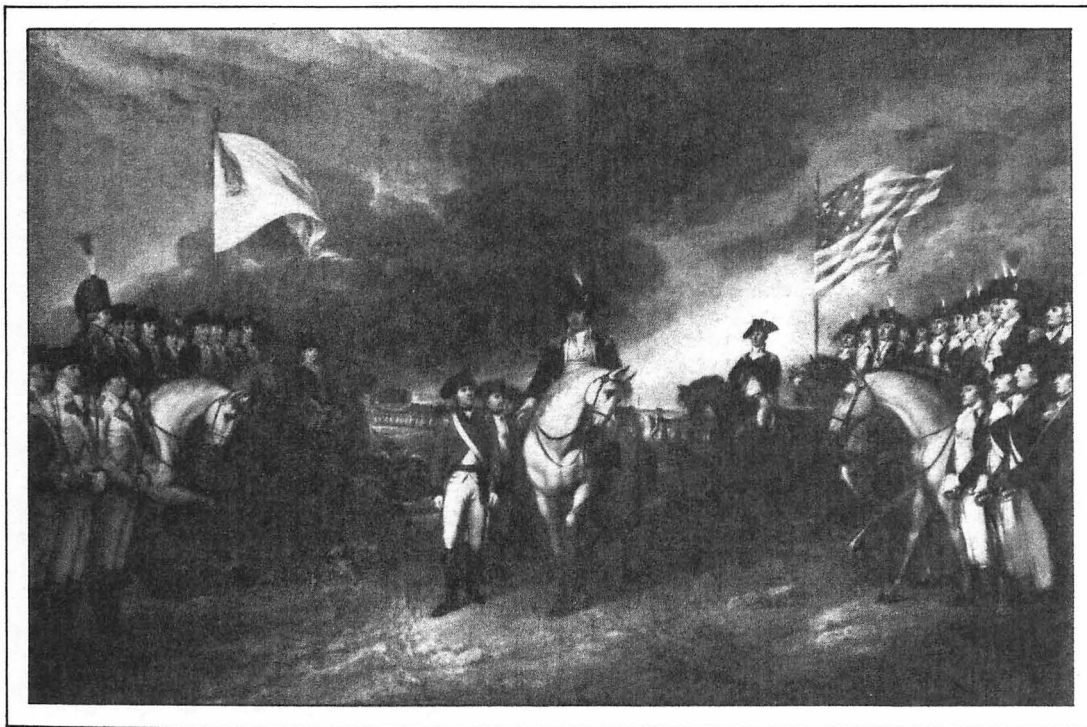


THE
FIRST OFFICERS
OF THE
UNITED STATES
CUSTOMS SERVICE

*Appointed by
President George Washington
in 1789*



by Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr.
June 1987
"Our 198th Year"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the help and encouragement from so many sources without which this study would have taken much longer to complete.

Dr. Carl Prince's *The Federalists and the Origins of the U.S. Civil Service*, New York University Press, 1977, is filled with biographic and anecdotal tidbits that proved invaluable where no other information seemed to exist. Dr. Prince also directed me to sources I had not envisioned, thereby saving me countless steps.

The basic source for many of the Virginia contingent was Earl Gregg Swem, *Virginia Historical Index*, Roanoke, 1934-1936, reprinted 1965.

The author also wishes to thank the following individuals, public libraries, state libraries, and historical societies.

- Emerson W. Baker, *Dyer Library, Saco, Maine*
Elizabeth B. Knox, *The New London County Historical Society, Conn.*
Ortila Knox, *New Haven Colony Historical Society, Conn.*
John Dojka, *Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.*
Marion A. Harding, *Cape Ann Historical Association, Gloucester, Mass.*
Ruby Shackelford, *Urbanna Public Library, Urbanna, Va.*
Francis P. O'Neill, *Museum and Library of Maryland History, Baltimore, Md.*
A. J. Goldwyn, *Dukes County Historical Society, Edgartown, Mass.*
Thomas Morabito, *Wilmington Library, Wilmington, Del.*
Mary Carey, *The New York Historical Society, New York, N.Y.*
Doris Post, *Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Conn.*
Bruce F. Pomerantz, *Hudson Area Association Library, Hudson, N.Y.*
Jean B. Russo, *Historic Annapolis, Inc., Annapolis, Md.*
Allan W. Robbins, *Alexandria Library, Alexandria, Va.*
Frances Fugate, *Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.*
Mary M. Boyd, *Georgetown County Memorial Library, Georgetown, S.C.*
Josephine F. Wyman, *The Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.*
Hope H. Grace, *St. Mary's County Historical Society, Leonardtown, Md.*
Peggy A. Haile, *Norfolk Public Library System, Norfolk, Va.*
Miles Barnes, *Eastern Shore Public Library, Accomac, Va.*
Coreen Hallerbeck, *Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, N.Y.*
Charles E. Smith, *Kansas Road, Box 286, Milbridge, Me.*
Barbara P. Willis, *Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Va.*
Barbara P. Andrews, *Nantucket Atheneum Library, Nantucket, Mass.*
Elizabeth Evans, *Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.*
Arley L. MacDonald, *Fairfield Historical Society, Fairfield, Conn.*
Dennis J. Adams, *Beaufort County Library, Beaufort, S.C.*
Alexia J. Halsley, *South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.*
Dorothy Zaykowski, *The John Jermain Memorial Library, Sag Harbor, N.Y.*
Lucille Showalter, *The New London Maritime Museum, New London, Conn.*
John Kilbourne, *Society of the Cincinnati, Washington, D.C.*
Kay Demine, *College of William and Mary Alumni Office, Williamsburg, Va.*
Florence Kern, *author of a series on the first revenue cutters, Edgartown, Mass.*
Marcia J. Hodges, *Brunswick-Glynn County Regional Library, Brunswick, Ga.*
Natalie Anderson, *Ipswich Public Library, Ipswich, Mass.*

Finally, notes of thanks to Margaret Boudren of the Customs Library at Headquarters who helped me to run down every lead that I was able to find. She, too, saved me countless steps and minutes. And to Patricia Coss of my Division, who took my raw manuscript and made it the work of art our colleagues so richly deserve.

Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr.
Washington, D.C.
February 1987

The First Officers of The United States Customs Service

An Act to regulate the Collection of the Duties imposed by law on the tonnage of ships or vessels, and on goods, wares and merchandises imported into the United States—dated July 31, 1789—created the United States Customs Service. Section 1 of that Act stipulated that “there shall be established and appointed district, ports and officers, in manner following, to wit: The State of New Hampshire shall be one district to include the town of Portsmouth as the sole port of entry. . . .”

And so follows an entire litany of States and ports. It became the responsibility of President George Washington to nominate and for the Senate to approve Collectors, Naval Officers and Surveyors for the 59 ports cited in the law.

In this document, the officers are listed in the order in which they appear in the statute. To each is added a brief biographical sketch of the individual who was nominated and approved for the various positions. Each peer group is separated by title with the Collectors leading the list, followed by the Naval Officers and Surveyors.

Many of the individuals applied for positions soon after President Washington took office on April 30, 1789. *The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* for August 7, 1789, included the Act creating Customs in its entirety. Under a New York dateline of August 4, the paper gave a partial list of Revenue Officers nominated by the President, and “advised and consented” by the Senate.

At the end of the list is a notation that “Sharp Delancy, esquire, is appointed Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; Frederick Phile, esquire, Naval-Officer, and Samuel Meredith, esquire, Surveyor of the same.” On the following day, August 8, 1789, the newspaper printed the entire list of nominees.

The official commissions, signed by the President and by the Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, were not issued until March 21, 1791, making recordkeeping a bit confusing. By that time, some of the first appointees had already left office either because of death or to assume other positions. Therefore, in a few cases, one will find in this study two names for the same port: the original appointee and his immediate successor.

For example, Samuel Meredith was the Surveyor at Philadelphia just a few months before he was appointed Treasurer of the United

States. He was succeeded almost immediately by William McPherson.

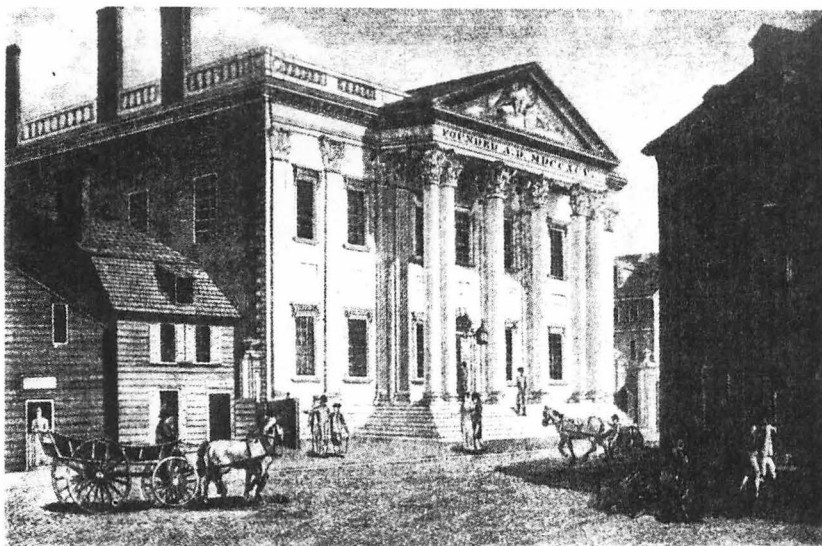
This study includes a copy of the original commission issued to Richard Taylor of Virginia (father of Zachary Taylor) who was named the first Collector at the Falls of Ohio (now Louisville, Ky.) after Peyton Short refused the nomination. The copy was supplied by the present port director at Louisville, Arthur Trussell.

The availability of biographical information about the 119 officers ranges from readily available to practically nonexistent. Data about the better known figures, such as Joseph Whipple, Benjamin Lincoln, John Lamb and Sharp Delany were readily available from our *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Customs Service*, Volume I.

For men like Christopher Hillary and Cornelius Collins, gathering information was more pure luck than historic research. Even after an appeal to the local historic societies and public libraries, it was a random selection from the book shelf of local histories at the Library of Congress that yielded one entry from the *Historic Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter of the DAR* noting that Second Lieutenant Christopher Hillary and First Lieutenant Cornelius Collins were charter members of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati.

