



INSIDE THE VAULT

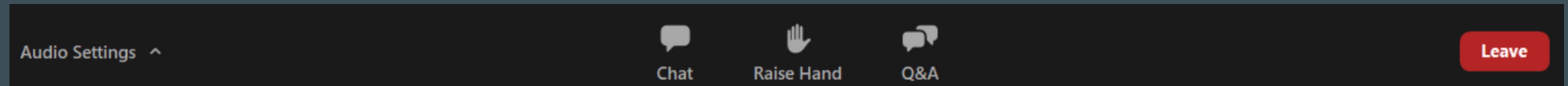
The Whiskey Rebellion and the United States Great Seal
with Dr. Gautham Rao

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

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How to Participate



- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

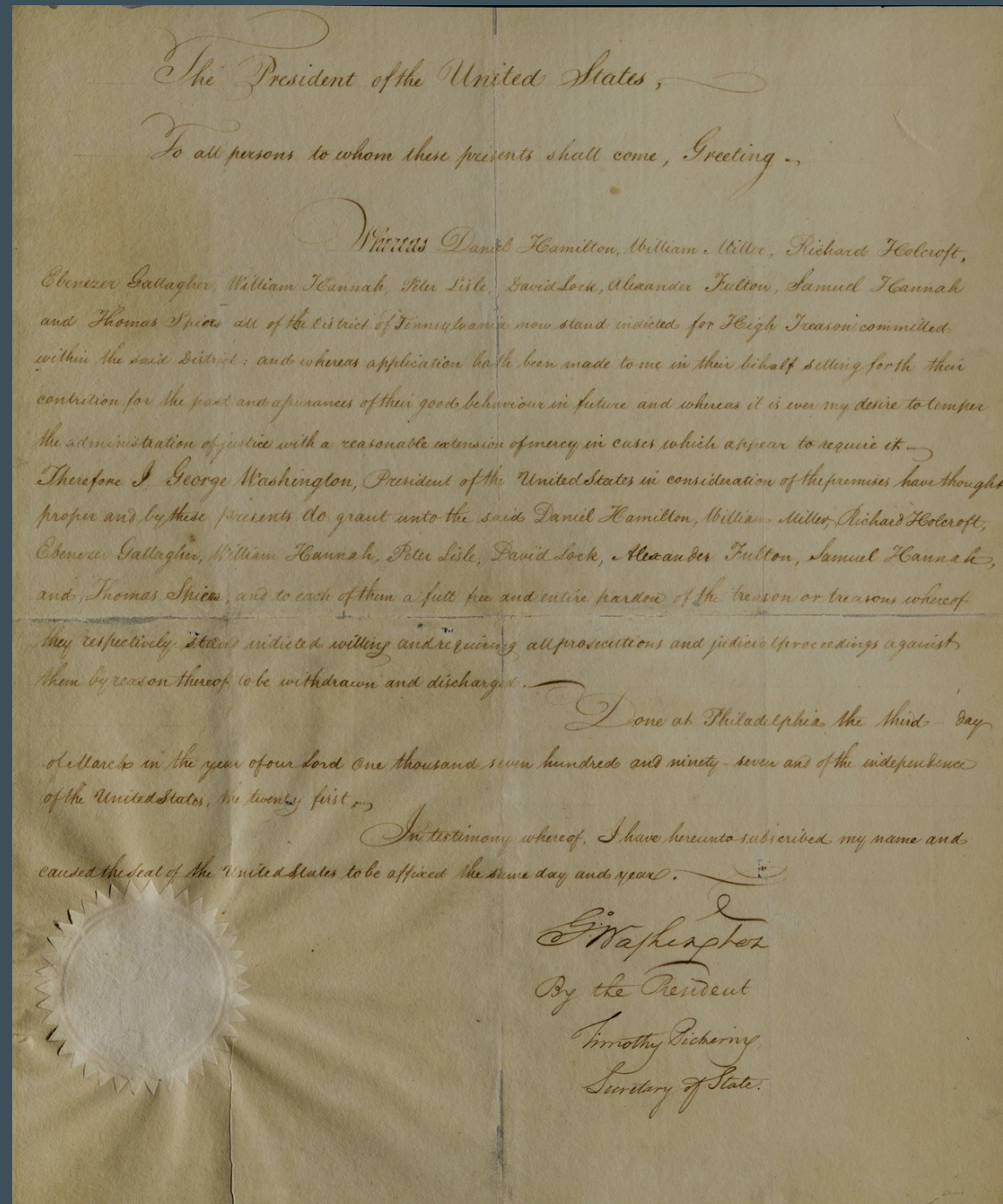


Gautham Rao



Gautham Rao is an associate professor of history at American University, where he teaches courses on historical method, early America, legal history, and political history. He is the author of *National Duties: Custom Houses and the Making of the American State* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) and is currently working on two books, a history of the legal system that governed slavery and its legacies as well as a historian's guide to the television show *The West Wing*. Rao is editor-in-chief of *Law and History Review*, the world's leading journal of legal history. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and spends his time away from work worrying about his beloved sports teams, the Mets and Liverpool Football Club.

Today's Documents



Documents relating to the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794

George Washington, [Presidential pardon of the ten ringleaders of the Whiskey Rebellion, who had been convicted of high treason], 1797.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC08072)



The Great Seal of the United States

Peter Bateman and William Bateman, *George III Silver Consular Seal with Ivory Turned Handle*, 1808-1809. (Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-1983.0017)



Report on Public Credit

1790



Alexander Hamilton, *Report on Public Credit*, 1790.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC01044)



TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

DECEMBER 13, 1790.

IN Obedience to the Order of the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, of the ninth Day of August last, requiring the SECRETARY of the TREASURY to prepare and report, on this Day, such further Provision as may, in his Opinion, be necessary for establishing the Public Credit—the said Secretary

RESPECTFULLY REPORTS,

