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Monday 29 January 1776

The Council requested of Mr. Samuel Purviance Chairman of the Committee of Observation in Baltimore Town that said Committee would furnish them a chart of the North East Branch of the Patapsco River from Whetstone Point; also the Sounding a Depth of the Water between that Point and Gorsuch's Point also a plan of Fortification and Cheveaux de ^{FRISE} Frise or other Obstructions to be placed in the River together with the Estimate of the Expence.

Baltimore Town Feb. 2, 1776

The Council went to Whetstone Point to inform themselves of the situation thereof and consider the practicability of fortifying the same.

(This is also in American Archives Vol 5 col. 1530)

Saturday 3^d Feb^y 1776

Council Met.

Resolved That the Gentlemen of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County reside in Baltimore Town, or any three of them, be and ~~are~~ hereby requested to examine the Cannon lying at Fell's Point and elsewhere in and near Baltimore Town and cause such of them as may be found fit for Service, not intended for the Ship Defence, to be lodged in some Place of Security mounted on proper Carriages as soon as they conveniently can, and make Report of the State of the Cannon and the Expence of Carriages to the Council of Safety.

(This part also in American Archives,
Vol. 5, p. 1530.

.....

.....

Whereas Samuel Purviance Jun^r John Moale, Jeremiah Townley Chase, James Calhoun, Andrew Buchanan, Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Griffith Isaac Griest, John Smith, John Boyd, William Asquith and William Buchanan, acting Members of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County residing in an near Baltimore Town have delivered in to the Council of Safety Proposals for fortifying the Town of Baltimore and placing Obstructions in the Channel of the River so as to prevent the Approach of Men of War to the said Town Agreeable to the Resolve of the late Convention and have offered to undertake the Business and complete the same with all convenient speed for the Sum of six thousand two hundred Pounds, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the Purpose aforesaid, and are willing to give Bond with Condition for the due performance of their Agreement, therefore

Resolved, That the proposition made by said Gentlemen of the Committee of Observation be accepted, and that Bond be taken with Condition, that if the said Samuel Purviance, Jun^r William Lux, John Moale, Jeremiah Townley Chase, James Calhoun, Andrew Buchanan, Thomas Harrison, Benjamin Griffith, Isaac Griest, John Smith, John Boyd, Wm. Aisquith and William Buchanan, or the Survivors of them, their Heirs, Executors or Administrators do & shall in all Things fulfill the Resolve of said Convention and their the said Obligers Agreement with the Council of Safety and do and shall well and truly lay out and expend the aforesaid Sum of six thousand two hundred Pounds Currency or as much thereof as may be necessary in fortifying said Town, and placing Obstructions in the Channel of the River, so as in all human probability will prevent men of war approaching said Town, and do from Time to Time render a full and fair Account of their Expences and other Transactions in the Management of the Business aforesaid and also do and shall well and faithfully and in/^aproper manner complete the same Fortifications and Obstructions with all convenient Speed so as in all human Probability to prevent the Men of War approaching said Town, then the Bond to be void otherwise to be made and remain in full Force & Virtue in Law. Which Bond was taken accordingly (and Filed)

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Saturday 3^d Feb 1776

Instructions and sailing orders were given to Joseph Oakham
Captain of the Sloop Two Sisters.

Friday 8 March 1776

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(Baltimore Committee to Council)

Balto 1 o'Clock Frid. Morn^g

Gentlemen. We are^{much} obliged for your information. We yesterday sent an Express to Phil^a to forward our powder & small arms, and also to the head of Elk to prevent it coming down by Water, Capt Nicholson's Guns are just now arrived, & alongside, & he will be in a very good posture of Defence by Sunrise tomorrow. We have hove up a breast work at Fells Point near the ship and shall get several cannon mounted on it by 8 o'clock. Major Gist & the Regulars are all marched to Whetstone to intrench tonight, The Militia are coming in, no commissary is in town to furnish Provisions, we have therefore directed some Beef & Bread to be provided. We have just got information that the Ship of War is at the Mouth of the River with her Tenders, the ship came to an anchor, but the Tenders kept under sail, we fear M^r Hudsons shil will fall into their Hands as she is aground near North Point, three vessells went to lighten her, but seeing the war vessels they would not stay. We want money & hope you will send us immediately what you may think adequate to the present occasion. We shall take every measure we think necessary for our preservation, And are Gentⁿ

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Samuel Purviance Junr Chairⁿ Will^m Lux

John Moale And. Buchanan

Jn^o Cockey
Will^m Aiscuith

W^m Buchanan

(Purviance to Council)

th.

