for purchase of a whole right in the Susquehanna Company purchase. In making this purchase, Trumble is admitted into the company and holds the same privileges and benefits of others within the purchase.

The rights sold in these purchases worked at varying levels, with the first right granting the recipient about 5 acres, a city lot, which a group of settlers would establish together. This period of improvement required that the settlers establish various public buildings in order to gain more land grants, such as a school, a meeting center, and a church. When this was achieved by the settlement, the Company would grant them an additional 40 acres called a meadow lot, where you could become a farmer. These lots would be used to build out the townships, and after another 10 years, if all those acres were improved upon, then the company would grant the settlers the largest lots, the back mountain or woodland lots, which would contain about 300-400 acres.

[The Lackawanna Historical Society](#) has a deeper explanation of how these counties and townships were created on their website, where a descendent of the Jenkins family, Rich Jenkins, explains the various lots, share receipts, and business in the company as we can see in the manuscript.

There is a note on the reverse of the manuscript that indicates the note of Colonel Dyers. This handwriting appears to be different from Dyer's on the front, and the right in question is being sold to Colonel Jonathan Trumbull, not Dyer. It is possible that the second hand was mistaken in attributing the title of Colonel to Dyer, who attributes himself as a Committee member.

Dates: 1760 March

Creator: [Dyer, Elijah, 1716-1793](#); [Dyer, Elijah, 1717-1793](#) (one year off between sources)

Subjects: Susquehanna Company; Susquehanna Claim, 1753-1808; Wyoming Valley (Pa.);

Receipt

Locations: N/A

People: [Trumbull, Jonathan, 1710-1785](#); [Dyer, Elijah, 1716-1793](#)

General Condition: Poor. The item is ripped in half and appears to be stained. The ink is fading as well.

Measurements: 7 ³/₄ in. x 3 in.

Transcript Attempt:

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March

1760 Recievd (sic) [Received] of Coll [Colonel] Jonathan Trumble(sic) [Trumbull] Nine dollars for one whole right in the Susquehanna Lands by which he is admitted into the Susquehanna Company & Intitled (sic) [Entitled] to one whole Share in their purchase of ye Lands afores[ai]d & to ye whole priviledge (sic) [privilege] & benefit of ye Member thereof p[e]r Elijah Dyer one of y^e Comtee [Committee]

Back:

[Possibly different handwriting] Mar[ch] 1760— Col^{o[nel]} Dyer's
Rec^t [Receipt] for Susquehanna
Right

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12.79 Item 39: Notice from unknown, 1771 April 13 (Removed to Legal Box #1)

Type of Material: Notice

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts an unsigned copy of a contract concerning James Tilgham, Joseph Shippen, and John Lukens, dated 1771 April 13. The contract states that these men are pursuing a purchase of lands previously surveyed by the Surveyor General, unnamed. These men are said to hold one part of the debt together, and the other is held by a fourth man, Charles Stuart.

The contract does not explain how much land they are purchasing, but it does note that the lands are in Easton. It does detail the financial expectations and plans for paying the debt in over a series of payments, with one third being due in nine months from the date of signing. The contract stipulates that the men will receive a patent and mortgage on the property after paying this first third as a means of security. Interest and rent, the remainder of the sum appears to be due in two years time from the date of sale. A quit rent has been stipulated by the contract, valued at one penny sterling on the acre.

The contract states that the men are expected to settle and improve their lots as immediately as possible. To improve a lot during these sales meant to construct a house, and possibly erect a garden or purchase livestock. The contract is assigned to the men themselves, but it does allow for the transfer of the lands to assignees, similar to a person's administrator of an estate or an heir in cases of deeds. If the debt is not paid in full by the end of these stipulated times, it is considered null and void.

An accompanying archivist slip explains the within agreements:

"Statement of Sale of Land in Wyoming, April 13, 1771, at Easton. Buyers are ordered to improve their lots which are to be mortgaged to insure payment of purchase price. The notice states that if the settler failed to improve the plot of land, the consequence would be the land being taken away and provided to another individual. Interest of "Quit rent in 2 years from thence to be one penny sterling per acre."

Dates: April 13, 1771

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Finances; Titles, Land; Contract

Locations: Easton

People: [Tilghman, James, 1716-1793](#); [Shippen, Joseph, 1732-1810](#); [Lukens, John, 1720-1789](#); Stuart, Thomas

General Condition: Okay.

Measurements: 12 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Agreement made 13.th April 1771 at Easton—

Between James Tilgham (sic) [Tilghman], Joseph Shippin (sic) [Shippen], & John Lukens esq^{[ui]r[e]} empower^{[e]d} by the Governor to Sell the Proprietary lands at Wyoming of one part & Charles Stuart & others, purchasers on the other part-Witnesses

That the said James Tilgham (sic), Joseph Shippin (sic) & John Lukens (sic) in Behalf of the The Hon^{[orabl]e} Proprietors have agreed to sell to the said Purchasers the several lotts (sic) [lots] of Land mention^{[e]d} in the annexed list of names & numbers, which numbers refer to a survey of the Proprietarys (sic) [Proprietaries] Lands lodged in the Surveyor Gen^{[era]l's} office at the rates in the said list men lion^{[e]d}(?) upon the following terms to be complied with by the Purchaser that is to say, One third of the Purchase money to be paid in nine months from the date hereof & upon the payment of the said one third, the purchaser to have a Patent and to Mortgage the premises for the security of the payment of the residue of the Purchase Money, Interest & Quit rent, in two years from thence, the quit rent to be one penny Sterling p^{[e]r} acre & to commence from the first of march next, And the Purchasers on their parts are

to Proceed immediately to the settlement & Improvement
of their lotts (sic) and each to keep at his own expence (sic) [expense]
One able Bodied man at least constantly upon his
lott (sic) for the Improvement and Defence of the Same
and if any Purchaser shall hereafter and before
Confirmation of his respective lot—Assign the same
to another, such Assignee shall ~~fulfill~~ fulfil the above
engagements, otherwise not have his title confirm^{[e]d}
And it is the intent & meaning of these presents
that upon Failure of complying with the terms of
this contract by the Purchasers or their Assigns. the same
shall become Null and Void, and the Proprietors
shall be at Liberty to Dispose of the said Lands to any other
person or persons

In Witness &c [etcetera]

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12.80 Item 40: Letter from [Eliphalet Dyer](#) to [Walter Franklin](#), 1772 May 16.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item dated May 16, 1772, depicts a letter written by Eliphalet Dyer to Walter Franklin. In the letter, Dyer advocates for Major John Durkee's release from prison, arguing that he is in poor health and could die there. The letter appears to be a placation for those who are holding Durkee prisoner. Franklin writes that they are holding Durkee on a debt they believe the Susquehanna Company will pay for the dues owed to Durkee. Dyer writes that the sum is supposed to be about 6 pounds a day for work done for the company. However, Franklin mentions that the company has already paid Durkee more than he was originally owed. According to Franklin, there is no reason for the party to believe there is more money to be made from the debts incurred by Durkee. Instead, he offers to pay the remaining debts with the help of Durkee's relations in order to have him freed for the sake of his family.

The information on Durkee's case is reaching Dyer through an acquaintance, Jonathan Trumball, a prominent politician, and eventual Governor of Connecticut.

Dates: May 16, 1772

Creator: [Dyer, Eliphalet, 1721-1807](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Bail; Debts

Locations: Hartford, Connecticut

People: [Franklin, Walter, 1728-1780](#); [Trumbll, Jonathan, 1710-1785](#); [Durkee, John, 1728-1782](#); [Dyer, Eliphalet, 1721-1807](#)

General Condition: Poor. The letter is separated into three separate pieces, the ink is faded, and the paper is covered in stains, tattered, and contains tears.

Measurements: 8 ⁷/₈ in. x 7 ³/₈ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Hartford May 16th 1772.

Sir

On Mr. Trumbulls Return from Philadelphia
I understand by him that Maj^{[o]r} Durkee is still
left in prison that he has no doubt but he could
have procured his release had it not been for your
Demand upon him & that ~~so long days~~ unless your
Compassion is extended towards him he must dye (sic) [die]
in prison as his health is allready (sic) [already] much
Impaired his spirits sunk & that he has left him
in the greatest distress Imaginable We sent by
Mr. Trumble to ^{^obtain his release}, pay his expense, the Goaler fell &
for his support but as it is Manifest he might be
soon discharged if it was not for his own Private
Debt the Susq^{[uehanna]h} Company Cannot be prevailed upon
to goe (sic) [go] any farther in paying for his support in
Goal= I understand by Mr. Trumble that you have been
Informed that Maj^{[o]r} Durkee went into the Companys
Services on Wages @ [at] £6 p[e]r month & that there is
Considerable sum now due to Maj^{[o]r} Durkee on that acc[oun]t
which if you could receive you might be Willing to
Release him I have to Assure you there is not
the least foundation for such a Suggestion Neither
has Maj^{[o]r} Durkee ever had from either ye Company
or Comtee [Committee] ye least Incouragement (sic) [Encouragement] of any pay nay
it is directly against ye plan of ye Company ~~in every~~
& ^{^has} never been done in any one Instance, ye Company
have allready (sic) Expended for Maj^{[o]r} Durkee much more
than

Page 2:

than they were ever under any Obligations to
and they will do no further. I am sensible not only
by letter I have received from you but from Mr. Trumble
that you Imagine Maj^{[o]r} Durkee has not in many
Instances dealt with you with that honor & Integrity
which you might have Expected & Truly I ~~feel~~ ^{^suspect} he
has not & farther (sic) [further] notwithstanding he has been a
Gentⁿ [Gentleman] of honor & strict Integrity I fear misfortunes
have had a very ill effect upon his virtue & morals
it has been ye case of many Gentⁿ [Gentleman] who in times of
Prosperity have maintained an Excellent Carracter (sic) [Character]

yet upon misfortunes following & being reduced in their
circumstances ~~they~~ have ~~taken~~ produced the most
fatal effects. when the case is so. I really think ye
man deserve our pity more than our Indignation
if Maj^{l^or} Durkee could be soon released he might possibly
yet be saved from Total ruin, his family & friends are
distressed for him, but he is so totally reduced as to his
circumstances there is none can think of paying any
debts for him & I must assure you that you Cannot have
ye least Encouragement that any person will advance
any ~~thing~~^{^sums} whatever for him on that account I have
therefore in his behalf & in compassion to Maj^{l^or} Durkee and
Especially his family & intreat (sic) [entreat] if you would lay aside all
resentments upon account of his ill Conduct pity his misfor^{^tunes} [misfortunes]
release him from his Imprisonment on your account otherwise
he must die in prison which am persuaded will yield no
satisfaction to a Gentⁿ [Gentleman] of your Carracter (sic) [Character] & disposition

Page 3:

if I thot (sic) [thought] he ever could pay you, lying in prison or
any other person ^{^be thereby induced to pay} for him I could under all circumstances
excuse you, ^{^in confining him in prison,} but when it is not in a mans
power it cannot be of any advantage to you to punish
him I hope In(?) you will excuse my Importunity
as I really think his circumstances claim
Pity & Compassion & forgiveness from you I should
be glad of an answer directed to me at Hartford
as soon as may be as we may send & pay
the remainder of his charges that he might not be
detained on that acc[oun]t if I hope for a favorable
Answer from you & am In(?) with Esteem
your very Hle [Humble] Serv[an]t

Mr. Walter Franklin
New York

Elipht [Eliphalet] Dyer

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12.81 Item 41: Note by [John Butler](#), 1773 October 18.

Type of Material: Note

Title: N/A

Description: The following item number contains two notes written by John Butler, a loyalist commander and a [British Indian Department](#) officer, to unknown parties.

In the first note, Butler describes an ongoing case of Richard Howell v William Bradley. In the note, Butler discusses the assignment of bail for Richard Howell, a citizen of Tryon County New York in 1773. The letter mysteriously mentions the legal term for someone whose true name is being withheld, "[Richard Roe](#)." Although details are unknown, this name is likely being used in reference to the legal case surrounding Richard Howell's bail being posted.

In the second note, Butler is requesting the purchase of a cotton hat to be added to an account with "madam." Butler asks that the receiver give the bearer of the note the hat to bring back with them. There is no price mentioned for the account. The back mentions that the note is being attributed to the "barbarous colonel butler."

Dates: October 18, 1773; May 15

Creator: [Butler, John, 1728-1796](#)

Subjects: Litigation; Correspondence; Note; Order; Receipt

Locations: Tryon County, NY; Butlersburg

People: [Butler, John, 1728-1796](#); [George III, King of Great Britain, 1738-1820](#); [Howell, Richard, \[Pos. Howell, Richard, 1746-1812\]](#); Howell, John; Rudley, William; [Renolds, James, 1748-1778](#)

General Condition: Good. The page has some discoloration.

Measurements: B: 6 7/8 in. x 6 5/8 in.; A:

Transcript Attempt:

A:

Tryon County-S_s [Sheriff Station]: Count of Com[mo]n Pleas by the Term of September

In the thirteenth year of the Reign of our
sovereign Lord George the Third.

Tryon County Richard Howell is Delivered to Bail
on the taking of his Body to John
Howell-of the county of Tryon aforesaid
and Richard Roe-of the Same place
yeoman in office of Trespass on the Case
at the Suit [^]of William Bradley & James
Renolds (sic)

Taken and Acknowledged
Before me the 18th day of Oct^{[obe]r}.
Anno Dom[ini] 1773

John Butler Judge

In pencil:

Tory leader of Wyoming Massacre

Back:

Bradley	}	Rec[eip]t
v	}	of
Howell	}	Bail

John Buler
Esq[uire] &c [etcetera]

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12.82 Item 42: A Narrative by “Unknown” of the “Battle of Wyoming,” [ca. aft. 1778 July 3]

Type of Material: Narrative

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a narrative sketch of the Battle of Wyoming, written by an unknown party and at a date following sometime after the battle on July 3, 1778. In the speech, the addressor mentions the details of the attack, explaining how they were attacked by a company at Kingston fort, composed of British loyalists, commanded by John Butler, loyalist, and Joseph Brant, a chief of the Mohawks. Colonels Zebulon Butler and Nathan Denison were the commanding officers left at the forts, and who took up command when the attacks began. They fled to the forests and other outlying forts when they became overpowered when they heard that the inhabitants and forts of Wintermute were being attacked. The writer also mentions that the battle was not contained to the forts themselves, but that the confronting party burned all their buildings and the lands they pursued them through. In the final writings of the battle, the writer explains that there was a misunderstanding when Nathan Denison sounded an order to push in on the side that the enemy were pushing in on, with many of the men thinking they were to retreat. The writer explains that the chaos overcame the efforts to destabilize the line, and this caused the front to dissolve. They fled to Wilkes Barre, but as there were orders for people not to house the Continental army, no one would grant them access. In the last paragraphs of the fragmented account we possess, the writer explains that there were many men killed, leaving their troops with only elderly, women and children. The writer attempts to be writing a correction of the account, as they state that these are the correct accounts of that day, and use their final lines in correcting a character sketch of Zebulon Butler.

We have another item that depicts a similar intent to correct the record of the Battle, particularly Zebulon Butler's actions during that battle. 12.79. Item 38: Letter from Elisha Blackman to “the National Gazette,” 1820 December.

The language is more memorial based, inferring that the speech is a time removed from the immediacy of the battle.

Dates: [ca. aft. 1778 July 3]

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Military; War; Battle; American Revolution (1775-1783)

Locations: N/A

People: [Denison, Nathan 1741-1809](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Butler, John, 1728-1796](#); [Brant, Joseph,](#)

[1742-1807; Fitch, Eleazar, 1726-1796; Washington, George, 1732-1799](#)

General Condition: Fair. The page has some discoloration and tearing.

Measurements: 9 7/8 in. x 8 in.

Transcript Attempt:

A correct narrative of the Transactions on the day of the Wyoming Battle, including some days previous and subsequent taken from the information of persons that was personally present, and escaped out of the Battle.

On the day of July 1778 information was given that the Indians had fallen upon ^{^& killed} men that was at work about ten miles up the Susqueh^{[anna]h} (sic) [Susquehanna] river above the Fort in Kingston a number of men was, ordered by Col^[onel] Dennison (who Col^[onel] Comm^{[an]d[e]r} of the militia) to proceed to the place and make such discoveries as they could and report this proceedings- the men proceeded to the place found the murdered men but the Indians had disappeared, some information was afterwards received which caused a belief that the enemy was in some considerable force secreted [hidden] in the Roads, which caused (sic) [caused] the Inhabitants to flee to the little Forts, erected in the Neighbor^[hood] built of logs (sic) [logs] and ~~built around~~ ^{generally inclosed} a single house, the men assembled at the Fort in Kingston being the largest and contained several Buildings, on the ^{^morning of the} 3^d day of July information was rec^{[eive]d} ^{^at the fort in Kingston} that the enemy had taken a small Fort about three miles above called Wintermout [Wintermoot] and it appearing probable that the enemy would loose (sic) [lose] no time but pursue this course and attack the Kingston Fort without delay ~~it was therefore concluded~~ ^{and} the fort being ^{was} ^{being} not capable of defence in it their situation, ~~that~~ if they should sustain themselves in

Page 2:

the Fort, the enemy would destroy the surrounding country, burn their house and drive off their Cattle &c [ecetera] it was therefore concluded to March out and meet the enemy in the open field and there was a place~~d~~ agreed on to waylay the enemy in a very advantageous place on the rout[e] (sic) the Enemy must Necessarily come, Col^[onel] Butler and Col^[onel] Denison then with about ~~two~~ ^{Three} Hund^[red] men marched about one mile to the place agreed on and remained waiting for the enemy untill some time in the afternoon, when no enemy appearing (sic) [appeared] and information

bei[n]g (sic) rec^{[eive]d}, that the enemy were burning and plundering houses
 in the neighborhood of Wintermute Fort they concluded
 they would proceed on and attack them at any place
 they could find them, after Marching about a Mile they
 were discovered by some Indians, who were plundering a
 house the alarm soon reached the main body of
 the enemy ^{Commanded by Colo Jno [John] Butler & an Indian by the name of Brant} who immediately set the fort on fire and
 form[e]d(sic) a line for Battle extending from where the fort was on fire
 at the Southeastern extremity of the woods ^{Northwesternly} across a plain full
 of trees and law ~~Battles~~ ^{under fire [illegible]} to borders of a thick swamp. the Americans immediately formed in
 like manner and Marched up and met the enemy and
 the Battle commenced, ~~and~~ the Americans kept their ground with
 firmness for some time, the right wing where Col^[onel] Butler was
 in person was advancing and the enemy falling back when
 the left wing was in danger of being surrounded by enemy right
 wing who was attempting to cross the swamp and fall in their rear
 Col^[onel] Dennison

Page 2:

Col^[onel] Denison who was commanding on the left wing of the
 Americans ordered his men to fall back and met the
 enemy as they come out of the Swamp, the men that did
 not hear the Col^[onel]'s order thought a retreat was ordered ~~and~~
 it soon went through the line and a retreat was the Consequence
 Col^[onel] Butler at this time left the right and on horse back
 was proceeding along the line towards the left when about
 halfway he found the men retreating and the enemy advancing
 he ^{& Col Denison-} ~~forced~~ —with the other officers made every effort in their power
 to ~~form~~ stop the men but they were Militia and under no
 discipline and it had by this time become a Riot ~~and~~
 the men could not be stopped all of which was Mass around
 except about 20 or ~~45~~ 30 the next day the enemy made their ^{attack} before
 the fort in Kingston and demanded a surrender Col^[onel] Denison
 knew it was impracticable to defend the fort having ^{in the fort} but a few
 Men mostly old men and a number of women and children
~~be~~ intered(sic) [entered] into a Capitulation with Col^[onel] John Butler who
 commanded the British and Indians who agreed that if he
 surrendered the fort the lives and property of those in the fort
 should be respected but contrary to their stipulation, as soon
 as they entered the fort the Indians began to plunder the people
 when complaint was made to Col^[onel] John Butler he said they were

Indians and he could not restrain them, the people then found that they were not to be protected in their property they fled leaving the fort and all their goods in the hands of the Indians, who after plundering what they pleased set fire to the Buildings and the next day proceeded

Back:

on to Wilkesbarre where they found the Inhabitants all fled and no one to resist them, they plundered such Articles as the[y] (sic) could carry away and then set fire to the Town and the small fort that was made of timber around a single house, the country contained within the valley called Wyoming was by ^{this} time totally deserted by its Inhabitants and ful[l] (sic) a prey to these inhuman savages & British tories and was Burnt not leaving scarcely a solitary house or Barn in ^{the} whole Valley

Third Page: [Fragmented]

keep together and when any of the enemy approached ordered them to fire upon them and by that means he and his men come safe into the first at Kingston and as ~~the enemy refused to give quarters to any Continental officer or Soldier~~ there was no probability of accessing the fort as there ^{was but few men} to defend ~~it~~ ^{all the men would fight was killed in the Battle except a Doz[ab[ou]t a Doz[e]n} he proceeded on WilkesB^[arr]e where his family resided, the next morning after Col^[onel] Denison had a parley with the enemy he Col[onel] Denison sent word to Col[onel] Butler that the enemy would give no quarters to Continental officers or Soldiers Col[onel] Butler ^{then} proceeded on ^{to} the Inhabitants in Northampton County it is not true that Colo[nel] Denison ~~made~~ defended the first in Kingston until he lost almost all his men, because ^{he} had but a verry(sic) few men in the fort, but a considerable number of Women & children,- it is not true that the savages inclosed (sic) [enclosed] men women & children promiscuously(?) in the houses & Barracks ~~at forty~~ ^{at forty} fort in Kingston (barracks there was none-) to which they set fire and consumed all within- there was not a single person killed at the ^{Kingston} ~~Forty~~ Fort it is true that they robbed and plundered them contrary to the articles of capitulation--- it is not true, that when

the enemy come to Wilkesbarre
the[y] (sic) put all the soldiers of the
Garrison to death and burned
the women and children in
the houses and Barracks, there
had not been any inlisted (sic) [enlisted] soldier
in the garrison at Wilkesbarre
nor was there any Barracks and all
the

Back:

the men women & children had ^{fled from} ~~left~~ Wilkesbarre before the
enemy arrived leaving their furniture all(?) in their Houses
which ~~either~~ ^{was either} plundered & or burnt with the bunch and the
whole valley called Wyoming shared the same fate
and for the purpose of showing his character to bet the recourse
of that stated in the Extract it becomes necessary to give a
short acc^{[oun]t} of his Military Character through life
~~while~~ When the British and Canadian French & Indians
were at war, the then American Colonies furnished the King with
a number of men. Zebulon Butler entered the Kings service
under the command of the American Col^{[o[n]el]} Fitch, he rose
by meritt (sic) [merit] from an Ensign to a Cap^{t[ain]} commanding a Company
Capt[ain] Zebulon Butler was with his company ^{at Crown point in 1761} and with the British
troops at the storming and taking of the Havanah (sic) [Havana] in Oct[ober] 1762
~~that~~ he and his Company was on
Board the Royal Duke Transport
on his way to America Oct[obe]r 21st
1762 and in Dec[ember] 1762 he was in
America and honorably discharged
that he entered the American Army
under Gen^{[era]l} Washington a Lieut[enant] Colo[nel] and
was promoted to a full Colo[nel] and
at the Close of the war commanded
one of the best Reg[imen]ts the army
he was Gen[era]l Washingtons personal
friend, -I have seen letters from the
Gen[era]l ~~Washington~~ to him after the close of
the war, written in very friendly
terms, it is passing strange that after
serving so long under British officers
and Americans, he has not before been disc[ribe]d (sic) [described]

to be a Coward and a traitor

-----END-----

12.83 Item 43: Letter from Jonathan Sullivan to Henry Jackson, 1778

September 6.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter orders Henry Jackson to march to Bedford with the regiment under his command. Henry Jackson began as a colonel in the Continental Army and was commander of Jackson's Additional Continental Regiment. He later moved up to General and lived the rest of his life after war helping Henry Knox with business affairs. Jonathan Sullivan was a General under Washington's command when this letter was written. Sullivan had a long military career during the revolutionary war, winning several key battles during the war and was later a delegate in the Continental Congress, and among those signing the Continental Association.

Dates: September 6, 1778

Creator: [Sullivan, Jonathan 1740-1795](#)

Subjects: Military letter

Locations: Bedford

People: [Jackson, Henry 1747-1809](#); [Sullivan, Jonathan 1740-1795](#)

General Condition: Good.

Measurements: 8 7/8 in. x 7 3/8 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Head Quarters Providence 6th Sept 1778

Sir

You will march to Bedford with the Detachment under your command in order to oppose the Enemy who have landed there and assist in drawing them from their Posts, you will likewise give the earliest intelligence of every material occurrence that come within your knowledge to make that I may be enabled to act accordingly.

You will endeavor to assist the militia who lay in your Rout and take such Command of them as your Rank in the Continental Army entitles you to.

Colo Henry Jackson

Your most
obedt servant
Jno Sullivan
M genl -----

{back}

Letter from Genl

Sullivan Sep. 6

1778

Colo Jackson

-----END-----

**12.84 Item 44: Return of Ammunition Issued at Wyoming, by unknown, 1779
April 10-22.(removed to black box #1)**

Type of Material: Ledger

Title: A Return of Ammunition Issued at the Post of Wyoming in the Month of April 1779.

Description: This is a record of ammunition being sent, who it is being sent to, and who is delivering it.

Dates: 10-22 April 1779

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Military Equipment

Locations: N/A

People: [Gore, Obadiah, 1744-1821](#); [Spaulding, Simon, 1742-1814](#)

General Condition: Good.

