

Volume 34
1 May to 31 July 1801

JEFFERSON CHRONOLOGY

1743 • 1826

- 1743 Born at Shadwell, 13 Apr. (New Style).
1760 Entered the College of William and Mary.
1762 “quitted college.”
1762-1767 Self-education and preparation for law.
1769-1774 Albemarle delegate to House of Burgesses.
1772 Married Martha Wayles Skelton, 1 Jan.
1775-1776 In Continental Congress.
1776 Drafted Declaration of Independence.
1776-1779 In Virginia House of Delegates.
1779 Submitted Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom.
1779-1781 Governor of Virginia.
1782 His wife died, 6 Sep.
1783-1784 In Continental Congress.
1784-1789 In France as Minister Plenipotentiary to negotiate commercial treaties and as Minister Plenipotentiary resident at Versailles.
1790-1793 Secretary of State of the United States.
1797-1801 Vice President of the United States.
1801-1809 President of the United States.
1814-1826 Established the University of Virginia.
1826 Died at Monticello, 4 July.

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- 4 May Samuel Smith reports on the status of the navy.
12 May Receives report on the War Department from Henry Dearborn.
13 May Gideon Granger reports Republican gains in Massachusetts.
14 May Appoints Albert Gallatin secretary of the Treasury.
17 May Cabinet agrees to reduction of diplomatic establishment in Europe.
21 May Writes to bey of Tripoli.
23 May Appoints Samuel Bishop collector at New Haven in place of Elizur Goodrich.
26 May Madisons leave President’s House after temporary residence.
29 May Withdraws gift of \$50 and severs ties with James Thomson Callender.
1 June U.S. naval squadron departs for the Mediterranean.
4 June Forwards views on neutral rights to Robert R. Livingston.
8 June Benjamin Waterhouse sends initial supply of smallpox vaccine.
19 June Martha Jefferson Randolph reports Monticello damaged by hailstorm.
30 June Cherokee delegation meets with Henry Dearborn at Washington.
1 July Appoints Joel Lewis marshal for Delaware.
12 July Articulates his patronage policy in his reply to remonstrance of New Haven merchants.
13 July Robert Smith accepts secretaryship of the navy.
14 July Begins to acquire land from the heirs of Bennett Henderson.
19 July Directs a halt to the prosecution against William Duane for sedition.
30 July Leaves Washington for Monticello, arriving on 2 Aug.
31 July France ratifies Convention of 1800.

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



From Abraham Baldwin

DEAR SIR

Green County May 1st 1801

For these ten days I have been on a journey on our frontier, and am just informed that Mr Clay refuses to accept the appointment of Circuit Judge. I avail myself of a transient opportunity and a coarse piece of paper to execute my promise of giving you all the information in my power in such contingences. I know you are fully [under] the impression of the ill consequences of multiplying the incumbents who will be brought forward as the principal arguments against the repeal of the new judiciary law, but should you find it expedient to fill the offices I wish you to be furnished with all the means of judging which it is in my power to give. We have, within these few years, lost the best of our lawyers by death or removal to other states. Those who are left have been generally violent partizans on the wrong side. There is still a preference among them, but not very clearly distinguished. It is desirable that the circuit judge should be from the interior part of the state, as all the former appointments from that profession have been confined to Savannah and its neighbourhood. George Walton who resides at Augusta, and is now one of the Judges of our Superior court is the man whom the lawyers in this part of the state seem generally to recommend. After hearing so fully as we have the character of Govr St. Clair, you may know almost perfectly the character and present situation of Judge Walton. As one of the signers of the declaration of Independence and a uniform whig in the time of our revolution, he is on higher ground than any other man in this state, by his letter which I put into your hands and by his conduct, as far as I am able to judge, he is not an unrelenting federalist: he might answer for circuit judge till the next meeting of Congress. Matthew McAllister was appointed our first district attorney he lives in Savannah and is at present one of the Judges of our Superior court. William Stephens is a native of Savannah has been mayor of the City and Judge of the Superior court; like our friend Coxe he has

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been a uniform whig in modern times. If it is expedient to appoint a circuit judge in this state, at present as far as my recollection enables me by myself to form an opinion the three whom I have mentioned should present themselves first to your consideration: it is not material to which you give the preference. you may perhaps have information from some other quarter which will enable you to see a preference more clearly than I do. I hope you will not give yourself the trouble of answering this. I shall be in Augusta in the course of a week or ten days and if anything occurs which it may be useful for you to know, be assured it shall not be neglected. There appears to be still order and good government in the state and on the frontier. I see nothing likely to disturb our tranquility. with great respect I am
Dear Sir

Yrs,

ABR BALDWIN

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); at foot of text: "Thomas Jefferson President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 16 May and so recorded in SJL with notation "Off"; also endorsed by TJ: "George Walton Matthew McAlister William Stephens."

Upon learning that Joseph CLAY had declined the judgeship of the fifth circuit, GEORGE WALTON wrote James Madison

on 10 Apr., requesting that the secretary "make known to the President my solicitude to be appointed in his stead." Walton did not receive an appointment during TJ's administration. TJ appointed WILLIAM STEPHENS judge of the district court of Georgia on 22 Oct. 1801 (Walton to Madison, 10 Apr. 1801, RC in DNA: RG 59, LAR; ANB, s.v. "Walton, George"; JEP, 1:401; Vol. 33:670, 677).