Baltimore Feb. 17

1776.

Gentlemen. In pursuance of your orders to mount the Cannon fir for use at this place. We have engaged a number of Workmen in making wheels and Carriages for the purpose, it being the general opinion of all who have a knowledge of such matters that it is best to mount them as Field Pieces, which purpose the guns now here will be suitable for as they are all light, say, 2, 3, and 4 pounders to the amot of 20 Pieces besides 6 of 9 Pd^s belonging to Cap^t Stone We had the whole of the guns examined by Mr. Geo. Mathews who has pronounced them good. The Commee have directed me to apply to you for orders to provide a parcel of^{Shot} suitable to the guns. Mr. Dan^l Hughes is very anxious to have some persons appointed to go to Antietam to prove the guns^r which his brother^l has cast. I apprehend Cap^t Fulford is the best qualified to do it of any person here, it may be of consequence how soon it is done, as those if they stand Proof, might be speedily got down here. We have ab^t 50 hands at work on a battery since tuesday at Wetstone, and near 200 more employed in providing timber, Logs, Smiths work &c. for the Boom. I hope we shall have part of our Battery ready to mount some guns before the end of next week, Mr. Alexander writes me that M^r Morris had promised our delegates part of some Powder^h w^a was arrived at Philad^a which they w^d immediately forward to this Town.

I am with much respect Gentlemen

Your most h^{ble}

Serv^t

Sam^l

Purviance, Jun^r

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[Council to Baltimore Committee]

The repeated Instances you have given of your Readiness to co-operate with us in such Measures as we have thought conducive to the Interests^s and Security of this Province under our present unhappy Circumstances have proved very acceptable and the Information communicated by Mr. Sam Purviance Jun^r by your Order that you^{will} assist in providing Shott suitable for the Cannon for which we have the pleasure to hear you have engaged a Number of Workmen in making Wheels and Carriages agreeable to our Requisition when at Baltimore affords us real Satisfaction. Confiding in your Zeal and Diligence we request you will immediately employ^{some} able and skillful Person in supplying a sufficient Quantity of Ball proper for those Guns and as we are advised some of the Shott furnished the Ship Defence are not round, that you will^{be} particularly attentive to the casting of them and receive none but what are truly formed and fit for Service.

We have not yet been wrote to by M^r Hughes for a Proof-Master to try the Cannon he agreed with the last Convention to furnish for the Use of this Province or had any satisfactory Information in what Fordwardness they are; however as we are anxious to expedite this Business & presume M^r Hughes must have run some of them by this Time we have appointed Capt. Fullford to prove them, and wrote him upon the Subject; and from a Wish to have everything in readiness against the Guns are brought down we desire you will immediately contract for fit and proper Carriages for them to be supplied as expeditiously as they can.

22 Feby. 1776

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Doct^r George Budd was appointed Surgeon of the Ship Defence,
and Doct^r Nathan Dorsey jun^r Mate

(Jenifer and Council to Barrister Carroll)

Friday 8 March 1776.
Annapolis 10 O' Clock at night Friday

My dear Barrister.

^r
M Eddis is this moment returned from the Otter Sloop of War and brought a letter from Capt Squire to the Governor, a copy of which I send you. As I expected so it has turned out that the man of War was detained three or four hours and in all probability will not be before Baltimore Town 'till seven or eight o'clock in the morning. I Therefore send you this express to apprize you and the Committee of Balt. Town that the Otter has 18 guns, one of the Tenders six guns and 4 swivels and the other armed with swivels only. The Capt is to send a flag in to demand the ship Defence, I wish with all my heart our stores were out and the ship at the bottom of the sea. Eddis left the man of war at 4 oclock, about which time Hudson's ship was taken. The Committee of Baltimore Town being apprized of these particulars will take their measures accordingly. Squire behaved politely to Middleton when in distress and was he to come here in peaceable times I should be glad to shew him the civility due to a gentleman but I think he will have better luck than I expect he will meet with id he purchases much provision in Annapolis. The Vessel burnt of the mouth of Severn Squire says was done without order and done by an inconsiderate midshipman. She was worth but little and had only two barrels of Flower in her I believe.