Measurements: 13 ⅜ in. x 8 ¼ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Date 1779 Apr ^l	N Vouchers	By Whom Ordered	To whom delivered	Guns	Flints	Bayonets	Bayonet belts	Laduce Boxes	Cartidgres	Lbs of powder	Lbs of lead
10	1		Jacob Raybold J ^r M ^r	20	..	9	..	..	..	..	..
12	2		Obadiah Gore Liet.	1	..	1	..	1	19	..	..
13	3		Pat (?) Kelly J ^r M ^r Serj.	..	132	..	..	..	..	..	..
22	4		Nicholas Exway J ^r M ^r Serj.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
14	3	Simon Spalding Cap ^t	Frederick Evreland Serj Maj.	..	10	..	..	..	120	..	..
13	6	D ^o	Rufas Lawrence Serj.	..	..	..	..	..	48	½	2
20	7	John jenkins Liet.	Frederick Everland Serj. Maj.	..	..	..	..	..	60	..	..
..	8		D ^o D ^o	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
22	9		Trioke Serj.	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
	10		Francis MaGaunan J ^r M ^r Serj.	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
	11		John Jenkin Lieut.	..	..	..	..	..	12	¼	..

A Return of Ammunition issued at the Post of Wyoming in the Month of April 1779.

Back

Return of the ammunition found at Wyoming

April 1779.

-----END-----

12.85 Item 45: An Order by John Sullivan to unknown, 1779 July 5.

Type of Material: Order

Title: N/A

Description: This letter seems to be about provisions being sent.

The manuscript mentions a Mrs. Gore, this is possibly Hannah *Parks* Gore, as there was a prominent military officer and judge by the name [Obadiah Gore](#) in the Wyoming Valley during the eighteenth century.

Dates: 5 July 1779

Creator: [Sullivan, John 1740-1795](#)

Subjects: Military letter

Locations: N/A

People: [Sullivan, John 1740-1795](#); Mrs. Gore, (Pos. [\(Parks\) Gore, Hannah](#), 1721-1804); Mrs. Smith [Sullivan, John 1740-1795](#)

General Condition: Fair. Staining affects legibility in some places.

Measurements: 8 ¾ in. x 7 ¼ in.

Transcript Attempt:

The Commissary is Directed to issue to Mrs Gore and her three children also to Mrs Smith & her seven children such Quantity of Provisions as Colo[nel] Butler shall Direct – & ~~Sh~~ Colo Butler is Directed to Employ Chose wo[illegible] [women?] in such work as may Conduce most to the good of the publick [sic] service and the advantage of the Garrison at the place which the army is on the Expedition given at Head Quarters in Wyoming July 5th 1779.

Jno [Jonathan*] Sullivan Major

{back}

Major Genl[eral]

John Sullivan

July 5. 1779

-----END-----

12.86 Item 46: Letter from Benjamin Stoddert to Zebulon Butler, 1779 October 20.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter by United States Secretary of Navy Benjamin Stoddert was written to forward orders from the Board of War to Zebulon Butler, requesting that some regiments from Wyoming are moved to support Sunbury. It specifically requests men under Captains Schott and Spaulding to report there.

Dates: 20 October 1779; 19 October 1779

Creator: [Stoddert, Benjamin 1751-1813](#)

Subjects: Military letter

Locations: War Office

People: [Hand, Edward 1744-1803](#), [Matlack, Timothy 1736-1829](#), [Schott, John Paul, 1744-1829](#), [Spaulding, Simon 1742-1814](#), [Hunter, Samuel 1732-1784](#), [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#)

General Condition: Poor. The paper is extremely thin to the point where you can very easily see straight through it, and is in turn extremely easy to damage. Outside of that, the paper contains several tears, rather large folds, ink fading, as well as other signs of age.

Measurements: 9 ½ in. x 7 ¾ in. (closed); 15 ½ in. x 9 ½ in. (open)

Transcript Attempt:

In Council. Philadelphia 19th October 1779.

Resolved, that the petition of the Inhabitants of Northumberland County representing this great apprehensions from the Indians and the letters from Genl Hand; be transmitted to the board of war and that they be requested, to order one hundred & fifty men from Wyoming to Sunbury, there to be stationed in such manner, as the sentiment of the County, and the commanding officer of the said Troops shall deem most likely to afford the greatest security and protection to the said county.

Echant(sic) from the Nunites(sic) James Trumble for Timothy
Matlack Secy.

Copy.

War Office 20.th October 1779.

Sir

In consequence of the request contained in the above resolution of Council, and the board being of opinion that Schotts Corps & Spaldings Company with the detachments of proctors will be fully competent to the defence [sic] of the Garrison at Wyoming you are hereby directed immediately to order the German Regiment to Sunberry the Commanding officer of which with the advice & assistance of Col Hunter, Lieutenant of the County, will station his men in such manner & places, as he may deem most proper for the preservation of the Inhabitants, & security of the Troops.

Should the Reg. be prepared to march before the cloathing (sic) now on the way, arrives - a sufficient guard had better be left to escort it down the River the March of the Regiment must not be delayed if able to proceed without it.

I am sir yr most obed.

Hble Serv.

by order of the board

Ben Stoddert

Secretary.

Bord War

20. Oct 1779

{back}

Public Service

Lieutenant Coll. Zebulon Butler.

or Commanding Officer

at Wyoming

War office

-----END-----

12.87 Item 47: A Copy by [John Franklin], [Pos. aft. 1784], of a Report by [Philip Schrawder] to a [Pennsylvania Wyoming Council], 1783 September 2.

Type of Material: Report

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a copy by John Franklin, a lieutenant colonel of Connecticut during the American Revolutionary War, of an original report written by Philip Schrawder, a captain of the Northampton Pennsylvania regiment. In the original report, Schrawder is writing to a committee assembled to hear the complaints and conflicts of the valley occurring between Pennsylvania and Connecticut settlers. Schrawder's letter states that the Pennsylvania powers have done everything in their power to act with "laudable zeal" to broker peace and compromise, but their efforts have been stopped by the contempt and disagreement of the state of Connecticut and its Susquehanna Land Company. Schrawder continues on by asking them to approve the recent division of the county into three distinct voting districts and to consider the amendments to the process of trespass suits and cases of ejectment. In the final lines of this report, Schrawder appoints three men to become a committee regarding this report. The creator has been ascertained as John Franklin by way of a handwriting comparison in other collections. This copy by Franklin is estimated to have been written post 1784, after the end of the Third Yankee Pennamite war. This is from a comparison with an item in the Lackawanna Historical Society's collection, the John Jenkins Papers, item 46/1, which includes a Journal by John Franklin, 1782 December 30-1784 August, [Pos. aft. 1784]. The journal is a compilation of the Connecticut settlers' experience shortly prior to, during, and after the Third Yankee Pennamite War. This appears to be an earlier copy, or perhaps a piece that Franklin decided to recopy for his later journal, as some of the names are incorrect compared with his final compiled piece.

These conflicts are taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove "one-hundred and fifty" Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to "find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles," without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson's troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). This appears to be an earlier copy, or perhaps a piece that Franklin decided to recopy for his later journal, as some of the names are incorrect compared with his final compiled piece.

The text, [*History of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Its Families*](#), edited by Charles Rhoads Roberts et al., provides an overview of the Schrawder/Schroeder line in the valley.

Dates: September 2, 1783

Creator: [\[Franklin, John, 1749-1831\]](#)

Subjects: Report; Meeting; Vote; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: N/A

People: [Shrawder, Philip, 1745-1820](#); [Whitehill, \[Pos. Whitehill, David, 1743-1809\]](#); [Latimer, \[Pos. Latimer, George, 1750-1825\]](#); [Maclay, \[Pos. Maclay, William, 1737-1804\]](#); [\[Franklin, John, 1749-1831\]](#)

General Condition: Fair. Page suffers tearing and discoloration.

Measurements: 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Transcript Attempt:

The report of the Committee appointed Aug^{[us]t}. 25 last ~~was~~ read yesterday was read the Second time and adopted as follows /viz/

The Committee to whom was refered (sic) [referred] Capt^[ain] Shrauders (sic) letter and the report of the Commissioners sent to Wyoming to affect a Compromise with the Settler at that place and the owners of the Wyoming lands beg leave to report

That they have examined the several papers Committed to them with care and attention and are fully satisfied of the laudable Zeal and Industry used by your Commissioners to affect the purposes of their mission— and likewise with the Generous offers made by the pennsylvania landholders to the settlers at Wyoming. Your Committee are however sorry to send that the endeavors of your Commissions and the offers the proprietors of lands at Wyoming have been rendered abortive by the Interference (sic) [Interference] of the State of Connecticut and the Susquehannah (sic) [Susquehanna] Company so that our hopes of a friendly compromise seem now vanished.

Your committee therefore submit the following resolution to the honourable (sic) house.

Resolved that a Committee be appointed to propose and bring in a bill for repealing the law of the this state entitled an act to prevent and stay suits from being brought against the Inhabitants of Wyoming during the time therein mentioned passed March 13th last and for Confirming the Division of the Township of Wyoming into three distinct Townships as laid out and Divided by your commissioners on the 22^d day of April last past

~ Resolved that as well to Discover the moderation and equitable disposition of the house as in Consideration of the sufferings of the settlers at Wyoming from the Common enemy a

reasonable compensation in land, within ^{^the boundaries of} this state upon easy Terms be made to the families of those who have fallen fighting against the savages and to such others as did reside on the lands at Wyoming when the late decree was Given at Trenton.

Provided that no such settler be entitled to the benefits of this resolution unless upon demand made by Gives up possession to the Claimant or Claimants under pennsylvania or upon any suit of Trespass and ejectment being commenced by such Claimant or Claimants he shall become Defendant in such suit and confess Judgement to the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such ejectment.

Order that Mr. Whitehill Mr. Latimer and Mr. Macloy be a Committee to bring in a bill agreeable to the first of the foregoing resolutions

Sep^{t[ember]} 2nd 1783 page 914

-----END-----

12.88 Item 48: Letter from [William Judd](#) to [Zebulon Butler](#), 1783 September 15. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter, dated September 15, 1783, is written by William Judd to Zebulon Butler, a lieutenant colonel during the American Revolutionary War. In the letter, Judd is writing to Butler to inform him on recent events in the region whose information incoming is giving himself, Captain Daniel Gore and Colonels Eliphalet Dyer and Jesse Root. Judd is asking Butler's attention on Connecticut's interest in this issue, suggesting that they have a duty to preserve their position to the question of lands at hand or they may not be able to address it again later. Though the question or conflict at hand are not expressly named, it is likely that Judd is speaking to the issue of titles and lands following the onset of the third Yankee Pennamite War.

The Yankee Pennamite Wars were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. However, while the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Pennsylvania, however, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, forcibly removed "one-hundred and fifty" Connecticut families from their homes under Patterson's command. They forced the families to "find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles," without supplies or clothing to

sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson's troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

Dates: September 15, 1783

Creator: [Judd, William, 1743-1804](#)

Subjects: Military; letters; correspondence; Titles, Land; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Farmington, CT

People: [Judd, William, 1743-1804](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Gore, \[Pos. Gore, Daniel, 1746-1809\]](#); [Dyer, Eliphalet, 1721-1807](#); [Root, Jesse, 1736-1822](#); [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#); [Brearley, David, 1741-1790](#); [Stewart, Walter, 1756-1796](#); [Wallis, Samuel](#); [\[\(Haight\) Butler, Phebe, 1752-1832\]](#); Mr. & Mrs. Johnson

General Condition: Good. Some vinegar smell.

Measurements: 12 ½ in. x 8 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Farmington Sept^{[embe]r} 15th 1783

Sir,

The information rec^{[eive]d} by Mr Gore has roused Col^{[o[nel]]} Dyer and Col^{[o[nel]]} Root & by my particular attention to the Interest of the Susq^{[uehanna]h} Company, & the settlers: they have forwarded to you a Letter Suggesting the Necessity of a full and Critical Inquiry of Col^{[o[nel]]} Cox[e] relative to our Papers in the Hands of the Pensylvania (sic) [Pennsylvania] Agents The Interest Judge Brairley his Brothers & near Kinsmen had in the HLands in Dispatch— I need not say Our Honour as a State requires we should be particular in Our researches after Every thing that will have a Tendency to place us in a better Light with Our Neighbours — add to this our Interest Calls upon us to Double Our Diligence for if this Oppurtunity (sic) [opportunity] is Sliped (sic) [Slips; **if this opportunity slips away**] the State may never again attend to the Question—. I think Col^{[o[nel]]} Stewart & Samuel Wallis might be played upon; they ~~ Mortally hate Each Other; & by telling One what the Other says sumthing (sic) [something] of Importance may most probably [^]be found, that will Serve our Interest. Act must be made use off if any attempt is made ~~ upon them. Cap^[tain] Spaulding can tell you the Distracted Situation of the Country. The Situation of the Officers of the army – & the Measures They have taken with the state of New York, if we Succeed shall be happy in your Company Assistance &^c [etcetera] Compliments to Mr. & Mrs.

Johnson, Mrs. Butler & the Settlers in General I am D^{le}_ar

Sir your humble servant—

W^l_{illia}m Judd

Col^o_{nel} Butler

Back:

Maj^o_r Judd 15th

Sep^t_{embe}r 1783

-----END-----

12.89 Item 49: Letter from [Zebulon Butler](#) to [Colonels \[Eliphalet\] Dyer and \[Jesse\] Root](#), 1783 October 4. (removed to legal size box#1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The letter, dated October 4, 1783, is written by Zebulon Butler, a lieutenant colonel during the American Revolutionary War, to Colonels Eliphalet Dyer and Jesse Root. In the letter, Butler is writing about his recent arrest, being taken to jail by a sheriff on a warrant of treason against the state of Pennsylvania. Butler writes that the letter they previously sent him came while he was being held prisoner, but that upon his recent release he found himself back under arrest by the time he returned to the post. Butler continues to state that the evidence against the claimants brought forth by Tench Coxe should be addressed and that he trusts the two men to handle it at the next assembly. He writes that he intends to be there himself depending upon his ability to make bail. He concludes by explaining that the inhabitants who hold lands under Pennsylvania lands are currently distressed as their lands and crops are under conflict.

Though the question or conflict at hand are not expressly named, it is likely that Judd is speaking to the issue of titles and lands following the onset of the third Yankee Pennamite War. Additionally, the writ of treason that Butler is mentioning against him is likely related to the settlement and issuing of Connecticut or Susquehanna Company land titles that are contained under the purview of the Decree of Trenton as Pennsylvanian. The Yankee Pennamite Wars were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. However, while the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Pennsylvania, however, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, forcibly removed “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes under Patterson’s command. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the

Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). This item appears to be related in subject theme with 10.38 Item 38: Letter from William Judd to Zebulon Butler, 1783 September 15.

Dates: October 4, 1783

Creator: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Wyoming, PA

People: [Dyer, Eliphalet, 1721-1807](#); [Root, Jesse, 1736-1822](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#)

General Condition: Poor. Vinegar smell. The paper is extremely tattered and fragile due to severe staining, age, and tears/folds in the paper. The ink is fading in the spot that is stained, and there is a tear which prevents the full legibility of one word.

Measurements: 13 7/8 in. x 9 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Wyoming 4th Oct^{[obe]r} 1783

Gentlemen

Yours of the 12th Sep^{[tembe]r} I Rec^{[eive]d} Yesterday

I was a Prisoner out to goals About 70
Miles when the Letter came I was taken on
A writ for Treason against the state the
Sheriff gave me A writing to Return or
go where I Chose (sic) [Choose] only to Come again to Court
Immediately on my Arrival at Home I was
taken by an under Sheriff for the same thing
and the Sheriff is now waiting to take me
Away. the Matter respecting Coxes Evidence
&^c [etcetera] is Attended to and I Believe you will have
them I shall be at the Assembly myself if
Bail or any thing Use will Liberate me
Excepting my Making my escape which I
will not do, the Inhabitants are in the most
Distressed situation. Claimers of Land under
Pennsylvania Demanding & taking part
of their Crops of Corn &^c [etcetera] the Inhabitants are—
almost Drove to Dispair (sic) [despair] god knows what will
be the event the Bearer (sic) [bearer] will be able to give
you the particulars the Sheriffs waiting to
take me to Goal.

I can only say I am Gentlemen
your most Ob^{[edien]t} Humble
Serv^{[an]t} Zeb^{[ulo]n} Butler
Col^{[onel]s} Dyer & Root

Back:

Coppy (sic) [copy] Letter
to Col^{[onel]s} Dyer & Ro^{ott} (sic) [Root]
Oct^{[obe]r} 4th 1783

-----END-----

12.90 Item 50: Letter from William Bonham to “My D. Friend,” 1784 March 23 (Removed to Legal Box #2)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: Bonham is requesting that grain be sent to his town and discusses a Philadelphia proposal of the removal of a militia from his county. He states that his people are suffering from the danger of the area, which is exacerbated without the needed supplies.

Dates: 23 March 1784

Creator: [Bonham, William 1750-1828](#)

Subjects: A request for supplies.

Locations: Northumberland

People: Mr. Wilson [Unknown B-D]; Mr. Armstrong [Unknown B-D]; [Potter, James 1729-1789](#)

General Condition: Good. Vinegar smell. Paper shows signs of age.

Measurements: 13 ⅛ in. x 8 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Northumberland March 23 1784

My D. Friend

I have been very unhappy for some time Reolation [sic] to you and your Family & Friends as the Distresses of this part of the County has been such that it is beyond Disruption for hardley [sic] any Family in Either of the Branches has escap'd [sic] loss or Danger,/ not only that/ but many are at the present in a most wretched plight for want of Bread & the Necessaryes [sic] to support Nature, and as for my part by lending & given I am not far off I have understood that Mr. Wilson is preparing his Boat to come down & I am Depending upon your goodness to forward my grain by him or Else I shall be much Distres'd Mr. Armstrong the Bearer a brother to the Captain will assist you & claim the grain as his property if the military should offer to detain the same Gen^l Potter has just arrived from Philadelphia by whom the Petition for the removing of the Troops would have been sent down by only it was his opinion that some alterations should take place they now are made & will be sent down by the first opportunity, Likewise his information gives us to understand that the greater part of the House is only waiting for it, so as to here room to bring it in the carpet as they have

{annotation}

Chambers the Layer-has been Roving in the Character of an Effigy in this County as an Enemy to the present Constitution

{page 2}

gain'd all one Friend in the House since the matter was put to vote it being a Tye & the Speaker gave the Calling vote for the Troops to remain there But depend upon it your Friend are not Idle & from the Gen'l Information to me It will take place & that they must March from where they are to the hum of Yankey Doodle

I conclude sincerely your Friend.

William Bonham

30 Bush of Oats if Possible

R Letter by W B

Mr. Armstrong

-----END-----

12.91 Item 51: Letter from Roger Sherman to Zebulon Butler, 1784 June 15. (Removed to Legal Box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item is a letter written by American lawyer, Roger Sherman, to Continental officer, Zebulon Butler, dated June 15, 1784. In the letter, Sherman writes about a coming court trial in Annapolis over a petition surrounding the Susquehanna Controversy as proposed by Roger Sherman. Though the letter never explicitly states what the trial is concerning, we can infer from language within and the date of the letter that it is regarding the recently removed Connecticut settlers regaining some of their lands from Pennsylvania settlers. This is most likely referencing the various petitions by Connecticut settlers to the Pennsylvania assembly following the Decree of Trenton's decision of jurisdiction and following abuse under Alexander Patterson. The [Decree of Trenton](#) granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania following a three part war called the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#). These conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove "one-hundred and fifty" Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to "find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles," without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnitchel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson's troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the conclusion of this war, there were many petitions brought forth by Pennsylvania attempting to broker a compromise while those of Connecticut sought reinstatement to their lands. This struggle is

likely the conflict addressed in the letter, as Zebulon Butler was of the last remaining in his fight for reinstatement following the conclusion of the conflict.

Dates: June 15, 1784

Creator: [Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793](#)

Subjects: Report; Letter; Correspondence; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: New Haven

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Sherman, Roger, 1721-1793](#)

General Condition: Poor. Paper is very brittle, has separated into several pieces, and shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. x 7 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.

Transcript Attempt:

New Haven June 15th 1784

Congress adjourned the 3rd Instant and left a committee of the states, the committee met the 4th and appointed a chairman & did some other business, and adjourned to the 26th of this month, the 29th is the day appointed for the parties to appear in order to the appointment of a court on your Petition and the rest of the settlers at Wyoming when it will be necessary that you should appear or some Agent properly authorized for the Petitioners, the committee of the states will sit at Annapolis.

The Petition of your people to be quieted in their possessions was referred to a committee, who reported that they ought not to be disturbed in their possessions until a decision of the cause--and that the appointment of the court should be postponed 'till the first Monday in November next, when Congress will sit at Trenton.- this report was given in the last day of the session, and there was not time to act upon it-but the Committee of the states can pass upon it if the parties desire it-I think it would give a better chance to both parties to put it off till Hon^{[ora]bl[e]} and would give the Pennsylvania Assembly one opportunity more to consider of measures for quieting the controversy without a trial— but if a court should be now appointed tis probable they would allow a reasonable time for the parties to prepare for trial, your troubles from the Pennsylvania claimants will be a good excuse for now being prepared for trial— — I don't know whether any assistance will be afforded from the Assembly of this state or the Susquehannah (sic) Company. I shall write to Doct^{[o]r} Gray.

I am sir with Esteem and regard
Your humble servant
Roger Sherman

Col^{[o[nel]]} Zebulon Butler

Back:

P.S. As you are one of the Petitioners I
suppose you will be admitted to appear
for the whole without any special authority
from the others.

Roger Sherman

Roger Sherman
Esq^{[ui]r[e]}

-----END-----

12.92 Item 52: Letter from [Zerah Beach](#) to [Zebulon Butler](#), 1785 September 21. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter, dated September 21, 1785, is written by Zerah Beach to Zebulon Butler, a lieutenant colonel during the American Revolutionary War. In the letter, Beach writes that they have recently received Butler's by way of Doctor Harrietta, and is happy to have a moment to write again so soon. He explains that there is a hesitancy on his part of Butler selling half shares for the Susquehanna Company to those now in New York, and explains that he should retrieve and dispose of them immediately. This is likely due to the ruling of the Continental Congress, the Decree of Trenton, which granted Pennsylvania's claims. Beach continues on to mention that his nephew, John Coon, is to be arriving in the region with an acquaintance, Doctor Asher Waterman, who is trying to settle in the valley or elsewhere in Pennsylvania. Coon has recently finished school and is hoping to find a business to settle into.

it seems that she is telling Zebulon Butler to reject some settlers who are coming and instead accept her nephew and his company.

Dates: September 21, 1785

Creator: [Beach, Zerah, 1746-1836](#)

Subjects: Susquehanna Claim, 1753-1808; Manuscript--Early works to 1800; Letters; Correspondence; Health

Locations: [Amenia, New York](#)

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Coon, John, \[Pos. Coon, John, 1735-1800\]](#); Waterman, Asher;

[Beach, Zerah, 1746-1836](#)

General Condition: Good. Vinegar smell.

Measurements: 12 ½ in. x 7 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Aminia (sic) [Amenia] 21th Sept 1785

Dear Sir,) I had the pleasure to see yours to Doct^{[o]r} Harrietta
this day: rejoice I have an opportunity to write to
you once more-And that you are all in peace and
have plenty of the Necessaries of Life— I don't think
best for you to have much dependence on peoples
coming from this quarter to take the half shares—
believe you had best to dispose of them as fast
as possible-don't let any return into the hands
of the Company-we are doing Every thing in our
power in this quarter. This will be delivered you
by John Coon, a Nephew of mine whose desire
is to settle in the Country-he has kept(?) a school
some- would wish to be employed this Winter in that
Business-any friendship you are pleased^{to} show
him will be acknowledged by me with many
thanks— Doctor Asher Waterman will be Coon's
Company-who has the Charictor (sic) [Character] of a Gentleman-
he will remain in your settlement or go to any
part of Pennsylvania as a Practitioner & keep
up a corispondence (sic) [correspondence] & informe (sic) [inform] of Every movement
of the Enemy that he can obtain the knowledge of—

My compliment to Mrs Butler— I am
Dear sir with real Esteem your Hom^l (sic) [Humble]
Serv^{[an]t} Zerah Beach

Col[onel] Butler

Back:

Col[onel] Zeb^{[ulo]n} Butler

Wyoming—

Esq^{[ui]r[e]} Z. Beach

Sep^{t[ember]} 1783

-----END-----

12.93 Item 53: Letter from Mary Ro[se] to Zebulon Butler, 1785 September 27.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by Mary Rose, widower, to Zebulon Butler, dated September 27, 1785. In the letter, Rose writes about a recent news she has heard of the Governor of New York's intention to reinstate Connecticut settlers who had previously been forcibly removed on a tract of land in what is most likely Tioga, though Rose writes "Teoba" hesitantly. This would have been George Clinton, whose governorship was between 1777-1795. Rose is writing to Butler due to her inability to make it before the committee hearing these requests in Susquehanna due to her distance and health. She writes to petition a favor of Butler, requesting him to go in her stead to put forth her petition for lands previously owned. She writes that she is not entirely sure of the acreage, but believes it to have been one right, which would have allocated 500 acres. She shares that she is writing to Butler after the kind sentiments they shared in Susquehanna, and the honor she believes him to possess. She mentions that she has also written to an Isaac Underwood with the same request, but fears that it might not reach him. In the end of her letter, Rose also mentions that she had owned a number of swine before fleeing the valley. She had not had the chance to figure out what became of them, but suggests that they might have been given to the public store as no owner appeared. She asks after a report that would have possibly recorded the funds she is due after the sale of her property.

Rose's fleeing the valley pertains to the conflicts taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove "one-hundred and fifty" Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to "find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles," without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson's troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

[*] In the letter, Rose has begun to write administrator, as the title of administrator to an estate, but has crossed out the "tor" ending to write "trix," an older feminized term for a female estate administrator. The creator of the piece, Mary Rose, has been estimated as possibly [Mary Wheeler Rose](#), born in 1748 and married to [Timothy Rose](#), a private who fought and died during the Battle of Wyoming. She has been assumed as the Mary Rose creator due to the widowhood attributed to Mary Rose in the letter, and her mentioning having left the valley on her own. Her husband would have fallen during one of the pivotal battles connected to the Connecticut settlers being forcibly removed from the valley prior to 1785, when the letter was authored.

Dates: September 27, 1785

Creator: [Rose, Mary](#), [[Pos. \(Wheeler\) Rose, Mary, b.1748](#)]

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Titles, Land; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Woodbury

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [\[Clinton, George, 1739-1812\]](#); Underwood, Isaac

General Condition: Fair.

