

ACTIVITY: Provision Correspondence

John Penn was a member of North Carolina's Board of War. Alexander Mebane was an officer in the Orange County militia.

Mr. Mebane,

I am informed by General Gates that he is in great want of Provision for the Troops under his Command, as well as Forage for the Horse; that unless he can be supplied, by having Magazines laid up by the State, he will be under the Necessity of Permitting the Army to carve for itself, or must move the Troops away—he expresses an Unwillingness to do either.

From the Situation we are in, and the Necessity of procuring Supplies for the Army with Delay, I desire that you would lose no time in Obtaining them—You will try to purchase from the Farmer, but if they refuse to sell, you must then Seize both Provision for the Men, as well as Forage for the Horse...

Hillsborough September 22^d 1780

JPenn

Why might the horses be important?

Horses can carry supplies and people from one place to another.

Describe the options Penn gives.

He advises to purchase supplies from a farmer and if that does not work, take provisions for the men in the army.

Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

ACTIVITY: The Society of People called Moravians

John Penn was a member of the North Carolina Board of War.

Hillsborough Septem: 23.^d 1780

Sir,

The Society of People called Moravians, in Surry County have agreed with General Gates to send One Hundred Sides of tanned Leather to this place, but are desirous of having a Guard part of the Way to prevent being robbed ~

As it is of Great Importance to have the Leather as soon as we can, I recommend it to you to give Directions, that apro=per Guard may be furnished as far as you think it Necessary – the Leather will be ready by the Time the Guard can be got – Three or four Setts of Shoemakers Tools are absolutely necessary, if they can possibly be got to send with the Leather – They have promised to provide a Waggon ~

I am, respectfully, Sir

Your hble Srvt.

JPenn

Gen^l Butler

How do the Moravians feel?

They are willing and ready to sell their tanned leather, but they are nervous of being robbed.

What do the soldiers need?

Three or four sets of shoemaker's tools.

Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: _____

ACTIVITY: Letter from John Taylor to Philip Vass

John Taylor worked as an assistant in the commissary department. His job was to get supplies for the soldiers. Philip Vass was the County Commissioner for Granville.

Hillsborough 8th October 1780.

Sir,

I received your Letter, together with a Wagon Load of wheat by Mr. Anderson. Your wheat measured only Twenty Nine Bushels here, for which I have sent you a Receipt.

We are in great want here, of Flour & Beef, the soldiers have— Suffered much & have been entirely without Provision of any kind for some days past. Pray hurry on all the Provisions you can to this post as fast as possible. We have no material news here at present, Gen. Smallwood marched from here Southwardly Yesterday. the Light Horse is arrived at this post. I am with respect

Sir Y^r most Hble Servant

John Taylor

Describe Taylor's problem.

He has soldiers that have suffered greatly and are in need of provisions like flour and beef.

What advice could you give him if you were Taylor?

Answers will vary depending on student.

ACTIVITY: Joshua Potts

Colonel Nicholas Long was the Deputy Quarter Master General for the Southern District. He and the men under him worked to keep the Patriot forces supplied.

Halifax, 16th March 1781~

Sir

I this day received a Letter from Col^o William R... in which he mentions a Probability of being distressed for Salt...Also requested that I would forward 14 or 15 Hogsheads Rum & 3 or four Hogsheads Molasses~~

I the other day sent on six Hogsheads Rum, & should be glad you would forward on Gen^l Greene's Head Q[uarters] all the Molasses stored and M^r Abernathy's together with Salt if there be any stored near you—should you have it in you Power, may send on a Quantity of Salt, a Waggon Load or two at least~~

Hoping that you will do everything in your Power to serve our Friends_ I am

Sir you humble Servant.

Joshua Potts

By order of

Nicholas Long Esqr

Colo. Thomas Wooten~

DQM [Deputy Quartermaster] Gen^l

List the types of goods they are transporting.

Rum, molasses, salt.

How might they get more salt?

By trading or buying it and having it transported to them.

What do they have?

1. Money to purchase goods
2. Tanned leather
3. Wheat
4. Rum and molasses

What do they need?

1. Forage for horses and provisions
2. Shoemakers' tools
3. Flour and beef
4. Salt

How are they trying to get it?

Using horses and other ways to transport goods and through trade.

Describe the amounts needed.

2. Three or four sets of shoemaker's tools
4. A wagon-load or two of salt

Questions about this document: