

Thi

Richmond Oct<sup>r</sup> 27 - 1781.

I have the pleasure to send to your Son  
the inclos'd upon this directed to Mr Wickham. It came into  
my hands last Saturday, and was found on the West side of  
Roche's Creek - I suppose it was accidentally dropped by  
the Doctor, or some of his Friends. The two other Inclo-  
sures are a Petition from the condemned Malefactors in  
Prison, and a Report, containing some Information concern-  
ing a desperate gang of Abductors, who have long infested  
the Carolina's, and their State; and to screen themselves  
from the force of the laws which they had repeatedly  
violated, or that they might Rob, and Murder, with impu-  
nity under the sanction of a British General, at last,  
became the Disciples of Lord Cornwallis. One only  
of these miscreants, I am told, is a so Carolinian - his  
name is Mawrey, or Mackway, and has been well  
known in and about Norfolk, and Portsmouth for some  
time past.

Soon after the Reduction of York some persons  
from Carolina, came to enquire if I had in my pos-  
sion the Refugees from that State - I told them I had not

and was afraid they had taken a long Journey to very little purpose. That I believed from the best Discoveries I had made among the Indians, the Chiefs (some of whom they enquired after) had made their escape in the Benalla Boat of War to New York, and their Gangs had managed Matters so well as to go off amicably with the captiv's Army, disguised as Indians.

Now far I was right in my Conjectures the Paper now submitted to your Excellency, and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council, for perusal, is a convincing Proof, — that the your Excellency may please to make of it is perhaps no Concern of mine — The Young Man wish'd to communicate the Intelligence as the only Reparation his present Situation is capable of rendering his injured Country (to use his own Words) 'for one sad Mistake in Judgment' — I scrupulously promised my assistance because I judged Indians — then joined in promoting the Discovery. I have only to add, that he humbly Prays your Excellency will be pleased to grant him Leave to appear in Person to say something in Defense of himself, and to rebut Charges against the Persons named in the Paper. — He is an utter Stranger to me, but I have heard People

People speak well of him during his excursions with  
the Enemy, and I believe he will deliver the Truth  
having never yet found him in Error, save the prima-  
ry one of leaving his Country, which, he says, was  
owing to a Rumour that went abroad immedi-  
ately after the Battle at Stono of his having acted  
cowardly during the Engagement. I am

Your Excellency's

most obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

Servant

William Rose

Attest Anthony B. Hamilton, secy.



That now there were the actual and almost the only numbers of the handwriting and this fact, is so notorious, to be doubted — They perpetrated their crimes in Regimental — each chief or head man has his party who always took different posts, and generally retired at night to their stations, or encampment, which was always selected at a small distance from the village, <sup>where they</sup> surrounded them. Thunder and disposed of it at sundown, but the darkness was never attempted until the General had performed his nightly circuit round the camp, when the drums began, and continued an hour, and sometimes longer. All these numbers I have now and then seen a few Officers of distinction, whose curiosity led them to view the numbers, and the quantity, but they seldom brought any thing of the inferior Officers of the Army, Soldiers, Followers, and adjacent Tribes were the principal numbers.

From my sick-bed in Camp, being chiefly with the Senecas, the  
Hurons and Abenakis of which of the Senecas became familiar to my  
visit and from ~~the~~ frequent attacks which I afterwards made to their En-  
campments in the evening; sometimes with my officers and sometimes  
with another, I had under proof of their phantoms - And should it  
be thought expedient to apprehend them I will cheerfully lend my ~~own~~  
best assistance. I can not however quit this place without  
expressing your Excellency and Honour's satisfaction was consulted and deter-  
mined upon by the Chiefs, and agreed to by their Father, prior to their leaving  
Hector Town to throw off their disguise when ever a favourable oppor-  
tunity presented and to escape as they would from the Nations to which  
they were sent, and make the best of their way to the Senecas who  
appointed for them in the Jerseys - viz. Lapan and Lacombay,  
where their Boats were taken, and to convey them to New York. I  
hope this measure will be timely and sufficient to prevent their escaping  
by that Route.

