

## THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARD.

[The following letters of Major Caleb Gibbs, Commandant, and Lieutenants Henry P. Livingston and Levi Holden, of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, Colonels Tench Tilghman and Richard K. Meade, of his staff, have been selected from the "Chaloner Papers," in the Manuscript Division of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, principally for the information they contain relative to supplies for the mess of the Commander-in-Chief, at Headquarters Middlebrook, Morristown, White Plains, The Cove, West Point and Newburgh. For an interesting history of the Guard, see "The Commander-in-Chief's Guard, Revolutionary War," by Carlos E. Godfrey, M.D.]

Head Quarters [Middlebrook] June 5, 1777.

A provition Return of 43 men & 1 wash woman for  
3 Days of his Eccelency General Washington's Guard  
&c.

Henry P. Livingston

132 Rations,

Lieut.

132 Beef,

198 flour.

Sir,

Let the Bearer have a Weeks provision for 2 Men  
of His Excellency's Guard, going on his Service to  
Baskenridge.

To Commissary.

H. P. Livingston Lieu<sup>t</sup>

14 Rations,

14 Pork,

21 flour.

Head Quarters Middle Brook,

7<sup>th</sup> June 1777.

Sir.

Deliver the bearer a Deserter from the British Army  
Provision to carry him to Philadelphia.

Richard K. Meade

To Commissary of Provision

A. D. C.

Head Quarters [Neshaminy] Aug<sup>t</sup> 16, 1777.

Sir.

Let the Bearer have 1 Days provision for 48 Men & 1 Woman of His Excellency's Guard.

H. P. Livingston

To the Commissioner

Lt. G<sup>ds</sup>

49 Rations,

37 pork,

61 W flour.

Head Quarters White plains

23<sup>d</sup> July 1778.

Sir

None of the Stores which I bespoke for his Excellency have yet arrived. We are out of Tea and Sugar and if they are not already sent on, be pleased to send a pound of the former and half a dozen loaves of the latter by the very first conveyance. The other things to follow as quick as possible.

I am Sir

y<sup>r</sup> most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Tench Tilghman.

To John Chaloner, Esq:

Ass<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>y</sup> Purchases

Phila<sup>da</sup>.

[This letter is franked by "G<sup>o</sup> Washington."']

Head Quarters Middle Brook.

26<sup>th</sup> March 1779.

Sir,

The three waggons with the stores for His Excellency have arrived safe—the two bb<sup>l</sup> which you thought were hams and good Bacon, proves to be, one of dry shad-fish the other of very indifferent pork so bad it is scarce fit to be seen & utterly impossible to use. His Excell<sup>y</sup> desires me to inform you of this and make the proper alteration to the Account. If you have any very good hams please to order some by the first con-

veyance;—Col<sup>o</sup> Blaine told me he expected some very good from Virginia.

I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Servant

C. Gibbs. M. C<sup>at</sup> Guards.

John Chaloner, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Head Quarters 7<sup>a</sup> June 1779.\*

Sr.

Please to send pr bearer a rump & surloin best beef & a hind Quarter Mutton for his Excellency Gen. G. Washington's Table.

Pat Maguire.

To Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Chaloner will please observe there were 4 Q<sup>r</sup> Casks drawn out of 2 pipes wine mk'd for Gen Washington the 23<sup>d</sup> July not chg<sup>d</sup> in a/c.

Head Quarters West Point

5th Septemb<sup>r</sup> 1779.

Dear Sir

A word to the wise (as the saying is) is fully sufficient.

His Excellency's family is destitute of Loaf sugar, Cheese, Coffee, Chocolate, &c. &c. and many other necessary articles for the family. I observe by the Pennsylvania paper of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> that a prize has arrived at Phil<sup>a</sup> with many good things that are wanted particularly loaf sugar. I make no doubt you will take the hint, and by the first conveyance supply the wants of the poor and needy. I urge this matter as the Count de la Luzerne sets off this day from Boston, (who will call on His Excell<sup>y</sup> a few days). If this letter reaches you in such season as the Articles wanted can get here in 10 or 12 days from this date, I would wish that a light waggon may be dispatch with those things. If

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\* Smith's Tavern in the Clove, Orange Co., New York.

a quarter Cask of Claret or good Port wine could be forwarded, with such other necessaries as your own good sense will point out, it will not be amiss.