To Samuel Carr

DEAR SIR

Washington May 1. 1801.

I arrived here the day before yesterday, having left your mother well at Monticello, and your other friends in the neighborhood likewise so. Peter carried his election by a majority of 110. or 120. I have engaged a waggon to come on with my things, and propose she should return loaded with fish. the quantity necessary for me would be 12,000. but as she cannot carry [the] whole, I can have a couple of barrels taken in for you. have you or [will] you engage them, to be gutted & headed, & delivered in strong tight barrels? where must the waggon go for them? how soon will they be ready? what [is the] price? the bearer comes for answers to these questions, that I may [be in] readiness on the arrival of the waggon. my sister was of opinion she would be obliged to engage a waggon to come on, as the one I employ will be so full that your beds &c. can not be squeezed in. the same

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waggoner would probably come again for you. he is trusty, & comes reasonably. his name is Fontrees.—mr & mrs Madison will be here today. I [. . .] yourself & mrs Carr joy on the birth of a son & heir. how does she do? affectionate salutations to you both & to the family.

TH: JEFFERSON

P.S. possibly mr S. Carr may be gone to Albemarle. if so, I ask the favor of mr Overton Carr to give me any information he can on the subject of the fish.

PrC (ViU: Carr-Cary Papers); endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

YOUR MOTHER: TJ's sister, Martha Jefferson Carr.

BIRTH OF A SON: Samuel and Eleanor Carr were probably in Maryland with Overton Carr—Samuel's uncle and Eleanor's father—when John Carr was born (Vol. 6:167; Vol. 31:92).

From James Linn

SIR

City of Washington 1st May 1801

In March last I took the liberty to mention to you some names for appointments in Jersey—Upon returning home I was happy to find that it would be very pleasing to the republicans to have George Maxwell appointed district Attorney, and that even the federalists expected he would be honored with that appointment—As to the office of Marshal, I had some doubts whether Doctor Barnett the gentleman whose name I mentioned for that appointment would accept of it—but I find that if he is honored with that appointment he will not hesitate in accepting of it—

From a conversation which I had a few days ago with Mr. Southard of New Jersey who is elected a representative to the next congress, I find that a Mr. Rozell has obtained a recommendation from some respectable characters for the appointment of Supervisor—But Mr Southard informed me that at the time he signed the recommendation of Mr. Rozell he did not know that my name had been mentioned for that office, and that he did not think any of the gentlemen who favored Mr. Rozell's application knew [of] that circumstance, and had he known it he would not have been concerned in the application of Mr. Rozell—

I took the liberty to address to you from New Jersey in March last a letter on the subject of this appointment, which I expect has been received—

I would beg leave to observe that there will be a severe contest in

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Jersey between the republicans and federalists for the state government—the event is very doubtful—We think that the offices in that state under the general government being put into the hands of the republicans would be powerful auxiliaries in this important contest, And therefore we look forward with anxiety for the period to arrive when the influence which these appointments naturally give shall be directed towards the overthrow of an aristocracy which disregards the happiness of our citizens, and solely aims at the agrandisement of a few ambitious men—

I am Sir your most Huml. Sevt.

JAMES LINN

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); torn; addressed: “Thomas Jefferson Esquire President of the United States”; endorsed by TJ as received 1 May and so recorded in SJL with notation “Off.”

APPOINTMENTS IN JERSEY: see Notes on New Jersey Patronage, Vol. 33:183-4.

Henry SOUTHARD, Ebenezer Elmer, and James Mott, New Jersey representatives to the Seventh Congress, signed an undated certificate directed to the Treasury secretary recommending William Rossell as supervisor of the revenue for the state (MS in DNA: RG 59, LAR; in Elmer’s hand). Perhaps the RECOMMENDATION was enclosed in a letter from Joseph Bloomfield to Aaron Burr dated 8 Apr. The Republican leader in New Jersey noted that Rossell had requested

that he send a letter of introduction to Albert Gallatin, but having no acquaintance with the secretary of the Treasury Bloomfield wrote his “old friend” the vice president instead. In a 21 Apr. letter to Gallatin, Burr noted that he had transmitted “sundry documents and recommendations in favor of Wm: Rossell of Mount Holly for the office of supervisor of New Jersey” to TJ. Burr also confided to Gallatin that he had “passed some hours” with Rossell and conceived him “far superior” to James Linn, “his Competitor.” TJ endorsed the Bloomfield letter: “Rossell Wm. 1801 recd. Apr. 29” (RC in same; Kline, *Burr*, 1:555-8, 566-7). See also Burr to TJ, 21 Apr. 1801. For Linn’s letter to TJ ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS APPOINTMENT, see Vol. 33:432.

Notes on John Hunter’s Recommendations

[ca. 1 May 1801]

S. Carolina—

J. Hunter considers John Ewing Calhoun first in information & integrity. And local knolege of S.C.

Drayton Govr. John Julius Pringle Atty Gen., Wm. Johnston a judge, Paul Hamilton comptrollr. of treasury.

in the lower country

in the middle country.