March 8, 1776

[Council of Safety 1775-1776]

[Purviance to Jenifer]

[Friday 8 March 1776]

Dear Sir:

I did not know until I had finished the enclosed that the bearer did not intend to call on Mr. Carroll as that letter represents our present situation I thought it well it should go forward to you. I hope in god by tomorrow night ^{to furnish you} a good accot of the tenders & Hudsons ship, & that the issue of this affair will reflect some little Honor on the spirit of Maryland: At 3 oclock yestd our Militia companies in town were paraded at the Comm^{ee} room when at the very ins^t a false alarm came from the Point that the ship of war boats were standing up to cut off some empty vesl^s we had collected & got ready to sink across the river at Whetstone in Case the ship should come up before we could get our breastwork & ship defence completed. A deputⁿ of the Com^{ee} were appointed to sit & give all orders before the alarm spread, but such was the ardor of the Militia that not a man w^d stay in commee room with me but Mr. Harrison; the ardor and spirit of our inhabitants has convinced me they will behave bravely. I never was better pleased than at their conduct on the Alarm, I am convinced we shall in a very short time have our town in a very respectable state of defence & that will be convinced th^t care of us will not be thrown away in our(case). I never saw the Barrister in better spirits than yesterday, He was immediately at the point on the Alarm being spread. Capt Sam^l Smiths whole Company as I believe are gone volunteers on board Nicholson & many others w^d have gone had he room for service for them. By a proposal w^h our Commee offered betwⁿ 3 & 4 oclock yest^d of giving 8 Dllr^s p week for two weeks to any brave sailors w^h w^d instantly go on board we in less than half an hour got near a dozen brave fellows & several masters of ships to go on board & in half an hour after had

On the ship under way: And several others

Council of Safety 1775-1776.

our ship under way: And several others offer to go on in the Sch^r
I found this bold stroke absolutely necessary as the ship was really
poorly off for sailors & the Cap^t seemed to have no great depend^e
on his marines. Your letter with the thous^d pounds by Capt Hyde I rec^d
before sunset. I hope you will be perfectly easy ab^t y^r Safety at
Annapolis, I'm certain Nicholson will at least give the otter a
Convoy past y^r post, for Gods sake let not the Cont^{ts} of my letter
to the barrister be made too public, lest any Intellig^{ce} should be
conveyed to Cap^t Squire to apprize him of our designs

Im D^r Sir. Your very respectful hble Serv^t

Sam^l Purviance Jun^r

Friday 8 March 1776.

(Barrister Carroll to Council)

Gentlemen. On talking with the Gentlemen of the Committee of Observation for this town I find they will be much in want of Provision for the Man now here, as the Commissary is not to be found. They have I think made a reasonable agreement to have the Man with Victuals ready drest at 1 / Head. At their desire I sent the Inclosed Letter to Col^a The^o Dorsey, my Reason^s for sending it to him was his having had Orders to hold his Men in readiness from the Council, I suppose therefore they would be prepared to march.

They have here about 300lb of Powder, if more should be wanting I shall give them an order for some on Cap^t Gaither, as I recollect he has the keeping of some belonging to the Province. There was an immediate want of a Surgeon for the Ship Defence, neither the Surgeon we had thought of or his Mate being here, I therefore directed Doct^r Wiesenthall to appoint M^r Coulter or some other, and to get all the Lint Bandages &c. he could, for the Payment of which he should have an order. Brigader Buchanan finds himself much distress for want of Field Officers, as there is an Immediate necessity for them, he would be glad Blank commissions ready signed could be sent up for one Battalion. Think of it, and if it can be done, we will pitch on proper Persons here. They are in want of Lead about 1500 will do, they will be glad you will dispatch a Cart with it to Hammond's Ferry. They would be glad you could spare the Large Rifles.

I am with respect Gen^t Y^r mo^t Ser^t Charles Carroll.

Baltimore Town March 8th 1776.
To the Honble Council of Safety of Maryland.