We have nothing new in this quarter, the Army is Exceedingly hearty & well.

I am

Dear Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

C. Gibbs. M. C<sup>dt</sup> Guards.

P. S.

Let me hear from you If you please how you are like to succeed.

John Chaloner, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Head Quarters Morris Town.

18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1780.

D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

According to your requisition I send you a memorandum of what Articles were missing of the things that were forwarded for his Excell<sup>y</sup> some time since, Viz—1 box Spermacitie Candles one b<sup>l</sup> Containing 2 loaves sugar. I doubt not you will endeavour to make a discovery of the Villiany. We are out of Beer, you will please send on a large Quantity as soon as possible. A barrell of Cranberries are much wanted, please forward one soon,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb nutmegs Also. Altho it is much out of your line yet I know not who to ask for a Coffee Mill, will you please send one. Nothing new with us. We are all well. *in haste*,

I am

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

With great Regard

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>

humb<sup>l</sup> Servant

C. Gibbs. M. C<sup>dt</sup> Guards.

John Chaloner, Esq<sup>r</sup>

A. C. P.

Head Quarters Morris Town.

15<sup>th</sup> March 1780.

Gentlemen

Your favour of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. came to hand while I was absent from Head Quarters in the Country otherwise I should have answered it sooner.

The two loaves sugar which you suppose was in the Cask with the Coffee proved not to be, as I had it thoroughly examined in the presence of M<sup>r</sup> Blair & which he was satisfied upon—the Spermacitie Candles have not as yet Come to light.

The Beef, nutmegs, & Coffee Mill was receipted for by Doct<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Henry in my absence.

I have to request you would be so kind as to procure a barrell of Cranberries & have them forwarded as soon as possible for the use of the family—I hope you will not fail in this as they are exceedingly wanted.

I Am With due Respect

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>

humb<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

C. Gibbs. M. C<sup>at</sup> Guards.

Messrs. Chaloner & White.

Head Quarters Dec<sup>r</sup> 6. [torn]

Sir

M<sup>rs</sup> Washington desires to have Thirty or Forty pounds of Currents and Six pounds of Citron procured and sent to Head Quarters as soon as possible.

I am Sir

your very H<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

L Holden L<sup>t</sup> in Comd.

John Chaloner, Esq<sup>r</sup>

in Chiefs Guard.

A. C. P.

Head Quarters [Morristown] 15<sup>th</sup> April. 1780.

Gentlemen

On monday next the Minster of France [de la Luzerne] sets off for this place, and I have to Request

you would be so kind as to forward with all possible dispatch several Articles I wrote for some time since the receipt of your last, for the use of His Excellency's family—Particularly the Article of Beer (which we use a great deal of), Loaf sugar, currants, Cranberries &c. &c., in fact we are very scanty in almost everything that I wrote for at that time.

Let me entreat you Gentlemen if it is a thing possible, to forward the things on & that they may arrive by the time or soon after the arrival of the Minister which will be on Wednesday next.

I rest assured that everything will be done in your power.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>

humb<sup>l</sup> Servant

C. Gibbs. M. C<sup>d</sup> Guards.

Messrs. Chaloner & White.

A. P. Com<sup>r</sup>.

Sir

Their is wanted at Head Quarters, a few bottles of musterd, I must beg leave to trouble you to send them on by the first conveyance, I wrote Col<sup>e</sup> Wadsworth for a few Currant, and Citron. Col<sup>e</sup> Tilghman informed me you would do the business for him.

I am Sir

your H<sup>'ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

L Holden L<sup>t</sup> Comd<sup>t</sup>

Comd. in Chiefs Guard

Head Quarters [Newburgh].

Dec<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 82.

M<sup>r</sup> John Chaloner, Esq<sup>r</sup>.