

The Journal of the Commons House of Assembly:
November 10, 1736 - March 5, 1737

p. 155: December 15, 1736

"Captain McPherson with Fifteen of the Rangers, pursuant to a Resolution of the General Assembly of South-Carolina, covered and protected the New Settlers until they enforced themselves and as they had Occasion." (February 1732)

p. 180: January 18, 1737

"Your Committee further report tthat they have been informed by Capt. Peters, Mr. Drayton and Mr. IZard, Members of this House, that the Rangers were employed for three or four Months the last Spring in hunting for Cattle and driving them to Georgia, which Cattle Capt. McPherson Commander of the Rangers had bought and had agreed to deliver in Georgia to supply that Colony."

p. 184: January 19, 1737

"Mr. Whitaker from the Committee to confer with a Committee of the Upper House on the Message relating to the Scout Boat and Rangers, reported verbally to the House, that it was agreed in the Committee, that a Letter should be wrote to Capt. McPherson, to acquaint him, that he should be provided for till the 29th day of September last and no longer."

p. 370: December 14, 1737

"That the forces under Col. Hext be encreased to 270 effective Men exclusive of the Men employed as Rangers under Capt. McPherson and also exclusive of the Look Outs and those to be employed under Capt. Gray."

p. 406: January 23, 1738

"The Publick Account of the General Taxes With The Late Alexr. Parris, Esq. Publick Treasurer

Dr.

Anno 1727

Vouchers wanting for the following Articles passed in the above Accounts, Viz.,

Captain James McPherson, Commander of the Rangers	125: 0: 0
John Westberry, Ranger	10: 3: 3
Joseph Wannell, do	2:15: 6
Capt. James McPherson, do	90: 0: 0
Joseph Oldham, a Scout Man	13: 1: 4

p. 506: March 4, 1738

"The Committee appointed to examine the Account of the 35,010 Orders lately stamped and signed &c. report, that they find paid by the Treasurer to Sundries as per an Account following, viz.,

.....
Ditto paid Capt. McPherson Commander of the Rangers 815:10: 0

p. 526: March 8, 1738

"Account of Orders Paid Out of the 35,010 Orders Stamped Pursuant to a Law Passed the 5th of March 1736/7 As by Account Settled to the 5th of March 1737/8

.....
Paid for ditto (Sundries) on Account of the Rangers under Capt. McPherson 815:10: 0

THE RANGERS:

Vol. I

p. 156: 15 December 1736

"The Rangers were increased first to Twenty, and afterwards to Thirty; and the Scout Boat ordered to continue another Year: Of which Increase of the Rangers, Ten Men, Part thereof is taken at 1,680 Current Money, part of 4,000 to be levied and raised upon the several Inhabitants of the Province of South Carolina by an Act of the General Assembly of the said Province entitled An Act to provide for the better Security of that Province against the Incursions of the Indian Nations, wherein it is Enacted that 8,500 Current Money be raised and levied by the Inhabitants of the said Province for the erecting a Garrison in the Upper Creek Nation, and for the maintaining Twenty-four Men in the said Garrison for the first year after the same is erected and Thirty Men for the second Year then next ensuing. To be paid for the Use of the Trustees for establishing the Settlement of the Colony of Georgia, viz: 4,000 to be levied and raised upon the several Inhabitants as the usual Taxes for the Support of the Government shall be appointed for the year 1734. And the further sum of 4,500 to be levied and raised for the Year 1735, and to be part of the several Estimates for the said Years. Provided the said Garrison shall be then erected and guarded by the said Numbers of Men severally and respectively as aforesaid, and that the Reinforcement of Ten Men to the Company of Rangers be made and maintained for one Year after the Ratification of the said Act, and be taken in Lieu of 1,680, current Money, part of the 4,000 to be levied and raised for the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Four, being Fourteen Pounds a Month for each of the said additional Ten Men for thirteen Lunary Months." (1734, April)

p. 164 10 January 1737

"That your Committee think it reasonable that Provision should be made in the next Estimate for the Lieutenant and 8 Men ordered by His Honour the Lieutenant Governour to range on the back of the Settlements until Advice is sent by the Governour for the Reduction of them, which your Committee recommend to the House, and that his Honour may be speedily addressed for that Purpose: And that 4 Men and a Lieutenant may be continued till the End of next May and no longer."