Some valuable Reports, I think may probably yet be found on  
Acute Depression.

*Leopoldo*

*Ed. Arnold & Co. - Green Mountain*

Samuel Jones  
James Hunter  
James Blair  
Thomas Parker

*Book of Numbers*

Chamber of the Gang about 100.

— 222 —

Maxey, or Mackey a Captain of a select ploughing  
Party at Richmond — He is a Native of the Carolina, and in a  
thousand in that County. I had the pleasure of striking ~~with my sword~~  
a piece of his ear off with my sword.

Snatch — Maxey from North Carolina a Cap.  
of a low skating Party of about 20 in number — They also  
escaped with the British Prisoners in Richmond by Hamilton, with  
very Masquerade.

If these People were immediately apprehended and a  
list of their names published in the <sup>papers of</sup> the Carolina Papers  
(unless it be waived more eligible to march them here under  
a strong Guard) the injured Inhabitants would apply for  
Compensation and produce ample Testimony against them ~~provision~~  
reiterated Offences.

Lubbock's Narrative,  
submitted to the considera-  
tion of the Gov<sup>t</sup> & Council  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 21. 1781

William Rose's letter

Sir,

Richmond Dec'r 31<sup>st</sup> – 1781

I have the pleasure to send to your Care the inclos'd open [illegible] directed to Dr. Rickman. It came into my Hands last Saturday, and was found on the West side of Shockoe Creek– I suppose it was accidentally dropped by the Doctor or some of his Friends. The two other Inclosures [enclosures] are a petition from the condemned malfactors [malefactors] in Prison, and a paper containing some Information respecting a desperate gang of Plunderers who have long invested the Carolinas and this state, and to screen themselves from the scourge of the Laws which they had repeatedly violated, or that they might Rob, and Murder with impunity under the sanction of a British General, at last, became the Disciples of Cornwallis. One only of the miscreants, I am told, is a So. Carolinian– His name is Maxsey or Macksay, and has been well known in and about Norfolk, and Portsmouth for some time past.

Soon after the reduction of York some armed men from Carolina came to enquire if I had in my custody the Refugees from that state– I told them I had not and was afraid that they had taken a long Journey to very little purpose: That I believed from the best Discoveries I had made among the Prisoners, the Chiefs (some of whom they enquired after) had made their escape in the *Bonetta* Sloop of War to New York, and their Gangs had managed Matters so well as to go off undiscovered with the captur'd Army disguised as Soldiers. How far I was right in my conjectures the Paper now submitted to your Excellency, and the Hon'ble Council, for perusal, is convincing Proof– What use your Excellency may please to make of it is perhaps no concern of mine– The Young man wish'd to communicate the Intelligence as the only reparation his present situation is capable of rendering his injured Country (to use his own words) "for one sad mistake in Judgement"– I cheerfully [cheerfully] promised my assistance because Duty and Inclination joined in promoting the Discovery. I have only to add, that he humbly Prays your Excellency will be pleased to grant him Leave to appear in Council to say something in defence [defense] of himself, and to exhibit charges against the persons named in this paper. He is an utter stranger to me, but I have heard people speak well of him during his excursions with the Enemy, and I believe he will deliver the Truth having never yet found him in Error, save the primary one of leaving his Country, which, he says, was owing to a rumor that went abroad immediately after the Battle of Stono [Ferry] of his having acted cowardly dur the Engagement. I am

Your Excellency's  
most obedient  
Servant

William Rose

His Excellency B. Harrison, esqr.