Philadelphia, August 7.
Congress of the United States,
Begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thou-
sand seven hundred and eighty-nine.
An ACT to regulate the COLLECTION of
the DUTIES imposed by Law on the TONNAGE
of SHIPS or VESSELS, and on GOODS, WARES,
and MERCHANDIZES, imported into the United
States.
BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Re-
presentatives of the United States of Ame-
rica in Congress assembled, That for the due
collection of the duties imposed by law, on the
tonnage of ships and vessels, and on goods,
wares, and merchandizes imported into the U-
nited States, there shall be established and ap-
pointed, districts, ports, and officers, in manner
following, to wit:
The state of NEW-HAMPSHIRE shall be
one district, to include the town of Portsmouth
the sole port of entry; and the towns of New-
buryport, Dover, and Portsmouth as ports of delivery
to or from

On August 7, 1789, The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser printed the Act that established the U.S. Customs Service.



The First Bank of the United States—Customs receipts were deposited here, 1791-1811.

Approximately 40 percent of the appointees had held similar positions under the customs agencies in the original 11 States that had ratified the Constitution in 1789. (North Carolina and Rhode Island came in later; hence, the Customs officers in those States are not included in this study.)

The most common title used by the States was "Searcher," and this helped to complicate the research. A few individuals, like Andrew Agnew, Jacob Wray, John Lamb, John Davidson, and Frederick Phile had served in the customs service under the British system. For the other 60 percent, it was the beginning of a new career in the first Federal enforcement agency.

Most were rewarded for their services during the Revolutionary War. John Ten Broeck recalled his experiences at Valley Forge and the visit by his old commander, the Marquis de Lafayette, in 1824. Daniel Bedinger and General James Lingan bitterly remembered their experiences as prisoners of war and the cruel treatment meted out to them by the British.

William Gibb took part in the Battle of the Barges, the last naval engagement of the war (being fought on November 30, 1782—the same day that the articles of peace were being signed between England and the United States). Samuel Smedley commanded the Connecticut State boat, *The Defence*; and George Catlett was commanding a company of marines aboard the *Mosquito* when he was taken prisoner.

Several of the leading colleges can lay claim to some of the first officers. Hodijah Baylies was a

graduate of Harvard College, as were Epes Sargent IV, William Watson and Nathaniel Fosdick. Yale contributed Jonathan Fitch and Asher Miller. Princeton—Charles Lee, John Habersham and William McPherson.

Numbered among the self-educated were Generals Benjamin Lincoln and Otho Holland Williams.

Some were first generation Americans. Lachlan McIntosh, John Muir and John Davidson were born in Scotland. Sharp Delany was Irish and Lewis Frederick Delesdenier was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, of Swiss immigrant parents. (His father was Swiss; his mother, Russian).

Others had lineages dating back to the *Mayflower* and the beginnings of the colonies. Stephen Smith's maternal descendants did come over on the *Mayflower*. John Pease was fifth generation in Edgartown, Mass.; and Stephen Cross was the third generation of his family to operate his family's ship-building business in Newburyport, Mass.

The professions, too, were widely represented. Land and ship owners dominate the list. The law profession was represented by Charles Lee, Richard Marshall Scott and Asher Miller. Medicine contributed Frederick Phile and John Scott. Samuel Whittmore and James Lowell were both Harvard-educated teachers. William McPherson was a professional soldier, having served in both the British and American armies.

Among the land and slave owners were John Scott, Jeremiah Nichols, Andrew Agnew and Christopher Hillary.

The War took its toll on some of the men. Nathaniel Wilkins lost his hand and was declared indigent and unable to support himself. George Bush died in office in 1797, reportedly from wounds suffered during the War; and General James MacCubbin Lingan, after spending three and one-half years as a prisoner of the British (he had been brutally bayoneted), had difficulty sleeping except in a sitting position. Apparently, he had been confined to a space so small that all he could do was rest in that position.

Regardless of their war records, education, professions, ancestry, disabilities, religious affiliations (Edward Pope was a Quaker and Jedediah Huntington founded the American Society of Missionaries) or political beliefs (William Pickman was a loyalist), all shared one common thread: They were the *First Officers of the United States Customs Service*.

Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr.
Washington, D.C.
February 1987

First Officers of the United States Customs Service

COLLECTORS Port of Entry

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Joseph Whipple, *Portsmouth*

MASSACHUSETTS

Stephen Cross, *Newburyport*

Epes Sargent, IV, *Gloucester*

Joseph Hiller, *Salem*

Richard Harris, *Marblehead*

Samuel R. Gerry, *Marblehead*

Benjamin Lincoln, *Boston*

William Watson, *Plymouth*

Joseph Otis, *Barnstable*

Stephen Hussey, *Nantucket*

John Pease, *Edgartown*

Edward Pope, *New Bedford*

Hodijah Baylies, *Dighton*

MAINE*

William Webb, *Bath*

John Lee, *Penobscot*

Meletiah Jordan, *Frenchman's Bay*

Lewis Frederick Delesdenier, *Passamaquoddy*

Stephen Smith, *Machias*

Nathaniel Fosdick, *Portland*

Jeremiah Hill, Jr., *Biddeford*

Francis Cook, *Wiscasset*

Richard Trevett, *York*

CONNECTICUT

Samuel Smedley, *Fairfield*

Jedediah Huntington, *New London*

Jonathan Fitch, *New Haven*

NEW YORK

John Lamb, *New York*

John Gelston, *Sag Harbor*

NEW JERSEY

Eli Elmer, *Bridgeton*

John Ross, *Burlington*

John Halstead, *Perth Amboy*

PENNSYLVANIA

Sharp Delany, *Philadelphia*

DELAWARE

George Bush, *Wilmington*

MARYLAND

Otho Holland Williams, *Baltimore*

John Scott, *Chester*

Jeremiah Nichols, *Chester*

Jeremiah Banning, *Oxford*

John Muir, *Vienna*

John Gunby, *Snow Hill*

John Davidson, *Annapolis*

George Biscoe, *Nottingham*

John Courts Jones, *Nanjemyo*

James MacCubbin Lingan, *Georgetown***

VIRGINIA

Jacob Wray, *Hampton*

William Lindsay, *Norfolk*

William Heth, *Bermuda Hundred*

Abraham Archer, *Yorktown*

Hudson Muse, *Tappahannock*

Charles Lee, *Alexandria*

Richard Marshall Scott, *Dumfries*

George Savage, *Cherrystone*

Nathaniel Wilkins, *Cherrystone*

William Gibb, *Folly Landing*

Thomas Bowne, *South Quay*

Vincent Redman, *Yeocomico*

Richard Taylor, *Falls of Ohio*

SOUTH CAROLINA

John Cogdell, *Georgetown*

George Abbott Hall, *Charleston*

Andrew Agnew, *Beaufort*

GEORGIA

John Habersham, *Savannah*

Christopher Hillary, *Brunswick*

Cornelius Collins, *Sunbury*

James Seagrove, *St. Mary's*

*All the Maine ports were part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1820.

**Later a section in Washington, D.C., Georgetown was a part of Maryland in 1789.

NAVAL OFFICERS Port of Entry

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Eleazer Russell, *Portsmouth*

MASSACHUSETTS

Jonathan Titcomb, *Newburyport*

William Pickman, *Salem*

James Lovell, *Boston*

NEW YORK

Benjamin Walker, *New York*

PENNSYLVANIA

Frederick Phile, *Philadelphia*

MARYLAND

Robert Purviance, *Baltimore*

VIRGINIA

Philomen Gatewood, *Norfolk*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Isaac Motte, *Charleston*

GEORGIA

Lachlan McIntosh, *Savannah*

SURVEYORS Port of Entry

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Thomas Martin, *Portsmouth*

MASSACHUSETTS

Michael Hodge, *Newburyport*

Samuel Whittemore, *Gloucester*

Bartholomew Putnam, *Salem*

Josiah Batchelder, Jr. *Beverly*

Jeremiah Staniford, Jr. *Ipswich*

Thomas Melvill, *Boston*

MAINE

James Lunt, *Portland*

CONNECTICUT

Nathaniel Richards, *New London*

Jonathan Palmer, Jr., *Stonington*

Asher Miller, *Middletown*

Hezekiah Rogers, *New Haven*

NEW YORK

John Lasher, *New York*

Jeremiah Lansing, *Albany*

John C. Ten Broeck, *Hudson*

PENNSYLVANIA

Samuel Meredith, *Philadelphia*

William McPherson, *Philadelphia*

MARYLAND

Robert Ballard, *Baltimore*

Robert Young, *Town Creek*

Robert Chesley, *St. Mary's*

VIRGINIA

Daniel Bedinger, *Norfolk*

Archibald Richardson, *Suffolk*

James Wells, *Smithfield*

Christopher Roane, *Bermuda Hundred*

James Gibbon, *Petersburg*

Zachariah Rowland, *Richmond*

John Spotswood Moore, *West Point*

Staige Davis, *Urbanna*

George Catlett, *Port Royal*

William Lewis, *Fredericksburg*

Samuel Hanson, *Alexandria*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Edward Weyman, *Charleston*

GEORGIA

John Berrien, *Savannah*

The First Collectors



Joseph Whipple

—The National Portrait Gallery,
Smithsonian Institution



Benjamin Lincoln

Joseph Whipple . . . Portsmouth, N.H. . . . 1789-1798 and 1801-1816 . . . Merchant and skilled financier . . . Fought in Revolutionary War . . . Colonel with 25th New Hampshire Regiment . . . Brother of Gen. William Whipple, signer of the Declaration of Independence . . . First white man to climb Mount Washington and to settle in Crawford Notch, N.H.

Stephen Cross . . . Newburyport, Mass. . . . 1789-1792 . . . State Collector of Customs . . . Third generation to operate family shipbuilding business . . . His firm built two frigates for the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War . . . Held several local offices, and was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Epes Sargent, IV . . . Gloucester, Mass. . . . 1789-1795 . . . Harvard graduate, class of 1766 . . . Son of a prominent shipper, Epes made several voyages for his father before settling into his own business career . . . In 1779, delegate to convention to form State Constitution . . . Left Gloucester after serving as Collector for Hampstead, N.H. . . .

