

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON



Deposition of James Lewis in *Jefferson v. Michie*

[*Ed. Note:* On 1 Sept. 1815 James Lewis appeared at the house of Thomas Wells in Charlottesville and gave a deposition in the case of *Jefferson v. Michie* (Tr in ViU: TJP-LBJM; entirely in George Carr's hand) that was similar to the testimony he had given in the same case on 1 July 1812. This new statement was occasioned by a 7 Aug. 1815 ruling by the Albemarle County Court that, on a motion by TJ as complainant, Lewis's deposition be taken "in like manner, as those of the other witnesses named in said decree and for the same purpose" (MS in Albemarle Co. Order Book [1815–16], 74; Tr in ViU: TJP-LBJM; entirely in Carr's hand). The deposition of 1 Sept. 1815 differed most significantly from the earlier one in the omission of several sections of text. Portions that were dropped include questions asked by TJ and David Michie in 1812, the greater part of the testimony answering those questions, and a passage by Lewis stating that an unnamed attorney had advised him that, as a security for John Henderson's debts, it was improper for Lewis to have purchased the land in question. The later deposition ends with Lewis's summary that Henderson had never informed him that Michie or anyone else had a right to the land, but that Henderson had told him that Craven Peyton's claim to the contested mill seat at Milton was negligible.]

From Joseph Miller

Norfolk Sept 1st 1815.—

Honr^d Frind I now take the Libevity of informing you—this Day I have¹ shiped on Board the Sloop Canton Capt Willis Godwin one Cask of x I Do not Know What We Must call it, I think² Porter Brandy as it was Made from Soure Porter Like wise—I have Sent My Trunk along with it hopeng thay will Come Safe to hand—I have Drect them to Gibson &c Jefferson Richmond—I have been Detained Longer than I Wished Oweng to a Lott of Ground the

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1 SEPTEMBER 1815

Contentes You will heare—I will Sett off on the 4 or 5—wishing you to wright to Messer Gebeson Jefferson to forward the³

My Respt^s to all the Famuly

I Rem your Hunbe^l Serv^t

JOSEPH MILLER

NB I hope Peter and me will Do Better thes year than Last we will let the Wether be Cooler.

RC (DLC); at head of text: “M^r Jefferson”; mistakenly endorsed by TJ as a letter of 1 Aug. 1815 received 3 Oct. 1815 and so recorded in SJL.

¹ Manuscript: “I have <*I informed*> I have.”

² Preceding two words interlined.

³ Thus in manuscript, at the end of a line.

PETER: Peter Hemmings.

From Benjamin Waterhouse

DEAR SIR,

Cambridge 1st Sep^r 1815.

I cannot allow to pass this fair opportunity, by General & M^{rs} Dearborn, without sending, you some memorial of my gratitude & respect—

I have enclosed you two 4th of July Orations; one delivered in the District of Maine, to a people ripe for a seperation; and the other at Lexington, by a son in law of the late Vice President. They will shew you the sentiments and doctrines that are now maintained by a great portion of the yeomanry of Massachusetts. I have also enclosed a copy of Cobbett’s Address to the Clergy of Massachusetts, with a prefatory Epistle by “Jonathan.” Five thousand copies have been sold, in a State where Caleb Strong & William Phillips is Gov^r & Lieut Gov^r they being two rigid Calvinists of the deepest blue-dye. Having ceased to preach rebellion, & to utter treasonable doctrines in prayer, our restless Levites are now at open & bitter war among themselves, on account of the old, & tedious subject of the unity, trinity & atonement! The combatants are, however, all federalists. The Essex-Junto are the revivers & patrons of the imputed heresy of Unitarianism; but it unluckily happens that their two political champions, Strong & Phillips [are]¹ two of the most rigid calvinists in New England. When such a mixture is in high fermentation, we wicked Unitarian Republicans are waiting, with a sort of mischievous curiosity to see what the tertium quid will be. Both parties have diffused the Bible untill it has become as common as an Almanack; & are now quarreling about its meaning. Cambridge college is the grand fortress, or strong hold of federalism & Unitarianism, and the Boston clergy are

fighting under the motto of "common sense," and "the Age of Reason," without daring to acknowledge it; while the Calvinists are absolutely² contending, tooth & nail, for the leading doctrines of the church of Rome; which they have cursed ever since I can remember! While the priesthood³ are sharply engaged in this unwise controversy, the common people are reading with avidity & relish William Cobbett's address to the "Cossack" clergy.

The Junto, or Faction have enlisted nearly every able & active young man of the three learned professions, in their service. They, like the Jesuits, fix upon all our brilliant young men, especially if they are poor, & mark them for their own. We have an almost incredible number of literary, religious, municipal, economical & political societies, associations, or clubs, which are filled by these young Jesuits. It is in this consists⁴ their great influence. Draw out the militia, & we shall find two thirds of them Republicans. It is among the servile men of education that federalism utters its insolent voice. Their union is now threatened by an attack of the Calvinists, who have come suddenly upon them, with fire & brimstone. In this terrific contest, Morse the geographer leads the Orthodox troops of Mass^{ts} & Pres^t Dwight those of Connecticut while Rhode Island & Vermont are, literally speaking, neuter.

