

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1810.

No. 752.

WILKINSON.

from the Documents accompanying the Report of the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of Brigadier General Wilkinson.

relative to the fourth point of enquiry, to wit: the conduct of Gen. Wilkinson, as Brigadier General of the Army of the United States.

(CONTINUED.)

P.

Captain Peter's Deposition.

George Peter, of Georgetown, appeared before the committee in the capitol, on Thursday the 12th of April, 1810, and made on oath the following statement:

Interrogatory 1. What do you know relative to Wilkinson's having directed and effected the transport of a sum of money, by captain Moses Hooke, military agent for the United States, for transportation of private property from Baltimore to Pittsburg, in the year 1805?

Answer. General Wilkinson, in April or May, directed me to pay to one or two waggoners transportation of property from Baltimore to Pittsburg. I informed the general that as a detachment I had paid all the waggoners employed by me for the command. He gave me an order to captain Moses Hooke, agent for the general first paying the transportation of articles brought on in the same waggons myself. I know that the goods thus transported and paid for by the said captain Hooke, were to the order of general Wilkinson, was property and no way appertaining to the service. The amount may be ascertained by reference to the books of the accounting office. Payment was made to a man by the name of

On our arrival at Massack, captain Hooke was furnished with a tent, by the order of general Wilkinson, for storing the aforesaid baggage which was also transported from Massack to St. Louis, in public boats, which occasioned the expense of an additional boat for the transportation of the public property.

Interrogatory 2. What do you know relative to general Wilkinson's detaining the troops at Louisville in the winter of 1809, for the purpose of transporting a quantity of horses belonging to general Wilkinson.

Answer. A detachment consisting of six companies embarked on board of about twenty Kennerly boats, arrived at Louisville, in the morning of the 27th of February, and continued there till the evening of the 28th, waiting the arrival of Morrison, with general Wilkinson's horses, nine or ten in number. This delay was by the order of general Wilkinson. These horses were the private property of general Wilkinson, and were fed and taken care of at public expense, until their arrival at New Orleans, which was the last of March; also, that a public boat was chartered for the accommodation of said horses, at the expense of not less than one hundred dollars. On their arrival at New Orleans, the said horses were delivered to the order of colonel Parker. In the month of May of the same year, four teams of horses were purchased by Abraham Robbins, military agent at New Orleans, for the use of the United States; that three of them were very indifferent.

Interrogatory 3. What do you know relative to the fact of Columbia, Washington county.

Answer. Georgetown, April 28th, 1810. Came captain Peter before me, a justice of peace for the county of said, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God to the truth of the foregoing statement.

Sworn to, before THOS. COCHRAN.

W.

Deposition of Captain Williams.

At the port of Baltimore on the 24th of January 1809, on board the schooner Wolf, in company with general Wilkinson; fifty barrels of flour were put on board belonging to the general. On our arrival at Charleston, flour was taken from the schooner, and put on board the U. S. brig Hornet, in which vessel we sailed for Havana. Of the flour taken to the Havana, fifty barrels were presented to the general of the Spanish government, by general Wilkinson.

Interrogatory. What do you believe was the quantity of flour put on board the brig Hornet, at Charleston, and taken to the Havana?

Answer. I do not know that all the flour shipped from Baltimore, was taken to the Havana, but that more than one half did arrive there: the barrels may have been gotten rid of at Charleston.

WM. E. WILLIAMS, Captain 5th Infantry.

Washington County, ss.

On this 14th April, 1810, before the subscriber, justice of the peace for said county, appeared WM. E. WILLIAMS, and made oath in due form, that the facts stated in the within writing are true to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn before, and subscribed, DAN'L RAPINE.

H.

Deposition of John Smith.

Personally appeared before the committee, John Smith, chief clerk in the department of war, and on oath made the following statement—

That in the summer of the year 1808, sometime after the determination of the military court of enquiry, called for the investigation of the conduct of general Wilkinson, the papers relating to that trial were in the war office, lying on the secretary's table. In a few weeks after the papers were in that office, general Wilkinson came there and after transacting some business, and as he was apparently about to leave the office, took up the said papers from the table, observing at the time, that they belonged to him, or that they were promised to him; on which he took the papers out of the office, since which time I have not seen the said papers in the office or heard of their being there.

Interrogatory I. Did you object to gen. Wilkinson's taking off the papers?

Answer. I do not recollect making any objection, as the transaction was sudden, and the general represented that they belonged to him, or had been promised to him, I do not remember which expression.

Interrogatory II. Did you inform the secretary of war of the transaction?

Answer. I believe I did—and that he made no reply, to my recollection.

Washington county, ss.

District of Columbia.

Personally appeared before me, one of the justices of the peace for the said county, John Smith, chief clerk in the department of war, and made solemn oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the within and foregoing statement and answers to the foregoing interrogatories, are true to the best of his recollection and belief.