9 March 1776

(Purviance to Carroll of Carrollton)
Baltimore 5 oClock Sat Morn

Dear Sir. I'm obliged to you for M^r Jenifers Letter, I am so perfectly easy about the ship of War disturbing us that I shall not on that score awaken any body till morn^g. The Elk Ridge Battalion came in late this evening, I was raised at one oClock to receive a letter from Col. Lee which I sent off at that Hour by a person who would convey it directly to Cap^t Nicholson. I let him know that the Committee had determ^d to fit out the Sch^r we talked of I hoped to have^{her} ready to sail by 2 oClock & that our main design in it was to strengthen him with a fresh reinforcement of hands should he be weakened by taking & manning any of the tenders or Hudsons ship. I thought it of much import^{ce} that Nicholson should immediately know of our intention to strengthen him. I recomm^d to him to tow all night in order if possible to be up or nearly so with Hudsons ship before day light, lest the tenders seeing him coming might have time to escape him. I am perfectly satisfied from every thing I have heard of the otter, that Nicholson is very capable of taking her, if he can be so lucky as to catch the large sloop of which I think there is the greatest probability. I have not a doubt we can have o^r selv^s ready in the time I ment^d to have her well mand with brave Fellows.

I am D^r Sir

Y^r very hble Ser^tv^l Sam^a Purviance, Junr.

The Brass Field Pieces for Virg^a are come & I shall datain them at least one day till the matter is nearer issue.

To the Hon^l Charles Carroll Esq.

Sat 9 March
1776

(Purviance to Carroll of Carrollton)
Baltimore 5 o'clock Sat Morn

Dear Sir. I am obliged to you for M^r Jenifers Letter, I am so perfectly easy about the ship of War disturbing us that I shall not on that score awaken any body till morn^g. The Elk Ridge Battalion came in late this evening, I was raised at one o'clock to receive a letter from Col. Lee which I sent off at that Hour by a person who would convey it directly to Cap^t Nicholson. I let him know that the Committee had determ^d to fit out the Sch^r we talked of I hoped to have^{her} ready to sail by 2 o'clock & that our main design in it was to strengthen him with a fresh reinforcement of hands should he be weakened by taking & manning any of the tenders or Hudsons ship. I thought it of much import^{ce} that Nicholson should immediately know of our intention to strengthen him. I recom^d to him to tow all night in order if possible to be up or nearly so with Hudsons ship before day light, lest the tenders seeing him coming might have time to escape him. I am perfectly satisfied from every thing I have heard of the otter, that Nicholson is very capable of taking her, if he can be so lucky as to catch the large sloop of which I think there is the greatest probability. I have not a doubt we can have o^r selv^s ready in the time I ment^d to have her well mand with brave Fellows.

I am D^r Sir

Y^r very hble Serv^t Sam^l Purviance, Junr.

The Brass Field Pieces for Virg^a are come & I shall detain them at least one day till the matter is nearer issue.

To the Hon^l Charles Carroll Esq.

230 Defence
Otter

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March 9, 1776

(Barrister Carroll to Jenifer.)

My dear Major. I write to the Council yesterday morning
wh^{ch} I hope they have received since that yours of yesterday
evening came to hand at three o'clock this morning I immedi-
ately dispatched it to the Committee of Balt Town and M^r
Purviance tells me he wrote you an answer. We got the Ship
Defence into the river this morning and she has retaken M^r
Hudson's ship and now lies in the river a little below her,
under no great apprehension I fancy of the otter. We had
intelligence this afternoon that Squires had run on ground on
the Bodkin Point, I hope it may be true, if it should prove so
we may perhaps add one more ship to our stock. We are getting
a Tender ready that will mount 8 or 10 carriage guns 3 pounders
she with the Defence will I think be a match for the otter and
her Companions. I am Positive Nicholson & his ships Company
think so, a set of finer or more spirited fellows I really
never saw, and if we can, as I hope we shall, get the tender
ready by tomorrow mor^g they will push for an engagement & I
really am not in much doubt of success. I cannot conceive
that the council of safety can be prejudiced in the opinions
of the Gen^t of Baltimore by an insinuations against their con-
duct by M^r Ruben or any other person, I have not heard them say
a single word against the Governm^t sending M^r Eddis on board the
Otter (tho I confess I wish some other person had been pitched
upon) on the Contrary I believe they think the delay occasioned
by that step was advantageous to them. I am sure I think it was
very much so, I really had myself extremely fatigued with this

(Carroll to Jenifer--Page 2.)

