

Parker Family. Papers: 1760-1795

(MICL – FC LFR .P3F3P4)

Document List – Sections 1 – 7 (Reel 1)

PAR 1

The Virginia Almanack for 1771. Contains memoranda and notes by James Parker, mainly written between 1809 and 1814.

PAR 2

Book – “State, Payments to the Party’s concerned in the Virginia Expedition” commanded by General Leslie, 1780. Lists names, date, regiment, how paid and amount; dates of payment range from 1786 to 1795 and includes all ranks. Appears to be payments of prize money. Also used later (c. 1806-1811) as a copy letter and memoranda book, and for recording philosophical quotations and reflections.

- Found among these is “Farming Expence August 1806.” Includes anecdotal notes in addition – weather affecting work, labourers hired, general labour work, and what was planted.
- Letter book (4 pages)
- “Farming Expence” continued, November 1806 – April 1808 (scattered dates).
- “Return” of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and rank and file of the Brigade of Guards entitled to prize money arising from the Expedition commanded by Major Gneeral Leslie in Virginia, 1780. Not a list of names byt the amount of men by rank; includes the numbers for the 82nd Regiment and signed by Thomas Colins, Major Brigade, and Major C. Nesbitt, London, 31 May 1786.
- List of deputy commissaries, overseers, coopers, and labourers with the Army under the command of Major General Leslie. Names and roles listed;p signed by Fred: Wm. Hecht, Assistant Commissary General, Charlestown [Charleston], 15 December 1788?.
- “Return” of the officers of the Kings American Regiment, 1781 Virginia Expedition. Lists names and rank; includes the 84th Regiment.
- Tradesmen in London. Lists names, places of abode, and occupations.
- Letter book, 1807. Concerns Thomas McKnight and bond due by him to Aitchison and Parker.

PAR 3

“Prize money correspondence” – concerns prize money from Major Leslie’s Virginian expedition of 1780 and in particular its division between the Army and the Navy. (Parker was commissioner of captures for the Army with powers to dispose of the captures.)

- Letter to Fraser and McCulloch, agents for the Navy (Charleston), 1780. Agreement in place between the Army and Navy; requested not to make any payments unless follows the terms.
- Letter from James Parker (JP) to Mr. Currie. Concerns same as above except directs stoppage after payments.
- Letter from Alexander Leslie, Charleston, Carolina, 1780. Requests assistance to Commissioner of Captures Captain Parker.

- Letter from Edmund Fanning, colonel in the Kings American Regiment, and Henry Savage, deputy quarter master general, to Samuel Kemble, agent for the Navy (New York). Concerns same as nos. 1 and 2 above.
- Sales of cargo of the schooner “Grand Tyger”, a prize to His Majesty’s ship [?] Andrew Barclay, commander. Consists of the following articles: lists of names, what gotten, and value.
- Sales of goods and vessels captured by His Majesty’s Fleet and Army in Chesapeake, Virginia by order of the agents. Lists names, what gotten, and value; also includes slaves as commodities. “Grand Tyger” was sold at public sale to Thomas Sampson.
- Account of Expenses paid by Currie and Norris on account of the different vessels and cargoes, prizes to His Majesty’s Fleet and Army. Shows expenses and cost; example - 18 negroes work on board the vessels.
- Wine delivered to the Army on Hampton Road by order of General Leslie from onboard the prize schooner “Tyger”, 1780. Military units attached wot names includes 82nd, 84th, Guards, Q R Dragoons, Light Infantry, Regiment Debois, Engineers, DQMG, Kings American Regiment, and Deputy Commissary and Commissioners of Captures. Also includes “wines supplied the Navy” with ship’s name and amount.
- Returns of the Army on the Virginia Expeditions – The General Account of Captures. Shows name of regiment, named person and amount of people, and other associated accounts; example - Brigade of Guards, Thomas Colins MB, 864. Also includes the 82nd, 84th, Kings American Regiment, Provincial Light Infantry, 17th Dragoons, Queens Rangers, Commissary, Barrack Department, Hospital, Guides, Hessian Regiment de Bose, Jeagers, Engineers, Commissioner of Captures, 17th Light Infantry, Royal Artillery, Deputy Quartermaster General.
- Sundry accounts to the general account. Includes - ship “Romolus” with goods received, by whom and account balance; Messrs Sheddon & Goodrich with goods received and balance; DQMG and goods received and b alance; F.W. Hecht Asst Comy Gen; commissary of captures with goods received and balanjce; prize ship “Sandwich” with what was required (eg. new foresail).
- Letter to Messrs Parker and Blair for J. Skelly, aid de camp (Camden), 1781. Concerns direction of monies from capture to go to Messrs Gordon & Beadulf.
- Prizes taken by His Majesty’s Fleet and Army in Chesapeake in AC (account?) with Currie & Norris. Includes vessels sold by Bills of Exchange.