Ephraim Rumsy

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Silvanus Bluf near Augusta
Wade Hampton. Columbia

in the upper country

Genl. Pickens.

Genl. Anderson

the above are proper persons to consult on the subject of
appmts

MS (DNA: RG 59, LAR; 3:0385); undated; entirely in TJ's hand.

John HUNTER, a planter, served as a Federalist in the House of Representatives from 1793 to 1795, as a U.S. senator from January 1797 to November 1798 following Pierce Butler's resignation, and as a Jefferson-Burr elector in 1800. He included the information above in a letter to Madison dated 16 Apr. 1801. Madison may have shared the letter with TJ when the president visited Montpelier from 26 to 27 Apr. on his way to Washington or after Madison arrived in the city on 1 May. Hunter described John Ewing Colhoun (CALHOUN) as "among the first men, for Information & Integrity, that this or any other Country afords. His Local knoledge of So. Carolina, Can not be Exceeded by any, & be Equald but by few" (Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 1:xxxii, 96-100; *S.C. Biographical Directory, House of Representatives*, 3:361-3).

Charleston attorney JOHN JULIUS PRINGLE served as the U.S. district attorney for South Carolina from 1789 to 1792. In December 1792 he became the state attorney general, a position he held until 1808. Pierce Butler described him as a "Correct, modest Man." In 1798, the state

legislature elected William Johnson A JUDGE to South Carolina's Court of Common Pleas, where he served until 1804, when TJ appointed him an associate justice to the U.S. Supreme Court (Washington, *Papers, Pres. Ser.*, 11:68; Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 1:258-9, 6:631-2; ANB, 12:141-3). For the credentials of PAUL HAMILTON as a state Republican leader in South Carolina, see Vol. 32:348-9.

SILVANUS BLUF: that is, Silver Bluff. Ephraim Ramsay and Charles Goodwin acquired a partnership in this 3,000 acre plantation on both sides of the Savannah River in 1796 (Madison, *Papers, Sec. of State Ser.*, 1:99; *S.C. Biographical Directory, House of Representatives*, 4:238, 465).

Andrew PICKENS and Robert ANDERSON both served regularly in the South Carolina General Assembly from Ninety Six and Pendleton districts. Pickens served as a congressman from 1793 to 1795. He served as a Jefferson-Burr elector in 1796, but was an unsuccessful Federalist candidate for the Senate in 1798. Anderson served as a Jefferson-Burr elector in 1800 (*S.C. Biographical Directory, Senate*, 2:1268-9; *S.C. Biographical Directory, House of Representatives*, 3:39-41).

From Newbury Township Inhabitants

[before 2 May 1801]

Address of a meeting of near two hundred of the inhabitants of
Newbury Township in York County Pennsylvania—To Thomas Jef-
ferson, President of the United States,

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Called upon by the United States to perform the most important of her tasks, we flatter ourselves that Assurances of the sincere attachment and steady support of any description of her citizens will not be unacceptable.

Influenced by this impression and highly gratified with the sentiments you have anounced as the governing principles of your administration we feel it our pleasure And conceive it our duty to tender you our most zealous and affectionate support.

May that Spirit of benevolent toleration which so conspicuously distinguish you amidst the conflicting elements of party spread like oil on the troubled Ocean untill all is soothed into Order & peace.

Signed in and by order of the Meeting

By HENRY KRIEGER
JAMES TODD
JESSE GLANCY
ELI LEWIS
R. HAMERSLY JR.

RC (DLC); undated; in unidentified hand; endorsed by TJ as received 2 May and so recorded in SJL. Tr (PYHi).

To the Aliens of Beaver County, Pennsylvania

SIR

Washington May 2. 1801.

The satisfaction which, in the name of the foreigners residing in Beaver county, you are pleased to express in my appointment to the Presidency of the United States, the expectations you form of the character of my administration, and your kind wishes for my happiness demand my sincere thanks. born in other countries, yet believing you could be happier in this, our laws acknolege, as they should do, your right to join us in society, conforming, as I doubt not you will do, to our established rules. that these rules shall be as equal as prudential considerations will admit, will certainly be the aim of our legislatures, general & particular. to unequal privileges among members of the same society the spirit of our nation is, with one accord adverse. if the unexampled state of the world has in any instance occasioned among us temporary departures from the system of equal rule, the restoration of tranquility will doubtless produce reconsideration: & your own knolege of the liberal conduct heretofore

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observed towards strangers settling among us will warrant the belief that what is right will be done. accept a reciprocation of wishes for your present & future¹ welfare, & assurances of my high consideration & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: “Hugh White esq. chairman.” Enclosed in TJ to Hugh White, 2 May, apologizing for the delayed reply to the 15 Mch. address from the aliens of Beaver County and explaining that it “came here soon after my departure to my residence in Virginia, where some arrangements were indispensably requisite previous to my settlement here, where I arrived two days ago only” (PrC in same, at foot of text: “Hugh White esq.”; Tr in MoSHi: Jefferson Papers).