Constant Hurry of Business, Indeed I am almost ready to sink
under it, however I will push for Annapolis if possible the
moment things are settled here.

I am sincerely Dr Majr yr affect. Hble servt
Charles Carroll

Mount Clare March 9th 1776

To the Honble Danl of St Thomas Jenifer Esq^r

(Barrister Carroll to Jenifer)

My dear Major. I write to the Council yesterday morning wh I hope they have received since that yours of yesterday evening came at hand at three o'clock this morning I immediately dispatched it to the Committee of Balt Town and M^r Purviance tells me he wrote you an answer. We got the Ship Defence into the river this morning and she has betaken Mr Hudson's ship and now lies in the river a little below her, under no great apprehension I fancy of the otter. We had intelligence this afternoon that Squires had run on ground on Bodkin Point, I hope it may be true, if it should prove so we may perhaps add one more ship to our stock. We are getting a Tender ready that will mount 8 Or 10 carriage guns 3 pounders she with the Defence will I think be a match for the otter and her Companions. I am Positive Nicholson & his ships Company think so, a set of finer or more spirited fellows I really never saw, & if we can, as I hope we shall, get the tender ready by tomorrow morn^g they will push for an engagement & I really am not in much doubt of success. I cannot conceive that the council of safety can be prejudiced in the opinions of the Gen^t of Baltimore by any insinuations against their conduct by Mr. Ruben or any other person, I have not heard them say a single word against the Governm^t sending M^r Eldis on board the Otter(tho I confess I wish some other person had been pitched upon) on the Contrary I believe they think the delay occasioned by that step was advantageous to them. I am sure I think it was very much so, I really had myself extremely fatigued with this Constant Hurry of Business, Indeed I am almost ready to sink under it, however I will push for Annapolis if possible the moment things are settled here.

I am sincerely D^r Maj^r y^r affect. Hble Serv^t

Mount Clare March 9th 1776

Charles Carroll

To the Honble Dan^l of St^t Thomas Jenifer Esq^r

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(Beall to Council)

Bladensburgh 10th March 1776.

Gentlemen. on the rec^oipt of your letter of the 8th instant I had ordered my Battalion to rendezvous about half way between this and Queen Ann. But as we yesterday evening & this morning rec^d at this place 51 whole & one broken barrel & twenty kegs of gun powder and twelve muskets, I have altered the place of rendezvous to this twon. As by your orders I am to hold my battalion in readiness to march at a moments warning I shall keep them or such part of them as can be tolerably armed, on duty till I receive your farther orders thereon: I hope by the return of this messenger. I shall receive your orders as well with respect to my conduct in keeping the whole or a part of the Battalion on duty, as likewise with respect to the disposition of the powder, as it may not be altogether safe to keep the powder near the navigable waters; If there should not be an immediate call for it, I think Snowdens iron works would be a proper place to lodge it, as it will be nearly convenient to Annapolis Baltimore & this place.

I am Gentⁿ your most Obed^t Huml Serv^t

Jos^a Beall.

(Council to Maryland Deputies.)

To the Deputies of Maryland in Congress.

Gentⁿ

We received Intelligence by our Pilot Boats on Tuesday Evening that a Ship of War and two Tenders were under Sail on their Way up the Bay, and immediately issued our Orders for their Reception which was observed with amazing Expedition and Punctuality. We were much indebted to the spirited, active and good Conduct of the regular Officers and Troops. The Militia moved with astonishing dispatch, and as soon as the Vessels hove in Sight our Coast was lined with Men. At Baltimore the Celerity of their Movements exceeded Description and had very near proved more advantageous than they really have, for it was expected by the Vessels (the Otter of 16 guns, a Tender of 6 and the other armed with Swivels only) that the Ship Defence was altogether unprepared, which led them to conceive themselves in a State of Security which had liked to have been attended with Consequences very disagreeable to them. The Residue of our Guns for the Ship arrived only Wednesday Night and on Thursday Morning was wanted. On Friday Night she was towed a little Way down the river manned with a Parcel of Buckskin Heroes and other Brave Fellows. Several small Vessels were crowded with Men to assist in case of an Engagement, which would have been dreadful, as we understand Cap^t Nicholson intended to grapple at once. She got under Way very early in the Morning, resolved to retake Hudson's Ship and engage the Otter, which was 4 or 5 miles below, if she moved to her Relief. Hudson's Vessel was guarded by the Tenders---the morning was thick and hazy and the Defence got nearer to them before she was discovered than was agreeable to them. They were much alarmed (not having any Idea our Ship was in Readiness to venture out) and pushed off with the utmost Expedition, leaving the Ship and 4 or 5 small Vessels which had fallen into their Hands. The Tenders would probably have