p. 176: 15 January 1737

"Mr. Cramahe brought down the Petition of Edward North planter together with the following Message from his Honour the Lieutenant Governour.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen,

In answer to a Message from the late Assembly dated the 29th Day of May last relating to the Scout Boat and Rangers now in the service of Georgia, there being then a Difference subsisting between the two Colonies, I did not think it proper to discharge them at that Juncture, imagining that upon any Emergency they might be very serviceable to the Colony of Georgia. And especially till the Disputes with the Spanish in relation to the Boundaries were settled and agreed upon, thinking that the Colony of Georgia might give some ill Turn thereof at Home.

I doubt not but you will provide for the paying of them for the Time past, and for such further Time as shall be thought convenient.

Tho. Broughton.

On reading and debating the above Message ordered, That the following Gentlemen be a Committee to take the Subject Matter thereof under Consideration, viz., Mr. Dart, Mr. Rutledge, Mr. Le Bas, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Mathewes, Mr. Morris, Mr. Roche and Mr. Peters.

p. 179: 18 January 1737

"Mr. Whitaker from the Committee who were appointed to consider the Subject Matter of his Honour the Lieutenant Governour's Message (relating to the Scout Boat) of the 15th of this Instant January ~~referred~~ informed the House they were ready to make their Report, which he first read in

his place and then delivered in at the Table; and the same was again read, and is as follows, viz.

The Committee appointed to consider the Lieutenant Governour's Message in relation to the Rangers and Scout Boat, report

That Your Committee have searched the Journals of the late Assembly, and have found that on the eighth Day of March last, a Message was sent to his Majesty's Council to acquaint them, that the late Assembly would no longer provide for the Scout Boats or Rangers.

That on the 18th of March another Message was sent to the Lieutenant Governour to the same Purpose.

On the 13th of April last the Assembly in a Message then sent to the Lieutenant Governour let him know that it was their Opinion that the Scout Boat and Rangers were of no Service to this Province.

On the 29th of May another Message was sent to the Lieutenant Governour and his Majesty's Council to give them Notice, that the Assembly were determined to provide for the Scout Boats and Rangers to the 29th of September last and no longer.

On the 17th of July the late Assembly by a further Message desired the Lieutenant Governour that in Case the Negotiations of the Committee sent to Georgia should not prove effectual, his Honour would be pleased immediately to call the Rangers into this Province.

Your Committee further report that they have been informed by Capt. Peters, Mr. Drayton and Mr. Izard, Members of this House, that the Rangers were employed for three or four Monthes the last Spring in hunting for Cattle and driving them to Georgia, which Cattle Capt. McPherson Commander of the Rangers had bought and had agreed to deliver in Georgia to supply that Colony.

Your Committee therefore submit it to the Consideration of the House how far it may be reasonable or necessary to continue the Rangers and Scout Boats since they have been lately made Use of to no other Purpose than what your Committee have reported.

On bedating the above Report it is resolved that this House will provide for the Rangers and Scout Boats to the 29th day of September last and no longer; agreeable to the Resolution entered into by the late Assembly communicated to his Honour the Lieutenant Governour, and ordered, that a Message be drawn to his Honour the Lieutenant Governour to acquaint him with the Sense and Resolution of this House on the said Message."

p. 202: 3 February 1737

"Mr. Cramahe the Master in Chancery brought down from his Majesty's Council an Account of the Northward Rangers at Pine Tree Creek amounting to 452 which was read and referred to the Committee on Petitions and Accounts. And also two Messages from his Honour the Lieutenant Governor which are as follows, viz.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen,

I herewith send you the Account of what is due to the Rangers appointed to secure the Settlers at Pine Tree Creek; and desire you will make Provision for paying off the same.