THAT the object which appears to be most immediately essential to the further support of Public Credit, in pursuance of the plan adopted during the last session of Congress, is, the establishment of proper and sufficient funds, for paying the interest which will begin to accrue after the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, on the amount of the debts of the several states, assumed by the United States; having regard at the same time, to the probable, or estimated deficiency in those already established, as they respect the original debt of the Union.

In order to this, it is necessary, in the first place, to take a view of the sums requisite for those purposes.

	<i>Dols.</i>	<i>Cts.</i>
The amount which has been assumed of the state debts, is	21,500,000.	
The sum of annual interest upon that amount, which, according to the terms of the proposed loan, will begin to accrue after the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, is	788,333.	33
The estimated deficiency, in the funds already established, as they respect the original debt of the United States, is	38,291.	40
Making together,	826,624.	73

For procuring which sum, the reiterated reflections of the Secretary have suggested nothing so eligible and unexceptionable, in his judgment, as a further duty on foreign distilled spirits, and a duty on spirits distilled within the United States, to be collected in the mode delineated in the plan of a bill which forms a part of his report to the House of Representatives, of the ninth day of January last.

Under this impression, he begs leave, with all deference, to propose to the consideration of the House—

That the following additions be made to the duties on distilled spirits imported from foreign countries, which are specified in the act making further provision for the payment of the debts of the United States, namely,

- On those of the first class of proof therein mentioned, per gallon, eight cents.
- On those of the second class, per gallon, eight and a half cents.
- On those of the third class, per gallon, nine cents.
- On those of the fourth class, per gallon, ten cents.
- On those of the fifth class, per gallon, ten cents.
- On those of the sixth class, per gallon, fifteen cents.

Tax Collectors

1792

SECOND CONGRESS

OF THE

UNITED STATES:

At the First Session, begun and held at the City of PHILADELPHIA, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday the twenty-fourth of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one.

An ACT relative to the compensations to certain Officers employed in the collection of the Duties of Impost and Tonnage.