Sworn this 17th April, 1810, before

WILLIAM THORNTON.

Letter from the Accountant.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

Accountant's Office, April 19, 1810.

SIR,

Agreeably to the request contained in your letter of yesterday, I have the honor to enclose you copies of the following accounts, required by the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of brigadier general James Wilkinson, viz.

A. Copy of the account, payment of which was ordered by general Wilkinson, for freight of flour, &c. from Baltimore to Charleston.

B. Copies of accounts for cartage of baggage by Frush & others, to Pittsburg, in 1805.

C. Copy of the account of Frederick Sandhagen for horses sold the United States, and of general Wilkinson's order for payment.

D. Copy of vouchers, Nos. 19, 23 and 24 for payments made by lieutenant George Peter, for expenses attending the march of a detachment of troops from Baltimore, Washington City and Carlisle, to Pittsburg, in 1805.

In reply to your request that I would furnish copies of any other documents or papers in my office which I might think would aid in the enquiry, I beg leave to suggest that as the accounts of general Wilkinson, in relation to this department, are of considerable extent, it would be impracticable to furnish copies of the whole, within any reasonable period, if they were required; this however, it is presumable, is not necessary. Any particular part, or any vouchers in relation to any particular circumstance which the committee may require, shall be furnished without delay.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. SIMMONS,

Accountant Dep. War.

The Honorable WILLIAM EUS

ris, Secretary of War.

(A.)

Copy of the account, payment of which was ordered by General Wilkinson, for freight of flour, &c. from Baltimore to Charleston.

No. 12.

THE UNITED STATES,

To Levin Jones,

Feb. 23, 1809. For freight of the sch'r Wolf, from Baltimore to Charleston, employed for the transportation of general James Wilkinson, major Saunders, major Robinson, captain Williams, consul Anderson, 25 non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, with their baggage, &c. &c. &c. Dollars 1000

For three day's demurrage at Norfolk, a 30 dollars per day, 90

For 3 day's detention, pilot at Norfolk, a 3 dollars per day, 9

Dollars, 1099

(B.)

Copies of accounts for Cartage of Baggage by Frush & others, to Pittsburg in 1805.

No. 7.

Abstract of disbursements made for the transport-

ation of general James Wilkinson's Baggage and Stores, from Washington City, Baltimore and Philadelphia, to Pittsburg.

1805,

April 27, This sum paid James Dickey, per voucher, No. 1, 72 12

—, This sum paid S. Thompson, per voucher No. 2, 85 44

May 7, This sum paid John Frush, per voucher No. 3, 31 50

6, This sum paid John Phillips, per voucher No. 4, 58 50

11, This sum paid James Cook, per voucher No. 5, 15 40

Dollars, 262 96

The assistant military agents, will discharge the above, and place to account of public transport for military service. Pittsburg, May 14th, 1805.

(Signed) JA: WILKINSON.

I certify, that the above is a copy of voucher No. 7, accompanied with copies of the subordinate vouchers No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, for payment made by captain Moses Hooke, assistant military agent, at Pittsburg, and charged by him to the United States.

WM. SIMMONS,

Acct. Dep. War.

Department of War, Accountant's Office, April 19th, 1810.

No. 1.

THE UNITED STATES, To James Dickey, Dr. To transporting sundry packages (general Wilkinson's baggage) from Washington City to Pittsburg, weighing 1,202 lbs. a 6 dollars per hundred weight, 72 12

Dollars, 72 12.

Received, Pittsburg, April 27th, 1805, of lieutenant Moses Hooke, seventy-two dollars and twelve cents in full of the above account. Signed duplicates.

(Signed) JAMES DICKEY.

No. 2.

The United States, To Samuel Thompson, Dr. To transporting sundry packages (general Wilkinson's baggage) from Washington City to Pittsburg, weighing 1,351 lbs. a 6 dollars per hundred lbs. \$ 81 6

To ditto, one box, No. 17, not included in invoice, wt. 73 lbs. a 6 cents, 4 38

Dollars, 85 44

Received, Pittsburg, April 27th, 1805, of lieutenant Moses Hooke, eighty five dollars and forty four cents, in full of the above account. Signed duplicates.

(Signed) JOSEPH RYAN,

For SAMUEL THOMPSON.

Witness,

(Signed) N. PINKNEY.

No. 3.

The United States, To John Frush, Dr. To transporting 700 lbs. of general Wilkinson's baggage, from Baltimore to Pittsburg, a dolls. 4 50, Dollars, 31 50

Received, Pittsburg, May 7th, 1805, of captain Moses Hooke, thirty-one dollars and fifty cents, in full of the above account. Signed duplicates.

(Signed) JOHN FRUSH.

No. 4.