In 1803, moved to Boston, where he was made president of the Suffolk Insurance Company.

Joseph Hiller . . . Salem, Mass. . . . 1789-1802 . . . Led a company of militia from Salem on the day of the Battle of Lexington . . . Was a volunteer in the 1778 Rhode Island expedition and commanded a company there . . . Attained rank of major . . . Had been Salem Collector of Customs during the Confederation.

Richard Harris . . . Marblehead, Mass. . . . 1789-1790 . . . Collector for the state for several years under the Confederation . . . Served a short time before he died in office . . . Succeeded by Samuel R. Gerry.

Samuel R. Gerry . . . Marblehead, Mass. . . . 1790-1802 . . . Brother of Eldridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration . . . During the Revolution, he supplied provisions for troops stationed near his area in Marblehead . . . Served as Naval Officer of the port during the Confederation for one year . . . Gave up post for better position . . . Ran afoul of Secretary Gallatin in 1801, when the Secretary asked Benjamin Lincoln, the Collector at Boston, to send someone to check Gerry's accounts . . . Sometimes listed as first Collector because he succeeded Richard Harris, who held the post for a short time before he died in office.

Benjamin Lincoln . . . Boston, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Served in the Provincial Congress . . . Was a General in the Continental Army . . . Accepted Cornwallis' sword at the British Surrender at Yorktown . . . Secretary of War in the Confederation government . . . Led the troops which put down Shay's rebellion . . . Not formally educated, he was a botanist, geologist and an authority on Indian affairs.

William Watson . . . Plymouth, Mass. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Graduate of Harvard College . . . First postmaster of Plymouth . . . Colonel in the local militia and part owner of a privateer during the Revolutionary War . . . Naval Officer (of Customs) of the port in 1782 . . . Honorary inductee taken in by the Society of the Cincinnati.

Joseph Otis . . . Barnstable, Mass. . . . 1789-1810 . . . Popularly known as "Brigadier Otis" for his valuable service during the Revolutionary War . . . For many years he was Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and a member of the Massachusetts Legislature . . . Held the post of Collector until his death in 1810 at the age of 82 . . . His nephew, Harrison Gray Otis, became a power in Massachusetts and national politics.

Stephen Hussey . . . Nantucket, Mass. . . . 1789-1805 . . . Merchant . . . Served in the State House of Representatives . . . Judge of the Superior Court of Common Pleas . . . Naval Officer under the Confederation . . .

Duties of the collector.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the duties of the respective officers to be appointed by virtue of this act, shall be as follows: At such of the ports to which there shall be appointed a collector, naval officer and surveyor, it shall be the duty of the collector to receive all reports, manifests and documents made or exhibited to him by the master or commander of any ship or vessel, conformably to the regulations prescribed by this act, to make due entry and record in books to be kept for that purpose, all such manifests and the packages, marks and numbers contained therein; to receive the entry of all ships and vessels, and of all the goods, wares and merchandise imported in such ships or vessels, together with the original invoices thereof; to estimate the duties payable thereon, and to endorse the same on each entry; to receive all monies paid for duties, and to take all bonds for securing the payment of duties; to grant all permits for the unloading and delivery of goods, to employ proper persons as weighers, gaugers, measurers and inspectors at the several ports within his district, together with such persons as shall be necessary to serve in the boats which may be provided for securing the collection of the revenue to provide at the public expense, and with the approbation of the principal officer of the treasury department, store-houses for the safe keeping of goods, together with such scales, weights and measures as shall be deemed necessary, and to perform all other duties which shall be assigned to him by law.

Belonged to the Committee which was organized to raise men to go to Canada . . . None went and the committee was dissolved . . . Died in office in 1805.

John Pease . . . Edgartown, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Fifth generation at Edgartown . . . Ancestor believed to be first settler . . . Merchant and Selectman . . . Served in militia in 1753 . . . Naval Officer from 1783-1790 . . . Died at age of 82 in 1813 . . . Father of 10 children.

Edward Pope . . . New Bedford, Mass. . . . 1789-1808 . . . Self-educated; Quaker and nonmilitant . . . Operator of general store on the waterfront . . . Judge on the county court of common pleas . . . Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives . . . "One of the most prominent citizens of New Bedford."

Hodijah Baylies . . . Dighton, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Graduate of Harvard College . . . Enlisted as lieutenant in Continental Army . . . Rose to rank of major; served with distinction: aide to General Washington . . . Managed his family's ironworks at New Bedford while serving as Collector of Customs at Dighton . . . Active in Massachusetts chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati.

William Webb . . . Bath, Me. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Had been Naval Officer at the port under the State government from 1779 until 1789 . . . "A prominent man of his day." Served as Federal Collector from 1789 to December 21, 1803 . . . A corporator of the King Turnpike and Bridge in 1805, and a trustee of the Bath Academy . . . Died in 1822 at 58 years of age.

John Lee . . . Penobscot, Me. . . . 1789-1801 . . . Had been Naval Officer under the State government for two or three years before he was replaced.

Meletiah Jordan . . . Frenchman's Bay, Me. . . . 1789-1818 . . . There had never been a Customs Collector or Naval Officer at Frenchman's Bay under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts . . . Jordan, a prominent citizen of the town of Ellsworth, Me., was picked as the Collector . . . Complained to Secretary Hamilton that he had nothing to do but collect tonnage duty (50¢ per pound) and worried if the Secretary was receiving his mail . . . Died in office.

Lewis Frederick Delesdenier . . . Passamaquoddy, Me. . . . 1789-1811 . . . Born in Nova Scotia, Canada, of Swiss immigrant parents . . . Revolted against British . . . Joined Continental Army; made Lieutenant in 1777; taken captive . . . Moved permanently to Passamaquoddy after the War . . . Was made Collector under the State . . . Appointed first postmaster in 1795 . . . Although an old friend of Albert Gallatin, he was replaced as Collector in 1811 . . . For his services in the Revolutionary War, he was granted a liberal land grant in Ohio . . . Appointed a member of the General Court in 1811 and 1812 . . . Died in Machias, Me., in 1831.

Stephen Smith . . . Machias, Me. . . . 1789-1806 . . . Descendant (maternal) of John Tilley and John Howland who came on the *Mayflower* . . . Merchant in Boston (1761) and in Machias (1772) and mill owner (lumber) . . . Delegate to the Continental Congress and brought the news of Bunker Hill to Machias . . . Commissioned Captain and Commissary Officer . . . Served around the area of St. John's in Nova Scotia . . . Appointed Naval Officer of Customs at Machias in 1782 . . . Had been a delegate to the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1775 . . . Died in office as Collector in 1806.

Nathaniel Fosdick . . . Portland, Me. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Native of Salem, Mass. . . . Graduate of Harvard College . . . Under 30 at the time of his appointment as Collector . . . Not too successful as a merchant . . . Extremely active in local politics . . . Served for several years as Naval Officer at Portland under the Commonwealth . . . In 1803, returned to Salem, Mass.

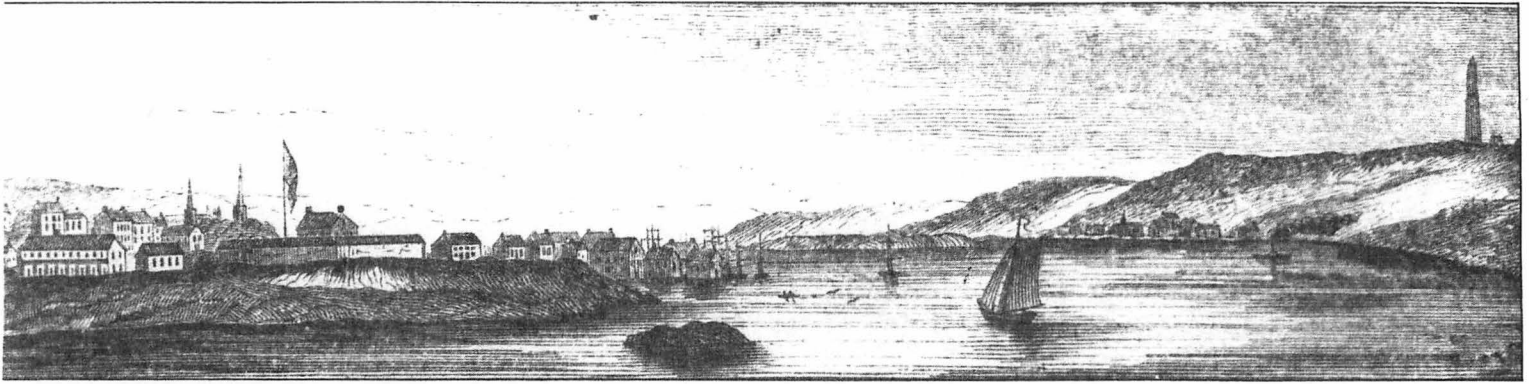
Jeremiah Hill, Jr. . . . Biddeford, Me. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Enlisted in April 24, 1775 . . . Was chosen Captain . . . Served with Colonels Scammel (1775), Phinney (1776) and Vose (1778) . . . Served as major and Commissary of Prisoners under General Sullivan . . . Was Adjutant General under General Gates in the "expedition to the Penobscot" . . . Was granted an Honorary Degree of Master of Arts from Harvard College, 1787 . . . Collector under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the Confederation Period . . . Served as Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace . . . Owner of large tracts of land . . . Leader in the Federalist party . . . Died in 1820 at age 73.

Francis Cook . . . Wiscasset, Me. . . . 1789-1829 . . . Active in local politics . . . Held several offices . . . Built home in Wiscasset in 1795 . . . Used a small building on his land as the Custom House . . . Was also collector of revenue . . . Had been Customs collector for the State of Massachusetts in 1787, 1788, 1789 . . . "Mr. Cook, the old and very respectable Collector of Wiscasset, who has been removed by General Jackson to make room for a foreigner, had his commission from George Washington, and is said to have been the only Collector remaining in office of Washington's appointment. Deacon Cook is a very worthy man . . ." (from *Poulson's Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, April 10, 1829. Dateline: Augusta, Me., March 27, 1829.)