BE it enacted by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the last day of June next, in addition to the fees and emoluments which may accrue to the officers employed in the collection of the duties of impost and tonnage, by the provisions already made, they shall severally have, and be entitled to the respective allowances following, to wit; The surveyors of Newburyport, Salem, Saint Mary's and Wilmington in North-Carolina, the yearly sum of one hundred dollars, each; the surveyors of Beverley, North Kingston, East Greenwich, Warren, Bristol, Pawcattuck-river, Providence, Patuxet, New Haven, Lewellenburg, Alexandria, Beaufort, Hertford, Winton, Bennet's-creek, Plymouth, Windsor, Skewarkey, Murfreesborough, Nixonton, Indian-town, Currituck-inlet, Pasquotank-river bridge, Newbiggen creek, the yearly sum of eighty dollars, each; the surveyor of Portsmouth, the yearly sum of sixty dollars; the surveyors of Ipswich, Portland, Newport, Stonington, Middleton, Bermuda-Hundred, Petersburg, Richmond and Savannah, the yearly sum of fifty dollars, each; the surveyors of Gloucester, New London and Swanborough, the yearly sum of thirty dollars, each; the surveyors of Hudson, Little Egg-harbor, Suffolk, Smithfield, Urbanna, and Fredericksburg, the yearly sum of twenty dollars, each; the collector of the district of Wilmington in North Carolina, the yearly sum of one hundred and fifty dollars; the collectors of the districts of Portsmouth, Gloucester, Albany, Annapolis, Vienna, Nottingham, York-town, Dumfries and Louisville, the yearly sum of one hundred dollars, each; the collector of the district of Fairfield, the yearly sum of eighty dollars; the collectors of the districts of Marblehead, Plymouth, Barnstable, Nantucket, New Bedford, Dighton, York, Biddeford and Pepperelborough, Bath, Wilcasset, Machias, Newport, New Haven, Perth Amboy, Great Egg-harbor, Wilmington, in Delaware, Chester, Cedar-point, George-town, Hampton, South Quay, Washington, Plank-bridge and George-town in South Carolina, the yearly sum of fifty dollars, each; the naval officer of the district of Portsmouth, the yearly sum of one hundred dollars; the naval officers of the districts of Newburyport, Newport, Providence, Wilmington in North Carolina and Savannah, the yearly sum of fifty dollars, each; the collector of the district of Salem and Beverley, one fourth of one per centum on the amount of all monies by him received on account of the said duties; and to the collectors of the districts of Portsmouth, Newburyport, Gloucester, Marblehead, Plymouth, Nantucket, Edgartown, New Bedford, Dighton, York, Biddeford and Pepperelborough, Portland, Bath, Wilcasset, Penobscot, Frenchman's-bay, Machias, Newport, Providence, New Haven, Fairfield, Perth-Amboy, Burlington, Great Egg-harbor, Wilmington in Delaware, Oxford, Vienna, Snowhill, Annapolis, Nottingham, Cedar-point, George-town in Maryland, Hampton, York-town, Yeocomico, Dumfries, Foley-landing, Cherrystone, South Quay, Wilmington in North Carolina, Newbern, Washington, Edenton, Plank-Bridge, George-town in South Carolina, Beaufort, and Savannah, each, one half of one per centum on the amount of all monies by them respectively received on account of the duties aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the last day of June next, the allowance of three fourths of one per centum to the collectors of the districts of Pennsylvania and the city of New York, on the amount of all monies by them respectively received, on account of the duties of impost and tonnage, shall cease, and instead thereof, they shall, after that time, be entitled to one half of one per centum on all such monies by them respectively received.

And be it further enacted, That from and after the last day of June next, the expense of fuel, office-rent and necessary stationary, for the collectors of the districts of Salem and Beverley, Bolton and Charlestown, the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, the towns of Baltimore, Norfolk and Portsmouth, shall be paid, three fourths by the said Collectors and the other fourth by the respective naval-officers in those districts.