The United States, To John Phillips, Dr. 1805. May 6th. To transporting sundry packages from Baltimore to Pittsburg, (gen. Wilkinson's baggage) weighing 1,300 lbs. a dolls. 4 50 per 100 lbs. \$ 58 50

Received, Pittsburg, May 6th, 1805, of captain Moses Hooke, fifty-eight dollars and fifty cents in full of the above account. Signed duplicates.

(Signed) JOHN PHILLIPS.

No. 5.

The United States, To James Cook, Dr. To transporting from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, one cask (general Wilkinson's baggage) weighing 280 net, a 5 50, Dollars, 15 40

Received, Pittsburg, May 11th, 1805, of captain Moses Hooke, fifteen dollars and forty cents, in full of the above account. Signed duplicates.

I certify that the above and foregoing, contains copies of subordinate vouchers No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, to voucher No. 7, (a copy of which is hereunto annexed) for payments made by captain Moses

Hooke, assistant military agent at Pittsburg, and charged by him to the United States.

WM. SIMMONS,

Acct. Dep. War.

Department of War, Accountant's Office, April 19th, 1809.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Washington, August 11, 1810.

GENTLEMEN,

I will thank you to give publicity to the enclosed address to the people, and I shall feel myself obliged by all, whose liberality and candor may incline them to republish it.

With respect, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JAS. WILKINSON.

Messrs. Smith & Gales, Editors of the N. Intelligencer.

To the people of the United States.

Although I had resolved not to obtrude myself upon your attention, until I could have invited it to the irresistible force of my vindication. I am driven from my purpose by the proceedings of the late committee of Congress, the sole object of the majority of which appears to have been, to search for matter to criminate my character and conduct; the report made to the House consisting of inculpatory evidence alone, instead of being confined to their journals, is now under publication, and will naturally tend to excite your prejudices, before I have been heard in my defence; what man among you, who has been engaged in the public service more than a quarter of a century, whose acts and offices have been as varied as mine, could withstand an occult, inculpatory enquiry, if backed by the power and pur e of the nation? My cause is the cause of all, and if the measures of injustice aimed at me be suffered to prevail, who among you will be safe, from the most exalted to the most obscure? I conjure you, then, defend yourselves against the dangers, and your country against the odium of having sacrificed a fellow citizen to the malice of those, who have been combined for the destruction of your government; for, bear in mind, should the precedent obtain, that the House of Representatives have power to institute enquiries into the conduct of individuals, and to publish the testimony they may collect, before the accused has been heard, no man will be safe against the jealousies of artful, unprincipled, popular declaimers, who professing the public good, seek only the gratification of their ambition and revenge. The ruin of an individual, taken in the abstract, is of little importance, but the example may infuse a deadly poison into your councils, and reanimate the dormant hopes of those who conspired against your interest, your happiness, and your union; for treason, like the leprosy, is incurable, and the heart once corrupted by its poisons, is lost to patriotism and public virtue for ever.

Little discernment is requisite to trace the source of the vilifications I have incurred. You witnessed the rise and progress of my persecutions, coeval with Burr's conspiracy; and coextensive with its affiliations. I did not involve the nation in a war on the Sabine, to give effect to this conspiracy, though my orders warranted it in the repulsion of the Spaniards; and on my own discretion, I defeated the wicked plot, disgraced the prominent actors, and blasted the sinister aspirations of numerous and powerful associates; for these signal services, I am more signally persecuted, than any man, public or private, in times ancient or modern. The conduct which, without bloodshed, saved the country from the dangerous encroachments of a foreign power, and from lawless usurpation and a civil war, was palpable and specific; it cannot be expunged from the national records, and you yourselves are witnesses of it. The crimes imputed to me are speculative and legendary—originating with loose and corrupt men, some of them acknowledged traitors, and supported in the first instance, by public malcontents and personal enemies: yet these men, with indefatigable industry and shameless malignity, have employed every engine and every art, to awaken suspicion and excite your jealousies; and a life devoted to my country from the dawn of the revolution, has become a theme of declamatory invective: I am denounced in solemn deliberative bodies, by men of your election, without proof on their part, or any hope of redress on mine. It is notorious that justice has been denied me, and that I have been excluded in a land of liberty—my native country, the ordinary rights of the most humble citizen.

You have beheld a distinguished character step forth the avenger of Burr's discomfiture, and associating himself with vile informers, denounce me in the dawn of the conspiracy, before a single fact had been developed; and to justify his denunciations, you have witnessed the ruthless vengeance, with which this political teaser has since pursued me, at the expense of every thing sacred to delicacy, to truth and candor. You have seen his faithful coadjutor, the legate of Burr's resentments, a man who has sealed his own infamy in the attempt to effect my ruin, come forward with a volume of manufactured reports, falsehoods and perjuries, fitted to the occasion, and you have be-