The 3rd day of February, 1736/7

Thos. Broughton

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen,

When the Independent Company was commanded from Port Royal to Georgia, I thought it very necessary that two Men should be placed in the Fort to look after the same and also the Barracks, without which Precaution that Fortification must have gone to Ruin. As I employed Col. Barnwell to see the same performed he will be best able to inform you what the charge of that Service amounts to; and I hope you will make Provision for discharging of it.

The 3rd day of February, 1736/7

Thos. Broughton

On reading the above Message the same was referred to the Committee on Petitions and Accounts.

p. 205: 3 February 1737

15. Col. Barnwell laid before your Committee the Charge of placing two Men to live at the Fort at Port Royal when left by the Independent Company by order of his Honour the Lieutenant Governour and find there is due Col. Barnwell for that Use from 10th May last to the 10th of March next the Sum of 200 which your Committee are of the Opinion ought to be paid.

p. 321: 5 March 1737

Estimate of the Charges of this Government from the 25th March 1736 to the 25th March 1737, viz.

....

The Rangers for Six Months to the 29th September 1736			
To the Commander at	288 per Annum		144
The Serjeant at	168		84
19 Men and Provisions at	14 per Annum each	1,596	
Premium on	1,680 at 2½ per Cent	42	<u>1,866</u>

The Scout Boat for six Months to the 29th September 1736			
To the Commander at	200 per Annum	100	
10 Men at	9 per Month each	540	
Victualling 11 Men at	32 per Annum	176	
Premium on	540 at 2½ per Cent	13 10	<u>829 10</u>

p. 324: 5 March 1737

To the Charge of the Rangers appointed to range about Pine Tree Creek to the 19th May 1737 and then to be discontinued 596

To Col. Barnwell for hiring two Men to live in Fort Prince Frederick 200

p. 410: 23 January 1738

No Vouchers for the following Articles charged in the above Accounts, viz.

....

RANGERS			
Wm. Westberry	50: 0: 0		James Vincent
Wm. Small	35:10: 0		Jacob Brown
Wm. Small	23:17:10		Walter Pike
Wm. Small	12:12: 2		
Walter Pike	28: 0: 0		SCOUT MEN:
Geo. Pilkington	12: 0: 0	162: 0: 0	Capt. Ferguson
John Westberry	47: 0: 0		Patrick Looner
James Vincent	10: 0: 0		Wm. McLane
Wm. Fitchet	30:19: 1		Wm. Thomas
Wm. Fitchet	11: 5:11		David Swinton
Wm. Fitchet	21:15: 0		James Distance
James Fitzgerald	23: 0: 0	144: 0:0	John Rea
James Fitzgerald	23: 0: 0		
Jas. Fitzgerald	7: 0: 0		p. 408
Laurence Cooke	32: 2: 6		Rescoe, a Scout Man
Lau. Cooke	27:17: 6		
Wm. Richards	78: 0: 0		
Wm. Richards	6: 0: 0		
(other Rangers)			
Saml. Kinsman			
Wm. Gulliver			
Wm. Burt			
Wm. Gibson			
Joseph Lowell			
Gregory Fagan			
Richard Smith			
John Saunders			
Morgan Davis			

p. 454: 2 February 1738

No. 54. We have examined into a Petition of Hugh Bryan praying to be allowed the Sum of 45 for hiring 5 Indians to make Discoveries and to give Notice of the Enemy on the Rumour of some Enemy Indians being seen in the Settlements last Winter before the Publick ordered the Rangers to scout in those Parts which we are of Opinion should be paid out of the publick Orders stamped and signed for the Service of the Government on the late intended Invasion. 45.

