

Privateering in the Gideon White Family Collection, 1777-1823

Selections

(MIC-Loyalist FC LFR .W5G5C6)

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****Dates cover 1777, 1788-1814

Item #	Date and Location	Abstract
No. 41	15 May 1777, New York	<p>[Copy of] letter from Captain Cornelius White to Messrs. T., J and Wm. Cochran, Halifax merchants. He relates his experiences since sailing from Halifax with a cargo of fish for the West Indies. Mentions the markets at Barbados and Dominica and the problems with his fish spoiling; waited and left for New York with armed ship or would have been taken by one of the many privateers infesting the seas; weak condition of vessel so stopped at St. Christopher; describes scene of privateers at St. Eustatius, and for that reason and with no convoy available and concerns about possibly not being insured if caught, indicates the necessity of selling his goods and vessel (at less than favourable prices). Accounts with named persons shown and reason for delivery method of payment explained as due to high risk of privateers.</p> <p>Regrets that he has made such a bad voyage. His brother's ship has been captured and he requests the Cochrans to have him exchanged for one of the captains who are brought in to Halifax. Expects to be in Halifax soon, and will be glad to execute any commissions before he leaves New York. Postscript asking Cochrans to claim his brother's schooner if she should be retaken, and sell her for the most she will fetch. Holograph.</p>
No. 477	12 March 1788, Halifax	<p>Chas. Morris to Gideon White re: business of the court of Vice-Admiralty. Customs collectors have "the sole Management of the sales & making up the accounts of all Prizes Condemned. But they are first to request of the Court a Warrant appointing proper persons to appraise all Vessels and Cargoes Condemned as forfeited to his Majesty; before any Sale can be made by them." Holograph.</p>

No. 636	2 October 1799, Shelburne	[Cox & Gracie, co-owners of the privateer <i>Nelson?</i>] to their agents in Halifax [Foreman, Grassie & Co.?] relative to the 16-gun brig <i>Nelson</i> , Ephraim Dean commander. (George Gracie and James Cox, both loyalist merchants and representatives in the Nova Scotia legislative assembly.) The vessel is now being converted into a brig and will need a new commission, which they wish to obtain, together with some additional certificate from the Admiral or possibly from the Duke of Kent, since doubts have been thrown on the latest capture of the vessel owing to her commission. Directions for them to advertise the sale of the late prize cargo, which will take place at Shelburne within five days of the condemnation of the vessel. Memorandum of articles needed by the vessel. [Incomplete.]
No. 637	10 October 1799, Halifax	Misters G. Gracie and J. Cox (agents) from Foreman, Grassie & Co.; further to no. 636 above, expects commission soon, named supplies ordered, some gotten from sale of prize vessels, Admiral promises protection in exchange for seamen on return, Duke of Kent has no authority to grant letters of marque so need to go into West Indies port and get regular commission against French and Spaniards; Mr. Campbell will inform as to the day of condemnation of prize, further directions concerning included.
No. 639	25 October 1799, Shelburne	Foreman, Grassie & Co. to George Gracie (loyalist originally from Boston and now in Shelburne), recommending steps to be taken re: recapture of the <i>Nelson's</i> recent prize , and enclosing a protection from the Admiral and a commission from the Governor for that privateer . Signed. [No enclosures]
No. 640	2 November 1799, Shelburne	[Cox & Gracie] to George Leckie, enclosing petition to the king relative to a prize taken into Jamaica by the <i>Brunswick</i> , but previously captured by the privateer Nelson . He is to have the petition and the accompanying letter from Gov. Wentworth properly presented, and direct the proceeds to be paid to their agents in Kingston, Jamaica. [Rough Draft; no enclosure]
No. 641	21 November 1799, Shelburne	Account of the owners of the privateer Nelson with George Gracie & Co. for supplies, 18 Sept.-21 Nov. 1799, for the second cruise of the vessel. Itemized.
No. 642	27 December 1799, Halifax	Account of prize <i>Kebec</i> with George Gracie & Co., 30 Sept. – 27 Nov. 1799, for provisions, board, etc.
No. 665	(20 August 1800), Shelburne	Deposition of James Newcomb making over his share in the [privateer] brig <i>Nelson</i> to Benjamin Davis. Dated 20 Nov. 1799. Signed. Overleaf [all written on one page]: 1. Benjamin Davis to Messrs. Gracie & Co., 2 Dec. 1799. Ordering prize money coming to Newcomb to be paid John Lawson in Halifax. 2. Note from John Lawson, ordering prize money to be paid to Miss Isabell Grassie (Grassie family members helped in