PAR 4

Letters from Mr. and Mrs. Elmsley (nee Elligood) to Capt. Parker, 1760-1789. (J.P. was married to Anne Elligood’s sister, Margaret.) Concerns mainly family and personal affairs. (15 letters)

PAR 5

Sundry Virginia Letters

- Wm. Aitchison to J.P. (his brother-in-law and partner). Norfolk, Virginia, 31 March 1765.
- Jean Ronald (mother of Wm., apprentice to Aitchison and Parker) to J.P. Irvine, 16 July 1765. Shows appreciation for son’s opportunity and the advancement of money.

- William Ronald to J.P., 14 October 1769. Concerns the death of J.P.'s infant son and his recent marriage to [?] Kendall.
- Elizabeth Ronald to [Mrs. Parker?], 21 May 1775. Remarks on recipient's little girl and expectations of being neighbours soon.
- J.P. to his wife, Portsmouth, 15 May 1779. Expresses concern for Mrs. Phipps and also for privateers; requests she come.
- J.P., New York, to Alex. Elmsley, 11 October 1780. An account of Benedict Arnold's attempted betrayal of West Point Fort, and expedition to Virginia.
- Jacob Elligood, Saint John, to J.P., 17 June 1781. Purchased General Arnold's land in Fredericton, Nova Scotia [now New Brunswick]. Gives circumstance, prices and description of properties. Bought land on the north of Fredericton; gives price and circumstance required to be successful. Mentions Mr. Cramond and Scottish emigrants and his sentiments on past experiments. Indicates en route to get family and mentions finances.
- Daniel M'Cormick, New York, to Mrs. P., 18 June 1781. Indicates heard from her husband in prison in Rhode Island; heard he may be moved and offers assistance to her.
- Alex. McCaul and Allan Stevenson to J.P. [who was then a prisoner of war in France], Glasgow, 21 May 1782. Concerns his efforts for release and indicates his son is well.
- Alex. McCaul to J.P., Glasgow, 15 July 1782. Concerns efforts taken for release.
- Alex. Diack, Norfolk, Virginia, to J.P., 24 November 1783. Encloses certificate to help him obtain compensation for losses; mentions the temper of the people.
- Mrs. Parker to husband, 1782 or 1783? Concerns her leaving and concerns, mentions her servants/"negroes".
- Account from James MacKnight for the education of J.P.'s sons Patrick and Charles, 1776-1784, Edinburgh, 25 November 1784.
- "Memo of sundries paid for Mr. Parker", no date.
- Alex. Diack, Norfolk, Virginia, to J.P., 11 December 1784. Concerns forfeitures, Caleb Church, sons' coming and sale of lots, W. Ronald personal and J.P.'s accounts, his "negro" Quash, and J. Campbell and Co. accounts.
- Jacob Elligood, Bath, to J.P., London, 19 January 1785. An account of Bath.
- Jacob Elligood, Bath, to J.P., 2 February 1785.
- Geo. Nicolson, Richmond, Virginia to J.P., London, 10 May 1785. Concerns Mrs. Parker's ill health, Mr. Massie bond, Mrs. Inglis' affairs (Philadelphia), William Ronald's marriage, and Capt. Saunders' claims and "negroes".
- Charles S. Parker, Grenada, to father J.P., 19 July 1792. Concerns Mr. Gordon [partner] and his crime and effect on their West Indies business, and opinion on the slave bill and commodities in the West Indies.
- Charles Steuart, Edinburgh, to J.P., 8 April 1792. Concerns banks and banking, and mentions Susie not well.
- J.P., Glasgow, to S. Sandbach, 7 January 1802. Concerns death of a child – Annie and sentiment thereon.
- Henry Burnet, Norfolk, Virginia, to J.P., 9 March 1803. Concerns the purchase and price for lands in Virginia.

