

**CALENDAR OF THE  
CORRESPONDENCE  
RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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Calendar of the correspondence relating to the American Revolution by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**CALENDAR OF THE  
CORRESPONDENCE  
RELATING TO THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



CALENDAR  
OF THE  
Correspondence Relating to the  
American Revolution

OF  
Brigadier-General George Weedon,  
Hon. Richard Henry Lee,  
Hon. Arthur Lee,  
AND  
Major-General Nathanael Greene,

In the Library of  
The American Philosophical Society.



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.

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PHILADELPHIA :  
THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.  
1900.

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## PREFACE.

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In December, 1897, the American Philosophical Society appointed James T. Mitchell, *Chairman*, I. Minis Hays, Isaac J. Wistar, Charles R. Hildeburn, Joseph C. Rosengarten, Samuel W. Pennypacker and Sydney George Fisher a special committee to examine the historical manuscripts and early American imprints in its library, with a view to determining the desirability of making them more available for historical study. The following pages are printed in accordance with the recommendations of the committee.

The Weedon correspondence, here calendared, is contained in one volume of original letters to Brigadier-General George Weedon and copies of letters from him during the Revolutionary War. The copies are mostly in his own handwriting or attested by his initials. The volume was given in 1835 by Colonel Hugh Mercer, of Fredericksburg, Va., to Dr. James Mease, and by him presented to the American Philosophical Society. Colonel Mercer was a son of General Hugh Mercer, who fell at Princeton, and a nephew of General Weedon's wife.

The Lee papers consist of original letters to Richard Henry Lee; copies of letters from him; letters to Arthur Lee; miscellaneous letters, and private and official papers, on topics relating to the Lees, or public affairs with which they were connected during the period from 1766 to 1789. They are contained in two volumes which were presented to the American Philosophical Society, June 17, 1825, by Richard Henry Lee, Esq., grandson of the signer, having been partly made use of by him in his memoirs of his grandfather. Such previous publication, with the volume and page, is indicated in the calendar.

The Greene correspondence consists of letters to and from

General Nathanael Greene during 1778, 1779 and 1780, while he was Quartermaster-General of the Continental army, with some miscellaneous correspondence relating to matters connected with the Quartermaster's department; Quartermaster's returns, and the proceedings of a court of inquiry into the conduct of Captain John Bancker, Barrackmaster of part of New York. These papers fill twelve volumes. They were selected and arranged in their present form by Colonel Charles Pettit from the papers relating to the Quartermaster's department in his possession after the Revolution. Colonel Pettit was Colonial Secretary of New Jersey under Governor Franklin, and afterwards Secretary of the State under its first Governor, William Livingston. In 1778 he resigned the Secretaryship to accept the appointment of Assistant Quartermaster-General, which position he held until the end of the war, refusing the appointment of Quartermaster-General on the resignation of General Greene in 1780. He then removed to Philadelphia and in 1785 was elected to the Continental Congress. In 1791 he was appointed commissioner to settle the accounts of the State of Pennsylvania with the United States. After his retirement from public life in 1792, he prepared from the materials in his possession two sets of papers relating to Revolutionary times and matters, one of which is now in the Bureau of Rolls and Library, State Department, Washington (see *State Department Index*, No. 8, Vol. 2). The other is the collection here calendared. It remained in the possession of his family until 1820, when it was presented to the American Philosophical Society through the hands of Mr. Robert Desilver, the well-known publisher. These papers are filled with the details of the Quartermaster's department, and touch only incidentally, here and there, the topics of more exciting interest of those stirring times. But in no place known to the Committee of Publication can a more graphic and vivid conception be gathered of the hardships and struggles of the Revolutionary army. The papers are the official, often the confidential, communications between the earnest patriots who



were doing, under every conceivable difficulty and without hope of glory or even of appreciation, the daily work necessary to keep the army together. Nearly every letter is an urgent call for help—for clothes, for shoes, for blankets, for tents, for harness, for forage, even for firewood to keep the sick in the hospital from perishing with cold—and, above all, for money, money, money, even at the depreciation that sent wheat to twenty-five dollars a bushel, drove boat-builders to refuse to work for less than forty-five dollars a day, and led even the commissioned officers in the Quartermaster's department to memorialize Congress that a year's salary was scarcely sufficient to buy a suit of clothes.

It is believed that even these dry details may be found useful to those who desire to know history as it was to those who were making it in their daily lives.

The work of calendaring has been done under the supervision of the committee by Miss Emma Repplier.

M.

SEPTEMBER, 1900.



CALENDAR OF  
THE CORRESPONDENCE OF  
BRIGADIER-GENERAL GEORGE WEEDON, U. S. A.,  
WITH CELEBRATED CHARACTERS OF  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

IN THE LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

LETTERS TO GENERAL WEEDON.

BLAIR, ARCHIBALD :

1780.—*September 6. In Council.*—Proposition from Col. Robert Lawson to raise a body of volunteers to march to the southward, accepted. Detailed enumeration of conditions under which they shall serve. (Copy) No. 40.

1781.—*April 4. In Council.*—Extract from the minutes. Rule of exchange of prisoners to be adhered to as far as possible, calling for such citizens first as have been longest in captivity. If enemy think proper to liberate *absolutely* any number of captive citizens, an equal number of theirs shall be liberated. No. 75.

BLAND, THEODORICK :

1783.—*March 25. Philadelphia.*—Rejoicing over the declaration of peace. Our debt of gratitude to France.

P. S.—Commutation of five years' whole pay in lieu of half pay, allowed by Congress to officers of the army. No. 145.

DAVIS, WILLIAM :

1781.—*June 25. War Office.*—Wishes to know if arms sent arrived at Fredericksburg. Desires his assistance in get-

DAVIS, WILLIAM (*continued*):

ting boats for the Marquis, and also in meeting his demand for 600 arms. Dimensions and cost of boats. Congratulates him on the capture of Augusta with 160 British, 200 Tories and about 200 negroes, six pieces of cannon and various stores. On the 8th inst., Gen. Greene's approaches were within 50 yards of the enemy's works at Ninety-six. Offer of capitulation rejected. Reinforcements from Augusta hourly expected to join Gen. Greene. Enemy's only posts, Charlestown, Savannah and Monk's Corner. Georgetown evacuated. Will be in Charlottesville before he can receive an answer.

No. 137.

DESBIGUES:

- 1781.—*June 6. Falmouth (in French).*—Asking for a permit to cross the river. Intends to debark at Leedstown for Cadiz to command the volunteers.

No. 109.

ELWELL, JESSE:

- 1781.—*June 13. Prince William.*—Received orders from Gen. Nelson to send to camp every man of the militia who can be furnished with a rifle, and all horses except those employed in agriculture. Desires advice as to the carrying out of these orders.

No. 121.

GRAHAM, RICHARD:

- 1781.—*June 14. Dumfries.*—Concerning the making of swords or sword hilts. Mr. Caves' offer to make 50 hilts if paid for them in tobacco. Desires his opinion on the intended movements of Cornwallis.

No. 122.

GRAYSON, WILLIAM (Col.):

- 1780.—*October 23. Philadelphia.*—Encloses newspapers. Letter from Mr. Richard Harrison, at Cadiz, mentions destruction of an English fleet of merchantmen. Col. Febiger's zeal in procuring clothes and tents attended with only moderate success. Afraid army will be distressed for woollen clothing and blankets. Will squeeze out about 500 suits for the Vir-