And be it further enacted, That whenever a collector shall die, the commissions, to which he would have been entitled on the receipt of all duties bonded by him, shall be equally divided between the legal representatives of such deceased collector and his successor in office, whose duty it shall be to collect the same; and for this purpose the said representatives shall deliver over to such successor all the public or official books, papers and accounts of the said deceased.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

RICHARD HENRY LEE, *President pro tempore of the Senate.*

APPROVED, May eighth, 1792.

G^o. WASHINGTON, *President of the United States.*

DEPOSITED among the Rolls in the office of the Secretary of State.

W. Jefferson Secretary of State.

Thomas Jefferson, *An Act Relative to the Compensations to Certain Officers*, 1792. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07305)



Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington

March 21, 1791

Treasury Department
March 21st 1791.

Sir

You will probably have received
as this reaches you, a Commission as Supervisor
of the Revenue for the district of Virginia.
The compensation annexed to that office is to
consist of a Salary of One thousand dollars per
Annun and one per cent on the product of the duties
on the Spirits which shall be distilled within
your district, including those on stills. It is
presumed however that this compensation by
the true construction of the law does not commence
till the first of July next.

The subdivison of your district into surveys
I

Alexander Hamilton to Edward
Carrington, March 21, 1791.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute,
GLC00299)

Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington

March 21, 1791

“You will probably have received ere this reaches you, a Commission as Supervisor of the Revenue for the district of Virginia. The compensation annexed to that office is to consist of a Salary of One thousand dollars per Annum and one per Cent on the product of the duties on the Spirits which shall be distilled within your district, including those on stills.”

Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington, March 21, 1791.

(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00299)



Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington

March 21, 1791

“The President for the sake of uniformity has directed that the Officers to be appointed by the Supervisors be denominated Collectors of the Revenue. The allowance to each Collector will be two percent on the sums by him collected from the duties on Spirits distilled from foreign materials, and four per Cent on those collected from the duties on Spirits distilled from Domestic Materials.”