Measurements: 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. x 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Honored Sir,

The intimate acquaintance I have had with
your honour in times past, while I resided at
Susquehannah (sic) [Susquehanna], puts confidence in me to implore
your Assistance. You are undoubtedly, too well
acquainted with my circumstances, to hear them
repeated (or was when I left Susquehannah, &
perhaps not much alteration has taken place,
since.) I understand sir by information, the
Governor of New York has; or is about (sic) [about] to Grant
a certain Tract of Land lying up the River
in a Town if I mistake not, ~~is~~ call'd [called] Teoba [Pos. Tioga];
which Tract of Land, is to be given to the poor
Distressed people that were driven from their
Possessions, in Susquehannah, (whose circumstances
I suppose are similar to my own,) as a compensa^{tion}
for their Troubles & Sufferings. Which land if
Granted, (as I could wish it may be) undoubtedly
I shall be call'd upon, to officiate as an Administra~~tor~~ trix. [Administratrix] [*]
but considering ^{my} Pensive State, & the
Distance I am from Susquehannah, renders it very
difficult, my acting Personally at present.
I have therefore thought proper by advice to
Address some proper Person to assist me in the very
important Affair, & being acquainted with your
Liberality, while I resided at Susquehannah,
makes

Page 2:

makes me confident, you will not Treat my petitions,
with neglect. This is therefore to beseech your
Honour, to Act, or appoint, Some proper person
that you think fit to Act for, & with me, till I shall
be Able to arrive at Susquehannah in person,
which I hope many be in the turn of ^a year or less,
(provided the above s[ai]'d land should be Granted

Otherwise I suppose my petition will be needless)
As to the Numbers of Acres, to Each person,
I suppose you are better acquainted with [^]than I am,
though I understand it to be a Right, containing
500 Acres, but be it more or less, if your
Honour would be so pleased to Assist me as I
petition[e]'d, I should look upon it a mark of
honour & distinction, & receive it as a favour, &
should take great pleasure in making you
ample satisfaction, the first opportunity
I may have.

I have wrote a letter before this to Mr. Isaac
Underwood, much similar to this: but for fear by
some Accident it should not arrive there, I would
enlarge a little more at present on that account.

I wrote concerning my Other lands, which I have
now in possession, respecting the maⁿner [manner] & form,
that people now practice, in seting (sic) [settling] of their lands,
likewise with regard to Taxes, as I suppose there
is, which ought to be paid, but I cannot at present
get certain intelligence as to the particulars.

Page 3:

When I retreated from Susquehannah, I had,
or was the ower of some swine, & things being
in such confusion, that I knew not what becom(e) (sic) [became]
of them, but I suppose were put in to the public^k (sic) [public]
store, as I understood it was [^]the custom when they
were found straying away & no owners Appeare^d
so I conclude that mine, were made use of for
the good of the public, & if ~~true(?)~~ I supposed ~~the~~ an
account was, intending that I might be
justified. If Rates are called for, I could wish the
account if any, might in some measure answer
the Fund. I am very anxious to hear from
Susquehannah (sic), & would intreat your honour to favour
me with an answer to this petition the first
Opportunity you may have, & beg you would give
me the particulars, concerning the times, manner
& custom that pe^ople now practice, together
with your advice, which undoubtedly may have

great influence.

Thus much may I hope, be sufficient for the present.

Sir your favours will be
greatly acknowledged, by your
Humble Serv[an]t Mary Roas.
Woodbury, Septem^{ber}. 27th. AD 1785.

Back:

Widdow (sic) [Widow] Rose
Letter

to Zebulon Butler
Wilkesbarre
Wyoming

-----END-----

12.94 Item 54: Letter from “Unknown” to “Sir,” 1787 March 9. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by an unknown individual to an unknown recipient addressed as, “Sir,” dated March 9, 1787. The author writes in regards to an arrangement of a meeting between different people from Pennsylvania counties, surnames Finley, Wynkoop, Climer, Brown, and Hubley, who are to meet to discuss a settlement. The author mentions that the settlers have put forth many petitions to maintain their lands, and believes that Timothy Pickering is sympathetic to their cause. The author firmly believes that he and others should keep the title of their lands.

While the letter never explicitly states what the petition or the address of the assembly for their cause pertains to, we can infer from language within and the date of the letter that it is regarding the recently removed Connecticut settlers regaining some of their lands from Pennsylvania settlers. This is most likely referencing the various petitions by Connecticut settlers to the Pennsylvania assembly following the Decree of Trenton’s decision of jurisdiction and following abuse under Alexander Patterson. The [Decree of Trenton](#) granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania following a three part war called the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#). These conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware

Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

Following the conclusion of this war, there were many petitions brought forth by Pennsylvania attempting to broker a compromise while those of Connecticut sought reinstatement to their lands. Men such as John Franklin, Zebulon Butler, and this unknown creator often spearheaded interests and concerns of the Connecticut settlers, while men such as Pickering were sent in to broker peace between the two settler states after rising concerns over Pennsylvania’s actions during the third war.

Dates: 9 March 1787

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Meeting; Business; Titles, Land; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829](#); Mr. Finley; Climer, G; Brown, Robert; Hubley; Wynkoop

General Condition: Poor. Vinegar smell. Sections missing.

Measurements: 9 ⅛ in. x 7 ½ in.; sections missing.

Transcript Attempt:

Philadelphia the 9th of March 1787

Sir

I here With transmit to you a Coppy (sic) of letter Which I sent to the Speaker of the assembly (sic) With the petitions Which was Signed by our settlers was Emediatly (sic) [immediately] taken up by the house a compettee (sic) [Committee?] appointed after the Second reading of the petition to take the matter into Consideration and make report there onto the assembly the foregoing was Done on the 6th instant, on the 7th Colonel Pickering and mySelf was caled (sic) [called] on to Wate (sic) [wait] on the Committee of 4 oClock and accordingly meet them at the time appointed Who are as foloweth (sic) [followeth] /viz/ Mr Finley of Westmoreland County Mr. G Climer of Philadelphia and Robert Brown of Northhamton mr Hubley of of (sic) Lankestor (sic) [Lancaster] and mr Wynkoop of Bucks County and give them ~~and~~ an account of the Situation of the Settlement and advanst (sic) [advanced] Some argements (sic) [arguments] Why We Shold (sic) [should] have the title of our land absoutely (sic) [absolutely] confairmed (sic) [confirmed] to ^{us} freegratis [\[free gratis\]](#), I must Say that Col^{[o]n[e]} Pickering is very active and holds up Every reasonable argament (sic) [arguement] in favour (sic) ~~of our~~ of our title and Spears (sic) [spares] no Pains to bring the matter to a reasonable [se]ttlement. What the avent (sic) [event] Will be I Cannot Say but things he [cut off] [cut off] to have a fair prospect and I make no Doubt but that the [ass]embly Design to ^{^do} that Which Will be Judged Just and [rea]sonab[le] [cut off] [cut off] the Eyes of the World but Wheather (sic) [whether] it

[the remainder of the manuscript is torn off]

Back:

Col [cut off]

-----END-----

**12.95 Item 55: Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Lord Butler, 1787 April 4.
(removed to legal size box #1)**

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by Benjamin Franklin to Lord Butler, dated April 4, 1787. In the letter, Franklin writes to Butler to demonstrate the petitions of the settlers residing in the valley, particularly those of Connecticut, who have requested the assembly to view their previous claims they were forcibly removed from in order to be reinstated in them. Franklin writes with a positive view of the petitions, stating that to aid these people would be not only a good demonstration of the government's power and honor but also the principles of the Constitution.

This is referencing the various petitions by Connecticut settlers to the Pennsylvania assembly following the Decree of Trenton's decision of jurisdiction and following abuse under Alexander Patterson. The [Decree of Trenton](#) granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania following a three part war called the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#). These conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove "one-hundred and fifty" Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to "find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles," without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson's troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

Dates: April 4, 1787

Creator: [Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790](#)

Subjects: Letter; Correspondence; Business; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

People: [Butler, Lord, 1761-1824](#)

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows signs of age and contains some stains.

Measurements: 12 7/8 in. x 8 1/8 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Sir, In Council ^{^Philad[elphi]a} April 4. 1787— —
With this you will receive a Number of printed
Copies of an Act of Assembly lately passed, respecting the

Settlers from Connecticut in your County. The Spirit of Condescension and Good Will of the Legislature towards those Settlers, manifested by this Act, in attending so readily to their Petitions, and in giving them so fair an Opportunity of establishing their Claims and quieting their Possessions for themselves and their Posterity, will we are persuaded have its proper Effect on the prudent and reasonable Majority, who can set a just Value on the Blessings of Peace and Good Government, and we hope therefore that the Endeavor of a few restless Individuals, if such should remain, who may exceed to find their own private and separate Advantage in public Troubles, will not have any Effect in disturbing this Commencement of Harmony, which in its Completion will secure to the Inhabitants not only the Lands that have been in question, but the additional Advantage of our excellent Constitution, and the Protection of one of the principal States in the Union. You will observe the Directions of the Act in making it publick (sic) [public], and you may assure the People that the good Disposition of Council towards them is not inferior to that which has been manifested by the General Assembly.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

B Franklin Presid.^{[en]t}

To Lord Butler, Esquire
High Sheriff of the County of Luzerne

-----END-----

12.96 Item 56: Letter from Timothy Pickering to “His Excellency The President of the State”, [Benjamin Franklin], 1787 June 25. (Removed to Legal Box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by Timothy Pickering to Benjamin Franklin, the President of Pennsylvania during the time of the letter. This is seen in his address to “his Excellency, the President of the State.” The letter is dated June 25, 1787. In the letter, Pickering expresses his concerns that recently passed laws passed for Luzerne County will not be enforced without the proper aid to the sitting Justices. He explains that the justices have put in an application to enact their business as they have until this date, but also mention that they are willing to adhere to the newest laws with a proper understanding of them, as Pickering mentions that they have asked him what they currently are so as not to “transgress” them currently.

This period of time is likely referring to the recent close of the third yankee pennamite war. The [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The states fought over the jurisdiction, which was ultimately decided during the [Decree of Trenton](#), in 1782, where they granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania. The years following the resolve of the conflict saw a great deal of attention to instating compromise acts, rightful governing committees, and redistribution of land claims and titles.

These laws are likely tied to those laws referenced in the letter Item 14.14: Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Lord Butler, 1787 April 4.

Dates: June 25, 1787

Creator: [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Law; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#); [[Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790](#)]

General Condition: Okay. Paper shows signs of age.

Measurements: 13 ⅞ in. x 8 ¼ in. (closed); 16 ½ in. x 13 ⅞ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Sir, Phila.^{[delphi]a} June 25. 1787.

The Justices of the Peace for the County of Luzerne are destitute of the laws of the State. It seems that heretofore Justices of the Peace have been furnished with the laws at the expense of the State: the Justices of Luzerne have expressed their hopes that they may be supplied in the Same way; and requested me to make the application in their behalf. — I beg leave to express my hopes also, that they may be so furnished; otherwise I fear they will, for the most part, remain unprovided, & the laws unexecuted: At the Same time it is proper that I should add, that there was manifested a general disposition to conform to the laws, with great punctuality; and many were solicitously enquiring what were the laws in particular cases, that they might not transgress there.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your Excellency's

most obed.^{[ian]t} servant
T. Pickering

His Excellency
The President
of the State

-----END-----

**12.97 Item 57: Letter from [Jonathan Heart](#) to [Zebulon Butler](#), 1787 July 21.
(removed to legal size box #1)**

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter, dated July 21, 1787, is written by Jonathan Heart, a Major with the 2d United States Infantry, to Zebulon Butler, a lieutenant colonel during the American Revolutionary War. In the letter, Hart updates Butler about a package he is sending out, that he asks him to bring to Mr. Mead with the utmost speed and care. He continues on to write that he has heard detailed accounts of the Susquehanna claimants living within the valley, and states that he believes it is likely to be settled soon. He also suggests that Butler connect with Mr. Mead to learn more about his current whereabouts and influence to the matter, as he has been stationed along the Ohio, likely river, until recently and cannot fully update him within the space of this letter.

Dates: July 21, 1787

Creator: [Heart, Jonathan, 1748-1791](#)

Subjects: Susquehanna Claim, 1753-1808; Letters; Correspondence; Manuscript--Early works to 1800.

Locations: [French Creek](#)

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Heart, Jonathan, 1748-1791](#); Mead; [[\(Haight\) Butler, Phebe, 1752-1832](#)]

General Condition: Poor. The paper is separated into two separate pieces, contains minor stains and tears, has some tattered edges, and is browning.

Measurements: 13 ½ in. x 8 ⅞ in. (longest); 13 ½ x 7 in. (shortest)

Transcript Attempt:

French Creek 21 July 1787

[Sir]

I have taken the freedom to enclose
a Small Package to your charge & will thank
you to take the most Speedy & Safe conveyance
possible. The Bearer Mr. Mead informs me the
long Contest of Susquehanna Claimants is likely
to be Settled, his business into this Country I
conclude has been on that grounds, have requested
him to call on you he will give better information
where I am & the general Politics
of this Country than I can do in the compos (sic) [compass]

of a letter-as to the Affairs of the Eastern
States I know nothing of them as I left Hartford
in August 1785- have since that time been
on the Ohio until last April when I came to
this Place-- please make my Respects to such
Gentlemen as I have the Honor to be acquainted
with in your settlements & accept the assurance
that with due Esteem

I am -

Your most [obedient]
humble serv[an]t

Jonathan Heart

Col^{o[nel]} Zeb^{ulo[n]} Butler—

Back:

Cap^{t[ain]} Jo^{n[athon]} Harts
Letter from French
Creek

-----END-----

12.98 Item 58: Letter from Eben[ez]er Gray to Zebulon Butler, 1787 September 12.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by Ebenezer Gray to Zebulon Butler, dated September 12, 1787. In the letter, Gray mentions that he has heard the Connecticut claims in the Wyoming valley will be heard by the Pennsylvania Commissioners. He mentions that his lands are contained within those being heard and discussed. He writes that he has proof of his title and will be in the valley around October in order to lay it before the Commissioners. He concludes his writings by stating that he hopes Butler will ensure the spot is not decided on before he can appear. He signs his name with sentiments sent on to Mrs. Butler, Phoebe.

The letter contains some of Gray's personal attention to the state of the country, suggesting that the government in Pennsylvania has no intention of settling their just debts and that the business is slow and money scarce.

This period of time is likely referring to the recent close of the third yankee pennamite war. The [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The states fought over the jurisdiction, which was ultimately decided during the

[Decree of Trenton](#), in 1782, where they granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania. The years following the resolve of the conflict saw a great deal of attention to instating compromise acts, rightful governing committees, and redistribution of land claims and titles.

Dates: September 12, 1787

Creator: [Gray, Ebenezer, 1766-1829](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Titles, Land; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Windham

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [[\(Haight\) Butler, Phoebe, 1752-1832](#)]; [Pickering, Timothy 1745-1829](#)

General Condition: Fair. The page is discolored and suffers some tearing along the right hand edge.

Measurements: 11 ⁵/₈ in. x 7 ¹/₄ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Windham Sept^{[embe]r} 12th 1787

Sir

I have just heard the Pennsylvania
Commissioners for quieting the claims
of the settlers are now at Wyoming
on that Business and that
the Principles adopted by them
will include me as a settler. I
intend to be at Wyoming with
the Evidence of my Title to lay
before them in the beginning
of October— I would request
you to mention to Col^[onel] Pickering
that I have a claim to Wapwallopen
and desire that there may not
be any Determination on that
Spot until I can come & lay in

Page 2:

in my claim— Times are dull,
no money, weak Government who
have no Idea of a certain Thing
called Justice— or in other words
no Intention of paying their Just
Debts— present my compliments
to M^{rs}. Butler. and am with great
Esteem yours &c [etcetera]
Eben^{[eze]r}. Gray
Col^[onel] Zeb[ulon] Butler

Back:

7 2
3/7 1 2 6
 3 9
 1 10
 1 8 1
 - 16 —
 12 - 1

Col^[onel] Zebulon Butler
p[er] Mr. Spencer Wyoming

Col^[onel] Gray
1787

-----END-----

12.99 Item 59: “A further act for quieting the disturbances at Wyoming, and for confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants, the lands by them claimed with the county of Luzerne,” copied by Jacob Shallus, 1788, March 27 (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Legal act

Title: An Act for quieting the disturbances at Wyoming, and for confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants the lands by them claimed within the county of Luzerne

Description: The following item depicts a legal act titled, “An Act for quieting the disturbances at Wyoming, and for confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants the lands claimed by them within the county of Luzerne,” copied by Jacob Shallus, dated March 27, 1788.

The act is a legislation that seeks to negotiate a compromise between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers in the state. The act stipulates that previously removed Connecticut title holders are rightfully in possession of claims to tracts of land found in the following seventeen townships: Salem, Newport, Hanover, Wilkes Barre, Pittstown (Pittston), Northmoreland, Putnam, Meshoppen (or Braintrim), Springfield, Clavernack, Ulster, Exeter, Kingston, Plymouth, Huntington, Bedford, and Providence. The act creates means for the Connecticut settlers to bring their titles or evidence to such forward to be reinstated on their lands. The act further acknowledges that Pennsylvania settlers also hold titles to the lands in question and stipulates language for compensating them in the resignation of their lands. The act in response to the three part land conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut called the Yankee Pennamite Wars. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

This act creates a response to the actions taken by Pennsylvania following the earlier [Decree of Trenton](#) decision in 1782, which authorized the right of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania at a hearing of the Continental Congress, but did not span to the rights of soil at the time. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. There were even cases of those in the Susquehanna Company who continued to issue grants for titles under the Connecticut claim, who were tried in suits of trespass after Pennsylvania passed various acts that protected the Pennsylvania titles. There were eventual acts issued for compromise and reinstatement, early pieces of which can be seen in item (12.108), as well as push back, which highlights measures to protect Connecticut claimants who had been on the lands prior to their forced removal in 1782-4.

Dates: March 27, 1788

Creator: [Shallus, Jacob, 1750-1796](#)

Subjects: Law for land distribution and legal rights

Locations: N/A

People: [Shallus, Jacob, 1750-1796](#)

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows signs of age and some staining.

Measurements: 11 ¾ in. x 7 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

An Act for quieting the disturbances at Wyoming and
for confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants
the lands by them claimed within the county of Luzerne

Whereas by an Act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth
entitled “An Act for ascertaining and confirming
“to certain persons called Connecticut claimants the lands by them
“claimed within the county of Luzerne, and for other purposes therein
“mentioned,” a time was limited within which their claims should
be exhibited to the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of that
Act: And Whereas the said Commissioners were interrupted in the
execution of their Commission by a number of the inhabitants of the
said county, who rose in arms, and by the violences threatened and
committed, obliged them from a regard to their personal safety,
to leave the county; And the time limited as aforesaid has expired:
And Whereas some general expressions in the above

mentioned Act of the General Assembly open a door for the admission of claims beyond the cases stated in its preamble and ~~the~~ in the petition of the said claimants on which the said Act was grounded and contrary to the apparent intention of the said General Assembly. And Whereas it is expedient that further time be given for the admission and adjustment of the claims of the said Connecticut claimants, and to make provision for the payment of the Expenses which shall arise about the same: therefore

Be it enacted &c^a [etcetera] That such rights or lots in the seventeenth townships situated in the county of Luzerne and referred to in

the

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2.

the said petition aforesaid by the names of Salem, Newport, Hanover, Wilkesbarre (sic), Pittstown [Pittston], Northmoreland, Putnam, Meshoppen (or Braintrim) Springfield, Claverack, Ulster, Exeter, Kingston, Plymouth, Huntington, Bedford and Providence, agreeably to their original buts and bounds to be ascertained by sufficient vouchers as were actually settled upon, occupied and improved or at or before the decree of the Federal Court held at Trenton in December 1782 either by the present settlers or those under whom they held agreeably to the regulations of the company usually called and known by the name of The Susquehanna company, be and they are hereby confined to such of the said Connecticut claimants who shall exhibit and support their claims to the same respectively by showing that the same rights or lots were so settled upon, occupied and improved, to be held by them their Heirs and Assigns according to the original allotments and holdings of the same.

And whereas several of the said claimants or their parents or other Ancestors had rights or lots of land granted to them under the said Company within some of the same townships but in situations so exposed to the depredations of the savages during the late war, that they could not with safety settle upon and improve the same, and altho actual and personal settlers and sufferers within that part of Pennsylvania now called the county of Luzerne, at or before the passing of the decree aforesaid, yet by the above enacted clause will be left destitute, therefore Be it enacted &c.^a [etcetera] that the claimants last described shall each of them be entitled to one such right or let by them acquired

pursuant

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to the regulations aforesaid at or before the passing of the said decree atho' such right or lot was not occupied and improved at or before the same period: provided that such right or lot did not exceed three hundred acres and that the Children or other legal representatives of any one such settler shall hold only the single right or lot to which such settler if living would hereby be entitled: And provided also that such claimants had not at the line of passing the said decree nor have at the time of passing this Act more than sixty acres of land which is or will be confirmed by any other clause thereof

And whereas several others of the said Connecticut claimants, or those under whom they hold, had at or before the passing of the decree aforesaid settled upon and improved certain parcels of land now within the county aforesaid, and by them called Pitches, and which are not included within the townships aforesaid and it is alike expedient that the same should be confirmed as if they were comprehended within the said townships: therefore Be it enacted &c.^a [etcetera] that the said Pitches be and they are hereby confined to the Claimants thereof and to their Heirs and Assigns provided they do exhibit and support their claims to the same by showing that those Pitches were respectively located settled upon and improved at or before the passing of the decree aforesaid agreeably to the regulations of the said Company.

Provided always and be it further enacted &c.^a [etcetera] That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to any lands in the present actual whole and entire possession of any settler holding under a title original derived from this
State

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or the late Proprietaries thereof; but that every such Pennsylvania settler shall remain undisturbed in his possession to the full extent of the tract so settled upon and possessed according to the original survey thereof, any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And Whereas sundry persons residing in Connecticut and elsewhere became adventurers in or under the said Company in the project of holding an extensive tract of country within the boundaries of Pennsylvania and comprehending the lands now

lying within the county of Luzerne, but never became personal settlers there, altho they now set up large claims to lands under said company, some parcels of which they may have possessed and improved by their Agents sent on for the purpose of taking and maintaining such possession in opposition to the government of Pennsylvania, and as it would be highly improper to reward or countenance such adventurers: therefore Be it enacted &c^a That the claims of all such adventurers and of their Heirs and Assigns shall be and they are hereby declared to be null and void excepting only the claims of such of the Heirs or Assigns of the said adventurers as became personal settlers on the rights, lots or pitches by them respectively claimed at or before the passing of the decree aforesaid.

And be it further enacted &c^a [etcetera] That for the purpose of ascertaining the claims to the lands by this Act confirmed to the said Connecticut claimants, the Supreme Executive Council shall appoint three Commissioners who or any two of them, shall receive and examine the same, and allow such of them,

as

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as shall be supported in the manner by this Act directed and required, and that the said Commissioners shall be allowed each

shillings a day and their Clerk
shillings a day for every day they shall be necessarie (sic) [neccessary]
by employed in the executors of this Act.

And that full opportunity as aforesaid be given to the said Claimants to make and support their aforesaid claims and at the same time that all unnecessary delays and expenses may be prevented Be it further enacted &c^a [etcetera] That the said Commissioners to be appointed as aforesaid shall meet and open their office at Wilkesbarre (sic) in the said county of Luzerne at such times during the course of one year from the passing of this Act as they shall judge will be most convenient to the said Claimants to exhibit and support their claims, and shall set for the space of days in the whole during the said year if they find the duties incumbent on them by this Act cannot in a less number of days be executed; and every claim not made and supported as aforesaid within one year next to after the passing of this Act shall be deemed inadmissible and void

7.

be allowed by the said Commissioners and for which such claimants shall within fifteen months next after the passing of this Act produce to the said patentees respectively ^{^certificates} under the hands of the said Commissioners declaring and ascertaining the claims so allowed; and for the residence (sic) [residence] of the lands in such township, to and for the use of this State, And it shall be the duty of the said Patentees respectively to make, on the back of each of the said Certificates which shall be produced to them as aforesaid, a conveyance of the land therein described, to the Claimant or Claimants therein named; and such certificate and conveyance being recorded at length by the Recorder of Deeds in said county, shall vest in the Claimant or Claimants therein named a title to the land therein described in like manner as if a particular patent were issued for the same.

Provided and be it further enacted &c. ^{a[etcetera]} That it shall not be necessary to resurvey such of the said townships as have been already duly surveyed by the sworn surveyors appointed by the Commissioners under the law mentioned in the preamble of this Act, but as soon as the returns of such surveys shall be made into the Surveyor Generals office in Philadelphia Patents shall issue in the names of the persons who shall be elected the Patentees of such townships respectively.

And be it further enacted &c. ^a That the several claimants of the pitches aforesaid shall on their demand receive from the Land office Warrant for surveying their
respective

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respective pitches, and on the returns of the surveys thereof together with certificates under the hands of the Commissioners who shall be appointed in pursuance of this Act, ascertaining by definite descriptions the extent of such pitches as by them allowed, patents shall issue as usual in other cases in conformity with such certificates, and for the said Warrants, surveys and patents the Claimants respectively shall pay the usual fees and no more.

And be it further enacted &c^a [etcetera] That if any Deputy Surveyor or as aforesaid shall refuse or neglect for the space of

days after demand made by any Patentee or Claimants aforesaid to commence the surveys by this Act required to be made or to prosecute and complete the same in a reasonable time of which the Commissioners in pursuance of this Act to be appointed, shall judge, in every such case, they the said Commissioners shall appoint a competent Surveyor who shall be sworn faithfully to make and return every such survey; for which the usual fees shall be paid to him and no more.

And be it further enacted &c.^a [etcetera] That in case of the death neglect or refusal to serve of any or either of the said Patentees then and in every such case all the powers which were so as aforesaid conveyed to them shall immediately be in the Prothonotary, Sheriff and Coroner of the said County of Luzerne for the time being for the uses or trust as aforesaid; which Prothonotary Sheriff and Coroner or any two of them shall from time to time have full power and authority to transfer convey and make over all or any part of such township which shall so fall under their direction or fully and as amply as the original patentee could have done agreeably to the original intent and meaning of this act
And

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9.