been taken if the Otter receiving a Signal -Gun had not sent off men to double-man their Oars/ The Defence stretched backward and forward below her Prizes and at length, seeing the Otter get under way, came to, close by Hudson's Vessel and prepared for Battle expecting she was coming up to her, but to the amazement of our Brave Countrymen she bore away and anchored in the Afternoon off Annapolis. Nicholson continued his Station thinking it inexpedient to risque and Action, as he had such a valuable Prize under his care. In the evening a Flag was sent in. The Gentleman behaved very politely and on some subjects were free and communicative---they know every thing which is transacted here and ^{to} the Northward. The Flag brought a letter to the Governor from Capt. Squire Commander of the Otter desiring Provisions for his Sloop & that a Tender might be permitted to take unmolested a New England Sloop loaded with Bread and Flour which we had sent up Severn. The Governor laid this Letter before us. We refused a Supply of Provisions and took no notice of that Part of his Letter which related to the New England vessel thinking it rather an Insult, but ordered a Guard of about 50 Men to be immediately put over her. We received two other ~~Flags~~ in the Morning, one of them for our Answer and the other with Prisoners who say they were treated with the greatest Humanity and Tenderness. The Otter and ther Tenders with some Prize-Vessels sailed down the Bay yesterday, but we expecte they will return again soon reinforced, as from what we can collect they are bent upon taking or destroying the Defence. 5782 lbs. of our powder is arrived in ~~Por-~~ towmack and safe landed at Bladensburg.

You shall have a full State of Facts relative to our late interesting Situation by the next Post. This we give you in a hurry.

11th March 1776.

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Monday 11th March 1776.

Council met. Present as yesterday.

Ordered, That Colonel John Weems be directed to march his Militia, or such of them, as may be necessary to repel any attempt that now is, or may be made by the Otter Sloop or her Tenders at the Mouth of Fishing Creek, as also to be ready to assist the Calvert Militia. Colonel Ware was ordered down to take the Command of the Militia.

Copy of Letter No 53 was sent to the Deputies in Congress.

Adjourned 'till next Day 9 o'Clock.

March 13, 1776

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(Baltimore Committee to Council)

In Committee Baltimore, March 13, 1776.

Gentlemen. I am directed to inform you that Mess^{rs} Jn^o Smith Benjamin Nicholson, Capt^{ns} Nicholson Boucher & myself having this day examined the state of the batteries already made & making at Whetstone & Fells Point, & reported the same to the Committee. They are induced to believe & hope that there is every rational prospect of securing the town of Baltimore in Case of the Otter returning with any other Frigate that can come up this River and the ship defence may be so stationed as to support the Batteries & Boom at Whetstone it will be of the greatest importance for the preservation of both the Town & ship that she should not be ordered out of this harbour. The attention of our workmen being entirely engaged since last week on the Batteries at Fells Point, the Boom is of consequence less forward than it otherwise would have been, But to avoid every possible hazard of its being too late, It is agreed (with the advice of Captⁿ Nicholson) to sink all the vessels now collected at Whetstone Point; which will serve the purpose untill the Boom now executing is completed. We have got the vessels all valued & ballasted and Persons are appointed to begin sinking them tomorrow. The Battery at Whetstone will be ready to mount several guns in a few days; even now it can be used in an emergency. At Fells Point the Breast Works fit for 19 or 20 cannon will be nearly completed tomorrow. General Buchanan has ordered away the militia of Harford this day. Our worthy friends of York County have raised a select company of Riflemen, commanded by M^r Joseph Donaldson to be held in readiness to march to our assistance on any emergency: the Committee beg leave to submit to

your consideration whether (as you have no artillery at Annapolis) it would not be advisable to station Cap^t Fulfords Company of matrosses in this place. That gentlemans knowledge as a gunner may be of much service to us. Either one or Two wagⁿ loads of Powder sent us by our delegates on the first alarm are arrived in town this evening we shall calculate on another visit from the vesl^s of war & use every means in our power to be prepared for it.