White wrote TJ on 24 Feb. 1802, thanking the president for his “very obliging answer” to the Beaver County address and informing TJ that it was read publicly to a July 4th gathering. The

immigrant audience was “highly pleased with the assurances you gave, of their Speedy Elevation to the Rank of Citizens & men.” White also asked TJ’s assistance in having the reply published “in the Aurora or any other Republican paper.” White concluded: “As Thousands of aliens have arrivd Last year, it Would be highly gratifying that they had a Sincere freind in the presidant of the united States” (RC in MoSHi: Jefferson Papers; endorsed by TJ as received 26 Mch. 1802 and so recorded in SJL). TJ’s reply appeared in the 8 June 1802 *Aurora*, which identified the recipients as “a number of Irish Emigrants, resident in Pennsylvania.”

¹ TJ here canceled “happiness.”

From [Thomas Dill]

DEAR SIR,

May the 2d Anno Domini 1801

Your office & Calling is weighty & Important Indeed, O how much need you have of Divine pure wisdom & knowledge & understanding from god to Instruct & Counsel & direct you how to do Justly & love mercy & walk humbly with & before god & how to Execute Righteous & Just Judgment & in all your thoughts & words & Actions & motions & ways walk and Conduct, to Study & promote & Confirm promulgate And Establish the good of the common wealth in general throughout the whole American States & who is Sufficient for such a task & burden & Charge; as this to Rule & govern under god Justly & Righteously in the fear of the Great & Gracious Almighty Sovereign of the whole Universe In Such a way & manner as to be a terror to Evil Doers; & a praise to them that do well & ever to follow after Righteousness & fulfill the honourable place & Station & Relation of a Nursing father in pressing it strongly upon the Citizens in those Neighbouring American States; to do to Others as they would have others do to them; & for every man to Speak the truth at all times & in all places one to Another; & to live in love & unity & good will and

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Concord & harmony; furthering the wealth and outward Estate & welfare of one another, forgiving & lending freely one to another without grudging & let every man look upon the things of others as well as their own things; & always to provoke one Another to love god who is love & to love one another as themselves, & God the lord above all things else And as all the American States & the citizens; therein as under your Inspection O Strive with all your might & power to Get the people to love god for God is love & to love one another; & loose the bands of wickedness & undo the heavy burdens; and let the oppressed go free & that ye break every yoke & Deal your bread to the hungry & bring the poor that are cast out to thy house & when thou seest the Naked that thou Cover him & that thou hide not thyself from thy own flesh Never forget nor Neglect, poor widows & orphans & poor pilgrims & strangers & sojourners in the land—This commanded Duty we have from gods own mouth in the 58th Chaptr of Isaiah the 6th 7th & 8th verses; & the Rich men of this world God does not allow to wrong & Rob & oppress the poor the hireling & to pray for grace free saving regenerating grace heart purifying & soul sanctifying grace & salvation for one another from god in & through christ Jesus the lord these things is surely our duty in order to Qualify & make us worthy good citizens & Rulers so that we may enjoy the Smiles of heaven & that we may be Careful & watchful Against offending or breaking the peace with other Neighbouring Nations there is an Absolute Necessity for the punishment of profane cursing & swearing Drunkenness & Sabbath breaking And Stealing, & Cheating defrauding And extortion Avarice or covetousness luxury lasciviousness Intemperance Gluttony Extortion & Injustice & pride & vain glory; It is a great Evil to pamper the body too much in excessive eating & drinking & the Setting up of Idol Gods in the heart, when god has said thou Shalt have no other gods before me, that Righteousness & Justice & peace & love & equity may encrease & grow Spread & Abound throughout our American States; we must fear the god of heaven & keep his commands every Day as a Rule of life carefully and his everlasting gospel as a Rule of faith & practice; & in so doing we shall be a happy people both Rulers & ruled governors & governed & presidents & citizens & people Noble & Ignoble Laiety commonality & Congress Assemblys & must observe these things herein mentioned; from

A POOR AFFLICTED SICKLY BRUISED REED

RC (DLC); addressed: "To President Jefferson these with Care"; franked; endorsed by TJ as received 22 May and so recorded in SJL.

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The author of the above was probably Thomas Dill of western Pennsylvania. He wrote TJ again in 1803 and 1806, signing his name both times and adding to the signature on the latter document “A poor

Sickly bruised Reed.” He addressed his 1806 letter from Canonsburg and described himself as a “Stranger & Sojourner in Pennsylvania” (Dill to TJ, 7 Oct. 1803 and 5 Mch. 1806).

From Charles Wyndham Grymes

SIR,

Richmond May 2d. 1801

Not having the pleasure of an acquaintance with you and having to address you on a subject like the present one, I feel a considerable diffidence in so doing, but as I am confident that you will do everything that lays in your powers, for the assistance of three minors, I shall not hesitate one moment longer, in disclosing that, to which this letter will be confined. No doubt, you have received by the Alexander, Captain Gary, a letter from Mr Gourlay, informing you of the death of our unfortunate Grandmother Mrs Ariana Randolph; and enclosing you probate of her will which makes us her legatees, and a note for £100 sterling for the use of my two sisters and myself. Sorry am I indeed Sir, to be under the necessity of imposing on you so troublesome a request, as to take upon yourself the guardianship of us three, but when you look into the subject, when you see the difficulties that will arise from your refusal, I cannot but hope you will excuse the boldness of my request and attribute it to pure motives arising from the circumstances of the case.