And be it further enacted &c.^a [etcetera] That the wages of the Commissioners who shall be appointed in pursuance of this Act, and of their Clerk shall be paid out of the Treasury of this State by order of the Supreme Executive Council but the whole amount thereof so paid shall be charged to the said county of Luzerne and be assessed and levied with the first state taxes which shall be these assed and levied after such amount shall be ascertained, and repaid into the Treasury of the State.

And be it further enacted ca That all the lands now claimed by the persons called Pennsylvania claimants and which have been duly surveyed for them or those under whom they hold pursuant to Warrants from Land office, and which shall be covered by the claims of the said Connecticut claimants allowed and confirmed as by this Act is directed shall be the property of this State, and hereafter be disposed of as the Legislature thereof shall direct; and all locations and surveys thereof made in the meantime shall be void. Provided nevertheless, That if any tracts now claimed by Pennsylvania claimants shall remain entire and be in no part covered by the Connecticut claims which shall be allowed and confirmed in pursuance of this Act; and

that such Pennsylvania claimants shall not in the meantime have received compensation for the same, there such entire tracts shall revert in such Pennsylvania claimants who shall have the same estate therein as they had before the passing of this Act.

And Whereas justice requires that the said Pennsylvania claimants should receive compensation for the lands of which by this Act they will be divested; therefore Be it enacted &c.^a That all persons having such claims to lands which shall be affected by the operation of this Act shall be and they are hereby required by themselves Gaurdians (sic) [Guardians] or other lawful agents within _____ months after the passing of this Act to present the same to the board of property, therein clearly describing those lands and stating the grounds of their claims and also _____ addressing

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10.

addressing the proper proofs not only of their titles but of their situations and qualities of the lands so claimed to enabled the board of property to judge of the validity of their claims and of the quantity of vacant lands proper to be granted as equivalents for the lands of which they shall be so divested and the expenses which will necessarily be incurred in locating and surveying the same which equivalents shall be ascertained by comparing the true value of the lands of which they shall be so divested with the true value of the lands which they shall receive in compensation all such lands being supposed to be patented, and for every claim which shall be admitted by said board as duly supported the equivalent by them allowed may be taken either in the old or new purchase at the option of the claimant and warrants and patents and all other Acts of the public officers relating thereto shall be performed free of expense; and it shall be the duty of the Commissioners aforesaid if required by the Board of property during their selling in said county of Luzerne to make the necessary inquiries by the oaths or affirmations of lawful Witnesses to ascertain the situations qualities and value of the lands of the Pennsylvania claimants aforesaid—

A true copy
J Shallus

{back}

An Act for Quieting Disturbances at Wyoming

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12.100 Item 60: Court Proceedings for [John P\[aul\] Schott](#), written by [William Hibbard](#), 1788 July 12 (Removed to Legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Court proceedings

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a proceeding written by William Hibbard, the sitting president, from the trial of captain John Paul Schott, a captain who accompanied an expedition with troops under Captains Hartseph and Ross. It is possible that the name Hartseph has been misspelled from Hartsell. The proceedings discuss what occurred during the expedition regarding Schott's maneuvers. They explain how the men were marched at various times during a couple days' span, losing track of captain Hartseph and meeting within protected places, such as that of Justin Jones, possibly Justus Jones, and other houses within Messhopen. The overall crime being assessed appears to be Schott's missing attendance at a pivotal shooting being recorded on the second and third pages. It is said that Schott requested a sentry to wake him if and when the time to march came. The final pages state that the sentry never fulfilled their duties, with Schott waking only after the men were being fired upon. The last lines indicate that Schott was acquitted of all charges within the case.

The expedition mentioned within the item may be of the Sullivan Expedition. The [Sullivan Expedition](#) was a United States military campaign in 1779, led by Major General [John Sullivan](#) and Brigadier General [James Clinton](#), where [George Washington](#) ordered the [Continental Army](#) to respond with force after a series of British and Iroquois forces allied to attack a number of territories in 1778, including Wyoming, in the [Battle of Wyoming](#), German Flatts, and Cherry Valley. It has been regarded as a "scorched-earth campaign" where the [Iroquois Confederacy](#) resided. The raid essentially razed over 40 Iroquios villages, destroying everything within including crops, food storages, and livestock.

The conflict within may also be the Battle of Yorktown, in which Schott is also prominently featured. The [Battle of Yorktown](#) was the final major battle during the American Revolutionary War, spanning September 28, 1781 to its conclusion on October 19, 1781. The decisive victory was achieved by General George Washington when, with French allied troops commanded by [Marquis de Lafayette](#), they were able to secure a surrender from General Cornwallis, capturing himself and his troops.

There is another item in the collection that explains some connection between Zebulon Butler and John Paul Schott. 12.57 Item 16: Letter from Benjamin Stoddert to Zebulon Butler, 1779 October 20.

Dates: July 12, 1788

Creator: [Hibbard, William, 1729-1811](#)

Subjects: Court; Trail; Law;

Locations: Luzerne County

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Schott, John Paul, 1744-1829](#); [Gore, Daniel, 1746-1809](#); [Ransom, George Palmer, 1762-1850](#); [Bidlack, Shubal, 1761-1803](#); [Cooper, George, 1751-1824](#); [Myers, Philip, 1759-1835](#); [Drake, Thomas, \[Pos. Drake, Thomas, 1769-1837\]](#); [Jones, Justin, \[Pos. Jones, Justus, 1768-1830\]](#); [Osterhout, Mercy, Z.](#); [Cary, Captain Hartseph, \[Pos. Hartsell\]](#); [Captain Ross, \[Pos. Ross, William, 1761-1842\]](#); [Mr. Catlin, \[Pos. Catlin, George, 1796-1872\]](#); [Hibbard, William, 1729-1811](#); Mr. Staples

General Condition: Fair.

Measurements: 13 ⅜ in. x 8 ⅜ in. (Closed); 16 ¾ in. x 13 ⅜ in.

Transcript Attempt:

At a Court of Enquiry holden July the 12th 1788
by order of Zebulon Butler Esquire Lieut[enant] of the County
of Luzerne & pursuant to the request of Capt[ain]. John
P Schott; for the purpose of examing(sic) [examining] into the conduct
of the said Schott while up the River on the late expedition.

Capt William Hibbert [Hibbard] Pres^[iifd(en)t]
and Capt Daniel Gore
Capt[ain] G. P. Ransom
Lieut[enant] Shubal Bidlack

Lieut[enant] George Cooper
Lieut[enant] Philip Myers
Lieut[enant] Thomas Drake
Members

Capt Schott States-that, altho a Company of Troop(s)
was raised & he appointed Cap^[tain] yet one of the officers had
Commission- But twas thought the late Insurrection would
Justify his calling out his proposed company- he went with the
troop the next morning-he expicted (sic) [expected] & party of foot after him
found many inconvnienices (sic) [inconveniences] on the march, Rain, false reports,
&c [etcetera]--- staid (sic) [stayed] at Jones' the 1st night next morning went on to
Tankhannock— then all thought best to return.

2^d time he march^{[e]d} on after a party of foot met them at Justin Jones'
an agreement was made that Capt[ain] Ross shou[l]d strike at black walnut
bottom & come down to ~~Jones~~² Meshoppin (sic) [Meshoppen] where the main body was
to meet Capt[ain] Ross-that he with his troops that night march^{[e]d} on, and
lodged at Ousterhoudts (sic) [Ousterhout]- Z. Mercy then came and informed that the whole
body of the Insurgent were at Tunkhannock about 3 miles above us
a council was call^{[e]d}, Mess^{[er]s} Cary & Mercy went through the woods to
meet [^]Capt[ain] Ross & call him back— could not find Capt Ross- the main body
march^{[e]d} at two A.M. to Surround a house where the insurgents were at
break of day-the Insurgents were gone-& the siege in vain—then
march^{[e]d} to the narrows about 2 miles above, to learn what was become
of Capt[ain] Hartseph [Pos. Hartsell]- heard nothing of him, or his party- there a young
Lad came & informed that the insurgents would way-lay our party at
Jacques hill (which Mr Cary afterwards found true)- then the main
body march^{[e]d} back to Mercy's house; the next morning between the break of
day & sunrise was the time to meet Capt[ain] Ross at Meshoppin (sic) [Meshoppen]-A
Consultation was held ~~held~~ what time to march from Mercy's house, for his part
he had no Commission, but was merely a volunteer; he thought proper to
march at ½ past 2 o'clock; Maj^[or] Myers was present-& the Sheriff
who were authorised- the sheriff &c [etcetera] ~~told~~ ordered the march to begin

Page 2:

at one o'clock. The Centinel (sic) [Sentinel] neglected, he, Capt[ain] Schotts did not Countermand any orders given; he was not the highest in Command— and did but give his opinion- a gun was fired ~~at~~ by one of the Centinels (sic) [Sentinels] the party rous^{[e]d} & found it was then three O'Clock— he ordered the troop to march on them as fast as Possible— arrived at Meshoppin (sic) [Meshoppen] as soon as possible— ~~the Inst~~ with the troops—the infantry did not go-

Mr. Catlin says that Capt[ain] Schott with his troop ~~our back~~ ^{came up with^} the foot at Justin Jones, & found that Maj^{[o]r} Myers had called Cap^{t[ain]} Ross,s (sic) [Ross'] party over the River, the Sh[er]iff & Coroner went over to them, & part came over, after we join^{[e]d} there was a Consultation & agreed that Capt[ain] Ross should take a party & go thro[ugh] the woods & come in on the River at Blackwalnut Bottom & ~~the~~ Maj^{[o]r} Myers & Cap^{t[ain]} Schott & the party was to meet Ross the next Morning after Day Light as Meshppin (sic) [Meshoppen] we proceed^{[e]d} and Log^d [Lodged] at Ousterhouts & in the Night March^{[e]d} to Tunkhannock in order to Surround the house of Dan^[ie] Earl but when we came to Tunk^{h[annock]} found the Insurgents were not there, there march^{[e]d} to the narrow in order to meet Cap^{t[ain]} Hartsiff (sic) found him not there march^{[e]d} back to Tunk^[hannock]—. & there tarried untill Evening there ajr^d [adjourned] to go on with the hors(e) to Missⁿ (sic) [Messophen] the time being propross^{[e]d} (sic) [proposed] Cap^{[tai]n} Schott said half after two the She[ri]ff said they must go sooner and added that if the Officers would not go he would go with what men he could get & turn^{[e]d} to the Serj^{[ean]t} (sic) [Sargent] & told him to ~~wa~~ rouse them up so as to start at one oClock— but it was not done untill break of day they— Immediately pursuid (sic) [pursued] & came to Messh^{[ope]n} where they came to Wisdom the women told them that the Insurgents has gone up the hill about Three Q^{rs} [Quarters] of an hour.

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Mr. Staples says that he heard Cap^{t[ain]} Schott say he was of the Oppinion (sic) [Opinion] that it was soon anough(sic) [enough] to Start at Three oClock but M^r Butler give (sic) [gave] me

orders to wake up the people asoon (sic) [as soon] as one by all means, he says that he was very Sleapy (sic) [sleepy] and tired and not very well ~~but~~ ^{^after one Relief he} told the Sentry to waik (sic) [wake] him up at the time ^{if he goes him asleep} Viz by one oClock ~~are~~ at this Lean^{[e]d} down and fell & Asleep & the Centry (sic) [Sentry] ~~never made any~~ did not obey his orders but never waiked(sic) [waked] untill (sic) [until] ~~Eight~~ the Centry (sic) [Sentry] fired which was about day break-

Saturday July 12th 1788

at a court of Enquiry (sic) [inquiry] held this ^{^day} by order of the County L^t [Lieutenant] whereby Cap^t[ain] Hibbard is president

Reporteth that ~~upon~~ after examining the witness ^{& according to the present evidence} }
are of Oppinion } that ~~he be~~ ^{Capt[ain] Schott be} acquitted with honor.

William Heberd (sic) [Hibbard] President

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12.101 Item 61: Letter from Matthias Hollenback to Timothy Pickering, 1788 August 15. [Removed to Black Box #5]

Type of Material: Letter copy

Title: N/A

Description: On June 26th 1788 Timothy Pickering was kidnapped by “Wild Yankees” from his Wilkes-Barre home. Wild Yankees was the name given to the New Englanders who Settled along the upper Susquehanna and Delaware Valleys under a Connecticut deed. The Wild Yankees opposed Pennsylvania’s Efforts to to impose its jurisdiction and soil rights over the region they inhabited. Thus, The Wild Yankees resorted to violence and were often categorized as villains and criminals during the timer period. John Hyde was a member of this group and took part in the kidnapping of Timothy Pickering. Matthias Hollenback discusses in this letter to Pickering, the details of him capturing John Hyde.

Dates: 15 August 1788

Creator: [Hollenback, Matthias 1752-1829](#)

Subjects: Bounty

Locations: Tioga Point

People: [Hyde, John G.](#), 1776-1824; Harris, John [Unknown B-D]; McCholhope, Samuel [Unknown B-D]; [Pickering, Timothy](#), 1745-1829; [Jenkins, John](#), 1751-1827; Miller, John [Unknown B-D]; [Butler, Lord](#), 1761-1824; [Hollenback, Matthias](#), 1752-1829; Forysth, Jonathan [Unknown B-D]

General Condition: Good. Strong vinegar smell.

Measurements: 14 in. x 9 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

De[a]r Sir

I take Liberty to trouble you with a Line in Regard of my Conduct in taking of John Hyde. ~ I had infirmation [sic] of his being on the River at a Placs (sic) Call[e].^d Wagow and Chononicut [[Connetquot](#)?] in the State of New York by Verus Pople (sic) [People].

On thursday the 7th Instant I goot [sic] Mr. John Harriss and Samuel McCholhope to gow [sic] with me to attempt the taking of Hyde. I sent Sir McCholhope to go forward as he was a stranger and find out where Hyde was in order that he might loge (sic) in the house or in the bead (sic) if possible with Hyde. but McCholhope being a stranger with luck by som (sic) other Reasons did not Reach the house that night.--- I left here at 3. O.Clock P.M with Mr.Harris in order to git(sic) to one Johnathan Forsyth where I hard(sic) Hyde was last at 35 miles from this I goott(sic) about 2 O.Clock in the morning. When wee (sic) left our horses a back of the barn ~~and~~ went to the Dore(sic) John Harris ~~and~~ Desired to be let in the answer of Mrs Forsyth was that hir(sic) husband was such that he could not git(sic) up I had call[e]^d [sic] a boy to git(sic) up and lite(sic) a candle which this boy Did. when the Candle was Lite(sic) (I had bin(sic) viewing the windows) I ameadetly (sic) Run (sic) in a ~~shed~~ ^ashed

If John Hyde was there ~~Mrs~~ Jonathan Forysth said there was one of that name had bein(sic) there the Eaving (sic) before— the woman maid(sic) answer that he was in the barn. I took the Candle and Run(sic) out ^ to a Leader (sic) [Ladder] that went up chamber- as I Raised ~~the~~ my head above the Chamber flour (sic) with the Candle in my hand John Hyde Stoud(sic) on the flour(sic) with his Rifle cocked in his hand Presented it at me Disered (sic) me to stand or I was a dead man I cocking my Pistoll (sic) knocked out the candle. when I Raised the flour (sic) of the chamber I stepped from the sight of the Dore(sic) so that If he shoot that might ^ not have or claim sight by the Skyes(sic) John Harris went Low on the flour(sic) so as to seize his gun and him to Gaether [together] after a small Combat we Tyed(sic) him broo't[brought] him into a Lower Run. we maid(sic) Torch for a cannoue (sic) [canoe]*

turn

Page 2:

in the River but Could find none. I asked Forsyth for a horse he told me he had none— but one that ^ was Rode in to the country. I asked for any horse if any about the house - his answer was not any~~ in backing our horses through the yd. I saw a horse in the [yar]d with som (sic) white about . I asked who ownd (sic) him Forysth s.d [said] he had a horse but that he was so old that he wood (sic) ^ not carry a man tow (sic) [two] miles. I then thought Staying till Day asked Hyde what Num[ber] of the Party of insurgents was in that Settlement or if any he telld (sic) me none also Mr. Forsyth teld(sic) that there was none. the Last was gon (sic) about 20 miles up the Shenang (sic) [[Shenango](#)] ^ River asked Mr.Forsyth if any of the Inhabitants would rise to take or Re[lease] the Presonor (sic) his answer was that there was no Danger of any body— and if I Remember Right that he wood (sic) inshore (sic) [insure] us. Hyde wished to be used as a presonor (sic) &c [etcetera] ^and asked for a chance to send for som(sic) close(sic) [Clothes] he had at a small Disdance which I Deniyed(sic) him but by the Long impertunning(?) of the prisoner as well the family I Give Liberty then Mr. Forsyths old Horse wood (sic) Do to Ride (viz) for the Express for the C[illegible] when the boy Returned about Daylight and the Ploit (?) Said Mr. Forsyth has a horse that Stood tyed (sic) at the barn all night for us for the Prisoner ~ which he Readley (sic) Give (sic) up for that use. wee (sic) Started ameadlly (sic) [immediately] and came on the Road about tow (sic) [two] miles when in a thick swamp some (sic) what tall(?) ^ and head(?) my ~~horse~~ Self behind heard A man Say Stand or you are a Dead man when the Prisoner Turned to make a sull stop at that word I ans[wered] no no press

on – when I Struck the Prisoners horse then the same Demand was maid (sic) again when Looking to my Right hand in a thick Swampt (sic) saw the body of a man with a Rifle Presented at me. I still thought the Darft(?)not shoot at me and tuck (sic) [took] care of the Prisoner. if the Did it wood (sic) be over my head after stricking (sic) the horse and prisoner three times the[y?] fired when my horse Give (sic) a small Start and the Prisoner jomped (sic) his horse over a Loag (sic) out of the Paith and Left him about four Roads(sic) [Rods] when I saw him Running on futt (sic) I teld (sic) Mr. Harris we wood (sic) Give(sic) them a Little time the[n?] would shoot of their Guns &c[etcetera] but the Discharged but the one —have

Page 3:

Mr. Harris said wee (sic) had better tack (sic) care the would killed us &c[etcetera] and then informed my horse was shott (sic) through where I saw that I started and came (sic) on about 30 perches when I found my horse Sunned(sic) [soon?] ^to fail I Goot (sic) of[f] him and Drove him to the next house where I Left him—about half a mile from the place of Resque (sic). I Since here (sic) that the horse may chance to Live — I was informed by townsmen who Loged (sic) at the horse where the ambushed Left they wood (sic) kill us but what they ^wood Release Hyde &c[etcetera] &c —-----

there's (sic) [There is] a few

NB[nota bene] I Expect to be at Wilkesbarre about 25th Instant when I will be Ready to answer for my bad Conduct in this case with the Rest of my Brother officers. you will See that there's (sic) [there is] a Court of Ingueus(?) Call[e]^d

MH [Matthias Hollenback]

To Timothy Pickering Esq[ui]r[e]

Along the inner seam of the page:

M. Hollenback Esq[ui]r[e]

Tioga Aug[us]t 15. 1788

Back:

(about the taking of John Hyde.)

To

Timothy Pickering Esq[ui]r[e]

Hon^d Pr [Honored Prothonotary]

Lord Butler Esq[ui]r[e]

Wilkesbarre

-----END-----

12.102 Item 62: A Testimony by [Samuel Kirkland](#) of Jehoiakim Mtohksin, 1789 January 13; Reverse, A Testimony by Jonathan Sullivan in Response to Samuel Kirkland's Request, 1789 December 10.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The manuscript dated January 13, 1789, depicts a copy of a letter by Samuel Kirkland an educated lawyer and ordained minister, who was later commissioned an missionary to nearby indigenous tribes by the board of correspondence of the Missionary society in 1766. Kirkland is writing a testimony to his knowledge that Jehoiakim Mtohksin, also known by the moniker of Captain Yokhen, served under Captain Jonahan Sullivan during the Sullivan Expedition but was never paid for his service. Kirkland notes that Mtohksin served for the whole campaign and requests attention to John Sergeant, the missionary of the stockbridge tribes, to respond to this neglect. The reverse of the manuscript is signed by John Sullivan on December 10, 1789. In his testimony, Sullivan certifies that Mtohksin did indeed serve under his command, proposing that he joined in may or june of 1779 and served to the conclusion of the campaign in the middle of October. The bottom of this note states that the certificate of Sullivan was received by R. Seluner by W B Sprague in 1831. Beneath this note, dated 1838, J.H. Causten states receiving the note by Mr. Gilpin.

The [Sullivan Expedition](#) was a United States military campaign in 1779, led by Major General [John Sullivan](#) and Brigadier General [James Clinton](#), where [George Washington](#) ordered the [Continental Army](#) to respond with force after a series of British and Iroquois forces allied to attack a number of territories in 1778, including Wyoming, in the [Battle of Wyoming](#), German Flatts, and Cherry Valley. It has been regarded as a “[scorched-earth](#) campaign” where the [Iroquois Confederacy](#) resided. The raid essentially razed over 40 Iroquios villages, destroying everything within including crops, food storages, and livestock.

Dates: 13 January 1789; 1779; December 10, 1789; 1831;1838

Creator: Kirkland, Samuel

Subjects: Certificate, Service, Dues, Finances

Locations: [Stockbridge](#)

People: [Kirkland, Samuel](#), 1741-1808; Josiah; [Sullivan, John](#), 1740-1795; [Clinton, Henry](#), 1730-1795; [Sergeant, John](#), 1710-1749 ; [alias: Captain Yokhem]

General Condition: Fair.

Measurements: 6 ¼ in. x 6 in.

Transcript Attempt:

This may certify that I engaged the Bearer [Jehoiakim Mtohksin](#), alias Capt[ain] Yokhem of the Stockbridge Tribe of Indians to go to General Sullivan and join his army at Easttown on the Delaware in the year 1779 for the western expedition at the express desire and in consequence of a letter from Gen[era]l Clinton of the State of New York. and that said Capt[ain] Yokhem served in Gen[era]l Sullivans army during the whole campaign of 1779 on the western expedition for which service I have ever understood he has received no pay altho[ugh]: he was very active during said campaign.

Sam.l [Samuel] Kirkland Miss.ry [Missionary]

Southbridge

13 Jany 1789

A true copy (sic) att. [attention] John Sergeant

Missionary to said Stockbridge Indians ~~

403 is written in pencil below

E Gen[era]l Sullivan certificate

Back:

I certify that the within named Capt[ain] Yaken Joined the western Army some time in the month of may or June 17879 and Served faithfully untill (sic) the Expedition was over which I think was about the middle of October following.

Jno [Jonathan] Sullivan Late command[e]r
of the western army

Durham, December 10th 1789~~

Certificate of General Sullivan, sent me by W. B. Sprague of albany in 1831—
sent me by Mr. Gilmore 1838

JHCausten Jun[ior]

-----END-----

**12.103 Item 63: Copied Reports, [aft. 1784, by [John Franklin], to the
Pennsylvania Assembly's Committee on Wyoming Land Claims, 1784
September 7; Reverse, A Partial Letter by [John Franklin] to "Sir," 1790
March 2. (removed to legal size box #1)**

Type of Material: Report

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a report being written by John Franklin, a lieutenant colonel of Connecticut during the American Revolutionary War to the Committee concerning land matters in the Wyoming valley, instructed by the Pennsylvania Assembly. The report is dated September 7, 1790, with an unfinished account on the reverse, dated March 2, 1790. It appears that these reports may be copies of the originals in Franklin's hand. The report sent by an unknown individual to an unknown recipient allows the widowed families of Revolutionary soldiers at Wyoming to maintain lands in Pennsylvania. The report specifically notes that this is focused towards those in Northumberland County who were previously forced off their land, attempting to rectify this action which was against "equity or humanity." Though the letter never explicitly states what the trial is concerning, we can infer from language within and the date of the letter that it is regarding the recently removed Connecticut settlers regaining some of their lands from Pennsylvania settlers. This is most likely referencing the various petitions by Connecticut settlers to the Pennsylvania assembly following the Decree of Trenton's decision of jurisdiction and following abuse under Alexander Patterson. The [Decree of Trenton](#) granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania following a three part war called the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#). These conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove "one-hundred and fifty"

Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the conclusion of this war, there were many petitions brought forth by Pennsylvania attempting to broker a compromise while those of Connecticut sought reinstation to their lands. Many of the widows and children were granted an additional year on the early compromise offers, some of those being opportunities for Connecticut settlers to lease back their own lands from the Pennsylvania claimants who assumed their titles after they were removed.

The creator has been ascertained as John Franklin by way of a handwriting comparison in other collections. This is from a comparison with an item in the Lackawanna Historical Society’s collection, the John Jenkins Papers, item 46/1, which includes a Journal by John Franklin, 1782 December 30-1784 August, [Pos. aft. 1784]. The journal is a compilation of the Connecticut settlers experience shortly prior to, during, and after the Third Yankee Pennamite War. This journal has an in depth history of the early compromise acts and proposals, particularly concerning the language of widowhood within.

Dates: September 7, 1784//2 March 1790

Creator: [\[Franklin, John, 1749-1831\]](#)

Subjects: Minutes; Report; Business; Yankee-Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: N/A

People: [\[Franklin, John, 1749-1831\]](#)

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 ⅝ in. x 7 ⅝ in.

Transcript Attempt:

~ The report of the committee and Sep^[ember] 7 on the subject of reinstating those tennants (sic) [tenants] in Northumberland County who were forcibly dispossessed— and to bring in a bill was read the second time.