PAR 6

Various letters to and from Captain Parker

- Mrs. Nicolson to her aunt, Mrs. Parker, Richmond, 28 February 1773. Family matters including “negroes” and health – measles.
- Wm. Aitchison, Norfolk, Virginia, to J.P., 14 November 1774. Inglis Diack brings news from the city – tar and feathering, Woolrich and Wallace and tea from their ship, complaint lodged against Parker with the Committee.
- Alex. Elmsley, London, to J.P., Normandie, 3 January, 1783, who was then a prisoner of war in France. J. Elligood here and left your family well; youngest son at Edinburgh and other here, who he suggests should go to France to be nearer and learn the language.
- Mr. N. de Tontuite, Rouen, to J.P., 10 March 1783. Family matters.
- Miss Peggy Saunders, Rose Hall, Virginia? To Mrs. Parker, London, 17 April 1785. Local news – Mrs. Inglis, W. Ronald and brother Andrew, and Mrs. Parker’s health.
- Chas. Steuart, Edinburgh, to J.P., 6 July 1792. Business and accounts; sends letters for James Russell, Messrs Coutts & Co. concerning money for ship “William Traill”?.
- Jacob Elligood, New Brunswick, to J.P., 27 September 1797. Family matters – strongly desires he visits; describes in some detail his situation in New Brunswick in a positive light; requests goods sent to him; mentions Col. Chalmers.
- Jas. Mclmry, Harrogate, to Charles Parker, 4 May 1801. Mentions the arrival of the Marit? and Eliza: and cargo onboard and to be loaded, and cotton as a commodity.
- Anthony Vandam, London, to J.P., 29 November 1805. Personal matters – his sister fulfilled his request for Mrs. Parker – an India shawl?, and a small amount of family news.
- Declaration concerning the firm of James Campbell and Co. of Norfolk, Virginia [of which J.P. is the sole surviving partner], by William Calderhead, 22 May 1809. Concerns business; lists partners, and when and where died.

PAR 7

Letters between Captain Parker and his wife – also letters and documents concerning Captain Parker during the war

- Alex. Molison, Port Glasgow, to J.P., 3 November 1759.
- Printed proceedings of a committee of merchants of Williamsburg, proposing embargo on goods taxed by the English Parliament, with a list of members, 17 May 1769.
- Mrs. Parker, Norfolk, to her husband, no date (Oct. 1770?). Concerns personal clothes.
- John Foxcroft, Philadelphia, to J.P., 13 November 1770.
- Edmund Randolph, Williamsburg, to J.P., 3 November 1774, he is taking over Mr. Jefferson’s legal practice and enclosed is printed circular to same effect, 27 August 1774.
- J.P., Fleet, to Mrs. Parker, Northampton County, Virginia, 10 May 1775. Informs friend Mrs. Francis Melborne has died, and mentions an altercation involving the “Glasgow” with Admiral Hopkins’ squadron.
- J.P., Williamsburg, to Mrs. Parker, 3 November 1776 [written while prisoner of war]. Relays news about people they know; example, Bettie McCormick has recovered from the brink of the grave. Reassurance she may write on domestic affairs without fear or dread.