The faction have a numerous body of intriguers, writers, spies, & preachers throughout New England. In this rebellious corps I might have carried a pair of colours; but honor & conscience forbade it, and I threw myself into the lean & pinched up ranks of Republicans, and when very hard pressed by the college, & professional rivals, & their mercenaries, I retreated behind the press; from whence I have kept up a pretty constant fire,⁵ & sometimes made cartridges for other posts. My venerable friend Adams early warned me of the danger of this procedure. "They will not, said he, hesitate to destroy, if they can, both you & your family."—But I felt the impulse operating like an irresistible instinct, so that, for more than seven years past, I have poured an incessant stream of republicanism on the wheels of government, through the medium of the press, while all about me were trying to impede them. Numerous as the federal writers have been, they were kept at bay; & their Hartford Convention has been made the laughing stock of the publick. Boston is already half ruined. Emigration is fast drawing off her best spirits. Those who can distinguish between business & bustle say, that she is rapidly on the decline. In the midst⁶ of all this, their clergy are quarreling, their merchants discontented, their famous college trembling, their rich men uneasy, and the faction itself heartless & headless; & so it is with the republicans.

1 SEPTEMBER 1815

George Cabot cannot supply the place of Theophilus Parsons in the one, nor Samuel Dexter suit exactly with the other. We want a man of General Dearborn's system & energy for Governor.

Were I 20 years younger, I might be tempted to lead my children into a region more congenial to their education.—I have long wished to make a pilgrimage to Monticello; but must, I believe, relinquish it, or depute one of my sons to go a votary in my stead. With a high degree of respect, I remain

your obliged humbl serv^t

BENJ^N WATERHOUSE

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 3 Oct. 1815 and so recorded in SJJL. RC (Mrs. T. Wilber Chelf, Mrs. Virginius Dabney, and Mrs. Alexander W. Parker, Richmond, 1944; photocopy in ViU: TJP); address cover only, with PoC of TJ to Patrick Gibson, 28 Oct. 1815, on verso; addressed: "The Honorable Tho^s Jefferson Monticello By General & M^{rs} Dearborn." Enclosures: (1) John Holmes, *An Oration, Pronounced at Alfred, on the 4th of July, 1815* (Boston, 1815; Poor, *Jefferson's Library*, 13 [no. 826]; TJ's copy in ViU). (2) James T. Austin, *An Oration, Pronounced at Lexington, Mass. in commemoration of the Independence of the United States of America, and the Restoration of Peace. 4th July, 1815* (Boston, 1815; Poor, *Jefferson's Library*, 13 [no. 826]; TJ's copy in ViU). (3) William Cobbett, *An Address to the Clergy of Massachusetts. written in England, Nov. 13, 1814. with A Prefatory Epistle, to Certain Priests, by*

Jonathan (Boston, 1815; Poor, *Jefferson's Library*, 10 [no. 548]).

James T. Austin was the son-in-law of the LATE VICE PRESIDENT Elbridge Gerry. TERTIUM QUID: some indefinite thing that is related to, but distinct from, two known things (*OED*). CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE: Harvard University. In his address Cobbett called the clergy of Massachusetts a COSSACK priesthood for allegedly celebrating as a religious victory the arrival of Cossack forces in Paris in 1814 (Cobbett, *Address to the Clergy of Massachusetts*, 9–12). The THREE LEARNED PROFESSIONS are law, medicine, and divinity (*OED*).

¹ Omitted word editorially supplied.

² Manuscript: "absolutely."

³ Manuscript: "priesthood."

⁴ Manuscript: "consits."

⁵ Word interlined.

⁶ Manuscript: "midts."

From Edward Bancroft

MY DEAR SIR

London Sept^r 5th 1815.

Though some years, & many great events have intervened, since the date of your last letter to me, you will I flatter myself, pardon the liberty which I take in addressing you, to assure you of the continuance of my highest Esteem & best wishes, and also to introduce to the honor of your favourable notice, & Kind protection, the Viscount Barziza, who will become the Bearer of this Letter—He is the Youngest of the two Sons of the late Count Antonio Barziza, & of the two Grandsons of our deceased friend the late M^r Paradise; who was honored with so much of your friendship & Kindness, formerly at

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Paris, that I am persuaded you will favourably receive this child of his daughter, & afford him all convenient advice, countenance, & assistance, towards the attainment¹ of his principal object, in going to Virginia; which is that of Claiming & qualifying himself to inherit, the Estates lately possessed by his deceased grandmother M^{rs} Paradise; which by her marriage Settlement & by subsequent acts, were Secured to the issue of her Daughter the late Lucy Countess Barziza, as you will doubtless recollect—Her eldest Son, the present Count Barziza, is now here, & intends in a few months also to proceed to Virginia to qualify himself according to the Laws of your State to partake of the inheritance in question; but being married & having left his Lady far advanced in Pregnancy at Venice, he wishes first to return to that City, which I hope he may do without putting his American rights into any Jeopardy; though in fact, we have not been able here to obtain any precise & authentic information of your Laws on that Subject: a circumstance which will I hope be allowed to have a favourable operation for the absent claimant, if there should be any precise time prescribed for his appearance in America, & if that time should prove to be shorter than is supposed.