.....

Samuel Purviance Junr. Chairman

(Baltimore Committee to the Council)

March 16, 1776.

Gentlemen:

This Committee on the first alarm of Cap^t Squires being coming up to this town, met and took into serious consideration the unprepared state to repel any attack and therefore thought it necessary to throw up two Breast Works at Fells Point, as well as to preserve the town, as to cover the ship defence, who was then without the chief part of her guns.....We judge the purchase of the vessell and her outfit may amount to 2000 pounds, and we are of opinion she will be very useful in scouring the coast from the ~~inc~~ursion of the Tenders, as she will mount ten guns, and carry 70 to 100 men; She is in such forwardness, as to sail immediately on getting her men. One of the breast Works, which was most calculated to cover the ~~ship,~~ ^{ship,} mounts 6 guns and the other 10.....Our Fort at Whetstone is ready to mount 8 guns, and we shall use every exertion to expedite it.

We are with due Respect Gen^t

Your most obed^t Serv^{ts} Will^m Lux dep^y Chⁿ

John Boyd

Thomas Harrison

John Merryman, Jun^r

Jn^o Smith

Jn^o Sterett

Wm Buchanan.

March 10, 1776

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(Council to Baltimore Committee)
To C Carroll, Esqr & of the Committee of Observation for Baltimore County.

Annapolis, Saturday 12 oClock at night.

ⁿ
Gent

Half past three oclock this Afternoon the Otter with her Tenders hove in sight, Half past five a Flag was sent with a Letter to the Governor a Copy of which with his Answer you have inclosed. We informed you last Night that very little Provision would fall to their this we confirm. We are well prepared to repell any Attempts they may make to land. You will now have no Occasion for Stricker's Company, therefore if you have ordered him to Baltimore Town, counyermand it. The President and Mr Tilghman conferred with two Officers that came on Shore to attend the Flag. They confessed one of their Tenders was in great danger of being taken, but that Cap^t Squires bore away to prevent great Effusion of Blood. But we conceive that he will loiter about 'till he is reinforced. We preceive a small Vessel making down the Bay not unlukely with Intelligence to the King-Fisher who the Flag said, might be expected to relieve the Otter. Therefore you will be pleased to provide against the worst. We cannot sufficiently commend those brave Sons of Liberty who this Day stood forth so gallantly in Defence of their Country Be assured that we shall afford them every assistance in our power.

10th March 1776

Archives of Maryland Vol. 11, Page 397.

May 1, 1776

Jour & Cor. of Council of Safety.

(Council to Baltimore Comm) May 1, 1776.

Gent^l

We understand from Cap^t Nicholson that you have now got your Boom down at Whetstone Point. We desire therefore that Schooner Ninety two may be no longer detained and have ordered Mr. Young to dispatch her immediately.

Ibid. Page 410 May 6, 1776.

Suggested to Committee that " since our Boom is now laid down..... the Vessells that are sunk at Whetstone may be removed.

Ibid. Page 417 May 8, 1776.

Ordered(by the Council) that said Vessels be raised with all convenient Speed under the Direction of said Committee.... And that Cap^t James Nicholson with the Ship Defence and her Tenders assist in executing this Order.

May 20, 1776

Archives of Maryland, Vol. XI, Page 434

Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Safety.

1775-1776.

(Nathaniel Smith to Council)

Gentlemen

I now send you enclos'd, an Acc^t of the Cannon, Stores &c, under my care at Whetstone Point, I should have sent it sooner, but weight'd to git some of the Cannon on Carriages which the workmen promised to have done much sooner than they performed.

Five nine pounders come down this day, from Mess^{rs} Hughes's which appear much better then aney they have made before, strong & well preportioned.

The waggoners informed me that none of this construction had burst.

I should be glad to have Orders to git a Flagg for the Fort, & to know what Device wou'd have on it (if aney), as soone as Convenient, must beg, wou'd speak to the Honbl^e Convention in Regard of a Magazine, as we Cannot possibly do well without it, and likewise to give me orders how I am to Conduct myself in Regards to Vessells passing & repassing the Fort, or aney other things Regarding the Conducting the Affairs About the Fort.