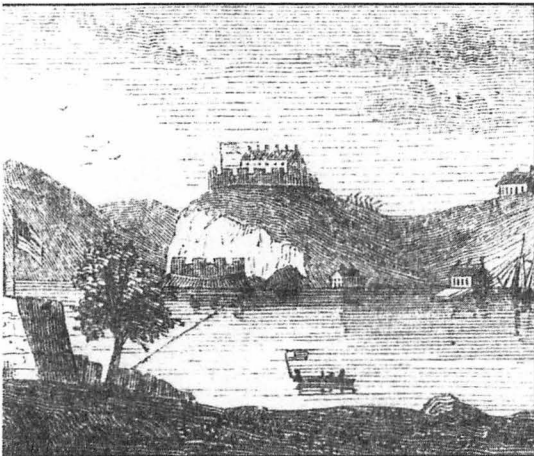
Richard Trevett . . . York, Me. . . . 1789-1793 . . . A seaman before the Revolutionary War . . . Appointed Naval Officer of York in 1776; succeeded in 1777; reappointed in 1780, and remained until named Collector in 1789 . . . Served on the local Committee on Correspondence prior to the War . . . Commanded a privateer during the War . . . Died in office.

Samuel Smedley . . . Fairfield (Bridgeport), Conn. . . . 1789-1812 . . . Member of the Connecticut State Navy, serving first as a lieutenant and in 1777 as captain and commander of the *Defence* . . . From May 1776 to June 1778, the *Defence* took 12 prizes and over 600 prisoners . . . Was wrecked in 1779 . . . After British burned and destroyed Fairfield and Smedley's property, he took command of the *Recovery* . . . Was taken prisoner and sent to Plymouth, England . . . Escaped and arrived in Philadelphia in 1782 in command of the *Heer Adams* . . . Returned to Fairfield at War's end and was appointed Collector . . . Served until his death in 1812.

Jedediah Huntington . . . New London, Conn. . . . 1789-1815 . . . Graduate of Harvard College . . . Son of General Jabez Huntington . . . Leader of the Sons of Liberty . . . Raised a regiment and ended his service with the Continental Army as a Major General . . . President of both the state and national chapters of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Deeply religious, he founded the American Society of Missionaries . . . Family relationship with first Commissioner of Customs, Charles Rockwell.



New London Harbor, looking north.



West Point in 1780.



John Lamb



O. H. Williams

Jonathan Fitch . . . New Haven, Conn. . . 1789-1793 . . . Son of Governor Thomas Fitch . . . Graduate of Yale, 1748 . . . Colonel during the Revolution . . . Member of the State Commissary and a naval supplier in charge of purchasing goods for the Continental Navy . . . After the War, became High Sheriff, a Steward at Yale for 25 years and Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation . . . Member of the State Legislature . . . Collector until his death in 1793 . . . Married twice and had 17 children . . . The first eight died in infancy or before the age of seven; the ninth lived to 30 years of age only to die at sea.

John Lamb . . . New York, N.Y. . . 1789-1797 . . . Native New Yorker . . . Board of Commissioners at British Custom House in New York . . . Joined Sons of Liberty in 1765 . . . Served in Revolutionary War . . . Brevetted General . . . Commander at West Point . . . Customs Collector for New York during Confederation . . . Member of the Society of the Cincinnati and of the Society for the Manumission of Slaves.

John Gelston . . . Sag Harbor, N.Y. . . 1789-1790 . . . Adjutant in Colonel Mulford's regiment during the Revolutionary War . . . Was forced to leave Long Island and go to Connecticut after defeat by the British in the battle of Long Island . . . Was appointed Collector, Searcher and Surveyor for Customs in 1789 . . . Member of the New York Assembly, 1791-1795 . . . His brother, David, was a prominent figure in New York politics and Collector of the port of New York from 1801-1820 . . . Died in 1834 . . . Buried in Bridgehampton, N.Y. . . Sag Harbor in 1789 had more tons of square-rigged vessels engaged in foreign commerce than the port of New York.

Eli Elmer . . . Bridgeton, N.J. . . 1789-1803 . . . Served in the Revolutionary War . . . Was at the siege of Yorktown and the surrender by Cornwallis . . . Member of the State Convention which ratified the Constitution . . . Member of the State Council (Senate).

John Ross . . . Burlington, N.J. . . 1789-1795 . . . Served in the Revolution from 1776 . . . Attained rank of major . . . Naval Officer for the middle district of New Jersey from 1781-1784 . . . Reappointed for the next five years up to the formation of the Federal Customs.

John Halstead . . . Perth Amboy, N.J. . . 1789-1800 . . . Native of New Jersey . . . Was in business in Quebec, Canada, for 11 years up to the outbreak of the Revolution . . . Quartermaster for General Montgomery in Canada in December 1775 . . . After the War, returned to Canada to find all his assets were gone.

Sharp Delany . . . Philadelphia, Pa. . . 1789-1798 . . . Born in Ireland . . . Apothecary . . . Held various civil and militia posts during the Revolutionary War . . . Was an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Served in Pennsylvania legislature during the Confederation . . . Dissolved partnership in drug business to become Customs officer for the State of Pennsylvania . . . Member of the American Philosophical Society and of the Hibernian Society . . . Customs tenure ended abruptly in 1798 when it was discovered that he had embezzled at least \$86,000 in Federal revenues from the customhouse. He was permitted to resign, but never had to repay the funds, and was never prosecuted on either civil or criminal charges.

George Bush . . . Wilmington, Del. . . 1789-1797 . . . Businessman who enlisted during the Revolutionary War . . . Severely wounded at the Battle of Brandywine . . . Was brevetted major, and made paymaster, serving in that capacity until 1781 . . . Appointed Collector of the port during the Confederation period . . . Died in office in 1797, according to one account, from wounds incurred during the War.

Otho Holland Williams . . . Baltimore, Md. . . 1789-1794 . . . Of humble beginnings, self-educated . . . Successful merchant . . . Commissioned officer during the Revolutionary War

... Ended War as General ... Member of the Society of the Cincinnati ... Was Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation ... Judge in the Baltimore County Criminal Court and officer in the Bank of Maryland ... Was chosen to escort President Washington through Baltimore on Washington's inauguration trip to New York.

John Scott ... Chester, Md. ... 1789-1790 ... Native of Kent County ... Literate landowner and physician ... Member of the lower house of Maryland, 1784 ... Justice of Kent County, 1777-1780, 1782-1790 ... Justice of Orphan's Court, 1778-1780, 1782-1790 ... Naval Officer of Customs, 1785-1789 ... At death, personal wealth totaled 912 pounds (including 15 slaves and 145 books).

Jeremiah Nichols ... Chester, Md. ... 1791-1806 ... Literate landowner ... Member of the lower house of Maryland, 1787-1788 ... Justice, Kent County, 1774-1777, 1787-1789, 1791-1794; Orphan's Court, 1787-1789 ... Was Quartermaster of the 13th Battalion, Kent County Militia, commissioned in 1777 ... Assessed value of personal property: 1,335 pounds (including 27 slaves and 210 oz. plate).

Jeremiah Banning ... Oxford, Md. ... 1789-1795 ... Spent 25 years at sea as mate, master and manager of a merchant vessel ... Served in Maryland militia during the Revolutionary War ... Reached rank of colonel ... Was Inspector of the Currency ... "He did not live at Oxford, and as his gout was so bad that he could not get about without great uneasiness he seldom went there. From his description of the desuetude of trade at that point, it is certain that the official demands upon his time were infrequent." (From the Log and Will of Jeremiah Banning).

John Muir ... Vienna, Md. ... 1789-1795 ... Born in Scotland; came to America at an early age ... Took an active part in the Revolutionary War ... Represented Annapolis in the Maryland Legislature for six years ... Succeeded his brother, who was the incumbent Naval Officer at Vienna, but who lived 20 miles from the port ... Was President of the Farmers' Bank when he died at age 60.

John Gunby ... Snow Hill, Md. ... 1789-1794 ... Colonel Gunby organized and equipped his own company in 1775 ... Fought in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Brandywine ... Then led first Maryland regiments in the Southern campaigns in 1780-1781, in action at

Camden, Guilford Courthouse and Cowpens in South Carolina ... Prosperous landowner supported the families of three officers killed in the South Carolina campaigns ... Ended War with title of Brigadier General ... Died at age 63 at his Snow Hill farm ... Buried in Stockton, Md.

John Davidson ... Annapolis, Md. ... 1789-1793 ... Scottish-born, was in the Colony by 1766 ... Owned land in Alleghany County (near Cumberland, Md.) ... Partner in one of the few Maryland-based tobacco firms, 1771-1777 ... Was deputy Naval Officer under the British ... Resigned his post as Collector at Annapolis in 1793, apparently because of the decline of income resulting from the eclipse of Annapolis as a port by the City of Baltimore ... Hamilton expressed regret but could not offer an increase of salary.

George Biscoe ... Nottingham, Md. ... 1789-1817 ... Had been Naval Officer at Patuxent, Md., for 20 years ... In 1807, he applied for the Collector's position at Baltimore.

John Courts Jones ... Nanjemoy, (St. Mary's) Md. ... 1789-1802 ... Was a clerk in the State Customs as a youth ... Entered the Army during the Revolution and was commissioned a captain of the line ... Was made major of brigade and aide-de-camp of general Smallwood ... Fought at Camden where he rallied the brigade to which he belonged after his general had left the field ... After the War, was elected to the Maryland General Assembly ... Was appointed Naval Officer of the North Potomack first division by the Governor.

James MacCubbin Lingan ... Georgetown (D.C./Md.) ... 1789-1807 ... Born in Maryland ... Enlisted and commissioned second lieutenant ... Fought at Long Island ... Captured and wounded brutally ... Prisoner aboard the *Jersey* ... Served from 1776-1783, and was a prisoner for three and one-half years ... Member of the Society of the Cincinnati ...

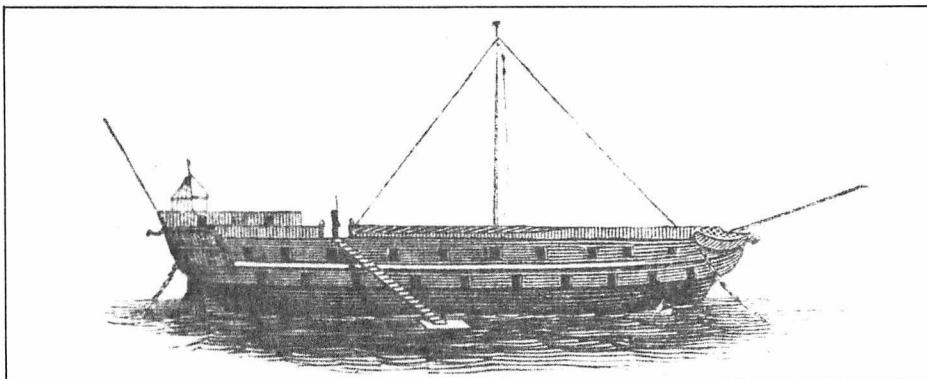
Known as General ... Brutally killed by a mob in Baltimore in 1812 during a political riot ... Also injured severely at the same time was General "Light Horse Harry" Henry Lee ... Honored with a military funeral ... Buried in Arlington Cemetery.

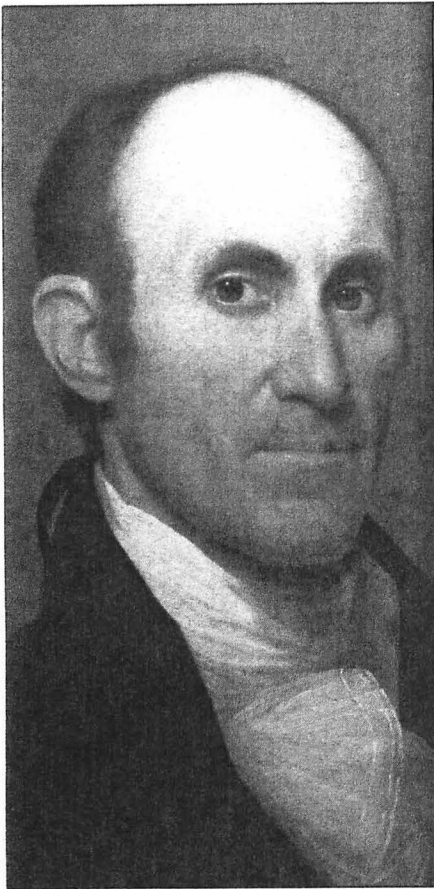
Jacob Wray ... Hampton, Va. ... 1789-1791 ... Longtime Collector under the Confederation ... Recommended that his brother, George Wray, be appointed to care for the lighthouse at Cape Henry ... He described himself: "I am a Theocratic under the auspicious Saviour. The world that quickening spirit that is to influence the whole world in good time." ... Requested that he be succeeded by his son, George Wray, Jr., Collector under the Confederation.

William Lindsay ... Norfolk, Va. ... 1789-1797 ... Served in Revolutionary War, first with Virginia Dragoons, and then as lieutenant with the First Continental Dragoons ... Wounded at Valley Forge ... Fought in New Jersey ... Resigned from Army in 1778 with the rank of major ... Lawyer ... Received grant of 4,000 acres of land in Kentucky at the end of the War ... Died in office ... Succeeded by Otway Byrd ... Lindsay had the lighthouse at Cape Henry built.

William Heth ... Bermuda Hundred, Va. ... 1789-1802 ... Politically influential ... Officer of the line ... Colonel ... Later member of the Virginia executive council ... wrote of himself to George Washington ... "My birth, education, my pursuits and conduct in life are unknown to you. Of the first I can boast nothing; nor has the other been marked with anything conspicuous or extraordinary. Still I am vain enough to believe that the part which I have borne in the Revolution of my Native Country, from the hour of its commencement to that which gave Independence to America, has met with your approbation."

The prison ship Jersey.





Charles Lee
—The National Portrait Gallery,
Smithsonian Institution

Abraham Archer . . . Yorktown, Va. . . . 1789-1794 . . . Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation period . . . A member of the Common Council at Yorktown, 1787 . . . Mayor of Yorktown, 1790.

Hudson Muse . . . Tappahannock, Va. . . . 1789-1794 . . . Merchant . . . Customs Collector during the Confederation . . . Embezzled Federal customs funds . . . Removed from office by President Washington . . . Succeeded in having his son named as his successor.

Charles Lee . . . Alexandria, Va. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Graduate of College of New Jersey (Princeton) . . . Lawyer . . . Customs officer during the Confederation . . . Attorney General in Washington's cabinet . . . Continued as Attorney General under Adams until 1801 . . . Circuit Judge . . . Declined the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court offered by Jefferson.

Richard Marshall Scott . . . Dumfries, Va. . . . 1789-1795 . . . Merchant . . . Lawyer . . . Was Deputy to the Naval Officer at South Potomack for six years, 1783-1789 . . . Appointed Collector, August 5, 1789 . . . Resigned October 16, 1795 . . . Recommended his brother, David Wilson Scott, to succeed him and the latter was appointed.

George Savage . . . Cherrystone, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Had been Commissioner of Wrecks at Cherrystone for seven years, 1782-1789 . . . Was also Naval Officer of Customs at Northampton during the Confederation . . . Represented Northampton County in the Virginia Assembly one year, 1776.

Nathaniel Wilkins . . . Cherrystone, Va. . . . 1791-1801 . . . Was a lieutenant in the Virginia Continental Line . . . Lost a hand during the War . . . Declared indigent and unable to support himself . . . Received a pension of 24 pounds per annum . . . Was made an elector to choose the President in 1789 . . . Appointed Collector for Cherrystone in 1791.

William Gibb . . . Folly Landing, Va. . . . 1789-1810 . . . Naval Officer of Customs under the Confederation . . . Took part in the Battle of the Barges, the last naval engagement of the Revolutionary War (being fought November 30, 1782, the same day that the articles of peace were being signed between England and the United States) . . . Escaped being wounded in the battle by leaping overboard "at the alarm of the barge blowing up" . . . Proposed resigning as Naval Officer (1784) because the 50 pounds per annum did not justify his moving from his home in Onancock to Folly Landing . . . Became a large landowner in the area . . . Owned a 600-acre plantation called "Montrose."

Thomas Bowne . . . South Quay, Va. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Volunteered for duty in the Revolutionary War . . . Rose through the ranks to captain . . . Made assistant commissary officer . . . Captured at Charleston . . . Offered post of Naval Officer during the Confederation; refused because the recompense was too small . . . Succeeded by Archibald Richardson, first Surveyor of Customs at Suffolk, Va.

Vincent Redman . . . Yeocomico, Va. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Major during the Revolution . . . Sat as President of the Court Martial trial of Fauntleroy Dye . . . Led a party of mounted volunteers in a skirmish against the British . . . In 1807 designated as field officer of a rifle regiment to be raised in the State of Virginia—the 14th Brigade . . . Was a colonel.

Richard Taylor . . . Falls of Ohio, Va. (now Louisville, Ky.) . . . 1789-1800 . . . Recommended by James Madison . . . Veteran of the Revolutionary War; attained the rank of colonel . . . Naval Officer of Customs under the Confederation . . . This Taylor from Orange County, Va., was a cousin of Richard Taylor of Caroline County, Commander of the Virginia State Navy and eventually, first Master of the Revenue Cutter, *Virginia* . . . Migrated to the Falls of Ohio in 1784 with the explorer, George Rogers Clark . . . Father of President Zachary Taylor.

George Washington President of the United States of America.

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING.

KNOW YE, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Integrity, Diligence and Discretion of *Richard Taylor* of Virginia I have nominated, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, Do appoint him Collector for the District of Louisville and do authorize and empower him to execute and fulfil the Duties of that Office according to Law; AND TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said office, with all the Rights and Emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, unto him the said *Richard Taylor* during the Pleasure of the President of the United States for the Time being.

(L.S.)

IN TESTIMONY whereof I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. GIVEN under my Hand, at the City of Philadelphia the Twenty first Day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Fifteenth.

G. Washington
By the President.
Th. Jefferson

John Cogdell . . . Georgetown, S.C. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Born in North Carolina . . . A Georgetown merchant . . . Elected by the General Assembly as the port's first postwar Collector in February 1783 . . . Left the post in September 1783 because of legislation which fixed the Collector's salary in lieu of the traditional fees . . . Became Collector under the Federal system . . . Died at age 78 on his plantation near Georgetown in 1807.

George Abbott Hall . . . Charleston, S.C. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Merchant . . . Had been collector under the State government for 13 years, since the Revolution . . . Died in office, August 1, 1791.

Andrew Agnew . . . Beaufort, S.C. . . . 1789 . . . Deputy Collector of Customs under the British (1760) . . . Notary Public (1768) . . . One of the Commissioners of Fort Lyttleton for putting the fort in repair (1772) . . . Collector of Customs under the Confederation, and Tide Water (Inspector of Customs, 1786-1789) . . . Justice of the Peace during the Colonial Period and after Independence, 1783 and 1791 . . . Died sometime after 1795, as the last document bearing his signature was dated November 6, 1795 . . . In the 1790 Census, his household consisted of nine persons and eight slaves . . .

There is no evidence of when he was succeeded as Collector; it is possible that he died in office in 1795.

John Habersham . . . Savannah, Ga. . . . 1789-1799 . . . Graduate of Princeton in 1776 . . . Made a major in the Continental Army and took part in the unsuccessful invasion of Florida in 1776 . . . Fought in the unsuccessful battles in Savannah in 1778 and 1779 and in the final victory over the British in Savannah in 1782 . . . A delegate to the Continental Congress from 1785 to 1787 . . . Secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . A founder of the University of Georgia.

Christopher Hillary . . . Brunswick, Ga. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Enlisted and made second lieutenant . . . Member of the Georgia Line . . . Captured by the British in May 1781; exchanged February 1782 in Ashley Ferry, S.C. . . . Charter member of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati . . . Became prominent in Glynn County affairs after the War . . . Served in the Georgia House in 1787, 1788, 1789 . . . Member of

the Constitutional Convention in 1787 . . . Commissioned colonel in the Georgia Glynn County Militia, 1790 . . . Was an extensive landowner, owning over 1,000 acres on St. Simons Island . . . Hillary Island, once owned by him, is named in his honor . . . Died in office after a brief illness on February 18, 1796.