		managing the selling of shares.) 3. Receipt of George Gracie & Co. for £1.5.9, dated 20 Aug. 1800.
No. 666	(20 August 1800), Shelburne	Deposition of Abraham Crocheron making over his share in the [privateer] brig <i>Nelson</i> to Benjamin Davis. Signed. Overleaf: 1. Benjamin Davis to Messrs. Cox & Gracie, 14 December 1799, ordering prize money to be paid to John Lawson. 2. John Lawson to Cox & Grassie, ordering prize money to be paid to John Grassie. 3. Receipt of Geo. Grace & Co. for £1.6.9 ¾, dated 20 August 1800.
No. 670	3 October 1800, Shelburne	Deed of sale by Robert Durfee of one half a share in the present (fourth) cruise of the privateer <i>Nelson</i> to Edward Brinley for £6. Signed, witnessed.
No. 673	17 November 1800, Halifax	Foreman, Grassie & Co. to Messrs. Gracie & Cox, in receipt of letter and order. "We are happy in having it in our power to inform you, that Mr. Uniacke has this day been able to effect such a settlement, as to secure the owners of the [privateer] <i>Nelson</i> , from any action or actions for the damages on account of detaining the American Brig <i>Sally</i> the said owners of the <i>Nelson</i> has however to pay all expences incurred, and after that is done, they may think themselves well off to get out of such a Scrape so easy—there never was so imprudent a thing done, as to seize a Vessel on such frivolous pretences, and never, we believe till now, was the Master of a Neutral Vessel taken out of his ship, when she was sent in for adjudication—had the Master been permitted to remain on board, as he ought to have been, the Atty [Attorney] General wou'd come to a settlement on the rect. of the Vessels papers & permitted her to proceed immediately, but unfortunately no person was left to appear for the Vessel & cargo, and the only thing to prevent heavy damage, and to forward a settlement... was to libel the property, and it has produced a more favourable issue than cou'd well have been expected ..." Holograph.
No. 678	2 January 1801, London	Deed of sale by Jack Fell of half a share in the proceeds of the present cruise of the privateer <i>Nelson</i> to Edward Brinley for £6. Signed, witnessed, accepted.
No. 682-4	12 & 13 February 1801, Shelburne	Deeds of sale by Andrew Hagen, Harry Smith, and Ishmael Wigfall of one-quarter of a share of the proceeds of the privateer <i>Nelson</i> on her present cruise, to Edward Brinley for £3. Signed and witnessed. Accepted by James Cox.
No. 685	14 February 1801, Shelburne	Order from John Wesley to Messrs. Gracie & Cox to pay his share in the present cruise of the privateer <i>Nelson</i> to Edward Brinley. Signed and witnessed.
No. 687	19 February	Order from Charles Sutherland to Messrs. Gracie & Cox (agents