~ Wherefore Resolved the President and the Supreme Executive Council be requested to appoint and instruct commissioners to obtain the most exact knowledge they can get of the names of the Widows and children of such persons as were lately settled (sic) [settled] at or near Wyoming and who have fallen fighting against the Savages and also of all such others & did actually reside on the lands at or near Wyoming when the late decree ^{^was given} at Trenton and of the Widows and children of such of them as have since died of the Quantity of land possessed by each of the persons before Described at the time of his death or of the said decree respectively and of the improvements on each of the said parcels of land— of the nature of the claim on which the possession of each parcel as aforesaid was founded and of the evidences in support of such claim and what parts of such lands are Claimed

under pennsylvania and by whom and to make report of their
proceedings with all convenient dispatch so that this state upon
the fullest Information that can possibly be procured may be
enabled to make a proper destinction (sic) [distinction] between those persons
whose cases are recommended by any considerations of equity or
humanity and others in different circumstances and thereon
to take such measures as become the dignity of the Commonwealth.
Sep^{t[ember]} 7th 1784 page 319

{back}

Philadelphia 2^d March 1790

Dear Sir

In excuse for my not writing oftner (sic) [more often] to you I
have only to add that

Upside down; reverse:

it is said to be necessary to make enquiry of
the nature of the P[ennsylvania] Claimants to the 110,000
acres of lands in the County of Luzerne. Whether
held only by old Dollar Locations or Otherwise.
to enquire what evidence was Exhibited
in support of those Claims to the Commissioners,
who were appointed to make the Estimate
and to know the foundation of their report

Reports &c [etcetera] of Committees
manifesting the design of ~~the~~
Penn^[sylvania] Assemblies to
grant Lands to the
Wyoming Settlers.

-----END-----

**12.104 Item 64: A Copy by Zebulon Butler, 1790 March 17, of a Letter from
David Brearley to Timothy Pickering, 1790 March 4. (removed to legal size
box #1)**

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a copy by Zebulon Butler, dated March 17, 1790, of an original
letter written by David Brearly, dated March 4, 1790. In the original letter, Brearley writes to Pickering to

address a letter that has seemingly been misplaced. Brearley mentions that the letter is very important concerning the Connecticut Pennsylvania settler relations in the Wyoming Valley, as it states the importance of preserving the possessions and peace of the Connecticut settlers who have settled the region and fought for their land and possessions. It also contains a premise to compensate Pennsylvania settlers who hold titles to the occupied lands, ensuring amicable relationships between the two are maintained. According to Brearley, choosing to remove the Connecticut settlers without proper address of their possessions would lead to an inevitable civil war.

These conflicts are taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. The letter seems to be addressing the attempts made to avoid these troubles.

Dates: 4 March 1790

Creator: [Brearley, David, 1745-1790](#) (Original); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#) (Copy)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Trenton (Original); Philadelphia (Copy)

People: [Colonel Nelson, \[Pos. Nelson, Samuel, 1742-1802\]](#); [Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829](#); [Brearley, David, 1745-1790](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#)

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 7 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Trenton 4.th March 1790

Dear Sir

My first Letter to Colonel Nelson by some means miscarried- however I have not got his Answer, which is, that he has not got a Coppy (sic) of the letter which is wanted I am apprehensive that it is not to be found.

We had very strong reasons for

writing the letter to the President of Pennsylvania

We were fully acquainted with the Peculiar circumstances of the New England settlers. We knew that many of them had honestly paid for their possessions- that they verily believed the title under which they claimed to be perfectly good- that they had cleared built upon and Improved the Land that in doing this they had encountered many Dangers and suffered Innumerable hardships and beyond all these things, and what cannot be estimated, many of their nearest connections had Spilt their Blood in Defense of their possessions. Thus circumstanced it was manifest that they had become enthusiasts for the Land- that the reasoning of Legislatures and statesmen could have but Little weight with them. that if the state should attempt to Dispossess them. they would become desperate (sic) [desperate] and a Civil War would be the consequence. On the contrary if the State should Quiet them in their possessions that the State could compensate those who held the Pennsylvania title by giving them an equivalent in Lands or money at a less expense

Back:

than that of Dispossessing the New England Settlers.

That therefore, the Interest the Humanity and the policy of the state, would lead them to a debt the measures that we recommended. The letter bore no official authority, we Subscribed it as private Citizens, Nevertheless we did conceive that it would have Some weight as it must be apparent that our means of Information had been better

than those of any other persons, who were Disinterested

A true Copsy (sic) of the } I am With great respect

Original taken at } Dear sir

Philadelphia } your Ob^t. [obedient] Humble Serv^{[an]t}.

March 17.th 1790. David Brearley

By Z. Butler

Copsy (sic) of a Letter
from Judge Brearley

to Tim^{[itho]y} Pickering esq^{[ui]r[e]}.

Dated Trenton March

4.th 1790.

Wyoming Dispute

-----END-----

12.105 Item 65: Legislation to Repeal the Confirming Law, [ca. 1788-1790]

Type of Material: Legislation

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a legislature to repeal the Confirming law, undated and being signed by the subscribed claimants under the Connecticut titles. The address states that the Connecticut claimants have been

The [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

Under the command of Colonel [John Franklin](#), Connecticut soldiers went to war against the Pennamite militia being led by Northampton County Justice of the Peace, [Alexander Patterson](#). As Pennsylvania sought to strip Connecticut settlers of their status and rights as people in the land, in May 1784, Pennamite troops forcibly removed “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes under Patterson’s command. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong Jr.](#)

This item was originally curated with Series II: the McClintock Family Series, as part of a binder, original number 1.6 Binder: Andrew McClintock Correspondence and Biographical Materials and Photo, 1831-1881. The binder was dissolved in processing the collection and items pertaining to the Susquehanna Claim and General Wyoming Valley Collection moved to corresponding collections.

[62] Agreement by the Connecticut Claimants.¹

Whereas the present General Assembly of Pennsylvania have repealed the law usually called the Confirming law, made by a former Assembly, by which the Lands of the Connecticut Claimants were confirmed to them & their Heirs and Assigns; & these claimants being thereby exposed to actions of ejectment which may now be brought against them by the claimants of the same lands under Pennsylvania: And whereas the great sufferings & losses sustained by the Connecticut claimants in times past, have reduced them to such general distress as will render their

[62] ¹ Wilkes College Library, McClintock Papers, and Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Kingston Proprietors' Book #1, signed by the subscribers.

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just defence against such suits of the wealthy claimants under Pennsylvania, a very grievous burthen; and whereas all the titles of the Connecticut claimants rest on the same ground; and the decision concerning them, in a few cases will in effect decide the fate of all.

We therefore, whose names are hereto subscribed claimants under Connecticut, engage to contribute our equitable quota of the expence of defending such suits in proportion to the values of the lands we claim; & on demand, to pay & deliver our respective contributions to such collector or Collectors, as shall be appointed by the County Meeting, or by their Committee, to receive the same.²

Jms Finn
Zeb^a Marcy
Mason F. Alden
William Jackson
Chester Bingham
Ephraim Sanford
Putnam Catlin
Solomon Avery
And^r Lee
Abraham Bradley
Jnⁿ Hageman
Abraham Westbrook
Jesse Fell
Comfort Shaw
Nathan Draper
Matthias Hollenback

Zeb^a Butler
Timothy Pickering
Nathan Denison
Nathan Kingsley
Obad^a Gore
Phineas Nash
Christopher Hurlbut
Ebenezer Bowman
John N Woolley
Henry Hark
Jesper Billings
Samuel Cary
John Philips
Justic Gaylor
James Abbott
Cornelius Cortright
Rosewell Welles

Dates: N/A

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Laws; Acts, Legislative; Legislation; Meeting

Locations: N/A

People: Avery, Solomon, 1729-1798; Lee, Andrew; Bradley, Abraham, 1731-1824; Hageman, John; Westbrook, Abraham Tjerck, 1761-1835; Fell, Jesse, 1751-1830; Shaw, Comfort, 1738-1819; Draper, Nathan; Hollenback, Matthias, 1752-1829; Bowman, Ebenezer, ca. 1757-1829; Hark, Henry; Woolley, John N; Billings, Jesper; Cary, Samuel 1759-1843

General Condition: Fair. The paper is torn down the old creases of the paper, leaving the remaining document to be split into three sections and the bottom half of the paper is missing.

Measurements: 8 2/16 in. x 6 5/8 in.

Transcription Attempt:

Front Page:

Whereas the present General Assembly of Pennsylvania have repealed the law usually called the Confirming law, made by a former Assembly, by which the Lands of the Connecticut Claimants were confirmed to them & their Heirs and Assigns; & these claimants being thereby exposed to actions of ejectment which may now be brought against them by the claimants of the same lands under Pennsylvania: And whereas the great sufferings & losses sustained by the Connecticut claimants in times past, have reduced them to such general distress as will render their just defence against such suits of the wealthy claimants under Pennsylvania, a very (sic) [very] grievous burthen; and whereas all the titles of the Connecticut

claimants rest on the same ground; and the
decisions concerning them in a few cases will in effect de[illegible]

Back Page:

Solomon Avery

And^{[re]]w} Lee

Abraham Bradley

Jn^o [Jonathan/John] Hageman

Abraham Westbrook

Jesse Fell

Comfort Shaw

Nathan Draper

Matthias Hollenback

Ebenezer Bowman

John N Woolley

Henry Hark

Jesper Billings

Samuel Cary

-----END-----

12.106 Item 66: A Copy by Zebulon Butler, 1790 March 17, of a Letter from Samuel Johnson to “Unknown,” 1790 March 6. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a copy by Zebulon Butler, dated March 17, 1790, of an original letter written by William Samuel Johnson to an unknown recipient, dated March 6, 1790. In the original letter, Johnson is writing his concerns about the recent discussion on repealing the Confirming Act, a legislative act of compromise between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers following the Yankee Pennamite Wars. Johnson writes that he believes it is the very piece of legislation that is continuing the peace between the respective settler parties and should it be removed he warns of continued or revived conflict within the valley. Johnson begins the letter by explaining that Connecticut never held a valid right within the valley, for they worked by their own rules in an attempt to settle their own government. Thus, they established the Susquehanna Company, by Johnson’s words, to appeal to the British crown for favor in establishing this new governing body within the region and purchased titles of the neighboring indigenous tribes. This, Johnson stresses, was reversed and underscored for its vulnerability come the trial at Trenton, or the Decree of Trenton, where Connecticut could not bring forth the means to solidify their claim.

The letter mentions a Governor Dickerson, most likely Dickinson, which may allude to the Pennsylvania sitting governor, [John Dickinson](#).

These conflicts are taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now

Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. The letter seems to be addressing the attempts made to avoid these troubles.

Dates: March 6, 1790 (Original); March 17, 1790 (Copy)

Creator: [Johnson, William Samuel, 1727-1819 \(Original\)](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795 \(Copy\)](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: New York

People: [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#); [Johnson, William Samuel, 1727-1819](#); [Dickerson, \[Pos. Dickinson, John, 1732-1808\]](#)

General Condition: Good. Paper shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 7 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

N[ew] York March 6th 1790

Sir

I have just ^{^now} received your favour of the 3^d Ins^t [instant] and as I shall have no time seasonably to answer it Except a few minutes this evening I instantly set down to acquaint you that the Susquehannah (sic) [Susquehanna] ~~Comp~~^{family} Settlers had no formal grant from Connecticut the reason of which was that their Original Plan Was to Establish a new government or Colony in that part of the Country under the Crown of great Britain. they therefore with the approbation of the then governor of Conn^{[ecticu]t}. first Purchased of the Indians and then Obtained from the Gen^{[era]l} assembly of Conn^{[ecticu]t}. an approbation of their proceedings and a recommendation of them to the Crown for the purpose of their bring into a Government & application was accordingly made to the crown for that purpose but meeting with

many Delays at the count of Great Britain, they again applied the Assembly of Conn^{[ecticu]t}. who having by that time determin^{[e]d} to Vindicate their Claim to the whole western part of their Patent they by Several Acts of Legislature, took the Susquehannah settlers under their protection, extended the Jurisdiction amongst them. This was considered by the Colony and the Settlers as so full a ratification of all their Proceedings & especially of their Indian purchase as rendered any formal grant (which at most could amount only to a right of preemption, or a liberty to purchase of the natives) altogether unnecessary & therefore none was ever applied for those Legislative approbations being considered as securing their Tittles (sic) [Titles] under the Colony more effectually (sic) [effectively] than any grant or deed could do. In fact by the Law of Connec^{[ecticu]t}. the Susquehannah settlers were previous to the Trenton Trial, in holding those lands regularly under the Colony of Connec^{[ecticu]t}. & had she been able at that Trial to have

Back:

established her Tittle (sic) [Title] no Questions would or could have been made but that the said Settlers had as good a little to their Lands as any settlers in North America— As to the Confirming Act I cannot help being surprised that any Gentlemen can Imagine (sic) [Imagine] it can now be replaced, consistant (sic) [consistent] with Justice prudence Sound policy. the History of the Case demonstrates that it ought to be considered as you have Stated it, in nature of a contract or treaty between the parties, especially after having been so far carried into execution as you mention. The settlers had a right to have their tittle (sic) [title] tried by a federal court, notwithstanding the decision of the court at Trenton; which that Court acknowledged and ever declared when they determined that it was not Necessary to cite them to appear and Defend at Trenton. The settlers accordingly determined to try it. but as it was understood that they (sic) [these/their] Judges had recommended their case to the then Gov^[ernor] M^r Dickerson and he had engaged to recommend it to the Legislature they were advised to acquiesce & trust to the Justice and Generosity of the legislature of Pennsylvania, afterwards you know when they conceived the Legislature were not

Likely to do them Justice they in fact did apply to Congress
for a Trial and the contest was kept up in various shapes
till as I conceived it terminated in the confirming
Act to repeal therefore would not only be unjust but
would unavoidably revive a Disagreeable and Dangerous
Controversy which all good men hoped was by that Act
happily and effectually (sic) [effectively] quietted. The Honor, the Justice
and the peace of Pennsylvania equally I apprehend &
Strongly require that the Act should be completely—
executed.

with great esteem I am Sir
your most Ob^{[edien]t} Humble Serv^{[an]t}
W[illia]m Samuel Johnson

A copy of the original
Taken at Philad March
17th 1790 – by
Z[ebulon] Butler }

-----END-----

12.107 Item 67: A Copy by [Zebulon Butler], 1790 March 25, of a Letter from Geo[rge] Clymer to W[illia]m Rawle, 1790 March 20. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a copy by Zebulon Butler, dated March 25, 1790, of an original letter written by George Clymer, one of only six founders who signed both the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, to William Rawle, dated March 20, 1790. In the original letter, Clymer is writing to Rawle in pursuit of his titles that have been reduced greatly due following the jurisdiction decisions concerning the Yankee Pennamite Wars and the subsequent “Wyoming Bill,” which we can infer is likely the Confirming Act due to the date of the letter and the language concerning the rights of title and property within. Clymer proceeds to explain the facts about his lands, noting that many of the acreage laid outside the bounds impacted by the decision and providing the name of the surveyor who is checking his grant and the lands remaining after the bill. Clymer states that the lands he received are significantly smaller than those he owned and seeks a method of resolution that enables him to be reinstated on the majority of his claim. He mentions that he has stayed behind following the conclusion of business that brought him from New York.

These conflicts are taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now

Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#). Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. The letter seems to be addressing the attempts made to avoid these troubles.

The handwriting of the copy has been ascertained as Zebulon Butler’s by a comparison with other manuscripts he copied in the collection, such as items (12. 103 and 12. 102)

Dates: March 20, 1790(Original); March 25, 1790 (Copy)

Creator: [Clymer, George, 1739-1813 \(Original\)](#); [\[Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795\] \(Copy\)](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807; Titles, Land

Locations: N/A

People: [Clymer, George, 1739-1813](#); [\[Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795\]](#); [Rawle, William, 1759-1836](#); Mr. Wallace; [Adlum, \[Pos. Adlum, John, 1759-1836\]](#); [Stuart, Charles, \[Pos. Stewart, Charles, 1743-1809\]](#)

General Condition: Poor. The page is separated into two halves and has some discoloration.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 7 ⅞ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Sir,

Amongst the arguments urged to a committee of your house, of which you was the chairman, by an agent of the Pennsylvania claimants, to induce a report for the repeal of the Wyoming bill; one was, as I am informed, that the members the most active in obtaining the law, were Specially interested in it- for in surrendering one part of the Country in which they had little or no property. they thought more effectually (sic) [effectively] to Secure the undisturbed possession of another in which they had a great deal. My name being mentioned Among those, I have waited in town Several days after the particular business which brought me from New York was finished, in the hope of being able to refute this miserable calumny but am obliged to leave it without that Satisfaction from the absence of Mr. Wallace

who in a general draught of the county of Luzerne has marked every survey in which I have any interest but which there can as I am told by Mr. Adlum be no access to in his absence. I must therefore be content with Observing to the members of the Committee that I am not a land Jobber, that all the property of mine which could have been effected (sic) [affected] by any Decision, respecting the Wyoming controversy was not verry (sic) Considerable that of this property I had always Supposed a large portion would fall within the limits of ~~the~~ ceded Territory. But be that as it May, it is clearly in my recollection, that once when the wyoming Subject was before the house, Mr. Charles Stuart, Surveyor, one of the Petitioners for the repeal, and through whose hands the lands in question chiefly came, indeavoured (sic) [endeavoured] to convince me, that by the part, I was taking, nearly the whole of my Property would be lost. The notes I then made, as he ran over the Surveys, were mislaid, or not foreseeing this future use, as evidence perhaps destroyed. I have been accused too, of misrepresentation having declared, it seems to a committee of which I was the chairman, that the Pennsylvania claimants would generally acquiesce in the proceedings of the Assembly. I have but a faint recollection of such declaration; but am willing, however, to confess and Justify; for this disposition was certainly once discov-
=erable –

Back:

Discoverable in them: I do not pretend it is so now: it is possible that with the times many may have changed opinion or Sides: one Gentlemen, now a leading advocate for the repeal, was to, my knowledge, not content only with the law, but condemned the opposition to it as unreasonable & vexations. Such observations here as go to my own vindication, against injurious representations made in the presence of the committee, you will suffer me to claim as a right: the following asks for your indulgence; it is, that whatever may be the issue of any attempt to abolish the law, the integrity of the Law itself, or the honour of those who made it, can never Justly be impeached unless, what is impossible, it Should be

reconsidered under all the original impressions which induced it

Saturday March
20. 1790.

W^{[illia]m} Rawle esq^{[ui]r[e]}.

I am, with great regard.
your most Ob^t [obedient] Serv^{[an]t}.
Geo[rge]. Clymer

Coppy (sic) of a Letter
from George Clymer
a member of Congress
to W^m. Rawle esq^{[ui]r[e]}: Chairman
of the Committee on
the Wyoming Business
March 20: 1790.
read in Gen^[era]l Assembly
Thursday March 25th
--1790--

-----END-----

12.108 Item 68: A Copy by Unknown, [no date], of a Letter from William Nicolson to Jo[el] Dunbar Blanchard, 1793 August 8.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following depicts a letter by William Nicolson to Joel Dunbar Blanchard, dated August 8, 1793. In the letter, Nicolson opens the letter by mentioning he has recently had a letter from the recipient's estranged wife. He hopes that the two have reconnected, sharing that he would have reached out sooner through her but did not have the time. He follows up with information concerning recent land and title disputes between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers, mentioning that the recipient should focus on his own deeds and responsibilities and not worry himself with Nicolson's land. He concludes with advice to invest in the land surrounding the coal mines, as he believes it and the French settlement will be lucrative in the area.

The conflicts mentioned pertain to the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

[The French Azilum](#) was an asylum settlement that consisted of French royalists, established in Bradford County during the fall of 1793 and the spring of 1794, when Pennsylvania residents sought a way to

bolster the economy while aiding French refugees. The purpose of the settlement was to house and support those fleeing the [French Revolution](#) primarily, as well as the enslaved rebellions occurring within the French colony of [Saint-Domingue](#), Haiti. A marker of the settlement, as well as further information resources can be found at the [Historical Marker Project](#). An article examining the inciting incidents and early history of the colony can be found in [JSTOR](#)'s digitized collection.

Dates: August 8, 1793.

Creator: Nicolson, William

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence

Locations: N/A

People: Blanchard, Joel Dunbar; Nicolson, William

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows signs of age and ink has faded severely.

Measurements: 8 ¼ in. x 6 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Dear Brother

I have now before me your Letter by your Runway (sic) [runaway] wife
you hav(e) En^{[lose]d} this I hope received her back in safety to
your arms I did not write you by her because I had not time
I have lately purchased some Land on Falls Crick.
Which lies on the West Side of the River near to Nescopeck
but Below it I wish you would Enquire wheather (sic) [whether] Settelled (sic) [settled]
by Connec[ticu]t. Claments (sic) [claimants]. You need not mention my Property
I wish you to keep your Eye around you. and make
suer (sic) [sure] of what Property you can in that County. the Coal
mines are A Cappitel (sic) [Capital] object. you must Persue (sic) [pursue] it
very gaurdely (sic) [guardedly] and Privately Let none know your Mind
the French settlement about to be made will give an
Increased vallue (sic) [value] in that Quarter.

I am &c [etcetera]

W^{[illia]m} Nicolson

Mr [Jo. Dunbar Blanchard]

Aug 8. 1793

Wilkes Barre

Back:

Coppy (sic) Letter
coal miners

-----END-----

12.109. Item 69: Certificate from Thomas Mifflin to Matthias Hollenback, 1793 August 17. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Certificate

Title: N/A

Description: During the 1790's Thomas Mifflin (1744-1800) presided over the committee writing Pennsylvania's state constitution. He became Pennsylvania's first governor in 1790 and left the role in 1799, the year prior to his death. Alexander Dallas was named Secretary of the Commonwealth by Mifflin. He held the post from 1791 to 1801. Civil honors came to Matthias Hollenback (1752-1829). His first commission in civil life was as justice of the Peace, signed by Benjamin Franklin, May 11, 1787, and under the state constitution, he was commissioned by Gov. Mifflin as Associate judge, August 17, 1791; a position which he filled with honor and esteem for 38 years. The military title of "Colonel" came from his rank in the peace-time Militia. Thus, this is a "certificate showing that Matthias Hollenback of Luzerne County was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in the 3rd Regiment of the Luzerne brigade of the militia of Pennsylvania, August 17, 1793."

Dates: 17 August 1793

Creator: [Dallas J. Alexander 1759-1817](#) {signatory}; [Mifflin, Thomas 1744-1800](#)

Subjects: Military promotion

Locations: Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

People: [Hollenback, Matthias](#) 1752-1829; [Dallas J. Alexander 1759-1817](#) ; [Mifflin, Thomas 1744-1800](#)

General Condition: Good.

Measurements: 14 ¾ in. x 10 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

In the Name, and by the Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the said Commonwealth To Mathhias Hollenback of the county of luzerne ~ Greeting: Know that you, the said Matthias Hollenback are hereby commissioned (being duly elected and returned) Lieutenant colonel of the Third Brigade of the militia of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To have and to hold this commission, exercising all the powers, and discharging all the duties thereto lawfully belonging and attached, for the term of seven years.

In Testimony whereof, I have set my hand and caused the great seal of the said state to be affixed to these Present, at the Philadelphia the Seventeenth Day of August- in the years of our lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three and of the Commonwealth the Eighteenth,

By the Governor,

A J. Dallas

Annotation:

Tho Mifflin

-----END-----

12.110 Item 70: A Copy by [Zebulon Butler], 1794 October 25, of a Letter

from Unknown to General Montgomery, 1795 October 25. (removed to black box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a copy by Zebulon Butler of a letter written originally by an unknown author to General William Montgomery, dated October 25, 1794. In the letter, the creator is writing to Montgomery to arrange a meeting with him, as well as Colonels Johnson, Bowman, and Bellias. They write that there have been orders for the two of them to meet at contested lands for a case between Bowman and Bellias, but the writer would not like to go there on his own. He requests Montgomery to write him with information on his planned travels and mentions that he has the expectation of arriving on Wednesday during the day at some time. The page is torn and damaged by water, making sections difficult to read, however, there is a note at the bottom of the page that there is a cost exceeding £100 on this case or account.

On the reverse of the manuscript, there are two accounts that have been badly damaged and cannot be read in full. They seem to stipulate costs of room and travel on the same account, coming to a total of 12 pounds and 50 shillings.

The creator of the copy has been ascertained as Zebulone Butler from a comparison of handwriting with other copies in the collection, such as item (12.102, 103, and 104)

Dates: October 25, 1795

Creator: N/A (Original); [[Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#)]

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence

Locations: Wilkes Barre

People: [Montgomery, William, 1736-1816](#); Bellias; Bowman; Johnson; [[Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#)]

General Condition: Poor. There is major discoloration to the page, worn ink from water damage and accompanying stains. The page is tearing in the seams.

Measurements: 13 ¼ in. x 8 ½ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Wilkesbarre Oct^{[obe]r} 25th 1794

Sir

I should take the Liberty to mention to you that
the board of property Did order you to go unto
the Disputed ground between Co^[line] Johnson & Co^[lonel] &
Bowman sen^[io]r & Co. in two orders recorded on the
files of the board which a cobby (sic) was to be
sent to you of this I Expect has been
Doin. Esq^r [Esquire] Bellias and myself agreed to
met (sic) [meet] on the Spott (sic) [spot] at the Lake on Wed^[nes]Day
the 29th of this Instant. I have had n[o]
word from you or from Esq^{[ui]r} Bellias on
this Subject. I now send a boy to you with
this line for your answer or information when

you will be there as I Dont wish to go onto
the ground without your being there as
time(?) once there for nothing and has cost [page torn]
over one hundred pounds by the manor.
I wish your answer to this in writing,
I shall be on the ground on Wednesday
night or thursday early in the Day &c [etcetera]

NB [nota bene] I wood (sic) [would] recommend this way to you
to go with the guard a cut road you
will inform if you com(e) (sic) this way
or not and the [cross/road] you will
be obliged to Sarah, So as to know it
to Col Bowman [illegible]

{back}

A copy (sic) [copy]
of a Letter to Gen^[era]
Montgomery
October 25th 1794

In very faded ink:

the Expenses of my
[illegible] going the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 12. 50

{side}

This is in consequence of Men by the Board
To the head of a horse three Days at 5 0 15.0
To the way three days 0 11 3
To money spent on the way 0 18 9
£ 12 “ 5 “ 0

-----END-----

12.111 Item 71: Letter from Timothy Pickering to Matthias Hollenback, 1796 March 9.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter written by Timothy Pickering to Matthias Hollenback, dated March 9, 1796. In the letter, Pickering writes that requesting information on a right of land he has previously sold to Mr. Ross. He asks Hollenback to assure him through Zebulon Butler, in position of prothonotary, that there are no current suits of ejectment on the lands in question. He mentions further that he has livestock and utensils on the property that are going to be sold and requests Hollenback's advice on the best ways to secure his payment.