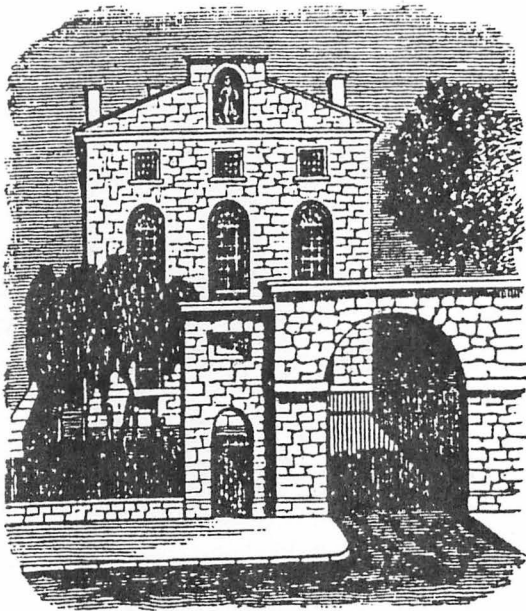
Cornelius Collins . . . Sunbury, Ga. . . . 1789-1791 . . . First lieutenant of the line during the Revolutionary War . . . Received his final pay on May 18, 1785 . . . Charter member of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati . . . Large landowner and planter; bought the Cherry Hill Plantation and "Dublin" on the Ogechee River in 1786 . . . Major Collins died in office on December 22, 1791.

James Seagrove . . . St. Mary's, Ga. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Irish-born . . . Merchant in New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah and Havana . . . Member of the Georgia House of Assembly . . . Negotiated with the Spanish in St. Augustine on the problem of fugitive slaves . . . Was a Creek Indian agent.

Chris Hillary, J.D.

Customs officers Charles Lee, John Habersham and William McPherson were graduates of Princeton, shown below.





The first U.S. Custom House in Philadelphia.

The First Naval Officers

Eleazer Russell . . . Portsmouth, N.H. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Eccentric First postmaster of Portsmouth . . . His home was used as the Customs office for the District of Piscataqua . . . Died in office.

Jonathan Titcomb . . . Newburyport, Mass. . . . 1789-1794 . . . Commanded a regiment under General Sullivan during the Revolutionary War . . . Attained rank of Brigadier General . . . Served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

William Pickman . . . Salem, Mass. . . . 1789-1803 . . . From one of the best families in Salem . . . Loyalist . . . Merchant and shipowner, later recanted his loyalism . . . Allowed a vessel he owned to enter the War as a privateer . . . Member of the State Legislature . . . Resigned position with the legislature to accept appointment as Naval Officer of Customs.

James Lovell . . . Boston, Mass. . . . 1789-1797 . . . Collector at Boston during Confederation . . . Harvard graduate . . . Teacher . . . Fought in the Revolutionary War, and was taken captive . . . Member of the Continental Congress and a receiver of taxes.

Benjamin Walker . . . New York, N.Y. . . . 1789-1797 . . . English immigrant . . . Served in Revolutionary War as aide-de-camp to both Generals Baron von Steuben and Washington . . . Rose to the rank of colonel . . . Also acted as a confidant to President Washington while serving as Naval Officer of Customs . . . Moved to Utica, N.Y., where he was an agent for the landed estate of the Earl of Bath . . . Elected as Democrat to the 7th Congress.

Frederick Phile . . . Philadelphia, Pa. . . . 1789-1793 . . . A doctor of medicine . . . Had been a Naval Officer of Customs for 35 years . . . More than 20 years before the Revolution, he was acting Deputy Naval Officer . . . Under the State government he was a Naval Officer . . . Had been out of the medical field for so long that he could not practice medicine, and so appealed to remain as Naval Officer under the Federal Government . . . Accused of drunkenness, but was absolved . . . Died in office.

Robert Purviance . . . Baltimore, Md. . . . 1789-1793 . . . Member of a prominent Baltimore merchant family that had suffered reverses and had declared bankruptcy at the end of the Confederation . . . Appointed Collector at Baltimore on the death of Otho Holland Williams.

Lachlan McIntosh . . . Savannah, Ga. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Scottish-born . . . Helped establish the settlement at New Inverness . . . Surveyor . . . Member of the Provincial Congress in Savannah . . . Served in the Continental Army . . . Rose to the rank of Brigadier General . . . Delegate to the Continental Congress.

Philomen Gatewood . . . Norfolk, Va. . . . 1789-1824 . . . Clerk in the customhouse during the Confederation under Josiah Parker, Collector . . . Served as Naval Officer of the port until his death in 1824 . . . Born in 1751.

Isaac Motte . . . Charleston, S.C. . . . 1789-1795 . . . Served with the British Army in Canada during the French and Indian Wars . . . Member of the South Carolina House of Commons . . . Delegate to the Provincial Congress . . . Commissioned lieutenant colonel . . . Active in the defense of Fort Moultrie . . . Promoted to colonel . . . Elected to Privy Council . . . Member of the Continental Congress and of the State Convention that ratified the Constitution . . . Died in office.

On July 10, 1789, Congress specified duties on imported merchandise to take effect August 1, 1789. The duties are listed in this issue of The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser.



Lachlan McIntosh

Naval officers

It shall be the duty of the naval officer to receive copies of all manifests to estimate and record the duties on each entry made with the collector, and to correct any error made therein, before a permit to unload or deliver shall be granted; to countersign all permits and clearances granted by the collector.

Philadelphia, July 10.

An Act for laying a Duty on Goods, Wares, and Merchandize, imported into the United States.

WHEREAS it is necessary for the support of government, for the discharge of the debts of the United States, and the encouragement and protection of manufactures, that duties be laid on goods, wares and merchandize imported.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of August next ensuing, the several duties herein after mentioned shall be laid on the following goods, wares and merchandize imported into the United States, from any foreign port or place—that is to say:

	Cents.
On all distilled spirits of Jamaica proof, imported from any kingdom or country whatsoever,	10 per gallon
On all other distilled spirits,	8 do.
On molasses,	24 do.
On Madeira wine,	10 do.
On all other wines,	5 do.
On every gallon of beer, ale or porter in casks,	5
On all cyder, beer, ale, or porter in bottles,	20 per dozen
On malt,	10 per bushel
On brown sugars,	5 per pound
On loaf sugars,	3 do.
On all other sugars,	2 do.

The First Surveyors

Thomas Martin . . . Portsmouth, N.H. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Kept a general store . . . Served in the customs service during the Confederation . . . Named Collector to succeed Joseph Whipple in 1798 . . . In that office until 1801.

Michael Hodge . . . Newburyport, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Merchant from a prominent family, before and after the Revolutionary War . . . Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation . . . Resigned from the post in protest against the Embargo of 1809.

Samuel Whittemore . . . Gloucester, Mass. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Harvard graduate . . . Teacher . . . Member of the Constitutional Convention . . . Served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives . . . Collector during the Confederation period, serving from 1778-1789

Bartholomew Putnam . . . Salem, Mass. . . . 1789-1808 . . . Ship's officer and master . . . Owned his own vessel during the Revolutionary War . . . Active in both the local militia and as a privateer operating out of Salem.

Josiah Batchelder, Jr. . . . Beverly, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Seaman who became the master of his own vessel . . . In 1761 on a passage from Georgia to St. Christopher, taken prisoner by a French privateer . . . Elected six times to Massachusetts General Assembly . . . Member of the Provincial Congress in 1775, 1776, 1777, 1779 . . . Justice of the Peace . . . Surveyor and Inspector of Customs when Salem and Beverly were formed into one district in 1789 . . . Born in 1736 . . . Died in office December 10, 1809 . . . The first Sunday school in New England was founded in his home in 1810 by his daughter, Joanna Batchelder Prince, to take care of the children of seamen who were beached by the Embargo Act of 1807.

Jeremiah Staniford, Jr. . . . Ipswich, Mass. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Enlisted as a Minuteman on January 24, 1775 . . . Served for a short period as a private with Captain Nathaniel Walde's company of volunteers in Colonel John Baker's (3rd Essex Co.) Regiment . . . Part owner of the sloop *Fax* (built in Ipswich) in 1786 . . . Born September 28, 1751 . . . Died, February 29, 1816 . . . As a Minuteman, was required to "provide for and equip himself with an effective Fire Arm, Bayonet, Pouch, Knapsack, & Thirty round of Car-

Surveyors

It shall be the duty of the surveyor to superintend and direct all inspectors, weighers, measurers and gaugers within his district, and the employment of the boats which may be provided for securing the collection of the revenue; to go on board ships or vessels arriving within his district, or to put on board one or more inspectors, to ascertain by an hydrometer, what distilled spirits shall be of Jamaica proof, rating all distilled spirits which shall be of the proof of twenty-four degrees as of Jamaica proof, and to examine whether the goods imported are conformable to the entries thereof; and the said surveyors shall in all cases be subject to the control of the collector and naval officer.

Beverly august 11th 1789

Honored Sir, this is to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor dated the 4th inst. enclosing an act of Congress Regulating the Collection of Duties imposed by Law, on the Tonnage of Ships or Vessels and a Commission by which I am appointed a Surveyor of the Port of Beverly, in the state of Massachusetts, it is with sentiments of gratitude I accept the trust, shall Qualify myself and Enter on the Execution of my office immediately. I sincerely hope my conduct will give satisfaction, and have the honor to be with the highest sentiments of Respect.

Your excellency most obedient
Honorable, Devoted J. Batchelder

His Excellency George Washington, Esq
President of the United States of America

Beverly august 11th 1789

Honored Sir, this is to acknowledge the Receipt
of your Esteemed favor Dated the 4th inst
Encloping an act of Congress Regulating the
Collection of Duties imposed by Law, on ~~the~~ ^{the Tonnage of} Ships or Vessels
and a Commission by which I am appointed a
Surveyor of the Port of Beverly, in the State of
Massachusetts, it is with ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~sentiments~~ ^{sentiments} of
Gratitude I accept the Trust, shall Qualify
myself and Enter on the Execution of my office
immediately, I sincerely hope my conduct will give
Satisfaction, and have the Honor to be with the
highest Sentiments of Respect,

Your Excellency most Obedt

Hon^{ble} Servt J. Batchelder

His Excellency George Washington Esq
President of the United States of America





Tho Melville

Thomas Melville

tridges ready made. And that we may obtain the skill of compleat Soldiers, We promise to convene for exercise in the Art Military, at least twice every week; and oftener if our officers shall think necessary."