Some years ago, my grandmother executed a power of attorney to you, to act for her in this country, in a controversy she had with the executors of Philip Grymes, Peter Randolph and Peyton Randolph: to you then, she intrusted everything and as no person can be better acquainted with the state of the thing if so well as yourself, as you have acted; and as you know how much money is due to a fraction, and it being her wish as well as ours, I hope you will take the trouble upon yourself.—I am sure it will be troublesome which I regret extremely particularly in the political situation in which you now stand but after assigning the foregoing reasons, I need not again say that it is my sincere wish and hope, that you will act as such. With respect to the one hundred pounds, I must beg the favor of you, to forward it, either to my uncle Randolph or myself. it is for the purpose of supplying us with mourning &c. and as we have taken up things to some amount which renders every shilling of it requisite, the sooner you could make it convenient to send it on the better. As I shall be neces-

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sitated to write to England as soon as possible I must request the favor of an immediate answer

I remain Sir, with great respect yr. mo ob. svt

CHARLES W GRYMES

Be so good Sir, as to direct to me at Edm: Randolphs Esqr Richmond

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received
5 May and so recorded in SJL.

A LETTER FROM MR GOURLAY: Robert
Gourlay to TJ, 22 Feb. 1801.

From Robert R. Livingston

DEAR SIR

New York 2d May 1801

The fear of intruding upon the few hours you can spare to rural occupations, & philosophic retirement has prevented my replying to your favor till your return to Washington, where I am told that this will find you. The character you give of Mr. Sumpter will doubtless render him an acquisition to the public, & in theory, the appointment of the secretary to the legation seems an adviseable measure, yet I am sorry to add that, as far as our past experience may decide, in practice, it has hitherto proved unfortunate. For tho' it has been usual to consult the minister on the appointment, so that the secretary might be deemed the man of his choice, yet it has seldom happened, that he has failed to consider himself as the intended successor, & of course as the rival of the minister. Their mutual jealousies have frequently produced consequences, alike injurious to the parties, & the states. I trust however from the character you give of Mr. Sumpter, and from my determination (should he be appointed) to respect your choice, & to make his situation as agreeable as possible, that nothing of this kind will happen. As the foreign intercourse law makes provision for a secretary *to the minister* I am at a loss Sir to know whether I shall be justified in nominating for your approbation such an officer?—If not I shall be under considerable embarrassments, for having presumed upon this, previous to your mention of Mr. Sumpter, as I thought it essential to select from the numerous applications I recd. a gent. well acquainted with the manners of the people, & so versant in their language as to supply the deficiency I shall long feel in conversing in it (French being as yet wh. me a dead language, having never accustomed myself to speak it,) and one well acquainted with the commercial relations of both countries, & on whose political & moral integrity I could have the utmost reliance, I gave encouragement to a gent. in whom all those requisites, together with that of an indepen-

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dant fortune, & extensive connections meet, reason to believe that I could procure the appointment for him, I trust therefore Sir that there will be no interference between this arrangmt & the one you propose, but that they will be considered as distinct characters, so as to enable me to avail myself of his services.

Permit me Sir to mention another appointment in which I feel myself, and I am persuaded the public is materialy interested, I mean that of Consul at Paris. As there are no direct commercial connections between this country, & that place the consul there is in fact an inferior diplomatic agent, with whom, the minister must have a constant communication, & thro' whom, he must acquire a knowledge of many interesting objects which it will be his duty to promote. Should the Consul be either indolent, or disqualified, & at the same time independant of the minister serious evils may result therefrom. I have taken the liberty Sir to mention this, because I have been informed, that among the applicants for this place, are men of this cast, & supported too by such recommendations, as may give you impressions in their favor. I flatter myself that I shall have the honor of seeing you before any appointment is made unless your choice should fall upon some gent. who is personally known to you, in which case I shall have nothing to apprehend. I will not trouble you Sir to reply to this letter, as I mean in the course of ten days to pay my respects to you in person, & solicit the honor of your instructions commands.

It will give you pleasure to be informed that no doubt is now entertained of our having a republican-Legislature in this State, & very little of the success of Mr. Clintons election.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir with the truest & most respectful Attachment your Most Obt humle: Servt

ROBT R LIVINGSTON

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "Thomas Jefferson Esqr & pres: of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 7 May and so recorded in SJL.

YOUR FAVOR: TJ to Livingston, 24 Mch. 1801.

FOREIGN INTERCOURSE LAW: the act of 1 July 1790 that first authorized salaries for diplomatic missions referred to the positions of minister plenipotentiary, chargé d'affaires, and secretary of a minister plenipotentiary (U.S. Statutes at Large, 1:129).

From Samuel A. Otis

SIR

Washington May 2d 1801

I do myself the honor to enclose you a copy of the invoice of books for the public library. The packages being perfectly dry I shall omit

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opening them until further orders. Whenever they are opened some person should be made answerable for them or in my opinion the volumes will be immediately dispersed and lost.