Utensils in this case likely refers to agricultural tools or livestock materials.

Dates: March 9, 1796.

Creator: [Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [Hollenback, Matthias, 1752-1829](#); [Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829](#); [Butler, Zebulon, 1731-1795](#);

Mr. Ross; Wallis

General Condition: Good. Vinegar smell.

Measurements: 9 1/8 in. x 7 3/8 in.

Transcript Attempt:

Philadelphia March 9. 1796.

109

Sir

I wrote you some time ago desiring you to obtain from Mr. Butler, the prothonotary, a certificate that Wallis nor any other had entered suits of ejectment against us for the land disrupted between him and us, but have rec.^d [recieved] no answer.

You must know that I have sold my land at Wilkesbarre (sic) to Mr. Ross. I have livestock and utensils which will now be to be sold. In what way would you recommend the Sales to be made? in order to have the pay Secure and get the best prices?

Your advice will oblige
your friend & h'ble [humble] serv^{[an]t}

Timothy Pickering

Please to favour me
with an immediate answer.

Matthias Hollenback Esq^{[ui]r[e]}.

{back}

Timothy Pickering

Letter March. 9.th 1796

-----END-----

12.112 Item 72: “An Act for offering compensation to the Susquehanna claimants of certain Lands within the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes therein mentioned”, copied by [Samuel A. Law], [ca. late eighteen-early nineteenth century]. (removed to black box #5)

Type of Material: Legal Act

Title: An Act for offering compensation to the Susquehanna claimants of certain Lands within the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes therein mentioned

Description: The following item depicts an act copied by Samuel A. Law, [ca. late eighteenth century-early nineteenth century], titled, “[an act for offering compensation to the Susquehanna claimants of certain Lands within the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes mentioned therein](#).” The act is a secondary component or, likely, a later edition of (item 12.100), which established the compromise of the 17 townships and directed for the compensation of Pennsylvania title holders who released those lands.

The act is a legislation that seeks to negotiate a compromise between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers in the state. The act stipulates that previously removed Connecticut title holders are rightfully in possession of claims to tracts of land found in the following seventeen townships: Salem, Newport, Hanover, Wilkes Barre, Pittstown (Pittston), Northmoreland, Putnam, Meshoppen (or Braintrim), Springfield, Clavernack, Ulster, Exeter, Kingston, Plymouth, Huntington, Bedford, and Providence. The act creates means for the Connecticut settlers to bring their titles or evidence to such forward to be reinstated on their lands. The act further acknowledges that Pennsylvania settlers also hold titles to the lands in question and stipulates language for compensating them in the resignation of their lands. As the title of this act suggests, this act provided uprooted Connecticut settlers with a chance to repurchase the land that had been stripped from them. The Act works through purely economical language, measuring the cost of each claimant by placing their land within one of three categories by the Board of Property; first, second, or third class land. Although the act does not mention how this categorization worked, it notes that those who had lost lands found to be classed in the first categorization would pay eight annual installments of five dollars per acre, the second class land claims would pay eight annual installments of three dollars per acre, and third class would pay eight annual installments one dollar and fifty cents per acre.

The act was in response to the three part land conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut called the Yankee Pennamite Wars. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

This act creates a response to the actions taken by Pennsylvania following the earlier [Decree of Trenton](#) decision in 1782, which authorized the right of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania at a hearing of the Continental Congress, but did not extend to the rights of soil at the time. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s

troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. There were even cases of those in the Susquehanna Company who continued to issue grants for titles under the Connecticut claim, who were tried in suits of trespass after Pennsylvania passed various acts that protected the Pennsylvania titles. There were eventual acts issued for compromise and reinstatement, early pieces of which can be seen in item (12.108), as well as push back, which highlights measures to protect Connecticut claimants who had been on the lands prior to their forced removal in 1782-4.

The creator has been ascertained as Samuel A. Law by a comparison with another copy of his, item (12.108).

The dates for the copy have been estimated according to the other legislative acts seeking compromise between the two states with similar language.

Dates: [ca. late eighteenth-early nineteenth century]

Creator: [[Law, Samuel A., 1771-1845](#)]

Subjects: Law; Legislation; Compromise; Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: N/A

People: [[Law, Samuel A., 1771-1845](#)] ; [Welhen, Isaac](#); [Boude, Thomas, 1752-1822](#); [Irvine, William, 1741-1804](#)

General Condition: Good. Paper shows signs of age. Ink is severely faded.

Measurements: 14 ¾ in. x 9 ½ in. {closed}; 19 in. x 14 ¾ in. {open}

Transcript Attempt:

An Act for offering representation to the Susquehanna claimants of certain Lands within the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne and for other purposes therein mentioned

Section 1.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly in it & it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same that Isaac Welhen of Chester County, Thomas Boude of Lancaster County and General William Irvine of Cumberland County be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners where duty it shall be carefully to examine and ascertain the quantity, quality and situation of all Lands lying within what have been commonly called and known by the name of the seventeen Townships in the County of Luzerne held or claimed under a Pennsylvania title, under a patent or a location or a Warrant before the decree of Trenton by which the right of jurisdiction was declared to be in Pennsylvania, on which a Survey has been executed and returned agreeably to Law, and to divide the same according to their values into four classes, distinguished by the name of the first second third and fourth class, the first class to contain the Lands of the greatest value and the second third and fourth classes those of inferior value, preserving a due proportion between each and shall adjudge what sum per acre each Pennsylvania claimant shall receive not exceeding the rates hereinafter mentioned Provided always that nothing herein contained shall authorize the said Comm to proceed to the

performance of the duties enjoined upon them by this Act until persons claiming Land to the extent of forty thousand acres under grants made by Pennsylv^[ania]: shall have conveyed & released the same to the State by Deeds, duly executed, and filed in the Land Office for the purpose & for the consideration expressed in this Act, and until persons commonly called Connecticut settlers claiming Land to the extent aforesaid, shall have signified in writing under their hands & seals duly executed in the presence of two witnesses and filed in the Land Office that they will submit to and abide by the determination of the said Commissioners And provided that if part of the said Land, but not to the extent aforesaid shall have been released, or if the Connecticut claimants to the extent aforesaid should not make their submissions according to the provisions herein contained then such releases as shall have been made by Pennsylv^[ania]: claimants as aforesaid shall be null and void and the property which shall have been so as aforesaid released, shall vest and be held in the same manner as if this Act had not been passed Provided also that the lines of the respective Tracts of Land so aforesaid submitted to the examination of the Commissioners shall be the same as those bounding the original grants, & that the said Comm^[issioner]s. shall not examine any Lands, but those which the Pennsylvania claimants shall have agreed as aforesaid to submit to their examination.

Section II.

And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that to such of the aforesaid Pennsylv' claimants having title as aforesaid to Lands within either of the said classes, who shall comply with the condition of that Act, such compensation shall be made as the said Comm^[issioner]s. shall award not exceeding the rates hereinafter set forth, in Certificate to be issued as hereinafter directed transferable and bearing Interest, receivable as a specie in all payments to be made at the Land Office. That is to say, to those whose lands shall be in the first class, a sum not exceeding five Dollars an Acre, to those whose Lands shall be in the second class a sum not exceeding three Dollars an Acre, to those whose Lands shall be in the third class a sum not exceeding one Dollar and fifty cents & acre, to those whose Lands shall be in the fourth class a sum not exceeding twenty five cents an Acre Provided always that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to direct or empower the said Comm^[issioner]s. to include the whole of any one original Survey in any one class, unless in their opinion the quality of the whole Tract will justify it, nor that they shall fix the price of each Tract included in the same class at one price of Acres, unless in their opinion such Tracts should be of equal value, but that the rate per acre of the several Tracts arranged in the same class shall be according to their relative value.

Section III.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that every Pennsylv' claimant who shall have conveyed and relieved to the Commonwealth a regular title as specified in this Act, shall on application to the Board of property be entitled to receive a Ticket, directed to the Controller General stating the number of Acres so released & conveyed to the Commonwealth, and the class to which the said

Land

Land belongs, and also certifying the amount awarded by the Comm^[issioner]s. in favor of such Pennsylvania claimant, and the balance of principal and Interest due from such Pennsylv^[ani]a claimants to the Commonwealth on account of the original purchase money of such Tract or Tracts which shall be submitted to the Register-General and the Comptroller General to issue and deliver to such claimant one or more Certificates of the nature herein before specified, for the sum to which his compensation shall amount after having deducted the principal & Interest so due to the Commonwealth, and the said Comptroller General is hereby authorized & directed to issue such Certificate or Certificates accordingly and to alter or renew such Certificates so as to accommodate payments at the Land Office, and all public monies which shall come to the hands of the Receiver General is hereby appropriated to the payment of the said Certificates, and in case of disputes between Pennsylv^[ani]a claimants before the issuing of the Certificates in pursuance of this Act, such dispute shall be decided by the Board of Property according to the general wage provided that their decision shall not prevent the party against whom it was made ^{from} prosecuting his claim in the Courts of Law as usual, and in case of an appeal from the decision of the Board of Property the certificate shall not issue until the dispute shall be decided.

Section IV.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that no Pennsylv^[ani]a claimant shall be entitled to compensation under this Act, who shall not make application to the Board of Property for that purpose within six months from the passing of this Act provided that if such claimant shall at the time of passing this Act be a feme covert, under the age of twenty one years or out of the United States, one year shall be allowed for making such application from the time such claimant shall cease to be a feme covert, arrive at the age of twenty one years or return part of the United States.

Section V.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that it shall be the duty of the said Comm. also to ascertain all the rights or lots within the said seventeen Townships, which were occupied or acquired by Connecticut claimants, who were actually Settlers there at or before the time of the said decree at Trenton, and which rights or lots were particularly assigned to the said Settlers prior to the said decree agreeably to the regulations then in force among them and to divide the said rights or lots into four classes to be distinguished in the manner herein before mentioned according to their respective value, taking into consideration both the quality and situation and make out Certificates therefor with the draft of the Survey thereto annexed, and in case the said original Settler their Heirs or Assigns shall make application to the Land Office of any time before the first day of January one the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & one and agree to pay to the Commonwealth by eight equal amount Installments at the rate of two Dollars per Acre for Lands of the first class, at the rate of one Dollar & twenty cents & acres for Lands of the second class, at the rate of fifty cents & acre for Lands of the third class and at the rate of eight and one third cents & acre for Lands of the fourth class, with Interest upon each installment till the sum is paid, whereupon patents for lands so certified, shall be issued from the proper

Office, paying the legal fees for, such patents and also the surveying fees Provided nevertheless & it is hereby expressly ordered that no patents shall issue to affect any Lands, the titles whereof shall be many person or persons claiming under Pennsylvania, until such person or persons have conveyed their title to the Commonwealth And provided also that the lands to be granted to any Connecticut claimants by visitors of this Act shall be Mortgaged by such claimant or claimants for the payment of the principle & interest of the aforesaid installments due to the Commonwealth as aforesaid.

Section VI.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that in case any Lands shall be convey'd to the Commonwealth by the aforesaid Pennsylv: claimants for which no application shall be made in manner herein before directed by Connecticut claimants, on or before the first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred

&

Page 3:

& one, it shall be lawful for the Governor he is hereby required to order such Lands to be sold at public auction in the City of Philadelphia, giving six months notice of such sale in one or more of the Newspapers of the said City provided the same shall not be sold at a less price, than that at which the State hereby this Act directed it to be offered to the Connecticut claimants, and in one day of the Land so exposed to Sale, should not sell for the sum for the sum for which it was offered to the Connecticut claimants, then in such case it should be the duty of the Attorney General immediately thereafter to cause legal process to be issued for dispossessing every such person of the Land so claimed & not sold by the Commonwealth, excepting the case of Minors under twenty one years of age & persons beyond Sea, who shall be allowed a further time of one year from the time the Land claimed by them was exposed to sale as aforesaid, by themselves Guardians or Attorney to make their application and even play with the terms of this Act.

Section VII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each person claiming the provisions of this Act, shall prior to the Commiss^{ioner}s. designing & enduring such persons Land by virtue of this Act, make Oath or affirmation which Oath or affirmation either of the said Comm^{issioner}s. are hereby authorized to administer" that he or she does not claim title under a joint right of the Pennsylvania claimants & of the aforesaid rights, & that he or she has not directly or indirectly done or caused to be done any act or thing, to destroy or conceal such joint title with a view of coming within the provisions of this Act" And if it shall appear that any person claiming the provisions of this Act, holds by such joint title, & that such joint title has been destroyed or concealed with the view aforesaid then in that case such Lands shall not be without the provisions of this Act.

Section VIII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that each of the said Comm. before he acts, shall take an Oath or Affirmation before some Judge or Justice of the peace “that he will diligently, faithfully & impartially discharge the duties assigned to him by this Act.” and in case either of the said Comm. shall die or refuse or become incapable to act, the Governor shall appoint a person to supply his place, and all acts by a majority of the said Comm^{[issioner]s}. shall be accorded as if they had all joined therein.

Section IX.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said Comm^{[issioner]s}. shall keep a regular account of their proceedings in a Book which shall be deposited by them in the Office of the Secretary of the Land Office, and they may appoint a Clerk who shall be sworn or affirmed before them faithfully to register all their proceedings in pursuance of this Act, and they may appoint a Surveyor or Surveyors, and employ chain-carriers & markers for the purpose of such Surveys, as they shall judge necessary and the said ~~hearing~~ Surveyors chain-carriers & markers shall be sworn before a justice of the peace or one of the Comm^{[issioner]s}. faithfully to perform their respective duties and shall receive a reasonable compensation for their Services to be paid by the said Comm^{[issioner]s}. and paid by the Commonwealth, and all Surveys made by direction of said Comm. shall be by them returned to the Office of the Surveyor-General.

Section X.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that there shall be allowed & paid out of the public Treasury to each of the said Comm^{[issioner]s}. three Dollars & fifty cents per day and to their clerk three Dollars per day for each day that they shall be respectively employed in performing the duty required by this Act.

Section XI.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that in cases of dispute between the Connecticut claimants they may elect to prove the sum decided by the said Comm^{[issioner]s}. or appeal before such decision to the Court of Common Pleas of the proper County and a certificates from the Clerk of such Comm^{[issioner]s}. or from the Prothonotary of such Court of Common Pleas, before which Tribunal such decision may be had, certifying in whose favour the sum is adjudged, shall be good evidence to obtain a patent from the proper office aforesaid.

Compromising Law Penn.^[sylvania] & Con^[necticut]. Claimants 17 Townships~

-----END-----

12.113 Item 73: A Broadside of a Legal Act, titled “An ACT renouncing the Claims of this State to certain Lands therein mentioned”, Examined by Samuel Wyllys, 1800 May [8]. (Removed to Legal Box #1)

Type of Material: Legal Act

Title: An ACT renouncing the Claims of this State to certain Lands therein mentioned.

Description: The following item depicts an act of transparency by the State of Connecticut in relinquishing their claims on the lands in the western reserves, namely those claimed by Pennsylvania. This act is in response to a prior meeting held by Congress in December 1799. Through this act, Connecticut formally retired their claim to the lands covered in the original land charter by King Charles II, which first granted the Connecticut colony the rights to lands in the northern and western regions of Pennsylvania. These acts are following the resolution of the three part land conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut called the Yankee Pennamite Wars. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681.

This act broadens the earlier Decree of Trenton decision in 1782, which authorized the right of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania at a hearing of the Continental Congress, but did not span to the rights of soil at the time. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. While the Decree of Trenton gave Pennsylvania the right to soil, it did not however give them the right to title. Yet, under the command of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Patterson, Pennsylvania would forcibly remove “one-hundred and fifty” Connecticut families from their homes. They forced the families to “find their way through the wilderness of the Lackawaxen to the Delaware Valley, a distance of about eighty miles,” without supplies or clothing to sustain them ([Gnichtel, The Trenton Decree of 1782](#)). The violence and brutality levied by Patterson’s troops was so severe that it drew attention from neighboring states, and condemnation on the governing bodies of Pennsylvania. That critique ultimately led the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove Patterson from his position within the valley around July 1784, replacing him with colonel [John Armstrong](#).

Following the resolution of these conflicts, there were many petitions made by the Connecticut settlers for reinstatement to their previous titles and possessions. There were even cases of those in the Susquehanna Company who continued to issue grants for titles under the Connecticut claim, who were tried in suits of trespass after Pennsylvania passed various acts that protected the Pennsylvania titles. There were eventual acts issued for compromise and reinstatement, early pieces of which can be seen in item (12.108), which highlights measures to protect Connecticut claimants who had been on the lands prior to their forced removal in 1782-4.

Dates: 8 May 1800

Creator: [Wyllys, Samuel, 1739-1823 \(Copy\)](#)

Subjects: Legislation; Act; Law; Titles, Land

Locations: Hartford, Connecticut

People: [Wyllys, Samuel, 1739-1823](#)

General Condition: Good. Paper shows some signs of age and contains some folds.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 8 ¼ in.

Transcript Attempt:

-----END-----

12.114 Item 74: A Certificate by Samuel Erwin for the Death of Reuben Buck, Soldier under Captain Samuel Bowman, to Unknown, 1800 June 14.

Type of Material: Certificate

Title: N/A

Description: This item depicts a death certificate by Samuel Erwin of Reuben Buck, a soldier in Captain Samuel Bowman's command. The front of the item states that Buck died on June 11, 1800, and was owed \$30.00 of his pay. The back of the item notes that this sum was paid to S. Macwhorter after the disbandment of the company. He was also compensated for his travels to Tioga.

This item was originally curated with Series II: the McClintock Family Series, as part of a binder, original number 1.6 Binder: Andrew McClintock Correspondence and Biographical Materials and Photo, 1831-1881. The binder was dissolved in processing the collection and items pertaining to the Susquehanna Claim and General Wyoming Valley Collection moved to corresponding collections.

Dates: 1800 June 14

Creator: Erwin, Samuel

Subjects: Memo; Certificate; Death Notices

Locations: N/A

People: Buck, Reuben; Erwin, Samuel; [Bowman, Samuel, 1753-1818](#); Macwhorter, S.;

General Condition: Fair. The page has some yellow discoloration.

Measurements: 2 15/16 in. x 7 4/16 in.

Transcription Attempt:

Front:

[illegible] the 11 Reg^{imen}t

Reuben Buck a Soulder (sic) [soldier] in Capt^{ain} Bowman

Died on the Eleventh Day of June 1800

and there was I believe about thirty dollars of his pay behind in the hand
of the paymaster-

Sam^{eu}l Erwin

Back:

Samuel Erwin

Certificate of

the death of Ruben

Buck a soldier

in Capt Sam Bo^wmans

Company 11, Penn^{sylvani}a

Regement (sic)

Reuben Buck

Paid by S. Macwhorter to 14 June

1800, when the Reg^{imen}t was disbanded,

including an allowance of 3 months

gratuitous pay, + a further allowance

of pay + subsistence for travelling (sic) to Tioga

Point the place of his residence-

-----END-----

12.115 Item 75: Letter from [Tench Coxe](#) to Conyngham, Nesbitt, and Company, 1800 September 23. (removed to legal size box #1)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: The following item depicts a letter authored by Tench Coxe to Messers Conyngham, Nesbitt, and Company in Philadelphia. The letter discusses a deed for land within 17 townships that are associated with the Connecticut settlers. Coxe is advising the men on how to best release their titles for the lands in question, as Pennsylvania settlers are being reimbursed for the loss of lands contained within the 17 townships. He writes that according to the act passed on the 4th of April, 1799, the dues owed to Pennsylvania title holders are at \$5.00 for these men particularly. Their deed is said to hold 40,000 acres, which would entitle them to £75 under the compromise act by which they are releasing their lands. He mentions that there are further lucrative arrears to be had, and if the finances are regrettable in their first counsel they can require more.

The manuscript includes the term arrear, which is a word meant to describe a debt where money is owed that should have been paid earlier.

These conditions set by the act are of those in item (12.100), "An Act for quieting the disturbances at Wyoming, and for confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants the lands by them claimed within the county of Luzerne," copied by Jacob Shallus, dated March 27, 1788. The act is a legislation that seeks to negotiate a compromise between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers in the state. The act stipulates that previously removed Connecticut title holders are rightfully in possession of claims to tracts of land found in the following seventeen townships: Salem, Newport, Hanover, Wilkes Barre, Pittstown (Pittston), Northmoreland, Putnam, Meshoppen (or Braintrim), Springfield, Clavernack, Ulster, Exeter, Kingston, Plymouth, Huntington, Bedford, and Providence. The act creates means for the Connecticut settlers to bring their titles or evidence to such forward to be reinstated on their lands. The act further acknowledges that Pennsylvania settlers also hold titles to the lands in question and stipulates language for compensating them in the resignation of their lands.

Dates: September 23, 1800

Creator: [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence

Locations: Lancaster

People: [Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824](#); [[Jenkins, Steuben, 1819-1890](#)]; Stewart, Charles; Wilson, Martha; Wilson, John; Stewart, S.; Mr. Cottnam, Dr. Smith; [Nesbitt, \[Pos. Nesbitt, J. W.\]](#); [Connyingham, \[Pos. Conyngham, John Nesbitt, 1798-1871\]](#)

General Condition: Poor. The letter has been separated into three pieces. The paper shows signs of age and is covered in extreme stains.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 7 ⅞ in.

Transcript Attempt:

In pencil: 17 Conn[ecticut] Tps [Townships] of Luzerne [written in the hand of Steuben Jenkins]

Gentlemen

If any difficulty arises about
 the disorder or deficiency of your papers, in
 regard to your lands within the 17 Townships,
 I beg leave to recommend the following
 kind of release. — A general deed from
 J M N. & D. H. C. to the Comm.th [Commonwealth] of Penns^{[ylvani]a}.
 for all their tracts and parts of tracts of
 land in the 17 Connec^{[ecticu]t}. Townships of
 Luzerne of dates prior to the 31st Dec^{[embe]r}. 1782
 agreeably to and upon the terms of the
 Act of Assembly of April 4. 1799 in consideration
 of the same & the sum of one
 dollar. The descriptive list or schedule
 signed can be made on the back of it.
 The deed will cover the whole & will admit
 of every supplementary explanations
 afterwards. In this form Col^[onel] Charles
 Stewarts heirs have two papers made out.
 Mrs. Martha Wilson, and Mr. John Wilson
 have del.^d [delivered] one executed, & Mr. S. Stewart
 has another just on for him & Mr. Cottnam.
 He assured me the family would
 all release. The same kind of
 deed has been executed by the Rev^{[eren]d} Dr. Smith
 & is del.^d [delivered] to me. It will be safe
 for you to do the same. There may be a
 proviso (sic) [provision] that no lands out of the 17
 Townships shall be considered as released
 nor will they pass by any deed under the
 law,

Back:

if actually without the Townships.
 It is proper to remark that all public
 monies rec.^d [recieved] by the receiver general
 after April 4. 1799 are appropriated
 to pay the certificates. The payments
 of arrears and patenting of Lands as
 very steady & considerable. There
 will be others appropriations if these

prove insufficient but 40,000 A^{[c]r[e]s} at
5 d^{[olla]rs} are only £75, and 18 months
have elapsed already, in which arrears
have accumulated.

Permit to remind you that the
deed must be delivered here, or to
the governor, or into Report office
before the 2.^d of Oct^[ober]. That is on
or before the 1st of next month.

I am, Gent^{l[e]man},

with great respect

your most obed^{[ien]t}. Serv^{[an]t}.

Tench Cox

Su^{[rve]y} L^{[an]d} off^{[ic]e}.

Lanc^{[aste]r} Sept. 23.^d 1800.

{back}

Mess^{[e]rs} Connyngham, Nesbitt
near Walnut in & Comp^{[an]y}
Front street
Philadelphia

Tench Cox
Sept.^{[embe]r} 23.^{[r]d} 1800
Lancaster

-----END-----

12.116 Item 76: Two Copies of Legal Acts by Samuel A. Law, [ca. aft. 1801 February 16], entitled, “An act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,” passed 1795 April 11, and “An Act supplementary to an Act entitled ‘An Act to prevent intrusions on Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,’” approved 1801 February 16. (removed to black box #5)

Type of Material: Legal Act

Title: An act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne; An Act supplementary to an Act entitled “An Act to prevent intrusions on Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne” passed the 11th April 1795

Description: The following item depicts a copy by Samuel A. Law, a Delaware attorney and surveyor for the establishment of the town of Meredith in 1800. The item by Law contains copies of two acts titled, [“An act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne.”](#)

[passed February 11, 1795](#), and a second supplementary act titled, [“An Act to prevent intrusions on Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,” approved February 11, 1801](#). The two were estimated to have been copied some time after February 11, 1801.

The first act copied depicts the second act in 1801, a supplementary act titled, “An Act to prevent intrusions on Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,” approved February 11, 1801, pertains to legislature stating that claims of trespass on the lands in question, namely Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne County, will be upheld and tried under law if they are found to have done so after the passing of the first act in 1795. However, if cause and evidence can be brought before the court that the person has trespassed or taken possession of the land prior to the passing of the act, they will have grounds for their case of possession to be heard before the court. There are further stipulations, sections 2-13, which cover considerations of repeat offenders, fines, and etcetera, such as can be seen in section 2, which stipulates a fine of \$500 for persons on their second offense when found guilty. This act is heard and signed by Isaac Weaver, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Woods, the Speaker of the Senate, and Thomas McKean, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The second act copied depict the first act in 1795, “An act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,” 1795 April 11, pertains to legislature stating that claims of trespass on the lands in question, namely Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne County. The act stipulates that any person claiming or settling on lands in these counties without a title or grant issued by the Pennsylvania powers is to be found guilty of trespass and tried in state courts. The act states that they will be fined a sum of \$200, which is to be split between the county and the informer equally. The person tried and found guilty would also be subjected to imprisonment, with a maximum sentence of 12 months. The act has further stipulations pertaining to persons who seek to offer and sell titles and surveys within these lands that are not assigned under Pennsylvania, such as section 1, and the actions and efforts of the county sheriff and coroner. This act was heard and signed by George Latimer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert Hare, the Speaker of the Senate, and Thomas Mifflin, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A [Coroner](#) was an office established to aid the sheriff in executing warrants and ejectments for people in their counties.