Thomas Melville . . . Boston, Mass. . . . 1789-1814 . . . Also served as Naval Officer of the Port of Boston, 1814-1830 . . . Took part in the Boston Tea Party and was one of the Sons of Liberty . . . As an elder statesman in Boston, he was the subject of the poem by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Last Leaf" . . . Paternal grandfather of the author and Customs employee, Herman Melville.

James Lunt . . . Portland, Me. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Served in Revolutionary War; attained rank of Colonel . . . Collector of excise for the County of Cumberland . . . Born 1750; died in office in 1800.

Nathaniel Richards . . . New London, Conn. . . . 1789-1814 . . . Native of New London . . . Merchant . . . Was also Inspector of the Revenues, 1798-1803 . . . Died 1832 . . . Married to Elizabeth Coit, first wife . . . Richards' family also prominent and wealthy.

Jonathan Palmer, Jr. . . . Stonington, Conn. . . . 1789-1810 . . . Native of Stonington . . . Served in the Revolutionary War as a first lieutenant of the 5th Company, Colonel Selden's regiment from Connecticut . . . Raised in June 1776 to reinforce Washington in New York . . . Served as a Minuteman prior to his enlistment . . . Born in 1746; died in office in 1810.

Asher Miller . . . Middletown, Conn. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Graduate of Yale (1778) . . . Lawyer (1780) . . . Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, 1785; and for 10 additional sessions, 1788-1793 . . . State Attorney, 1785-1794 . . . Surveyor of Customs, 1789-1791 . . . Judge of Superior Court, 1793-1795 . . . Elected Representative to legislature, 1798, 1803-1804 . . . Presidential elector, 1804 . . . Member of the Connecticut upper house, 1806-1817 . . . Mayor of Middletown, 1791 to death in 1821 . . . Presiding Judge, Middlesex County Court, 1807-1821 . . . Judge of the Probate Court, District of Middletown, 1789-1793, 1807-1821 . . . At death: "Judge Miller's estate was hopelessly insolvent."

Hezekiah Rogers . . . New Haven, Conn. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Chief clerk in the War Office in Washington, D.C. . . . Delegate to the Connecticut convention which ratified the Constitution . . . Applied for the collector's position

on the death of Jonathan Fitch in 1793 . . . Born in 1753; died in 1810 or 1811.

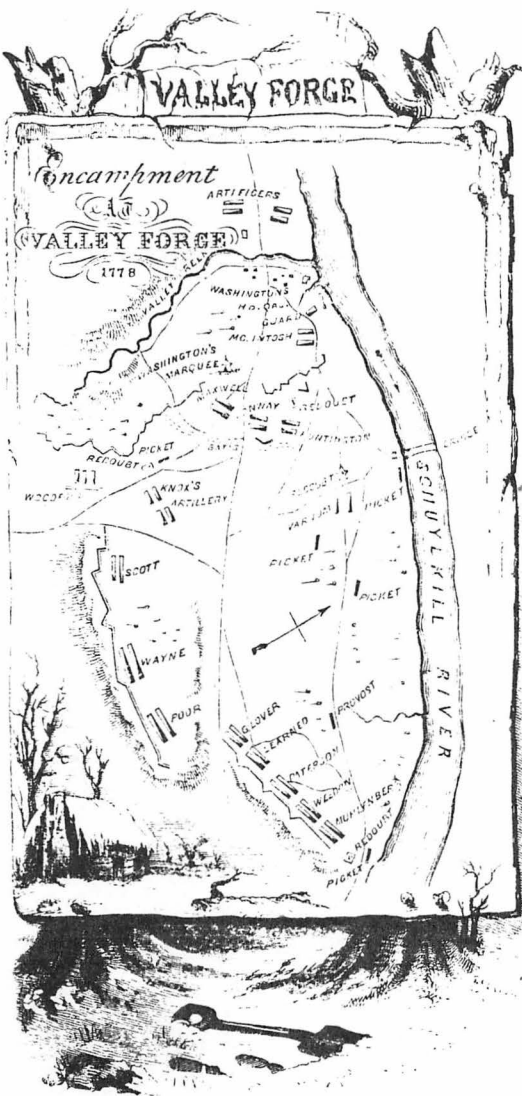
John Lasher . . . New York, N.Y. . . . 1789-1800 . . . At the age of 15, served in the local militia and progressed to the rank of lieutenant by age 40 . . . In 1776, was made colonel of one of the four regiments raised "for the defence of the Colony" . . . nominated by John Hancock, President of the Provincial Congress in New York . . . Quartermaster . . . Taken captive in 1778 . . . After the War, was in the wholesale grocery business . . . Appointed Surveyor during the Confederation from 1784-1789 . . . Died at age 83.

Jeremiah Lansing . . . Albany, N.Y. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Descendant of Gerrit Frederickse Lansing who came to America from Hasselt, Holland in 1640 . . . Enlisted in the Revolutionary War with the Albany County Militia, First Regiment . . . Became Brigade-Major to General Abraham Ten Broeck, New York Troops, 1780 . . . After the War, was a merchant in Albany . . . Born in 1754; died in Albany, N.Y., 1817 . . . 1790 Census shows he owned two slaves.

John C. Ten Broeck . . . Hudson, N.Y. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Enlisted and commissioned first lieutenant, regiment of the New York Continental Line, 1776 . . . Captaincy in 1781 and brevetted major . . . Fought at Trenton, Brandywine and Monmouth . . . Was at Valley Forge . . . Received a shoulder wound at Yorktown . . . Member of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Town alderman, 1785-1796 . . . Fifth generation descendant of Wissell Ten Broeck, who came to what is now New York with Peter Minuet in 1626 with the Dutch West Indies Trading Company . . . Died in 1835.

Samuel Meredith . . . Philadelphia, Pa. . . . 1789 . . . Officer in the Revolutionary War with the "Silk Stocking Company" . . . Promoted to Brigadier General for gallantry at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown . . . Member of Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly . . . Member of the Congress of Confederation . . . Surveyor of Customs from August to September . . . Appointed first Treasurer of the United States.

William McPherson . . . Philadelphia, Pa. . . . 1789-1793 . . . Naval Officer of Customs, 1793-1813 . . . Military man . . . Graduate of Princeton . . . Officer in the British Army . . . Joined the Continental Army . . . Rose to the rank of colonel . . . Member of



the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Commanded the "McPherson Blues," the best militia cavalry unit in the country . . . Participated in the suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion and the Fries's rebellion.

Robert Ballard . . . Baltimore, Md. . . . 1789-1793 . . . Volunteered and commanded in the first regiment of Virginia . . . Fought at Heights of Haarlem . . . Was in the retreat through New Jersey . . . Fought at Trenton and at Brandywine . . . Was in the defense of Fort Mifflin . . . And in the winter camp at Valley Forge . . . Attained rank of colonel . . . After the War, speculated in land and lost his fortune . . . Applied for a position as Clerk of Court . . . Instead appointed Surveyor of Customs.

Robert Young . . . Town Creek, Md. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Part of the committee that picked a member of the Continental Congress from Charles County, Md. . . . Justice of the Orphan's Court in 1778, 1779, 1784 . . . Justice of the Peace in 1782, 1784 . . . Succeeded as Surveyor by Charles Chilton.

Robert Chesley . . . St. Mary's, Md. . . . 1789-1799 . . . As a cadet on March 8, 1776, was appointed to the Council of Safety . . . Served during the Revolution with the 2nd and 4th Maryland Regiments as a captain . . . Applied for the Surveyor's position on June 20, 1789.

Daniel Bedinger . . . Norfolk, Va. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Ran away from home in 1776 at age 16 to join the Revolutionary Army . . . Taken prisoner by British, and exchanged in 1778 . . . Rejoined the army . . . Discharged with rank of lieutenant in 1783 in South Carolina . . . Member of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Opened a book store in Norfolk . . . Married a wealthy woman . . . Became a landowner . . . Appointed Navy Agent by Jefferson, 1802-1808 . . . Built a manor home in Shepherdstown (now West Virginia), "Bedford" . . . The manor was destroyed by Federal troops during the Civil War . . . Died in 1818 of lung disease from the effects of his long imprisonment by the British.

Archibald Richardson . . . Suffolk, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Justice of the Peace . . . Member of the voting committee to count ballots for the Governor's election in 1795 . . . Later appointed Collector at South Quay to succeed Captain Thomas Bowne in 1798 . . . served until 1804.

James Wells . . . Smithfield, Va. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Veteran of the Revolutionary War . . . Succeeded by Cope-

land Parker as Surveyor . . . Lieutenant colonel and commander of the militia at the Isle of Wight . . . Court martialled in 1794 as a result of delinquency in failure to take action on the illegal provisioning of a privateer (*The Unicorn*). At that time, it was a high crime against the Government to fit privateers in the United States and for Americans to serve on board . . . Owned 11 slaves.

Christopher Roane . . . Bermuda Hundred, Va. . . . 1789-1795 . . . Veteran of the Revolutionary War . . . Captain in the State Artillery . . . Appointed Searcher (Surveyor) of Customs during the Confederation . . . Died in 1796, just after he left office.

James Gibbon . . . Petersburg, Va. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Taken prisoner at Fort Washington in 1776; exchanged and made lieutenant in 1777 . . . Hero of Stony Point in 1779 . . . Led one of the two "forlorn hopes" of 20 men when General Wayne carried the fortress at Stony Point. Of his 20 men, 17 were killed or wounded . . . Promoted to captain . . . Ended the War as a colonel . . . Moved to Richmond where he was Collector for many years (possibly 1800-1835) . . . Died in 1835 at age 77.

Zachariah Rowland . . . Richmond, Va. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Merchant . . . Loyalist . . . Arrested just prior to the Battle of Yorktown . . . Succeeded by his son, James, who was just 21 years old.