## **Jackson's letter**

To his Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Council"

The following narrative of facts his humbly submitted by their most devoted servant

– a prisoner in the P[ublic] Jail

May it please your Excellency and Honors

"The Banditti who stiled [styled] themselves a Company of North Carolina Independents, composed of Horse Theives [Thieves], Counterfeeters [Counterfeiters] of Money and Persons guilty of other high Crimes and Misdemeanors [Misdemeanors], chiefly natives of North Carolina, and followers of Lord Cornwallis, were in the Garrison of Gloucester at the Time of the surrender to his Excellency General Washington and though expressly excluded the Benefits of the Capitulation; yet they found means to elude the vigilance of the Army and the civil Powers, by mixing with the British Prisoners, disguised in the uniforms of Robinsons & Hamilton's Regiments, and actually march'd out with the Regiments to the Stations of Winchester and Fredericktown. The uniforms were furnished by the Quarter Masters of the Regiments to as many as ask'd for them, the better to facilitate their Escape. That these men never bore any Commissions in the British Army or ever rec'd any Pay, but lived by plundering is universally known, except Branson and Jones: the former of whom obtained a Captaincy by some undue influence while the Terms of Capitulation were framing, and in order to exculpate him from the punishment due to his crimes, it was dated prior to the surrender. During the Seige [Siege], Branson and Jones, in an importunate address to Major Ross, one of his Lordship's Aids, petitioned for their Pay. [T]he Major told them their prayer could not be granted, but if they would frame an account against his Lordship for some subsistence money he would assist them, and soon after gave Branson 40 Guineas, and Jones eight Guineas, which was all they ever received, to the best of my knowledge. That Saml: Jones and his Party accompanied Colonel Tarleton in his excursion to the mountains and were the People who plundered Mr. Jefferson's House, and all others in the Line of march. That an exceeding beautiful Bay Horse, which Tarleton delivered his Groom in Gloster Town [Gloucester], is the lawful property of Mr. Jeremiah Wade on Pedee in North Carolina- He is abt. 16 hands high, has a star or small blaze in his forehead, about 6 or 7 yrs: of age and worth at least 200 guineas. That these People were the actual and almost the only Plunderers of the Carolinas and this State, is too notorious to be doubted. They perpetrated their Robberies in Regimentals, each chief or Head man had his party, who always took different Routs [routes], and generally returned at night to their Station, or Encampment, which was always detached a small distance from the soldiery, where they examined their plunder and disposed of it at vendue ["public auction"]: but this business was never attempted until the General had performed his nightly circuit round the Camp, when the vendeus began, and continued an hour, and sometimes longer. At these vendeus I have now and then seen a few

Officers of Distinction, whose curiosity led them to view the Plunder and the Plunderers, but they seldom bought anything. The inferior Officers of the Army, Soldiers, Followers and adjacent Tories were the principal Purchasers. From my situation in Camp, being chiefly with the Merchants, the names and Persons of most of the Banditti became familiar to my view, and from the frequent walks, which I afterwards made to their Encampments in the Evening, sometimes with one Officer, and sometimes with another, I had ocular [ocular] proofs of their plundering. And should it be thought expedient to apprehend them, I will cheerfully [cheerfully] lend my best assistance. I cannot however quit this narrative, without informing your Excellency and Honors, that a plan was concocted and determined upon by the Cheifs [chiefs], and agreed to by their Parties, prior to their leaving Gloster Town [Gloucester] to throw off their Disguise, whenever a favorable opportunity presented, and escape as they could from the stations to which they were sent, and make the best of their way to the rendezvous appointed for them in the Jerseys viz *Squan* and *Shrewsbury*, where Whale Boats were to be sent to convey them to New York. I hope this warning will be timely and sufficient to prevent their escaping by that Route. Some valuable Property, Plate &c may probably yet be found in their possession."

#### Names

Ely Branson- Commandant

Samuel Jones

James Hunter    }   Heads of Parties

James Blair

Jerman Baxter

Number of the Gang, about 100.

Maxsey, or Mack-sey, a Captain of a Select Plundering Party at Portsmouth— He is a native of So: Carolina, and in a skirmish in that Country, I had the pleasure of cutting a piece of his Ear off, with my sword --

A noted \_\_\_\_\_ Williams from North Carolina, a Capt : of a Cow Stealing party of about 20 in number— These also escaped with the British Prisoners, in Robinsons & Hamilton's military masquerade.

If these People were immediately apprehended, and a list of their names published in the Virginia and Carolina Papers (unless it be conceived more eligible to march them there under a strong guard) the injured inhabitants would apply for vengeance, and produce ample Testimony against them for reiterated offences."