These conflicts are taking place during the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), particularly the Third Yankee Pennamite War in 1784. [The Yankee Pennamite Wars](#) were a three part war between Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as they attempted to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania. King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The Third Yankee Pennamite War was a military conflict following the [Decree of Trenton](#) decision to grant Pennsylvania ownership to the lands after decades of conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Dates: April 11, 1795 (Act); February 16, 1801 (Supplementary Act); [ca. 1801 February 16] (Law)

Creator: [Law, Samuel A., 1771-1845](#)

Subjects: Acts; Legislation; Titles, Land; Yankee Pennamite Wars, 1769-1807

Locations: Cheshire, New Haven

People: [Law, Samuel A., 1771-1845](#); [McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817](#); [Weaver, Isaac, 1756-1830](#); [Woods,](#)

[John, 1761-1816](#); [Latimer, George, 1750-1825](#); [Hare, Robert, 1752-1811](#); [Mifflin, Thomas, 1744-1800](#)

General Condition: Good. Vinegar smell.

Measurements: 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (closed); 18 in. x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (open)

Transcript Attempt:

2^d

An Act supplementary to an Act entitled “An Act to prevent intrusions on Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne” passed the 11th April 1795

Section I

Be it inacted (sic) [enacted] by the Senate & House of Representation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met.--- and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That is all Trials on Indictments for taking possession of, entering, intruding, or settling on, any Lands founded on the Act to which this Act is supplementary, proof that the person Indicted entered into, intruded, settled on, or was in possession of the said Land before the time of the passing of the said Indictment shall be sufficient to convict such person of the offence charged in the Indictment, unless the said person Indicted shall prove, that he or she entered upon, took possession of or settled on such Land before the time of the passing of the said Act to which this is supplementary, or that he or she had, at the time of his or her entering into, taking possession of or settling on such Land, is good & bona fide Title to such Land, derived from or under this Commonwealth, or the Proprietors of Pennsylvania before the Revolution.

Section II

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That if any person shall be convicted of a second offence against act to which this act is supplementary, on an Indictment for taking possession of entering, intruding, or settling on any Lands, such person upon such second conviction, shall forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred Dollars, one half to the use of the county. and the other half to the use of the Informer, and shall also be subject to such imprisonment, at hard labour, labour, not less than six months not exceeding two years, as the Court before whom such second conviction is had, in their discretion shall direct. And if any person shall be convicted as aforesaid, more than twice the Court before whom such subsequent conviction is had, may, in their desirection, adjudge that the person so convicted shall be imprisoned at hard labour for any term not less than two years, not exceeding seven years & pay a sum not less than five hund.^d [hundred] Dollars, not more than one thousand Dollars, one half to the use of the County & the other half to the use of the Informer.

Section III

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the governor shall be, & he is hereby authorized & empower'd (sic) [empowered] to appoint an Agent, whose duty it shall be to make diligent inquiry into all offences committed or to be committed against the Act to which this is supplementary; and, for the purpose of making such inquiry, the said Agent, & all persons acting under his authority shall have power to enter upon any Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Wayne, Northumberland, Luzerne, & Lycoming, and to do any acts necessary for ascertaining the said Tract of Land, on which any Intruder lives, or any intrusion has been made. And the said Agent shall as quickly as possible & from time to time, send the attorney general, or

his deputy in the proper County, a written account of the names of all offenders discovered by him, together with the names of the necessary witnesses, and the best information in his power on all matters necessary for prosecuting the offenders or any or either of them.

Section IV.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That from & after the passing of this Act, every male person above the age of twenty one years, who shall come to reside in this Commonwealth, within the Counties of Wayne, Northampton, Luzerne, Northumberland or Lycoming, shall, within three months from the time of his arrival within the limits aforesaid deliver to the aforesaid Agent, or to the Constable of the Township, or to the Sheriff of the County in which he resides, or one of his deputies, a written Declaration of his name & places of abode and of the American State or of the Foreign Country in which he last resided, and also whether he claims any, and if any, what Lands within the bounds of the Commonwealth under a title derived directly, or indirectly from or through the Colony or State of Connecticut, or the Delaware or Susquehanna Company: and every such person who shall not have delivered such declaration within the time aforesaid, shall be subject to the penalty of forty Dollars, one half to the use of the County, the other half to the use of the Informer, to be received before any Justice of the peace, together with legal costs. And every Officer aforesaid, to whom any such declaration shall be delivered, shall return the sums to the next Court of Quarter Sessions to be held in his County, under the penalty of one hundred Dollars for every default, to be recovered on conviction on Indictment, in any Court of Quarter Sessions, as of Oyer & Terminer to be held in the proper County, one half to the use of the Informer, the other half to the use of the County; and the several Clerks of the Courts of Quarter Sessions shall carefully preserve. Among their public papers, to be filed & recorded, all declarations delivered to them as aforesaid.

Section V.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That if any person shall resist or obstruct the aforesaid Agent, or any person acting under his authority, or under the authority of this Act, every person so offending and every person who shall be an accessory before or after the fact, as also those who shall conspire to resist or obstruct the said Agent, or any person acting under his authority, or under the authority of this Act, shall on conviction forfeit and pay, for every such offence, a sum, not exceeding one thousand Dollars, and shall also be subject to imprisonment, at hard labour, for any period, not more than seven years, as the Court in their discretion shall direct.

Section VI.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That in all actions of ejectment, hereafter to be brought in this Commonwealth, for any Lands, to which any title or claim under the Colony or State of Connecticut, or under the Connecticut, Susquehanna or Delaware Company, is pleaded or drawn into question, the plaintiff may recover by way of damages, satisfaction for the mesne profits of the Lands- recovered in any ejectment, down to the time of the entry of judgment in such ejectment.

Section VII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That in all actions of trespass, evict actions hereafter to be brought in this Commonwealth, wherein any title or claim under the Colony or State of Connecticut or under the Connecticut Susquehanna or Delaware Companies is pleaded

or drawn into question, the plaintiff upon affidavit to be made by himself, or any person his behalf, shall be entitled to hold the defendant to spend Bail, for such sum as shall be directed by any Judge or Justice of the Court in which the Suit is brought.

Section

Page 2:

Section VIII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That the Agent to be appointed in pursuance of this Act, shall hold his Office during the Governor's pleasure, and shall prior to his acting in his office, take an Oath or affirmation, that he will diligently & faithfully execute the duties of his office: and the said Agent shall receive for his Services, a yearly compensation of one thousand two hundred Dollars, to be paid quarterly.

Section IX.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That in every such action commenced aforesaid, the defendant shall at the first Term, put in his plea, specifying his title particularly, and if he shall refuse or neglect so to do, judgment shall be had against him as by default.

Section X.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor, by the Oath or Affirmation of the said Agent, or of any person or persons acting under his authority, or of any other credible person or persons, that that the said Agent or any persons acting under his authority, has good reason to apprehend personal danger, in the course of the discharge of his duty under this Act; it shall be lawful for the Governor, and he is hereby directed, to order out a sufficient part of the Militia of the Commonwealth, for the protection of all persons acting under the authority of this Act: and the detachment, so ordered out, shall receive the same pay and rations, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, as are provided in other cases.

Section XI.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid That the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to issue his proclamation forbidding all further intrusion, and enjoining & requiring all persons who have intruded, contrary to the provisions of the Act to which this Act is supplementary to withdraw peaceably from the Lands whereon such intrusions have been made, and enjoining & requiring all Affairs of Government, and all good Citizens of the Commonwealth, to prevent or prosecute by all legal means, such intrusions & intruders & to render in this several capacities, the most prompt & effectual aid for carrying into full execution the provisions of this Act and the Act to which this is supplementary.

Section XII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That it shall be the duty of the prothonotaries of the several Courts of Common pleas of the Counties of Northampton, Wayne, Northumberland, Lycoming and Luzerne, and they are hereby respectively enjoined & required, to read or cause to be read in open Court, this Act and the Act to which this Act is supplementary, at least once in each of the [four] Terms next after receiving it.

Section XIII.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That all expenses which may arise under this Act shall be paid out of any unappropriated monies which may be in the State Treasury, on Warrants drawn by the Governor for that purpose.

Isaac Weaver jun^{[io]r}

Speaker of the House of Representatives

John Woods

Speaker of the Senate

Approved Feb^{[ruar]y}. 16. 1801

Thomas M^cKean Governor of the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1st

Act act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne
Section I.

Be it enacted by the Senate & House of Repres^{[entitive]s}. of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That if any person shall, after the passing of this Act take possession of, enter, intrude, or settle on any Lands within the limits of the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland, or Luzerne, by virtue or under colour of any conveyance of half share right, or any other pretended Title, not derived from the authority of this authority of this Commonwealth as of the late Proprietaries of Pennsylv^{[ani]a}. Before the Revolution, such persons, upon being duly convicted thereof, upon Indictment in any Court of Oyer & Terminer, at Court of General Quarter Sessions, to be held in the proper County, shall forfeit and pay the sum of two hundred Dollars, one half to the use of the County, and the other half to the use of the Informer; & shall also be subject to such imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, as the Court, before whom such conviction is had, may in their discretion direct.

Section II.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That every person who shall combine or conspire for the purpose of conveying, possessing, or settling on any Lands within the limits aforesaid, under any half share right or pretended title as aforesaid, or for the purpose of laying out Townships by persons not appoint^{[e]d} or acknowledged by the Laws of this Commonwealth, & every person that shall be accessory (sic) [accessory] thereto, before or after the fact, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay a sum not less than five hundred, not more
than

Page 3:

than one thousand Dollars, one half to the use of the county and the other half to the use of the Informer and shall also be subject to such imprisonment at hard labour, not exceeding eighteen months, in the Court in their discretion may direct.

Section III.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Court wherein such conviction shall issue this Writ to the Sheriff of the County, wherein the said Offence has been comm.^{d[commenced]} or the said conviction had, or if the said Court shall be of opinion, that the Sheriff or Coroner are not

impartial, then to any other persons they may think proper, commanding him or them, together with the power of the County, if he or they should judge their assistance necessary, to proceed to the Lands in question, & therefrom to expel & reject all & every the person & persons thereon intended as aforesaid, and if the said Sheriff, or other person or persons appointed as aforesaid, should make return to the said Writ, that he or they have been unable to execute the same, by reason of the forcible resistance of the parties, or any other persons, or from a just apprehension of such resistances that would rend the execution thereof by himself or themselves, & the power of the County, impracticable, the Prothonotary of the Court to which such Writ is so return'd, shall forthwith transmit a copy of the said Writ and return, under the Seal of the said Court, to the Governor, and it, upon the said Return, or if, upon a Certificate signed by the President, or one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the proper County, or by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, that the process of the Court has been resisted, or that there is reason to believe that the civil authority will be incompetent to the execution of this Law, the Governor shall deem it expedient to order out a portion of the Militia of this State to assist the civil authority in carrying into effect this Act, or any part thereof, the detachment so called out shall received the same pay & rations, & be subject to the same rules & regulations, as are provided in other cases.

Section IV.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That if a Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions for the proper Counties, or a Judge of the Supreme Court, shall apprehend that the Sheriff & Coroner are not impartial, it shall and may be lawful for the said Judge to direct the Venire for the grand request, and for the traverse Jury, to any person or persons be it they may think proper.

Section V.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall resist any Officer, or other persons duly authorized, in the execution of this Act, or any part thereof, every person or persons so offending, and every person that shall be necessary thereto, before or after the fact, shall, on conviction, forfeit and pay a sum not more than five thousand nor less than four hundred Dollars and undergo an imprisonment at hard labour for any period not less than three, nor more than seven years.

Section VI.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in order to disseminate a knowledge of the prov[isions]. contained in this Act, it shall be the duties of the Prothonotaries of the several Courts of Common Pleas of the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne, and they are hereby respectively enjoined & requested, to read, or cause to be read, in open Court, the said Act, and every part thereof at least once in each of the three Terms next after receiving the same; and also it shall & may be lawful for the Governor of this Commonwealth to issue his proclamation, enjoining and requiring all persons having intruded as aforesaid to withdraw peaceably from the Lands whereon such intrusions have been made; and further enjoining requiring the several Officers of Government, and the good Citizens of this state, to prevent or prosecute, by all legal means, such intrusions & intruders, & to afford their most prompt and effectual aid, in their several & respective capacities, to carry into full execution the Laws of this Commonwealth relative thereto. Provided always that nothing contain in this Act shall extend to

the claims of persons claiming Lands under and by virtue of an Act entitled “An Act for ascertaining & confirming to certain persons, called Connecticut claimants, the Lands claimed by them within the County of Luzerne, and for other purposes therein mentioned” passed the twenty eight day of March one thousand seven hundred & eight seven And provided further that this Act, or any thing therein expressed shall not be considered as intended to affect any claims under the said Law, nor as a legislative construction or opinion respecting said Act, or an Act, entitled “An Act to repeal an Act entitled “An Act for ascertaining & confirming to certain persons called Connecticut claimants, the lands by them claimed within the County of Luzerne, & for other purposes therein mentioned” passed the first day of April one thousand seven hundred & ninety, or the validity or effect of either of the said Laws.

George Latimer Speaker
of the House of Representatives
Robert Hare Speaker
of the Senate

Approved April 11. 1795

Thomas Mifflin Governor of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania

{back}

Samuel A. Law
Cheshire
New Haven Post Office

Intrusion Laws
Penn.^[sylvania]

-----END-----

12.117 Item 77: A Printed Extract of a Letter from Timothy Pitkin to Colonel Wadsworth, held by Pickering, 1801 February 17.

Type of Material: Letter

Title: Extract of a Letter

Description: The item depicts a printed extract of a letter by Timothy Pitkin addressed to Colonel Wadsworth, dated February 17, 1801. In the letter, Pitkin informs Wadsworth that the land rights from companies, likely Susquehanna and Delaware Land Companies, have been rejected. The Companies were sent over during the land conflict between Connecticut and Pennsylvania to settle the lands under the character of King Charles II. They would offer titles, rights, and surveys of these lands to the settlers sent over, even continuing to do so after the Decree of Trenton found favor in Pennsylvania’s jurisdiction of the land. This item notes that the reimbursement of lost titles and lands does not pertain to any under these said companies for they were not able to stand up themselves in court. As the companies were considered to be established by the heads of powers within them, seeking to establish their own governing bodies,

they are not considered true institutions by the courts in the transition and compromise acts occurring at the time.

There is an annotation at the top third of the page, which states that the letter is authored by Timothy Pitkin junior to Colonel Wadsworth, with a notation that the letter is held by Timothy Pickering.

Dates: 17 February 1801

Creator: [Pitkin, Timothy, 1766-1847](#)

Subjects: Letter; Correspondence; Susquehanna Claim, 1753-1808

Locations: Connecticut

People: Wadsworth, Decius, 1768-1821; [Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829](#)

General Condition: Fair. Paper shows some signs of age and contains some minor tears.

Measurements: 7 ¾ in. x 6 ⅜ in.

Transcript Attempt:

Annotated on the page:

The Letter is from Timothy Pitkin jun[ior]. Esq. to Col. Wadsworth, It is in the possession of Timothy Pickering Esq.

-----END-----

12.118 Item 78: A Broadside Printed by Z[achariah]. Poulson, [ca. 1801], of a Legal Act and Proclamation by Thomas McKean, 1801 April 14. (removed to black box #5)

Type of Material: Legal Act

Title: A Proclamation.

Description: The following item depicts a printed broadside by Zacharish Poulson, circa 1801, of a proclamation and legal law signed by Thomas McKean, dated April 14, 1801. McKean's proclamation mentions the previous legislation, a legal act to prevent intrusions on Pennsylvania lands by Connecticut claimants. In this proclamation, he urges the importance and need to expel Connecticut claimants from the lands and suggests that the Pennsylvania citizenry take up action in their hands as well as informers for the county. This proclamation is essentially a redress of McKean's earlier act as governor, supporting the claim that Pennsylvania titles would trump all Connecticut claims previously held.

This broadside includes the entirety of the act printed following McKean's proclamation, and an additional abridgment of the act passed.

The act addresses the original "act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne," passed 1795 April 11, (item 12.108), which addressed Connecticut claims of trespass on the lands in question, namely Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne County. The act stipulates that any person claiming or settling on lands in these counties without a title or grant issued by the Pennsylvania powers is to be found guilty of trespass and tried in state courts. The act fined Connecticut settlers found guilty a sum of \$200 with a possible imprisonment up to 12 months. This act was heard and signed by George Latimer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert Hare, the Speaker of the Senate, and Thomas Mifflin, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dates: 14 April 1801

Creator: [Poulson, Zachariah, 1737-1804](#);

Subjects: Law; Print; Legislature; Act; Proclamations

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817](#); [Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817](#); [Poulson, Zachariah, 1737-1804](#)

General Condition: Fair. Item shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 10 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

{Item is printed, no transcript required}

-----END-----

12.119 Item 79: A Printed Copy, [ca. aft. 1801], of a Letter from [Samuel Hodgdon](#) and [Edward Tilghman](#) on Behalf of the Committee of Landholders to [Ebenezer Bowman](#), 1801 May 18. (removed to black box #5)

Type of Material: Letter

Title: Copy of a letter to Ebenezer Bowman, Esq^{[u]r[e]} of Wilkesbarre, from Samuel Hodgdon and Edward Tilghman, on behalf of the Committee of Landholders, consisting of

Description: The following printed copy for the Committee of Landholders is of an original letter written by Samuel Hodgdon and Edward Tilghman, addressed to Ebenezer Bowman and dated May 18, 1801. In the letter Tilghman and Hodgdon write on behalf of the committee, including Henry Drinker, James Strawbridge, Thomas Harrison, John Field, William Turnbull, Thomas W. Francia, Samuel M. Fox, and themselves, concerning the proposal that Connecticut claimants may be reinstated on their lands in certain townships while Pennsylvania holders will be compensated for their losses. The men write to contend with this news proposal, stating that though they do not want to reap the outcomes of lands settled and worked by Connecticut settlers, and thus seek to set the sum for which their lands are worth. However, they go further to say that Pennsylvania holders are the true holders of these grants and as such, Connecticut settlers imposing themselves on the tracts or lands should be considered to have gone against the laws in place to settle the land conflict between the two states.

The act addressed is the “act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne,” passed 1795 April 11, (item 12.108), which addressed Connecticut claims of trespass on the lands in question, namely Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne County. The act stipulates that any person claiming or settling on lands in these counties without a title or grant issued by the Pennsylvania powers is to be found guilty of trespass and tried in state courts. The act fined Connecticut settlers found guilty a sum of \$200 with a possible imprisonment up to 12 months. This act was heard and signed by George Latimer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert Hare, the Speaker of the Senate, and Thomas Mifflin, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This conflicts within the manuscript relate to the [Yankee Pennamite Wars](#), which were a three part conflicts waged between Connecticut and Pennsylvania were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the land in the upper regions of what is now Pennsylvania after King Charles II granted the land twice, once to Connecticut in 1662, and again to William Penn as he founded Pennsylvania in 1681. The states fought over the jurisdiction, which was ultimately decided during the [Decree of Trenton](#), in 1782, where they

granted the rights of jurisdiction to Pennsylvania. The years following the resolve of the conflict saw a great deal of attention to instating compromise acts, rightful governing committees, and redistribution of land claims and titles.

Dates: May 18, 1801

Creator: [Hodgdon, Samuel, 1745-1824](#); [Tilghman, Edward, 1750-1815](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Titles, Land

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [Bowman, Ebenezer, 1757-1829](#); [Hodgdon, Samuel, 1745-1824](#); [Tilghman, Edward, 1750-1815](#); [Drinker, Henry, 1733-1809](#); [Strawbridge, James, 1774-1861](#); [Harrison, Thomas, 1741-1815](#); [Field, John, 1747/8-1824](#); Turnbull, William; [Francis, Thomas Willing, 1767-1815](#); [Fox, Samuel Mickle, 1763-1808](#); Colonel Horne

General Condition: Poor. Vinegar smell with discoloration to the page and minor tearing

Measurements: 13 ³/₄ in. x 10 ³/₄ in.

Transcript Attempt:

In pencil:

-10

{annotation on back}

May 18. 1801

Letter to Eben Bowman

-----END-----

12.120. Item 80: Letter from Elisha Blackman to “the National Gazette,” 1820 December

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter consists of a critique by Elisha Blackman of an account of the memorable Battle of Wyoming published in the National Gazette. This paper is not to be confused with the National Gazette which was a Democratic-Republican partisan newspaper that was first published on October 31, 1791. The *National Gazette* unofficially stopped publishing in October 1793, two years after its establishment, it is believed that the outbreak of yellow fever in Philadelphia, combined with dwindling subscriptions contributed to the paper's demise. A newspaper under the name of Napoleon National Gazette Literary Register began being published in 1820 by William fry, and stopped publication in 1841. This is the newspaper in which published the account of the Battle of Wyoming. Though not written in this letter, the author can be traced back to Elisha Blackman (1760-1845). As this exact writing was published in the 1821 Newspaper Battle of Wyoming PA Napoleon National Gazette Literary Register Vol 53. on January 2nd.

The author of the manuscript mentions Botta's History of the War of American Independence. He is speaking of *History of the War of the Independence of the United States of America* by Charles Botta, full name Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo Botta, an Italian born-French historian.

Dates: December 1820

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Critique; Wyoming Massacre, 1778.

Locations: Wilkes-Barre

People: [Blackman, Elisha \(1760-1845\)](#); [Botta, Carlo Giuseppe Guglielmo](#), 1766-1837

General Condition: Good. Vinegar smell on interior.

Measurements: 10 in. x 8 in. (Closed) 16 in. x 10 in. (Open)

Transcript Attempt:

Wilkes Barre Dec[ember] 1820

To the Editor of the National Gazette

In reading your useful paper of the 9th inst[ant], I observed, under the head of "Wyoming Massacre," an account of the memorable Battle at Wyoming in July 1778, purporting to be an "Extract from the second volume of Otis's translation of Botta's History of the War of American Independence." I presume you were not acquainted with the character of this account, or it never would have met the public eye in the columns of the Gazette. But in publishing the Extract you have, however unintentionally, given a wide circulation to a ~~very erroneous~~ piece of History, which gives a false relation of the events of that melancholy day, and which vilely libels the character of the late Col[onel]. Zebulon Butler. Believing you, however, to be more ready & willing to correct error, than to propagate it, I readily embrace the present opportunity of contradicting the statement made, and promising, as soon as the facts can be collected from correct sources, to furnish a full and ample refutation.

The account, as given in the Extract, is perhaps the most incorrect narration of events, that ever found its way into the history of any transaction, particularly of one so highly interesting. Indeed ~~it is a relation of~~ there is scarcely a solitary truth in the whole extract. Most of the circumstances related, are fabrications, and others are so misrepresented & perverted as hardly to be recognized. I will mention a few of the numerous instances of deviation from truth & fact.--- In the first place, Col[onel]. Zebulon Butler ~~never~~ had ^not the command of the "whole colony." ^ at the time spoken of. He was a Colonel in Washington's army, but, happening to ^ be ~~at home on~~ in this ^ part of the country on a furlough, he was requested to give his assistance and to take command of the men in case it should be necessary to fight. It is not true that Zebulon Butler was a "cousin of John." There was no relationship subsisting between them. It is not true that Col[onel]. Butler was drawn out of the Fort by the "lavish promises" of his enemy, "that if he ^ would consent to a parley in the open field, the siege would be raised, and every thing accommodated." Nor is it true that he marched out for that purpose and "from motives of caution took with him four hundred men well armed." The fact is the only conference he marched out to, was a battle, & then with only about 200 men the only parley he expected was at the point of the bayonet. The battle was fought ~~certain to his~~ ^sooner than he ~~hie~~ devised [devised] ^ he was of the opinion, that delay would enable them to meet the enemy to more advantage and probably ascertain their force ^ but as he had no right to the submission of either the officers, or their men, except what they voluntarily paid him, he was obliged to forego his own opinion, & consent to lead them ^on to the ~~fight~~ Battle. It is not true than Col[onel]. Butler & his men were enticed into the "dismal solitude," & "thick forests (sic)," by a "flag," and ~~it is equally untrue that the enemy~~ ^ There "completely surrounded ~~him~~ ^by the enemy" x In short the whole Extract is a issue of falsehoods, which it ^ would occupy more time & space to point out particularly, than I am willing to allow myself in this communication. ~~If however, it be deemed of sufficient interest~~

To perpetuate truth is, or ought to be the object of History: or at ~~least~~ all events History should never be made the vehicle of falsehood. That a true account of the Battle of Wyoming may be incorporated into history, is one reason why I have noticed the Extract. If it be deemed of sufficient interest, & importance to the public, that any account of it should be registered, it certainly is of importance that that account should be correct & authentic. But it is also due to the memory of Col[onel]. Butler, and to the feeling of his numerous descendants, to remove the odium which this account has so unjustly heaped upon his character. The fact-that he entered the Brittish (sic) service while young, & served as an Ensign in the French war,--- that he was promoted to a Captaincy, & served in that rank at the taking of the Havanna,--- that upon the breaking out of the war with Great Brittain (sic) he entered the Revolutionary army in which he rose to the rank of Colonel,--- sufficiently answers the imputation of treachery and want of capacity.---

There are a few survivors of the battle yet remaining, who are well acquainted with transactions of that day, as well as of somedays both precious & subsequent, and who are willing to testify ~~their~~ knowledge of them.--- And I repeat, should you be willing to publish the facts they shall be furnished you. As one account has gone to the public, in your paper, it is but just ^ that an accurate statement should be as widely circulated.

I am

Your &c [etcetera]

Back:

Massacre

-----END-----

12.121 Item 81: A Broadside Printed by Z[achariah]. Poulson, [ca. 1801], of a Legal Act and Proclamation by Thomas McKean, 1801 April 14. (removed to black box #5)

Type of Material: Legal Act

Title: A Proclamation.