Vol. II

p. 248:

In Governour Daniell's Time. No. (385). An Act for appointing Rangers to guard the Frontiers of this Province against the Incursions of our Indian Enemies; and for making a further Provision for the Garrisons of Port Royal and Savanna Town, passed the 15th Day of December 1716.

p. 249:

In Governour Moore's Time (the Younger). No.(484) An Act for the better strengthening and securing the Frontiers of this Province, by continuing the Garrison at Fort Moore, erecting the Garrison at the Palla Chuckella Old Town, on the Savanna River, repairing the Fort at Beaufort and continuing two Scout Boats, and limiting the Bounds of the Indian Hunt by the Savanna River, passed the 23rd Day of February 1722/3

p. 150: 28 January 1740

10. Read also an Order bearing Date the 12th Day of March 1738/39 drawn by Capt. Laurence Sanders on the Public Treasurer in Favour of Capt. James McPherson amounting to L 30 it being for Provisions expended by Capt. Sanders Company when they were in Pursuit of the Servant and Slaves who murdered one John Watson which Order was likewise referred to the Consideration of the Committee on Petitions and Accounts.

p. 229: 4 March 1740

19. We have examined an Account of Mr. Thomas Elliott for two Calves and 20 Bushels of Corn supplied the Men who went in Pursuit of Capt. McPherson's Slaves in March last amounting to the Sum of L 22:0:0, the Corn being charged at 15 Shillings a Bushel, which your Committee are of Opinion is more by 5 Shillings per Bushel than Corn sold for at that Time in any Part of this Province. They find therefore only due to the said Thomas Elliott the Sum of L 17:0:0 which ought to be paid.

p. 233 4 March 1740

To the 19th, relating to ~~allowing~~ the Sum of L17:00:00 to Mr. Thomas Elliott, in full of his Account, the House agreed.

To the 25th relating to Capt. James McPherson his being allowed the Sum of L60:00:00, the House agreed.

p. 230

25. We have examined two Orders in Favour of Capt. James McPherson (that is to say) one drawn by Maj. Hugh Eryan, and the other drawn by Capt. Lawrence Sanders and Lieut. Peter Girardea, both on the Public Treasurer for the Sim of L30:00:0 each, to pay for the Provision expended by their Companies when in Pursuit of the White Servant and Negroes who murdered John Watsons, being agreeable to the Law, ought to be paid.

p. 318 1 May 1740

(The Estimate of the Public Debt from the 25th Day of March 1739 Inclusive to the 25th Day of March 1740 Exclusive)

To Capt. James McPherson sixty Pounds

Ante Meridiem

The House met according to Adjournment.

Mr. Alexander Cramahe, the Master in Chancery, brought down from his Honour the Lieutenant Governour a Message together with a Letter from the Honourable General James Oglethorpe to His Honour the Lieutenant Governour, which Message was read to the House, and is in the Words following (that is to say),

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen,

I have sent you a Letter from General Oglethorpe, wherein you will see the Assistance he thinks necessary for forming the Siege of St. Augustine; which I recommend to your Consideration. And as it is probable that a War with France may be the Consequence of this with Spain, I think it highly necessary that proper Methods should be taken to secure the Indians in our Interest, that in that Case we may not be defenceless on our Backs.

The 29th day of January, 1739/40

William Bull

The Letter from the Honourable General James Oglethorpe to his Honour the Lieutenant Governour was also read to the House and is in the following Words (that is to say)

Frederica the 29th Day of December, 1739

To the Honourable William Bull Esq.
Lieutenant Governour of South Carolina
Sir,

I send up with this an Officer to concert Measures for the Siege of St. Augustine.

It will be necessary to have 12 Cannon of 18 lb. each, with 200 Shot for each Gun, and Powder proportionable. One Mortar Piece and Bombs with Powder sufficient. 800 Pioneers, Negroes or White Men with Tools sufficient for that Number of Men, such as Spades, Hoes, Axes and Hatchets, to dig Trenches, make Gabelins and Fascines. If they are Negroes, there must be White Men sufficient to guard them and oversee them. Vessels and Boats sufficient to carry the Artillery, Men, Provisions etc.