I have the honor to be Sir your most humble Sert

SAM A. OTIS

RC (DLC); at foot of text: "The President of The United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 2 May and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: Invoice of books ordered by William Bingham and Robert Waln from Cadell & Davies, dated 25 Nov. 1800, listing more than 150 titles, comprising over 700 volumes, with prices—including the "scarce" parliamentary debates in 104 volumes at the cost of £54.12.0—for a total cost of £489.7.0, taking into account a 5 percent discount of £23.15.0 for prompt payment and a charge of £37.18.0 for 11 hair trunks, a case for maps, and expenses for duties and fees, freight, and shipping (Tr in DLC: TJ Papers, 108:18452-4; at head of invoice: "copy"; endorsed by TJ as received 2 May).

See TJ to Thomas Mann Randolph, printed at 25 Nov. 1800, for the establishment of the joint congressional committee in late April to procure BOOKS FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY. On 20 June 1800, William Bingham and Robert

Waln, committee members from the Senate and House, respectively, sent an order to the London firm of Cadell & Davies. The booksellers procured all but 12 of the books and maps ordered, at a cost of \$2,200, and shipped them to Robert Gilmore & Sons at Baltimore on 9 Dec. 1800. After being stored at the custom house at Baltimore from 25 Feb. to 1 Apr., the first volumes for the Library of Congress were sent by packet to Otis, who informed TJ of the arrival of the shipment at Georgetown. On 7 Dec., the opening day of Congress, TJ called upon Otis to make a statement respecting the purchase. The secretary of the Senate requested that a joint committee be established to report on the "future arrangement of said books and maps" (William Dawson Johnston, *History of the Library of Congress*, Volume 1: 1800-1864 [Washington, 1904], 23-6; David C. Mearns, *The Story up to Now: The Library of Congress, 1800-1946* [Washington, 1947], 8-10; JS, 3:156).

From Ephraim Ramsay

SIR,

Charleston May 2d. 1801.

Altho I have not the honor of being personally known to you, yet, I trust, the friendly motive of serving a very honorable and deserving gentleman will justify the liberty I take in troubling you with this letter. Colonel Alexander Moultrie, who was formerly the attorney general of this State, & who is the brother of the gallant General Moultrie, has suffered much persecution by his zealous attachment to the honest principle of 1775, which in this City are much out of date: Judge Bee's not accepting the appointment of circuit Judge leaves that office vacant, & if no other gentleman has been thought of to fill it, the appointment of Colonel Moultrie will be vastly gratifying to your friends in this State—by his friends, & by the good old General,

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it will be received with profound respect & gratitude. Should the office of Judge be supplied before this reaches you, I take the liberty of mentioning Colo Moultrie as well qualified to discharge the duties of a custom House, & if the Collector of this port is to be removed I know no gentleman whose claims are stronger to the office than Colonel Moultrie. If the Marshall of this district, Mr Cochran, is to be removed, as it is generally supposed, he is so intollerant & indiscreet a youth; the appointment of Major Charles Goodwyn, of Silver Bluff, in Barnewell District, would be highly gratifying to the republicans throughout the state, & to the gentlemen of the bar particularly so. Major Goodwyn is a sound lawyer, & will make a most efficient active officer. When the legislature of this State did me the honor, two years ago, of electing me to a seat on the Bench of the Supreme Court, Majr Goodwyn was with myself in nomination, & within four votes of obtaining his election. Knowing how precious your time is, Sir, I will only add my wishes, my very sincere wishes, that a life so valuable as yours is to the liberties of America may long be preserved. With the highest consideration I have the honor to be Sir

Your most devoted Servant

EPHRAIM RAMSAY

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); addressed: “Thomas Jefferson President of the United States Monticello Virginia”; endorsed by TJ as received 15 May and so recorded in SJL; also endorsed by TJ: “Moultrie to be judge of Circuit vice Bee. or Collector vice Symonds. Goodwyn to be Marshal vice Cockran.”

Ephraim Ramsay (ca. 1766-1801), a planter from Edgefield District, served in the South Carolina General Assembly from 1792 to 1797 and was a business partner of Charles Goodwin. In 1799 the state legislature elected Ramsay an associate judge of the Court of General Ses-

sions and Common Pleas (*S.C. Biographical Directory, House of Representatives*, 4:465).

ALEXANDER MOULTRIE, the younger brother of GENERAL William Moultrie, served as South Carolina’s attorney general from 1776 until 1792, when he was impeached for embezzling public money and banned from holding public office for seven years (same, 3:515-16).

COLLECTOR OF THIS PORT: James Simons was appointed collector of the port of Charleston in 1797. Despite his Federalist sympathies, he retained the office until 1805 (same, 3:648-50; Prince, *Federalists*, 128-30; JEP, 1:248).

From Amos Windship

SIR

George Town 2d May 1801

I beg leave to state to you some Circumstances attending, the Court Marshall held on me in Novr. last past—I Confess I had not the smallest Idea of its being any thing more than a Court of inquiry—and for this reason, no Notice had been given me—untill the day before it took place—on Sunday at four OClock PM—I recd a Billit from Capt

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Talbot, by one of his Midshipman, requesting my attendance on Board of his ship, the next Morning at Nine oclock to answer to certain charges—the Ship lay Six Miles from Town—unprepared as I was I appeared—found Capt Talbot & all his officers & one other officer belonging to the Ship Herald—composed the Court—had I have thought their openion was to be final, I should have asked for time to prepare myself—and I should have made a Very different defence—I must say, I think myself hardly delt by—