I congratulate you sincerely on the prospect of a long continuance of Peace & high prosperity, which seems to be now opened to the United States; & beg you to be assured of the great respect & sincere devotion with which I have the honor to be My Dear Sir

Your most faithful & most Obedient Servant

EDW^D BANCROFT

RC (DLC); dateline at foot of text; at foot of first page: "Thomas Jefferson Esq. &c. &c. &c."; endorsed by TJ as received 15 Dec. 1815 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosed in Philip I. Barziza to TJ, 6 Dec. 1815.

Edward Bancroft (1744–1821), physician, chemist, and spy, was born in Westfield, Massachusetts, studied medicine in Connecticut, and worked as a doctor in Dutch Guiana before moving to London in 1767 to further his education. He practiced medicine in London and worked as a journal editor and author. Bancroft befriended Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Priestley, researched and wrote on vegetable dyes, and won election in 1773 to the Royal Society of London. During the American Revolution, Bancroft spent time in Paris and London employed as a

spy by both the British and the Americans. While TJ resided in Europe, he corresponded extensively with Bancroft on the financial difficulties of John Paradise and Lucy Ludwell Paradise. Bancroft was awarded a British monopoly, 1785–99, on the importation of oak-bark dyes that he developed for calico printing, and the dye remained in use for more than a century. He died in Margate, England (ANB; *DAB*; *ODNB*; Franklin, *Papers*; *PTJ*, esp. 8:522, 9:41n; Julian P. Boyd, "Death by a Kindly Teacher of Treason?," *WMQ*, 3d ser., 16 [1959]: 165–87, 319–42, 515–50; London *Morning Chronicle*, 13 Sept. 1821).

Philip Ignatius Barziza (1796–1875) was a native of Venice. After arriving in the United States in 1815 to claim the estate of his grandmother Lucy Ludwell Paradise, he settled in Williamsburg.

Philip and his brother Giovanni (John L.), Count Barziza, petitioned the Virginia General Assembly in 1816 for title to their grandmother's land, but the request was denied the following year. In 1824 the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled that, because they were foreign-born, they could not inherit land in Virginia. Barziza enlisted TJ's aid and in 1817 visited him at Monticello. After abandoning the claim to his inheritance, Barziza was equally unsuccessful in attempts to be named the American consul at Tangiers in 1825 and a bearer of dispatches from the United States to Europe in 1826. He was the keeper of Williamsburg's Public Hospital (later the Eastern Asylum, and later still the Eastern State Hospital), 1837–41, and a steward in 1850. By 1847 Barziza was bankrupt. In 1854 he was confirmed as federal customs collector and revenue inspector for the port of Yorktown. Barziza eventually moved to Texas along with his wife and several of his children and died in Houston

(Archibald Bolling Shepperson, *John Paradise and Lucy Ludwell of London and Williamsburg* [1942], 446–8; R. Henderson Shuffler, "Decimus et Ultimio Barziza," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 66 [1963]: 501–12; petition of Barziza brothers, read 21 Nov. 1816, rejected 1 Jan. 1817 [Vi: RG 78, Legislative Petitions, Miscellaneous]; *Va. Reports*, 23 [2 Randolph], 302–8; TJ to Thomas Appleton, 1 Aug. 1817; Barziza to TJ, 10 Mar. 1824; Clay, *Papers*, 4:105–6, 5:373; Henry M. Hurd, ed., *The Institutional Care of the Insane in the United States and Canada* [1916], 3:711, 718; *Richmond Enquirer*, 29 Jan. 1847; DNA: RG 29, CS, Williamsburg, 1850; *JEP*, 9:192, 254 [11 Jan., 28 Feb. 1854]; *Galveston Daily News*, 26 Mar. 1875; gravestone inscription in Glenwood Cemetery, Houston).

TJ's LAST LETTER to Bancroft was dated 25 Sept. 1789 (*PTJ*, 15:476).

¹ Manuscript: "attainment."

From Albert Gallatin

DEAR SIR

New York Sept^{er} 6th 1815

I enclose two letters from Europe, one from La Fayette, who desired that I should bear witness to his constant endeavours, under all circumstances, in support of the cause of liberty, and to his undiminished affection for his American friends & particularly for yourself. I was much gratified by the receipt of your kind letter of March last brought by M^r Ticknor. Your usual partiality to me is evinced by the belief that our finances might have been better directed if I had remained in the Treasury. But I always thought, that our war expences were so great, perhaps necessarily so, in proportion to the ordinary resources of the country, and the opposition of the monied men so inveterate, that it was impossible to avoid falling into a paper system, if the war should be much longer protracted. I only regret that specie payments were not resumed on the return of peace. Whatever difficulties may be in the way, they cannot be insuperable, provided the object be immediately attended to. If delayed, private interest will operate here as in England and lay us under the curse of a depreciated & fluctuating currency. In every other respect, I must acknowledge that the war has been useful. The character of America