	1801, Shelburne	for armed brig <i>Nelson</i>) to pay his share in the privateer Nelson's present cruise to Edward Brinley. Signed and accepted.
No. 691	March 1801, Halifax	Account of the agents of the privateer Nelson with George Gracie & Co., 26 Aug. 1800-March 1801. Not itemized as to articles.
No. 692	2 April 1801, Shelburne	Order from Jane Sutherland to pay to Edward Brinley her husband's share in the present (fifth) cruise of the privateer Nelson . Signed and accepted.
No. 695	2 May 1801, [Shelburne]	Account of the owners of the [privateer] brig <i>Nelson</i> with M. Macnamara for supplies of rum, coffee, sugar etc., between 11 March and 2 May 1801; shows Walter Sheen paid for various items.
No. 697	3 June 1801, Shelburne	Account of Jim Newcombe with Edward Brinley for 6 shillings advanced to Mrs. Newcombe while he was off privateering .
No. 699	4 July 1801, Shelburne	Answers upon oath of Thomas Bird, master of the schooner <i>Eliza</i> of New York, relative to the capture of that vessel by the privateer Nelson on the 22 July 1800, to questions in the Vice-admiralty Court at Shelburne. Provides details pertaining to cargo, who owned each item of cargo (merchants at New York), owners, himself, and more generally about the passengers, crew, vessel and the account of the capture. Original (unsigned), and typed copy.
No. 721	[pre-1802], Shelburne	Order from George Smith to Cox & Gracie, agents for the [privateer] brig Nelson , to pay to Geo. Gracie & Co. his shares in the prizes captured by the vessel. List of debts owed by Smith to eight individuals. Holograph.
No. 724	23 February 1802, [London]	Note from Messrs. Gostling to George Leckie re: case of a prize , in which Leckie is the captor's agent. They enclose: a proposal from the claimant's representative contending for restitution according to the proceeds of the sale at Halifax, and objecting to certain deductions made by the captures .
No. 734	(27 June 1802), Halifax	Manuscript book showing the names of owners and crew of the [privateer] brig Nelson on her fourth cruise in September, 1800, and the shares or occupation in the vessel of each. Several dates, the last being that when the book was sent to Halifax by Mr. Gracie, 27 June 1802.
No. 749	[Pre July 1803], Shelburne	Six undated papers – bills, accounts, orders, etc. – connected with privateer Nelson , owned in Shelburne.
No. 847	17 November 1806, Halifax	Monition issued by Alexander Croke, Judge of the Court of Vice- Admiralty, to owners of the privateer Nelson , ordering them to bring the proceeds of the ship <i>Batt</i> and her cargo into the Registry of the High Court of Appeals for Prizes within 50 days. Printed. Signed.
No. 981	27 April 1813, Halifax	Miles White to his brother Gideon, on business. Salt has gone up in price. "Tea, Gunpowder &c. are not to be had at any

		advantage until the arrivals... it is reported here this day that five privateers are Cruizing between Cape Sable and Liverpool to intercept the Prizes of the Liverpool Privateers ." He orders some fish, specifying the price. Holograph.
No. 987	April 1813, Shelburne	Part of report made by H. F. Willoughby to Gideon White, as to privateering cruise of H. M. ship <i>Orpheus</i> , which captured a vessel of April 16th, 1813. Signed.
No. 997	15 December 1814, Plymouth	Wm. Davis Jr. to Gideon White. General news. He asks White to intervene on behalf of three poor fishermen who were captured by the <i>Nymph</i> frigate and taken into Halifax. He cites an example of the good treatment accorded to captured fishermen by Boston merchants, and hopes it will be reciprocated. Holograph.
No. 998	[pre-1815], Liverpool	H. F. Willoughby to Nathaniel White, owner of the <i>Paulina</i> , a schooner taken by the Sir John Sherbrooke and brought in to Liverpool. He thanks White for his kind attentions. Holograph.
No. 1000	[pre-1815], Shelburne	[Copy of] deposition of Peter Taylor of the Brig. <i>Nancy</i> of New York relating the events on board when they were taken by a privateer . [In White's handwriting]
No. 1001	[pre-1815 New York]	Articles of agreement made between the owners of the <i>Gally Revenge</i> and the commander for a privateering cruise. Incomplete [Printed form partly filled in].
No. 1137	May 1823	Chancery warrant for settling the case of the owners of the privateer Nelson . [draft]