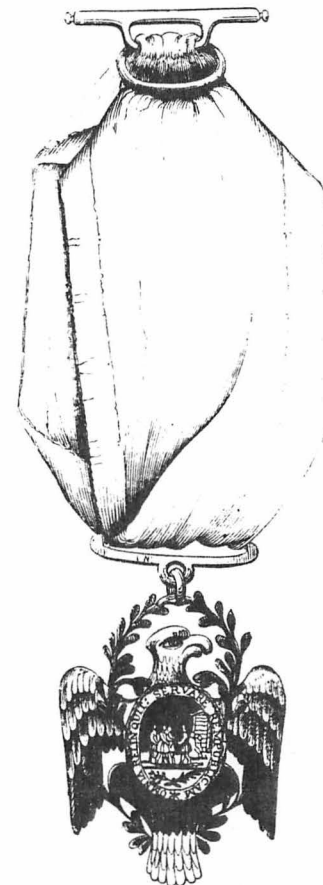
John Spotswood Moore . . . West Point, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Searcher for State Customs, succeeding Corbin Braxton on February 4, 1788 . . . Wrote the Governor in July 1788, ". . . needs a boat, inasmuch as vessels frequently escape after being forfeated." . . . In 1801 showed up as a tradesman selling brick and lime for a new tobacco warehouse to be built.

Staige Davis . . . Urbanna, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Succeeded his brother, George B. Davis, as Surveyor of Customs during the Confederation period . . . A man of property, Davis owned one plantation, "Fairfield," which was deeded to him by his father in 1784 (358 acres) and "Prospect Hill" (460 acres) which he purchased in 1808.

George Catlett . . . Port Royal, Va. . . . 1789-1815 . . . From an old Virginia family with ancestors dating back to 1630's . . . Served as a lieutenant of marines aboard the *Pocahantas* . . . In December 1776, as captain commanded 25 marines aboard the *Mosquito* . . . Was taken captive by British in June 1777 . . . Imprisoned in Britain . . .



A McPherson Blue.



ORDER OF THE CINCINNATI.

Society of the Cincinnati—Many of the first U.S. Customs officers belonged to this fraternal organization, composed of officers who had served in the Revolutionary War.

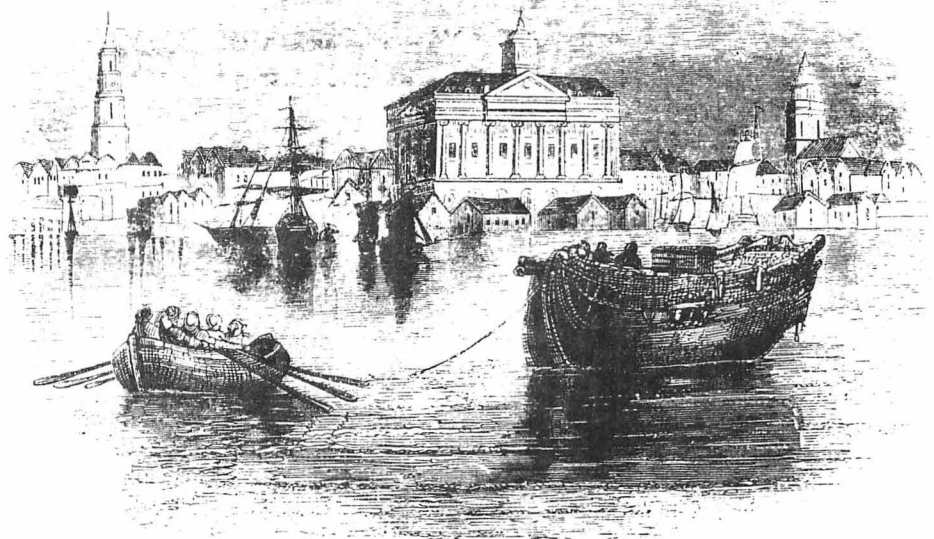
Escaped but did not get back to Virginia until Spring of 1781 . . . His feelings against the British were so violent because of his treatment as a prisoner that he vowed never to leave the service "as long as there was a chance of fighting" . . . Present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown . . . Applied for job as Searcher (Surveyor) in January 1788 . . . Died in office in 1815.

William Lewis . . . Fredericksburg, Va. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Customs officer under the Confederation . . . Complained in 1787 that he could not continue in the post for 50 pounds per year because it kept him from other livelihood . . . Appointed Superintendent of the lighthouse at Cape Henry but died in Norfolk (c. November 1792) on his way from Fredericksburg to assume his new post.

Samuel Hanson . . . Alexandria, Va. . . . 1789-1793 . . . Neighbor of President Washington . . . Washington recorded in his diary in December 1785 ". . . went fox-hunting with the gentlemen who came here yesterday . . . Samuel Hanson, Thomas Hanson . . ." Complained to President Washington that Charles Lee, the Collector, was "absent for most of the year" from the customhouse, leaving most of the day-by-day business to the deputy . . . Contributed to the Alexandria Academy for orphans along with Washington, Charles Lee, John Fitzgerald (later Collector who replaced Lee) and others.

Edward Weyman . . . Charleston, S.C. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Early citizen of Charleston . . . Messenger for the South Carolina Assembly . . . Upholsterer and glazier . . . Founded the Fellowship Society which was formed for the protection of tradesmen and artisans of Charleston . . . Had a partnership with J. Carne, a cabinet and chairmaker . . . Active in Revolutionary politics . . . Census of 1790 showed him with a household of seven children and eight slaves . . . Applied for the Collector's job on the death of George Abbott Hall in 1791 . . . Died in 1793 . . . Succeeded by his son, Edward, who also died in office in 1813 at 44 years of age.

John Berrien . . . Savannah, Ga. . . . 1789-1795 . . . New Jersey born . . . Officer in the British Army at very early age . . . Commissioned second lieutenant in the Continental Army at age 15 . . . Aide-de-camp to General Lachlan McIntosh (Naval Officer, Savannah, 1789-1800), with rank of captain . . . Brigade-Major with McIntosh Command in the Northern Army . . . Present at Valley Forge . . . Wounded in the head at Monmouth . . . Member of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Commissioned captain of the first cavalry company raised after the War . . . Collector of Customs during the Confederation . . . U.S. Marshal in 1795 . . . Justice of the Peace in Jefferson County, Ga., 1813 . . . Died in 1815.



Charleston in 1780.

Feb 7. 1790

Sir

I have consulted with Mr. Brown (?) on this subject of the successor for Mr. Short. He is apprehensive that the reasons which induced Mr. Short to decline his appointment will have the same weight with any other person who could be recommended. He names Col. Richard Taylor as worthy of the appointment, and as not more likely to follow the example of Mr. Short than any other fit person within his knowledge. I am acquainted with this gentleman and consider him as perfectly trustworthy. He held formerly a similar office on the Ohio when the trade of that country was regulated by the State of Virginia.

I have the honor to be . . .

J. Madison Jr.

Letter from James Madison to Mr. Tobias Lear, George Washington's Secretary, dated February 7, 1790. Peyton Short had been recommended and approved by the Senate, but apparently declined the position (probably because of the small salary). Madison recommends Richard Taylor, who accepted the job as Collector at the Falls of Ohio (Louisville, Ky.), part of the Virginia territory.

Index of Names

Aggnew, Andrew	11	Heth, William	9	Pickman, William	12
Archer, Abraham	10	Hill, Jeremiah, Jr.	7	Pope, Edward	7
Ballard, Robert	15	Hillary, Christopher	11	Purviance, Robert	12
Banning, Jeremiah	9	Hiller, Joseph	6	Putnam, Bartholomew	13
Batchelder, Josiah, Jr.	13	Hodge, Michael	13	Redman, Vincent	10
Baylies, Hodijah	7	Huntington, Jedediah	7	Richards, Nathaniel	14
Bedinger, Daniel	15	Hussey, Stephen	6	Richardson, Archibald	15
Berrien, John	16	Jones, John Courts	9	Roane, Christopher	15
Biscoe, George	9	Jordan, Meletiah	7	Rogers, Hezekiah	14
Bowne, Thomas	10	Lamb, John	8	Ross, John	8
Bush, George	8	Lansing, Jeremiah	14	Rowland, Zachariah	15
Catlett, George	15	Lasher, John	14	Russell, Eleazer	12
Chesley, Robert	15	Lee, Charles	10	Sargent, Epes, IV	6
Cogdell, John	11	Lee, John	7	Savage, George	10
Collins, Cornelius	11	Lewis, William	16	Scott, John	9
Cook, Francis	7	Lincoln, Benjamin	6	Scott, Richard Marshall	10
Cross, Stephen	6	Lindsay, William	9	Seagrove, James	11
Davidson, John	9	Lingan, James MacCubbin	9	Smedley, Samuel	7
Davis, Staige	15	Lovell, James	12	Smith, Stephen	7
Delany, Sharp	8	Lunt, James	14	Staniford, Jeremiah, Jr.	13
Delesdenier, Lewis Frederick	7	Martin, Thomas	13	Taylor, Richard	10
Elmer, Eli	8	McIntosh, Lachlan	12	Ten Broeck, John C.	14
Fitch, Jonathan	8	McPherson, William	14	Titcomb, Jonathan	12
Fosdick, Nathaniel	7	Melvill, Thomas	14	Trevett, Richard	7
Gatewood, Philomen	12	Meredith, Samuel	14	Walker, Benjamin	12
Gelston, John	8	Miller, Asher	14	Watson, William	6
Gerry, Samuel R.	6	Moore, John Spotswood	15	Webb, William	7
Gibb, William	10	Motte, Isaac	12	Wells, James	15
Gibbon, James	15	Muir, John	9	Weyman, Edward	16
Gunby, John	9	Muse, Hudson	10	Whipple, Joseph	6
Habersham, John	11	Nichols, Jeremiah	9	Whittemore, Samuel	13
Hall, George Abbott	11	Otis, Joseph	6	Wilkins, Nathaniel	10
Halstead, John	8	Palmer, Jonathan, Jr.	14	Williams, Otho Holland	8
Hanson, Samuel	16	Pease, John	7	Wray, Jacob	9
Harris, Richard	6	Phile, Frederick	12	Young, Robert	15



Members of the Society of the Cincinnati, formed in May 1783, pledged to perpetuate the ideals for which they had fought in the Revolutionary War.

BACK COVER

Most of the men who later became the first U.S. Customs officers fought for the new Nation during the Revolutionary War. This drawing depicts the engagement of the Bon Homme Richard under Captain John Paul Jones and HMS Serapis on September 22, 1779.



Department of the Treasury
U.S. Customs Service
June 1987