It is a Matter of great concern to me & My family—if I Suffer the disgrace of being discharged the Service—I have had no other means of Support—have been kept in suspence for six Months, prevented me from doing any other Business—and Besides I know myself innocent of the Charges Brought against me, excepting not obtaining leave of Capt Talbot who was off the harbour, at the time, and who has since tould me, that had I have sent to him, he had no doubt but what he should have granted me leave to return home—I Can prove by Mr. Levy Naval agent, then at the Cape, who is here present, that I was very sick, and I Confess I was alarmed at my own situation—It was the Openion of Doctr. Stevens, our Consul-General, the only chance for my recovery was, to quit the place as soon as possable—I am sorry for what ever has been amiss—I humbly beg Sir, you will consider of my situation—and so far Mitigate the sentence of the Court as you in your goodness, shall think proper—in duty Bound shall ever Pray—

AMOS WINDSHIP

RC (DNA: RG 125, GCMCI); at head of text: “Thomas Jefferson President of the United States of America”; endorsed by TJ as received 2 May and so recorded in SJL with notation “N”; also endorsed by TJ: “remitted *to be filed* with the other papers—Th:J.”

Amos Windship (1745-1813) was a physician and apothecary from Massachusetts, with an established history of fraud, deception, and misconduct in his public and private affairs. He was expelled from Harvard in 1768 for theft. During the Revolutionary War he served as surgeon on the Continental frigate *Alliance*. After quitting the service, he embarked on a series of commercial misadventures, which led to a term in debtor’s prison. In September 1799 he was appointed surgeon on the ship *Herald* (NDQW, Dec. 1800 to Dec. 1801,

358; Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Publications*, 71 vols. [Boston, 1895-], 25:141-71; Sibley, 17:673-9).

In April 1800, while the *Herald* was at Cap-Français, Windship left the vessel without permission and returned to Boston. Brought before a court-martial in Boston on 24-25 Nov., he was charged with deserting his post, selling the ship’s medical stores for his own profit, and habitual drunkenness. Finding Windship guilty of the first two charges, the court sentenced him to be cashiered and forever banned from employment in the service of the U.S. and to forfeit any pay and subsistence due him. On 30 Apr., Samuel Smith forwarded a paper to TJ respecting Windship’s trial, adding that it was up to the president “to approve or disapprove” the sentence (RC in DLC, at foot of text: “President of the U. States,” endorsed by TJ as received 30 Apr. and so recorded in

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SJL; FC in Lb in DNA: RG 45, LSP). The paper was probably a transcript of Winship's court-martial, at the bottom of which TJ wrote on 2 May: "The President of the US. approves of the preceding sentence in the case of Amos Winship

Surgeon except as much thereof as forfeits his pay due at the time of his departure from the ship without leave, towit the 22d. April 1800" (MS in DNA: RG 125, GCMCI).

To Gideon Granger

DEAR SIR

Washington May 3. 1801.

I wrote you on the 29th. of March. yours of the 25th of that month with the address it covered had not reached this place on the 1st. of April when I set out on a short visit to my residence in Virginia where some arrangements were necessary previous to my settlement here. in fact your letter came to me at Monticello only the 24th. of April, two days before my departure from thence. this I hope will sufficiently apologise for the delay of the answer, which those unapprised of these circumstances will have thought extraordinary.

A new subject of congratulation has arisen. I mean the regeneration of Rhode island. I hope it is the beginning of that resurrection of the genuine spirit of New England which rises for life eternal. according to natural order, Vermont will emerge next, because least, after Rhode island, under the yoke of hierocracy.—I have never dreamt that all opposition would cease. the clergy who have missed their union with the state, the Anglomen who have missed their union with England, and the political adventurers who have lost the chance of swindling & plunder in the waste of public money, will never cease to bawl, on the breaking up of their sanctuary. but, among the people, the schism is healed; and with tender treatment the wound will not re-open. their quondam leaders have been astounded with the suddenness of the desertion: and their silence & appearance of acquiescence has proceeded, not from a thought of joining us, but the uncertainty what ground to take. the very first acts of the administration, the nominations, have accordingly furnished something to yelp on; and all our subsequent acts will furnish them fresh matter, because there is nothing against which human ingenuity will not be able to find something to say. accept assurances of my sincere attachment & high respect

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Gideon Granger esq."

For the ADDRESS from Suffield Citizens, 16 Mch., see the enclosure printed at Granger's letter of 25 Mch.

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E N C L O S U R E

To Suffield Citizens

SIR

Washington May 3. 1801.

I recieve with great satisfaction the congratulations of the citizens of Suffield & the neighboring towns who have been pleased to tender them on my appointment to the first office of government in the United States. and should I be able to preserve the general tranquility of the republic, or be instrumental in promoting the happiness of those who have placed me in this station, the measure of my wishes will be compleatly filled. much towards this will be done if harmony can be restored to the discordance of opinion which transient circumstances have produced in some parts of the Union, and nothing which is just shall be omitted on my part for the attainment of this great blessing. sincerely attached to the constitution of government which has been founded by our fellow-citizens in the genuine principles of republicanism, wisdom & virtue, I will certainly employ all my faculties to preserve it inviolate and uncorrupted; and especially to guard it from any licence of construction which might swerve it from the plain sense & understanding of those who advocated & adopted it. accept for yourself and the inhabitants of Suffield & the neighboring towns, assurances of my high consideration & respect.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of text: "Alexander King esquire chairman of a meeting of citizens of Suffield & the neighboring towns." Tr (CtHi).