Description: The following item depicts a printed broadside by Zacharish Poulson, circa 1801, of a proclamation and legal law signed by Thomas McKean, dated April 14, 1801. McKean's proclamation mentions the previous legislation, a legal act to prevent intrusions on Pennsylvania lands by Connecticut claimants. In this proclamation, he urges the importance and need to expel Connecticut claimants from the lands and suggests that the Pennsylvania citizenry take up action in their hands as well as informers for the county. This proclamation is essentially a redress of McKean's earlier act as governor, supporting the claim that Pennsylvania titles would trump all Connecticut claims previously held.

This broadside includes the entirety of the act printed following McKean's proclamation, and an additional abridgment of the act passed.

The act addresses the original "act to prevent intrusions of Lands within the Counties of Northampton, Northumberland & Luzerne," passed 1795 April 11, (item 12.108), which addressed Connecticut claims of trespass on the lands in question, namely Northampton, Northumberland, and Luzerne County. The act stipulates that any person claiming or settling on lands in these counties without a title or grant issued by the Pennsylvania powers is to be found guilty of trespass and tried in state courts. The act fined

Connecticut settlers found guilty a sum of \$200 with a possible imprisonment up to 12 months. This act was heard and signed by George Latimer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Robert Hare, the Speaker of the Senate, and Thomas Mifflin, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dates: 14 April 1801

Creator: [Poulson, Zachariah, 1737-1804](#);

Subjects: Law; Print; Legislature; Act; Proclamations

Locations: Philadelphia

People: [McKean, Thomas, 1734-1817](#); [Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817](#); [Poulson, Zachariah, 1737-1804](#)

General Condition: Fair. Item shows signs of age.

Measurements: 12 ¾ in. x 10 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

{Item is printed, no transcript required}

-----END-----

12.122 Item 82: A Historical Address of the Battle of Wyoming Before the Monument, by [[David Scott](#)], [ca. 1833].

Type of Material: Prepared Speech

Title: N/A

Description: The following document appears to be a written speech that pertains to the Battle of Wyoming. In the speech, the writer expresses honor at having been chosen by the committee to give this memorial of the battle, to remember those lost during the conflict with the construction of the Battle of Wyoming Monument. The speaker begins by giving a character of the men who fought and lost their lives during the battle, naming them as brave and fathers of the period of peace they now live in. However, the speaker also underscores the violence and injustice of their experience, and states that it is the duty of those who come after to record and uphold that history. In the latter part of the speech, the speaker writes that, were all the men to have the experience before them again, he believes that they would fight once more against dishonor and maintain the legacy they now remember. The speaker also gives an account of the battle itself, explaining how the inhabitants of the valley were attacked and their buildings, lands, and homes burned in the process of their attack and removal.

Though the writer is not expressly written, it is plausible that judge [David Scott, 1782-1839](#), is the speaker, as he gives an address at the first laying of the monument in 1833, on the anniversary, July 3rd. [The Battle of Wyoming](#) was a military engagement during the American Revolutionary War between Patriot militia and a force of loyalist soldiers and Iroquois warriors. It took place on July 3, 1778 in what is known now as Luzerne County. Along with items that depicts Colonels Zebulon Butler and Nathan Denison's involvement, item 12.54 item 13, in the lead up to the battle, this series also includes documents such as Elisha Blackman's letter to the publisher of the National Gazette, 12.78 item 37, claiming that their narration of the Battle was incorrect and Eliphalet Follet's (Jr.) writings, 12.81 item 40, to the Wyoming Claim Committee to tell the story of his father who died in battle and of his mothers journey taking care of him and his siblings while grieving the death.

This item was originally curated with Series II: the McClintock Family Series, as part of a binder, original number 1.6 Binder: Andrew McClintock Correspondence and Biographical Materials and Photo, 1831-1881. The binder was dissolved in processing the collection and items pertaining to the Susquehanna Claim and General Wyoming Valley Collection moved to corresponding collections.

Dates: [[ca. 1833](#)]

Creator: [[Scott, David, 1782-1839](#)]

Subjects: History, Speech, United States of America, Battles, War, veterans

Harmful Language Tag: This item contains language that may be harmful to the indigenous communities. It is a product of the time it was written.

Locations: Wyoming Valley

People: [[Scott, David, 1782-1839](#)]

General Condition: Poor. The page is torn in the middle and bottom seams. The paper is fragile and the ink is smeared in some sections.

Measurements: 10 in. x 7 14/16 in.

Transcription Attempt:

Page 1:

Your committee have done me the honor to assign me
a part in the interesting ceremonies of the day and to request
from me a few remarks appropriate to the occasion. I feel that
I shall not be able to do justice to the subject or the occasion
or fulfill the expectation of this numerous assemblage. The
subject is ~~[illegible]~~ replete with satisfaction, melancholy it is true
but upon which we can dwell with pride + exaltation
while we weigh the tears of sorrow and regret with the
mouldering dust of the sufferers. Who does not feel proud
and exult in the reflection that he is connected even by the
most distant ties of relationship with those who fought and
suffered on that fatal day whose disasters have been the
means of bringing us together at this distant period! Though the
struggle was unsuccessful, there is nothing for us to repeat but
its issue, and its miserable consequence to the slain and to
the survivors for whose defense + protection they ^{vainly} fought & fell
They could not command success though all was done that could
be done to deserve it, and no dishonour followed defeat.

& what should call forth every sympathetic parts of our hearts

The occasion too of our assembling is one of deep & abiding
interest ^{to prepare(?) & gratify(?) —(?) —(?)} It is to lay the corner stone of a monument to be
erected ^{^within the —(?) of their bones} by the descendants and other possessors of the soil ^{^bloodstained} soon
and secured by the perseverance and valour of the first brave ^{pioneers} occupiers(?)
— a race of men scarcely ever equated + never surpassed in simplicity

of character ^{^—(?) of —(?) & steadfastness(?) of execution(?)} in sternness of purpose - in intelligence - in courage - in virtue and in attachment to the true principles of freedom, by Greece or Rome in their prudent(?) days. - Wyoming was not tempted(?) by the vices & follies of the old world - her inhabitants were not driven by their crimes or their misfortunes from “the busy haunts of men” to seek in the obscurity and retirement of this their distant + frontier settlement, that security ^{oblivion} & forgetfulness which was denied ~~from~~ in the Atlantic settlements. I am proud to say

Page 2:

that such were not the motives which profited our favourite valley
No. It was that manly independence of character that relies (sic) [relies?] upon its ~~own~~ [illegible] its own capacity + resources for the accumulation of wealth or the acquisition of the ^{^luxuries or} comforts of life which will be content with securing —(?) its necessities if down with it our arm, - it was ^{^that} contempt of danger which regards not any hazard in the accomplishment of a virtuous & laudable ^{enterprise} object - it was that patient courage - & hardy perseverance which is stopped by no obstacles however great - + which is delayed by no considerations of personal risk— and above all it was that ardent love of ^{genuine spirit of persons & national liberty} love of the genuine principles of liberty which seem to be innate in every American breast, which carried with it the conviction a freeman's every ~~mind(?)~~ thought, and + act ought be free as the air he breathes, contrould (?) only by reason + those wholesome regulations which ^{^render} its ^{their} exercise and enjoyment ^{of liberty} - Motives + characteristics like their present our forefathers into this remote abode, of the ^{^lone +} wandering Indian
~~Now was it by force that they assigned(?) to possess~~
It was an honorable trait in their character too that it was not by force + ^{^proud} virtue but by honorable purchase that our ancestors ~~designed~~ possessed themselves of the soil. - Planted here by principality (sic) [principality] which rendered them unfit to breath(e) (sic) the air polluted by the presence of royal governors or ~~th~~ other agents of a crowned head, they in the form of government which they established for themselves practised what they professed. No government could be more . . . truly democratic. The people acted for themselves ^{but} in primary assemblies ^{where the minority would to the manning(?)} + not by representation, - and as an evidence of their purity + the care with which they guarded against the inroads of vice + corruption I would mention the fact that I have seen a record of the proceedings of one of their meetings of the people for the transaction of public business in which it is stated that an individual won by a vote taken in his case banished from the settlement, because he was in the simple but cogent language of the record “an unwholesome member of the community.” - Of such men - mentioned in such a school, was that ^{brave} + devoted band the memory of whose martyrdom(?) we have met to perpetuate. -

It cannot be necessary for me at this time to do more than take

a rapid glance at the history of the times + the catastrophe which made so many mothers, widows, + so many children fatherless. The story of Wyoming's virtues, her patriotism, her successes & her sufferings has been beautifully

Page 3:

portrayed by the pencil of the past, as well as by its graver pen of the Historian, and is now familiar to all "a household word." Besides the faithful sketch delivered in your hearing at the last anniversary of this day would render any attempt of mine now vapid + uninteresting. It is known to all that no just cause of enmity(?) existence against Wyoming in the breast of the Indians - to excite their persons or to endure ^{no special feeling of listlessness} to the awful incursion. However much they might long to repossess themselves of this bountiful + favorite ^{spot} valley they had no felings (sic) [feelings] of revenge to great - no princeling(?) burnings of hostility to ^{be} quenched ^{^only} in blood. We must look to those of our own race for ^{the} its origin her misfortunes. To the eternal disgrace of Great Britain be it spoken ^{the charge} she employed of enacting the natural thirst ~~for~~ of the savage for blood and turning his ferocious arm against her American brethren must ever remain a foul & an effacable (sic) [effable?] blot upon her exaltation (sic) [exaltation]. I write [illegible] to her like the fatal & disgusting plague spot till the hour of her deportation. When she learned that the Patriots of Wyoming were deeply enbred (sic) [inbred] with the [illegible] ^{sentiments} of liberty, and partook largely of the spirit of the times - that they had sent forth their bravest + their best ^{their youth & strength} + fought the battles of Liberty in the army of their Country + had left for besides the patriarchy of Land to guard their houses & friends then it was that her destruction was resolved on and Terribly was their determination carried with effect - Apt instruments of massacre and devastation were at hand. The cruel + ruthless Savage was let loose and in the rd[illegible] but ferocious language of Gen^{[era]l} Burgozne exhorted as "go forth in the night of their valour & their cause: Strike at the common enemies of Great Britain + America, disturbances, of public order, peace + happiness, parricides of the earth," - So inveterate was the determination of our foes to Strangle young Liberty in her birth that they scripted not at means by which it was to be accomplished. True enclosed(?) is it of trans atlantic liberty that ~~her~~ "Her birth star was the light of burning plains
"Her baptism in the blood that flows
From kindred hearts.-

Had Wyoming proved reverent to the sacred cause, - had she pursued the mere terror of her enemy ^{regardless of the pending struggle} had refrained from taking part in the glorious contest, which the remoteness of her" location might in some measure have excused, she would

Page 4:

have been safe indeed, but it would have been an inglorious safety
Her fields would not have been burning plains—the blood of her sons would
have continued to flow in ignoble veins, + her name have been unknown
+ unsung if not a name of reproach & scorn. Then indeed would we have
mourned as those who have ^{no} solace in the sorrows. Shawnee would have
burned their chests, & blistered would have been their tongue ~~that could~~ of him
who should have counselled said a course, & now was found to do it.
~~Very~~ No son or daughter of Wyoming would by such submission have averted
the ^{heated} vengeance firing + raised on it ^{foued} visited upon there. And I know I speak
but the feelings of these good veterans. the brave associates of those whose
bones were now exposed before us mutilated by the instruments of savage
warfare, when I say that rather not put in their claims for the
honor of contending in such a cause they would act over again the ^{trying} scenes
of their youth. Again would they follow their country's standard into field
again succum[b] (sic) the dangers of the battle - the mortification of defeat -
the hazard of the ~~illegible~~ retreats, the sufferings of the flight. the
subsequent return of their bones now a desolate waste- and finally
performed the melancholy duty of committing the remains of their
slaughtered friends ~~to the~~ one common [illegible] this fiery ordeal would they
again push through rather than have purchased(?) safety at the expense of honor.

the descendants of such accounts

We at this day look around whose highly cultivated fields &
fertile plains and think not of their natural conciliation. We look out upon the
green hill, and reflect ^{forget} not that their sleeping shores were even awakened by the startling
^{war whose} yell of the Savage. We stand in the very footsteps of the combatants without
colleues to mind the death struggle which crimsonin the ground with the life blood of herve. We see
everything but the quit pursuit of rappy [illegible] day and all the av[illegible] of aviloque indeusty. Peace
is indeed in all our boachen. But could I carry you back to those “times whose this [illegible] stuh.” Could
I tear from safe back the dowed of time the records of the last fity-five years + back you rais your eyers to
the view I should disclose a seen of honor that would borrow all your very souls + move every [illegible]
to rage lind ignation. The same saw while rww able over over heads shows in spandow upon the remnants
of wonder littles Forty + deserves them.

-----END-----

**12.123 Item 83: Letter from [D\[avid\]. Petrikin](#) to [Chester Butler](#), Chairman, et.
al., 1837 December 22**

Type of Material: Letter/Correspondence

Title: N/A

Description: A letter, dated December 22, 1837, written by David Petrikin, a Pennsylvania Representative, to Chester Butler, a United States congressman and representative of Pennsylvania. The letter is addressed to Butler as president of the Wyoming Commissioners, along with additional sitting members, including, Charles Miner, Benjamin A. Bidlack, Charles Denison Shoemaker, William Sterling Ross, and Lazarus Denison. In the Letter, Petrikin mentions that he has previously received a petition of memorial by the commissioners on the 15th, and intends to aid in having it enacted as promptly as allowable.

Though there is an actual monument for the Wyoming settlers who fought in the Battle of Wyoming, the term memorial is likely referring to a petition by settlers classed as "wyoming sufferers," as they request aid from the government. This language and its usage can be seen in 10.54. Item 31: A Petition by Stoddard Judd for Catherine Ropell to Chester Butler and Committee Members, 1828 January 20, where Judd mentions that the case of Mrs. Catherine Ropell is being presented as a memorial.

Dates: December 22, 1837

Creator: [Petrikin, David, 1788-1847](#)

Subjects: Letters; Correspondence; Wyoming Massacre; Anti-abolitionist, 1790-1853

Locations: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

People: [Petrikin, David, 1788-1847](#); [Butler, Chester Pierce, 1798-1850](#); [Bidlack, Benjamin Alden, 1804-1849](#); [Miner, Charles, 1780-1865](#); [Shoemaker, Charles Denison, 1802-1861](#); [Ross, William Sterling, 1802-1868](#); [Denison, Lazarus, 1773-1841](#)

General Condition: Good.

Measurements: 8 ⅞ in. x 10 1/16 in.

Transcription Attempt:

Page 1:

Washington City

Messers Chester Butler
Ch^s [Charles] Miner
B A Bidlack
CD Shoemaker
WS Ross +
Lazarus Dennison Sirs

22nd Dec^{[embe]r}, 1837

Yours of the 15th instant

enclosing the memorial in behalf of the Wyoming suffers
I have rec^d [received] today and shall have it presented enacted (?)
upon the earliest opportunity - as a matter of duty I
shall move to have it printed when committed and
that notion is not repressed in ordinary cases unconnected
with some very exciting & to a majority of the House
unpleasant subject but as abolition.

You may rest assured that I will give all
the aid in my power to connumerate the wishes of the

petitioners

accept gentlemen individually
+ collectively sentiments of respect
+ esteem

D Petrikin

Page 2:

Blank

Page 3:

Blank

Page 4:

D Petrinkin MC
Free

Chester Butler Esq^{[ui]r[e]}
Chairman of Wyoming Comm^{[ission]ers}
Wilkes Barre
Luzerne Co[unt]y
Pa

-----END-----

12.124 Item 84: An Act for the Relief of Wyoming Suffering During the Revolutionary War, Suggested Report, [ca. [1837 December 29](#)] [removed to legal size box #1]

Type of Material: Act/Proposal/Sale

Title: Act for the Relief of Wyoming Suffering

Description: The following item depicts a suggested report to be made to congress for the relief of those who suffered at Wyoming during the Revolutionary War. The suggested report requests that congress afford some relief for the families of the men who were residing in Wyoming valley during the Revolutionary war, including their widows, heirs, and legal representatives. This relief would be a tract of land, approved by the President of the United States, which would contain 150,000, by which a committee appointed by the President would hear claims and distribute them accordingly. This item does not state where the lands would be located, but in comparing documents that have the official act published, it is likely they are the lands named along the Susquehanna river.

The date for the item has been estimated by comparison with a document found on Google Books, titled [Wyoming Claims--Revolution Petition of the Sufferers at Wyoming. During the Revolutionary War, for Relief. December 29, 1837. Referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims](#), which provides the same

date. Our manuscript mentions that this version is a suggested report, and contains differences in language from the final report in the secondary sources. We have inferred the circa date as we believe that this document is an earlier edition.

The report is possibly written by William Ross, with Anderson Dana as a secondary name on the document. This has been estimated by a comparison with the final report, digitized in [*History of Wyoming: In a Series of Letters, from Charles Miner, to His Son William Penn Miner*](#), by Charles Miner, which shows William Ross and Anderson Dana as the signed creators.

This item was originally curated with Series II: the McClintock Family Series, as part of a binder, original number 1.6 Binder: Andrew McClintock Correspondence and Biographical Materials and Photo, 1831-1881. The binder was dissolved in processing the collection and items pertaining to the Susquehanna Claim and General Wyoming Valley Collection moved to corresponding collections.

Dates: [ca. 1837 December 29]

Creator: [\[Pos. Ross, William\]](#)

Subjects: Acs, Legislative; Legislature; Revolutionary War; Relief

Locations: N/A

People: [Pos. Ross, William]

General Condition: Good, only observable issues are the discoloration of the paper and that most of the words are difficult to read.

Measurements: 6 ¾ in. x 8 in.

Transcription Attempt:

Front Page:

An act for the relief of the suffers (sic) [sufferers] at Wyoming during the Revolutionary War. Their widows, heirs and legal representatives

Be it enacted, &c [etcetera] that a tract of land ~~not Exceeding~~ one hundred and fifty thousand acres be “and the same in hereby appropriated for the sufferers at Wyoming during the Revolutionary War, their widows, heirs, or legal Representatives to be laid off for their use under the authority and by direction of the President of the United States.

And be in further enacted by the authority aforesaid — that the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorize(d) to appoint three persons as Commissioners to sit at Wyoming ~~and~~ to hear and determine on the Claims ^{^that may be made under this act} ~~of the Wyoming sufferers~~ and to render search [amend(?)] and distribution of the lands hereby granted, as shall be dec[ree]d joint and equitable

If the Hon[orable] Committee concur, a brief sketch

of a Report and Bill are submitted; both with the greatest deference (sic) [deference]

Back Page:

Act

For the relief of Wyoming Suffering

+c [etcetera]

Suggested Report

-----END-----

12.125. Item 85: Letter from Eliphalet Follett Jr. to “The Committee of the Wyoming Claim”, 1838 January 12. [Removed to Legal Box #1]

Type of Material: Letter

Title: N/A

Description: This letter is written by Eliphalet Follett Jr. to the Committee of the Wyoming Claim in regards to his father, Eliphalet Follett Sr., death that occurred during the Wyoming Massacre on July 3rd 1778. Follett Sr. was a part of a group of patriots who were slaughtered by the Indians and Tories. His wife, Elizabeth Dewey, fled from Wyoming with her 6 children, giving birth to Follett's last son in 1778, that she would name Eliphalet in her husband's honor. Dewey was known for her courage and ability to push through the many obstacles thrown her way after her husband's death. Dewey traveled miles on horse with her six children, while being pregnant with Eliphalet Jr., to Sullivan's camp for refugees. Also, sustaining a broken arm. In this letter Follett Jr. sends the names of the surviving heirs of his father. Only Himself and his sister Elizabeth Reynolds survived past childhood and into their adult years, with many of their siblings dying of sickness at early age.

Dates: 12 January 1838

Creator: Follett, Eliphalet Jr. (1779-1851)

Subjects: Personal letter

Locations: York Cross Roads

People: [Follett Eliphalet Sr. \(1740-1778\)](#); Follett, Elizabeth (b.1769); [Slocum, Isaac 1775-1858](#)

General Condition: Fair

Measurements: 12 ½ in. x 7 ¾ in.

Transcript Attempt:

[front]

To the Committee of the Wyoming Claim

Gentlemen

According to request I send you the names of the surviving heirs of my father, who was one of the Wyoming Sufferers. My father, Eliphalet Follett, lived on Kingston side, near Forty Fort. He owned a lot where he lived and other lands adjacent or, in the neighborhood, in all, to the amount of six hundred acres. He had seven children, six sons and one daughter- they are all dead but myself and sister- my sister's name is Elizabeth Reynolds- She lives in Cambridge, Franklin County, Vermont, and I live at York Cross Roads, Sandusky County, Ohio.

My father was killed in the battle fought at Wyoming July 3rd 1778, and my mother, with a family of seven small children, after suffering great incredible hardships, succeeded in reaching her pursuit to Vermont. All that was my father's was utterly lost to his widow, or heirs, they never having recovered any thing for his possessions. I live neighbor to Issac Slocum of York, Sandusky Co. O. who is one of the first of Wyoming settlers and with whom I am well acquainted.

Eliphalet Follett

York Cross Roads
Jany. 12th 1838

[back]

York Roads. O.
Jany 15 Paid 25
To the Committee of Correspondence
for Wyoming CLaim
Wilkes Barre
Luzerne Co.
Pa

-----END-----

12.126. Item 86: Ladies Luzerne Monumental Association Memorandum, ca. 1841

Type of Material: Memorandum

Title: Ladies Luzerne Monumental Association

Description: This is a Memorandum created by the Ladies of the Luzerne Monumental Association in regards to gaining funds to finish a monument in memory of those who fell while defending the Valley of Wyoming during the Revolutionary War. Talk of the monument being created began in 1809, at the home of Jason Scovell. Obadiah Gore was appointed chair and Anderson Dana the secretary of the committee. Sixty men were on the committee overall and represented the various towns within Luzerne county. Since efforts to raise money fell flat, the construction of the monument did not officially happen until 1833. In July 1833, a ceremony was held in which 500 people attended and a cornerstone was placed by a survivor of the massacre, Samuel Carey. The remains of those who had fallen were placed in the base of the monument. Again, due to lack of funds construction slowed down. It was not until 1841 when a major fundraiser was spearheaded by the Ladies Wyoming Monumental Association. They raised money by hosting fairs and calling out to adjacent counties for support. The Ladies eventually raised the 8,000\$ needed to finish construction and fix up the surrounding landscape. Since 1841, there have been ceremonies that take place annually at the site to remember those who fought and fallen heroically during the Battle of Wyoming. See more [Library of Congress](#).

There is a Mrs. Donley named in the manuscript. It may be referring to the wife of David Donley, a man from Dallas county. There is some record of him in the [Proceedings and Collections by the Wyoming Historical and Genealogical Society](#).

Dates: 3 July 1778

Creator: N/A

Subjects: Monument; Ladies' Memorial Association

Location: Wilkes-Barre (Pa.)

People: [Butler, Chester Pierce](#), 1798-1850; [\(Hollenback\) Butler/Cist, Sarah Anne](#), d.1851; [Pos. [Butler, Lord Nelson](#), 1806-1861]; [Pos. [\(Slocum\) Butler, Abi Welding](#), 1808-1887]; Nicholson; Hollenback; Conyngham, [Pos. [Conyngham, John Nesbitt](#), 1798-1871]; [Pos. [\(Butler\) Conyngham, Ruth Ann](#), 1801-1879]; Bennet; Carey; Lewis; [[Miner, T\[homas\] W\[right\]](#), 1803-1858]; [[\(Bowman\) Miner, Lucy E.](#), 1806-1842]; Beaumont, [Pos. [Beaumont, Andrew](#), 1790-1853]; [Pos. [\(Colt\) Beaumont, Julia](#), 1796-1872]; Covell; Ross; Drake; Woodward, [Pos. [Woodward, George Washington](#), 1809-1875]; [Pos. [\(Trott\) Woodward, Sarah Elizabeth](#), 1810-1869] Donley, [Pos. [Donley, David](#), 1772-1845]

General Condition: Good

Measurements: 8 in. x 10 in. (Closed) 16 in. x 10 in. (Open)

Transcript Attempt:

LADIES' LUZERNE MONUMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The undersigned, in behalf of the Ladies of Wilkes-Barre, who have recently founded themselves into a society for finishing the monument designed to perpetuate the memory of those who fell in defense of this Valley on 3rd of July, 1778, solicit the Ladies throughout this county, to assist in this patriotic work, by forming societies in every township auxiliary to ours, by obtaining donations for us of money to saleable articles, or in other way which their good sense and judgment may dictate. And we further invite the Ladies in the several townships of this county, and in the adjoining counties, to meet with us in the Borough of Wilkes Barre, on the 3rd and 5th days of July next, where a FAIR will be held for the sale of such articles as may be furnished. And suitable accommodation made for those who may be disposed to help us. And we would still further say to our sister countrywomen, wherever they may be, throughout all the land, that their assistance in this enterprise will be gladly received and gratefully acknowledged. Say not, in answer to this appeal fair countrywomen, that our object is entirely of *local* nature, one in which *you* have no interest— not so: on the contrary, it is a *national* object, and *you* are *Americans* all. Shall the three hundred who bled at the celebrated pass of Thermopylae be honored by their *Monument*, in history, in story and in song, and shall the remains of *our own brave Spartan band* be suffered to lie mouldering [sic], with nought but a shapeless mass of rubbish to mark the spot where they so gloriously fell? We anticipate your answer. You will extend to us a hand of fellowship; one and all, you will unite with us to prove , that the *amor*

patriae is *not* confined to the nobler sex; heart and hand you will join us in this good work , and thus stimulate your husbands, brothers and sons to deeds of virtue and patriotism.

Executive Committee:

Mrs. C. Butler,	Mrs. Nicholson,
“ Hollenback,	“ Conyngham,
“ Bennet,	“ Cary,
“ Lewis,	“ T.W. Miner,
“ Beaumont,	“Covel,
“ Ross,	“ Drake

Corresponding Committee:

Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Donley, Mrs. L. Butler

-END-