I have drawn on you in favour of M^r And^w Sterret fore one hundred pounds which hope will be honor'd I should have furnished the Remainder of my Acc^t but severell people I have had Articals from are now out of town as soone as I can git there Acc^{ts} shall furnish you with the whole

Baltimore, May 20th 1776

Thursday 23^d. May 1776.

An Order having heretofore passed this Board for weighing the Vessels sunk in the Channel of the River Potapsco near Whetstone Point and that Captⁿ James Nicholson with the Ship Defence and her Tenders should assist in executing the same, which Order hath not yet hitherto, we are informed, been complied with, by Reason of the necessary Absence of Captain Nicholson and one or both of his Tenders, we therefore being desirous of having said Vessells weighed with all convenient speed Do request that Mess^{rs} Jesse Hollingsworth, Isaac Vanbebber, Benjamin Griffith, or any two of them would cause said Vessels to be weighed up at the public Expence and do hereby authorize and impower them, or any two of them to employ proper Vessels and Labourers for that Purpose, and to call to their Assistance the Ship Defence or her Tenders, when they return to the Harbour of Baltimore Town, and further to cause said Vessels to be re-appraised on Oath rigged and other wise put in the same State ~~than~~ they were in when sunk, as near as may be, and return an Account of said Re-appraisement and of Expences from Time to Time to the Council of Safety.

June 5, 1776

Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Safety, 1775 -76

Page 465. }

(Council to Baltimore Committee)

We request you will render a particular acc^t of the expenditures of y^r 1000 pounds sent the 8th March to defray the the expences of the militia on the alarm occasioned by the Otter Sloop of War, and also furnish us with your Vouchers for the general charges in the acc^t of Monies expended on the fortifications at Whetstone Point.
5th June 1776.

June 14, 1776

[Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Safety, 1775-76

Page-489]

(Council to Hollingsworth)

To Mr. Jesse Hollingsworth.

Sir.

We have received your letters with regard to the vessels sunk at Whetstone point, and altho' you declined acting in your first letter, we are pleased to find you have since accepted of the trust reposed in you by the Council of Safety, and we find by your last letter that you have in part executed the same by raising several of the vessels. You are desirous of having some further instructions about repairing and valuing the vessels after they are raised. We must beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the last Convention page (13) where you will see what we are directed to do, and also we refer to our former instructions by which you are requested after raising the vessels to cause them to be rigged and put in same state they were in before they were sunk, as near as may be---and then you or any two of you are to cause them severally to be reappraised on oath by persons you may appoint---~~which~~ to which we shall add nothing further at present, only request you to advise with Captain Nicholson in all your proceedings, and to take care of your men appointed ~~man~~ [?] be free ^{from} [?] of any partiality or just objections, and that they make regular returns of appraisement to us; we doubt not you will do what is right and then the owners cannot complain, or if they do, their unjust allegations will be little attended to, we believe, by the Convention which are shortly to meet.

June 14th 1776

June 26 1776

[Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Safety, 1775-76
Page 520.]

Wednesday 26th June 1776

Ordered that the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to
Jesse Hollingsworth four hundred and nine pounds, thirteen and
nine pence, for expences incurred in raising and refitting the
vessels sunk at Whetstone point, for the defence of Baltimore
Town.

1776 July 4

[Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Safety 1775-1776.]

Page 549.

[Nathaniel Smith to Jenifer]

Invoice of Cannon Taken the 4th July 1776 at the Fort at Whetstone Point, & Fells Point. Viz:

At the Fort belonging to the Province.

- 9.19 pounders on Carriages
- 19.9 ditto D^o
- 2.12 ditto D^o
- 2.6 ditto D^o
- 3.4 ditto D^o
- 3.3 ditto D^o
- 1.9 lb Private property unfit for Service
- 1.2 ditto good.

At Fells Point belonging to the Province

- 1.9 pounder on Carrige
- 1.9 D^o not on Carrige
- 7.9 D^o not on ditto & unfit for Service of Mess^{rs} Hughes First Casting.
- 2.3 D^o Good private property on Carriges.

Sir. Above you have Agreeable to your Request of the 3^d Ins^t a True Acc^t of the Canon at the Fort, & Baltimore Town.

I am Sir

Your mo. hble. Serv^t.

Nath Smith