To George Jefferson

DEAR SIR

Washington May 3. 1801.

I wrote you on the 17th. of April accepting 7. D. for my tobo. by return of the post which brought the offer: and on the 21st. I inclosed you the manifests of the Albemarle part of it. those of Bedford you had before. I have not heard whether you closed the sale.

I expect that fine hams for table use can be obtained in Richmond & it's vicinities; by which I do not mean large, but rather small hams, which are generally finer grained, sweeter, & better for the table, if well fatted & cured. I imagine the best are made by planters & to be collected by small parcels from them. I must trouble you to endeavor to procure for me two or three hundred of them, to wit, *hams*, not shoulders, of the best kind & best cured; & to forward them on here from time to time as they are procured, for I am entirely unprovided for present use. you will oblige me by informing me¹ what the prospect of obtaining them is. I am Dear Sir

Your's affectionately

TH: JEFFERSON

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PrC (MHi); at foot of text: "Mr. George Jefferson"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

¹ MS: "we."

To James Magoffin

SIR

Washington May 3. 1801.

Your favor of Mar. 23. was put into my hand just as I was setting out on a short visit to Monticello, from which place I am returned only three days ago. this I hope will apologize for the tardiness of my acknowledging the receipt of it, together with my thanks for the book it covered. I should be glad to see a new & better edition of it, and that it should be made without any retouches by the author. as it is, [it] contains sound & excellent principles, from which however it's author has lamentably [swerved?] in his doctrine & conduct in public life. so that the earliest & not the latest editions of this book, will, I am persuaded, be longest approved, should the author revise them accept assurances of my esteem & respect. TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (ViW); faint and blurred; at foot of text: "Mr. James Magoffin"; endorsed by TJ in ink on verso.

THE BOOK IT COVERED: Nathaniel Chipman's *Sketches of the Principles of Government*; see Magoffin to TJ, 23 Mch.

From John Monroe

SIR.

Staunton May 3d. 1801.

Since my letter of the 30th. Ulto. I have recieved your friendly and obliging letter of the 25th. Apl. covering a commission for me as Atty. for the Western District of Virginia. The Office being in the line of my profession, renders it more agreeable to me; I shall not therefore hesitate in my acceptance of it.

I will not trouble you with thanks, or professions; But by a Strict attention to the discharge of the duties of the office, and a Manly republican in independance of conduct; tell the world, & the enemies of civil liberty, that I am not altogether undeserving your confidence—

I have remarked, that the late Administration have appointed printers of the laws of Congress in Different parts of this and the other States. Should you suppose the measure a proper one; and no person has, as yet, been appointed, I will take the liberty to mention Mr. John Mc.Arther, the Editor of a paper printed in this Town,

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stiled the Political Mirror. This Gentleman deserves much from the republicans. He has withstood both threats & entreaties from the opposite Faction, & some of the Military: and he has been injured much in the progress of his business by the insidious Slanders, propogated by the Monarchists. He is master of his business and will execute the work with neatness and correctness.—The continuance and support of this paper in this place I think necessary & usefull. But I fear without some such aid, as I now hint, Mr. Mc.Arther will not be able to prosecute the business.—

If what I have said shall meet your own approbation I have no doubt you will do Justice to Mr. Mc.Arther by your conduct. Accept Sir my best Wishes for your happiness & Honor. J, MONROE

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 13 May 1801 and so recorded in SJJL.

James Lyon had established the Staunton newspaper called the POLITICAL MIRROR early in 1800. John McArthur, orig-

inally one of the paper's printers, became its sole proprietor before the end of that year. In February 1802 he accepted an appointment to publish U.S. laws in his paper (Brigham, *American Newspapers*, 2:1156; Vol. 31:376-7).

From Abraham Faw

SIR,

Alexandria May 4th: 1801

By the Assumption Law of Congress, an Orphans Court is directed to be established in the County of Alexandria and a Judge of said Court is to be Appointed, the Register informs me it is necessary some Gentleman should be Commissioned, in whose name to Test Letters of Administration &c., If you have not fix'd on a Person better Qualified than myself, you may if you Please Consider me an Applicant, having heretofore resided in Maryland, and been something Conversant in the Orphans Court I consider myself to possess some knowledge of the Business in Testamentary Affairs And shall have no Objection to undertaking the trust, Altho' no Adequate Compensation Appears to be provided for by the Law, General Smith, and John Thompson Mason Esq'r. are Acquainted with me, to whom please be refered for information.

I am with Respect Sir, Your Obedient Hble Servt A. FAW

RC (DNA: RG 59, LAR); endorsed by TJ as received 4 May and so recorded in SJJL with notation "Off"

On 2 Mch. 1801, Adams nominated Faw to be a justice of the peace for Alex-

andria County and on 5 Mch. TJ recorded his reappointment. On 6 Jan. 1802, TJ nominated George Gilpin as JUDGE of the Orphan's Court for the county (JEP, 1:388, 402, 404, 423; Vol. 33:674-5).