- J.P., Williamsburg, to Mrs. Parker, Northampton, 8 November 1776 [written while prisoner of war]. News – Mr. Aitchison’s death and his sentiments; Susie not well and suggests a health routine for both Susie and her for her stomach disorder; Mrs. Ronald not well; demonstrates distress and concern for Susie. Mentions Andrew Ronald’s arrival from Antigua with goods and that he has fevers and is thin and would appreciate her sending flannel. William Ronald will accompany her if she wishes to go live with her mother and if she needs anything, to let Mr. Ingram know.
- J.P., New London, to Mrs. Parker, 10 December 1776 [written while prisoner of war]. Sentiments pertaining to his mother’s death. Left Williamsburg and is on his way north. Gives medical advice for son Charlie. Hopes the air here helps restore his health. Mentions news about friends; gives impressions of children, men and women where he is at. Appeals Board confirms the confiscation of property.
- Letter signed Pat. Henry Jr, Williamsburg, 18 November 1776, to the County Lieutenant of Bedford County. Bearer of this letter has the charge of James Parker who is deemed a prisoner of war and is ordered kept in the Town of New London until he shall be otherwise directed. Order of Council enclosed.
- Order of the Council of Virginia against Mr. Parker. Concerns the forfeiture of estates and conditions as prisoner of war at New London.
- Andrew Ronald, Williamsburg, to Mrs. Parker, 10 April 1777. Heard Parker is at Fredericksburg en route to Philadelphia in company with J. Cummingham under the care of Captain Lambert who has treated them with a degree of humanity.
- Andrew Ronald, Williamsburg, to Mrs. Parker, 1 May 1777. Concerns her husband’s escape from prison at Alexandria en route to Philadelphia while not under Capt. Lambert’s care; provides details. Mentions Mrs. Inglis is safe in Philadelphia, as well as his sister, who is under inoculation.
- J.P., Philadelphia, to Mrs. Parker, Eastwood, Princess Ann County, Virginia, 2 January 1778. Indicates his letters are read by others so he must constrain himself; sends news of Charlie at school mostly, and news of people they know.
- Certificate of J.P.’s imprisonment, escape and services to the fleet by Captain A.I. Hamond of the Roebuck in Delaware River, 10 June 1778. Summarises Parker’s experience starting with his attendance on the sloop the “Vulcan”, in a fleet under Hamond’s command from which he was taken prisoner, thru to his boarding the “Roebuck”.
- Order concerning J.P.’s goods, by the commissioners of confiscated property, North Carolina, 5 January 1780. Court order that commissioners for confiscated property deliver to Alexander Dycke stock and profits arising from the estate of William McCormick & Co., as absentee of this state. Likewise ¼ part of stocks and profits to Margaret Parker after being sold by the commissioners at public auction.
- Appointment of J.P. as commissioner of captures, 21 October 1780. Signed Alexander Leslie, Commander in Chief of a detachment of His Majesty’s troops on Expedition to the Colony of Virginia. With full powers and authority to seize and secure all public stores and property belonging to rebels, also property that is deserted and also all cattle and provisions of all kinds from plantations from which the owners are absent for the use of the Army.
- P. Elmsley, London, to M. le Camus de Limare, Paris, 21 March 1782 (copy)

- J.P., St. Malo, to M. le Camus de Limare, 26 April 1782. (Draft written by a prisoner of war.) Signed parole to go to Caen in Normandy until exchanged; concerns Parker and Mr. Agnew. Requests help getting money. Mr. Agnew it is written in his mem book is Capt. Stair Agnew of the Queens Rangers and also includes Rev. Jn Agnew, chaplain to this regiment. Provides much further detail in his dated memo book below (see below “Some miscellaneous memoranda of J.P.....”).
- Note concerning the charges for the conveyance of J.P. to Caen, St. Malo, 20 April, 1782. (In French.)
- Marion and Brillantain, St. Malo, to J.P., 15 May 1782.
- Some miscellaneous memoranda of J.P. while a prisoner, circa Jan-May 1782. (8 pages) Includes listing of letters sent and received with notations; lists goods ordered and costs; details how to make blacking?, etc.
- Jon Williams, St. Germain, France, to J.P. concerning his exchange as a prisoner of war, 14 November 1782. [Williams was a nephew of Benjamin Franklin.] Has applied to Dr. Franklin to forward your exchange; does not understand why not exchanged yet as they are “carried on with much ease and dispatch.”
- Alex. John Alexander, St. Germain, to J.P. concerning his exchange, 23 November 1782. Explains why he believes he has not been exchanged yet and where the process is at.
- Alexander Diack, Norfolk, to J.P., 17 August 1784.
- George Nicolson, Richmond, to J.P., Port Glasgow, 8 August 1787. Concerns business matters – bond applied to Messrs William Cuthbert & Co., and personal matters – Miss Jenny’s attraction to a young Scotch doctor.
- James Chalmers, Ramsgate, to J.P., London, 3 September 1789. Requests money via Mr. MacAndrews to Mr. Aneel?, master of the Ramsgate; mentions Susan.
- Copy of articles 1 and 16 of the Anglo-French agreement on exchange of prisoners, no date. [In French.]
- Biblical extracts [endorsed “Chapter of the Ax”], no date.