

COPY OF THOMAS JENKINS'S COMPLAINT

To the Honorable the Council, and the Honorable the House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, at Boston, Novr 1779.

Thomas Jenkins humbly sheweth — That as a true and liege subject of the State of the Massachusetts Bay, as well as from enormous personal injuries received, he is most strongly urged to lay the following representation and complaint before the Supreme Legislature of the State.

Your petitioner complains of Dr. Benjamin Tupper, Timothy Folger Esqr, William Rotch, Samuel Starbuck, and Kezia Coffin, all of the Island of Nantucket, as persons dangerous, and inimical to the freedom and independence of this and the other United States of America; as Encouragers, Aiders and Abettors of the Enemy, in making inroads on the State Territories, and depredations on the property of the good subjects of this State.

It can be clearly proved (if your Honors should think fit to order an enquiry) that reiterated attempts have been made by some of the above persons, to induce the Inhabitants of said Island, to settle correspondence with, and openly join the Enemy.

In particular the said Timothy Folger applied to the Selectmen of the Town of Sherbourn, in a written request, subscribed with his own hand, to call a Convention of the Town, in order to choose a Committee to treat with the British Commanders at New York and Rhode Island; and also whether it was expedient for the Town any longer to pay Taxes to this State; and upon the said application being reprobated by the Selectmen as highly prejudicial and inimical to the honor and interest of the State, said Folger declared that several of the principal Inhabitants of the Town were of his opinion; and then insolently told the Select men they deserved to be damned if they refused to comply with his proposal —

This treasonable proposition will be proved by the Select men. That there was a private Correspondence carried on by some or all of the aforesaid persons with the Enemy can be proved by the annexed list of Witnesses No. 2 — and that the Commander of the predatory Fleet which came to Nantucket last spring, confessed that they never should have come there on the design they executed, had they not been repeatedly called upon and invited for the purpose, by the Friends to the British Government, in the infamous number of whom the persons above complained of were notoriously enrolled. Doctor Samuel Gelston will prove this confession.

That upon the arrival of the Renegado Fleet at the Bar of the harbor, the aforesaid Rotch and Folger together with one Josiah Barker, (without any appointment or consent of the Town) went on board the said Fleet, and after tarrying some time, came on shore in company with several of the principal Refugee Officers, and immediately went to the said Rotch's house, where, after calling in three or four other men of the same inimical character with themselves, a long consultation was held.

In about an hour the Council broke up, and one of the said Officers with a number of his people proceeded immediately to some Ware houses of your Complainant, and robbed him of — 260 barrels of Sperm Oil, 1800 lbs of Whale Bone, 2300 wt. of Iron, 1200 lbs of Coffee, 20,000 wt of Tobacco, and a number of smaller articles, all of which they carried off, together with a Brig, one moiety of which he owned, to the loss of your Complainant, Twenty five hundred Guineas at least. — This property was pointed out to them by the said Dr. Tupper and Kezia Coffin. — That other effects of the true and liege subjects of this State were particularly pointed out to the Enemy for plunder, by some of the persons above complained of, and especially by said Starbuck, can be amply proved.

— Your Complainant begs leave further to add, that after the Enemy had got possession of his Brig above mentioned, frightened with a false alarm, they precipitately left the harbor, and the said Brig behind them, with only five men in her; upon which some of the well disposed Inhabitants proposed securing her, which might with ease have been effected; but the said Folger and Rotch with some others of the same complexion and sentiments interposed and dissuaded, and opposed the intention of the people; by means of which the said Brig and Cargo were finally carried off, after a Pilot was procured by the Enemy, who was induced to take charge of the vessel by the advice of the aforesaid William Rotch. — To put the inimical and treasonable sentiments and designs of the said Dr. Tupper beyond all dispute, after he had returned from New York, with said Starbuck and Rotch, where they had gone on an illegal and dangerous errand, upon a Town Meeting being convened, said Tupper after having menaced and abused all those persons, who had been opposed to the said Triumvirate going to New York, moved that a Committee should be chosen, for the purpose of seeing that the King's servants, meaning the adherents and officers of the British King, should receive suitable respect and protection and be kindly used, and that all refractory persons, (meaning such liege subjects of this State as were opposed to their traitorous pro-

ceedings) should be apprehended and sent where they would meet their punishment.

Innumerable other instances of the most dangerous and illegal conduct in some or all persons now complained of can be produced, should your Honors think fit to order an enquiry to be made; which your Petitioner and Complainant humbly prays may be ordered, as well for the public interest, as that some reparation may be made him, and his other suffering brethren, who have sustained very heavy losses, by the cruel and treasonable management of those people; and that such Order may issue from your Honors as shall compel the persons charged as above, to answer to these Articles of complaint, and that summonses may be granted for the Witnesses whose names are herewith handed to your Honors, to attend at such time as your Honors shall order the enquiry to be made.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray. —

(Signed) THOMAS JENKINS.

a true Copy

Attest John Avery DC.J —

Witnesses to the several Charges vizt.

JOHN WATERMAN	MARSHALL JENKINS
BENJN FOLGER	(M Vineyd)
WALTER FOLGER	BENJN HUSSEY
SHUBAEL BARNARD	STEPHEN HUSSEY
PETER MACY	SETH JENKINS
EBENEZER COFFIN	SHUBAEL WORTH
DOCR SAMUEL GELSTON	STEPHEN FISH
TIMOTHY FITCH	PAUL PINKHAM
(Medford)	WILLIAM HAMMETT
SHUBAEL DOWNS	JOHN RAMSOLE
(Walpole)	GEORGE HUSSEY 2ND
	FRANCIS CHASE