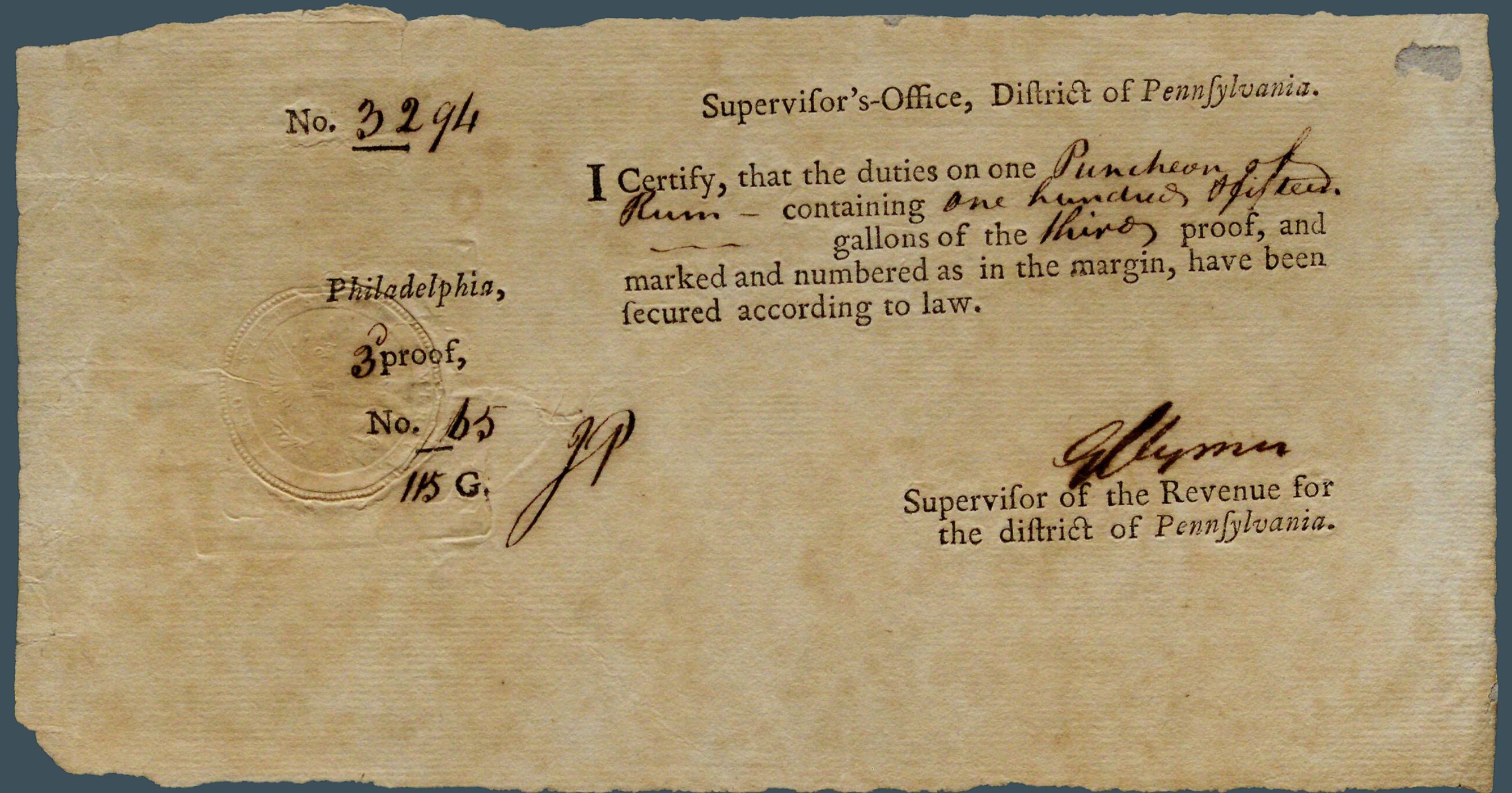
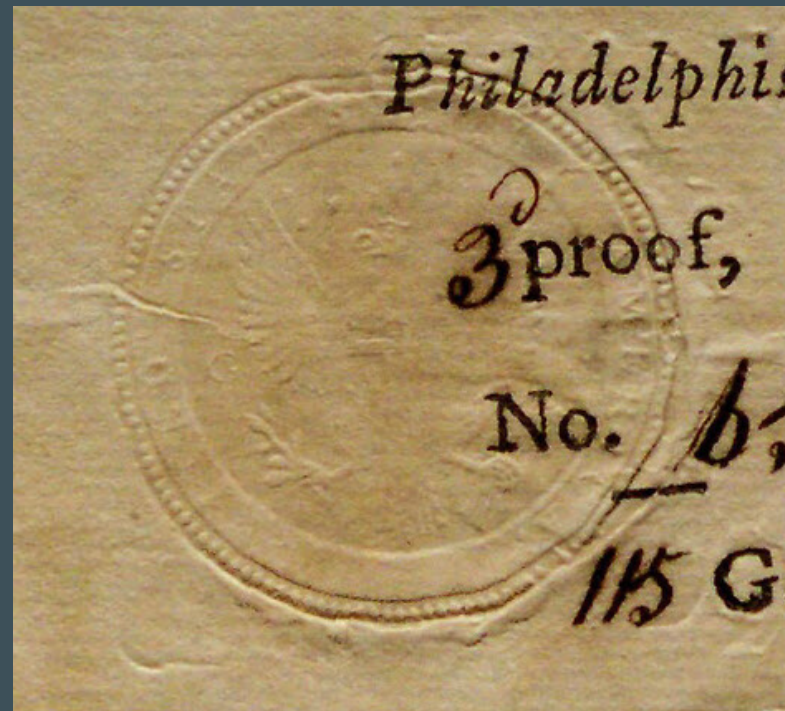
Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington, March 21, 1791.