We shall have 1,000 Indians; 6,000 Bushels of Corn will be necessary to feed them or Rice proportionable. As also as many Horse Men as can be had, who may pass over the River Savanna, and passing the Cakmulgy and Oakcony, and from thence to the Ferry on the River Altamaha, where they may pass over into the Spanish Florida. Capt. McPherson or Mr. Jones of Pon Pon can shew them the Path, for I should think the People of Carolina would do very well to raise a Troop of Rangers under the Command of Capt. McPherson who is a very good Officer.

Capt. Warren assured me, that he would be willing to assist in conveying the Vessels and in carrying Cannon etc. The Cherokee Indians have promised me to be down in March. I have not heard from the Creek Nation lately, but I expect them down about the same Time; and have had a Party of them with me for some Months. I can take 400 Men of the Regiment, and leave sufficient Garrison behind me. I have ordered three Troops of 20 Men each to be raised, but have been disappointed of Horses by Captain Cuthbert's Death, so I have got yet only 12. If the Carolina People will pay them, I believe they may raise 50 very good Men at Purysburg. I should desire 4 Months Provisions for 400 Men of the Regiment of Rice and Meat, with Boats for carrying it to Augustine at the Rate of 1 lb. of each per Diem for each Man. I have 36 Cohorns and about 1,800 Shells. Of the People of the Province of Georgia I cannot draught many, because I must not leave the County naked; and as they are poor, if they neglect their planting Season, it will be difficult for them to subsist. Therefore I would only raise 200, which is equal to the Number of Soldiers I shall leave behind, and this I cannot do unless I can pay them. I believe they will be contented with L 9 Carolina Currency per Month, and 6 lbs. of Meat, and 6 lbs. of Rice each per Week; besides which there must be Pay to the Officers; therefore if the Assembly should grant me a Sum sufficient to pay them and the Provisions I would raise the Men.

This is my Opinion with relation to the Preparations for dislodging the Spaniards at Augustine, without which we certainly cannot do it. The Legislative Power of Carolina will be the best Judges of the Service it will be to them. For my own Part I think that if we do not take this Opportunity of attacking Augustine whilst it is weak, the Havanna being blocked up by our Men of War, which renders them incapable of receiving Succours from Cuba, all North America as well as Carolina and this Province will feel it severely.

As soon as the Sea is free they will send a large Body of Troops from Cuba. You remember the Account you sent to England of the Preparations some Time since made by the

Spaniards at the Havanna; everything is there still; and if they should come up and Land in Florida, we must then make a defensive War; and they may chuse who they will attack separately. They may molest all North America with their Privateers. And if they can by any Means get the Start of the Men of War, they can run into Shore Water where they cannot follow.

I am willing myself to do all that I possible can for annoying the Enemy; as his Majesty has ordered, and shall spare no personal Labour nor Danger towards freeing Carolina of a Place from whence their Negroes are encouraged to massacre their Masters, and are openly harboured after such Attempts.

The Spaniards attacked the Island of Amelia and murdered two Men there; I to return their Civility landed in Florida. The Spanish Horse with a Party of Negroes and Indians advanced as if they intended to attack us, but before they were within two Miles of us went very fast off. Our Indians pursued them to their Forts; and killed on of the Negroes who had run away from Carolina within a few Miles of St. Augustine.

A Party of ours went 60 Miles up the River Alata (maha), where the Spaniards have a Ferry, and have newly built a Fort on the British side; our Men went very near to reconnoitre it, and changed several Shot, but having no Cannon could not take it. Some of the Spaniards were killed, and some of ours wounded, who killed their Horses and Cattle but could not persuade them to come out of their Fort.

I hope you will excuse this long Letter and believe me to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant

James Oglethorpe.

PS. Not having Time to write another Letter, I desire the Favour of you to acquaint the Council and ASSEMBLY with the Contents of this Letter. And if they are not sitting that you would communicate it to Col. Fenwicke, Mr. Speaker and such others as you shall think proper.