(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00299)



Certification of Duty Payment on Rum

ca. 1791-1794



George Clymer, [Certification of duty payment on rum], ca. 1791-1794.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC00797)

Hamilton to Thomas Mifflin

September 20, 1794

“...there is a large and violent Party which can only be controuled by the application of Force...it is become the more indispensable and urgent to press forward the forces destined to act against the Insurgents with all possible activity and Energy.”

War Department
Sept. 20 1794

The Intelligence received from the Western Counties of Pennsylvania, which comes down to the 15th Inst, and announces as far as it was then known, the result of the meetings of the People in the several Townships, and Districts to express their sense on the Question of submission or resistance to the Laws - while it shews a great proportion of the Inhabitants of those Counties disposed to pursue the path of Duty, shews also, that there is a large and violent Party which can only be controuled by the application of Force - This being the result, it is become the more indispensable and urgent to press forward the forces destined to act against the Insurgents with all possible activity and Energy. The advanced season leaves no time to spare, and it is extremely important to afford speedy protection to the Well disposed, and to prevent the preparation and accumulation of greater means of Resistance, and the extension of combinations to abet

the

Alexander Hamilton to Thomas Mifflin, September 20, 1794.

(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07920)



Washington's Address to Congress

November 1794

Fellow citizens of the Senate, and of the
House of Representatives.

When we call to mind the gra-
cious indulgence of Heaven, by which
the American people became a nation,
when we survey the general prosperity
of our Country, and look forward to
the riches, power and happiness, to which
it seems destined; with the deepest re-
gret do I announce to you, that dur-
ing your recess, some of the Citizens
of the United States have been found
capable of an insurrection. It is due, how-
ever, to the character of our govern-
ment, and to its stability, which can
not be shaken by the enemies of order,
freely to unfold the course of this event.

During the Session of 1790

George Washington, [Sixth annual address
to Congress], November 1794.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC01054)



Washington's Address to Congress

November 1794

“...it is probable that in a commotion like the present..., the purposes of mischief and revenge may not be laid aside; the stationing of a small force for a certain period in the four western counties of Pennsylvania, will be indispensable; whether we contemplate the situation of those, who are connected with the execution of the laws; or of others, who may have exposed themselves by an honorable attachment to them.”

George Washington, [Sixth annual address
to Congress], November 1794.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC01054)



Washington's Address to Congress

November 1794

“It has demonstrated, that our prosperity rests on solid foundations; by furnishing an additional proof, that my fellow citizens understand the true principles of government and liberty: that they feel their inseparable union: that notwithstanding all the devices which have been used to sway them from their interest and duty, they are now as ready to maintain the authority of the laws against licentious invasions.”



George Washington, [Sixth annual address
to Congress], November 1794.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC01054)

Washington's Pardon

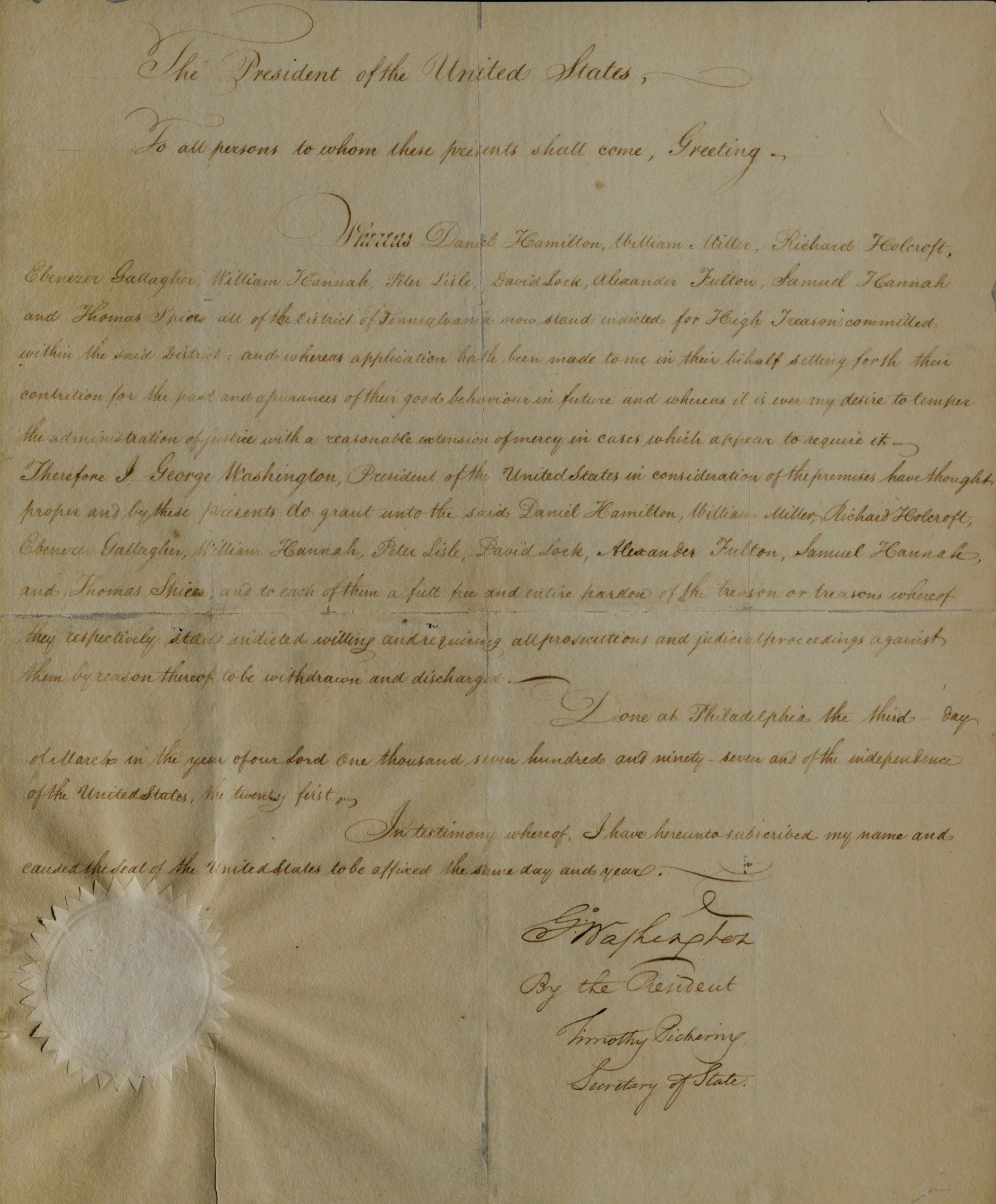
1797

“Therefore I, George Washington, President of the United States in consideration of the premises have thought proper and by these presents do grant unto the said..., and to each of them a full free and entire pardon of the treason or treasons whereof they respectively stand indicted willing and requiring all prosecutions and judicial proceedings against them by reason thereof to be withdrawn and discharged.”



George Washington, [Presidential pardon of the ten ringleaders of the Whiskey Rebellion, who had been convicted of high treason], 1797.

(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC08072)



The United States Great Seal

1808-1809



Peter Bateman and William Bateman, *George III Silver
Consular Seal with Ivory Turned Handle*, 1808-1809.
(Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-1983.0017)

The United States Great Seal



Seraphim Masi, American Silver Skippet, c. 1840.
(Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-1980.0013)



Unknown, Dinner Plate from a Chinese Export Porcelain Orange Fitzhugh Eagle-Decorated Part Dinner Service, c. 1800-1820.
(Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-1990.0016.1-10)



Michael Allison, Federal Inlaid and Figured Mahogany Linen Press, c. 1800-1810.
(Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-1966.0111)



John Blatteau, Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room, 1985.
(Diplomatic Reception Rooms, RR-The Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room)



Upcoming Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: July 6 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Dr. Adam Laats (Binghamton University) to discuss a 1796 civics textbook, *A Plain Political Catechism*.

BOOK BREAKS: June 4 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Alice Baumgartner will discuss her book, *South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War*.

