

Source: Peabody Essex Museum, JOSEPH PEABODY FAMILY PAPERS, 1721-1936.
Box 1, Folder 6 "Cincinnatus (Ship) papers" MH483-MH485

Contents:

1. Transcript by Winston Du
2. Digital Scan of Original Pages

Transcript:

483:

We William Haskell and Hezekiah Wilkins of lawful age both of Salem in the commonwealth of Massachusetts testify and say that we were mates, viz, William Haskell first mate and Hezekiah Wilkins Second mate on board the Ship Cincinnatus of Salem aforesaid whereof John Endicott of Danvers in Said commonwealth of Massachusetts was master, and Sailed from Salem aforesaid in May Anne Domini 1802 for Sumatra where we arrived in October following, where we loaded the Said Ship with pepper, from thence we Sailed for Salem, but on our passage being in want of provisions we put into the Isle of France [Mauritius] on the eleventh or twelfth of May 1803, while we were at the Isle of France Captn Endicott informed us that he had sold the said Ship's cargo of pepper to Messrs Pitot Leckerio & Icery of the said Isle of France at twenty sous p[er] pound and that he was to deliver the Same to messrs Dugray & Cosin agents of the Said Pitoto Leckerio & Icery at L'Orient in France, and that the same was to be transported to Said L'Orient in our said ship at the risque of the owner Captn Peabody, and if prevented from delivering the same by cap-

Commented [WD1]: French currency

ture, loss from dangers of the Sea or any other unavoidable casualty the Said pepper was not to be paid for. Before we sailed from the Isle of France the Said Endicott agreed with us and the rest of the crew to proceed in Said Ship to Said L'Orient at the same rate of wages for which we originally Shipped- we sailed from said Isle of France with said ship and cargo for said L'Orient in the month of may 1803, & proceeded on our said voyage for L'orient until the thirty-first day of July following, when being in Lt. 12,50 north and Long. 22 west, five men of war which afterwards proved to be English, appeared and gave us chase & fired a shot to bring us to. at first they displayed French colours, but as they came alongside they took in those & hoisted English colours, this conduct led the captain & us to supposed that there was war between France & Great Britain, and fearing if that should be the case they should find the said Endicott agreement with said Pitot, Leckerio & Icery & their letters to their

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said agents on board our said ship they would capture and carry her into some English port, the captain therefore, before the said ships came alongside, delivered the said Haskell a packett which he said contained the aforesaid agreement with the Said Pitot, Leclerio & Icery the **bill of lading** of the said cargo, and their letters to their said agents at L'Orient aforesaid, and directed

Commented [WD2]: a detailed list of a shipment of goods in the form of a receipt given by the carrier to the person consigning the goods.

him the said Haskell to sink them on a signal to be given by the said Endicott after the officers from the said Ships of war were on board if he found them determined to make a strict search immediately afterwards a boat with two officers was dispatched from the commodore's Ship, who came on board the Cincinnatus and enquired of Capt'n Endicott, from whence he came & where he was bound, he answered he was from the Isle of France and bound to L'Orient, they then informed Capt. Endicott that war had commenced between France and England, and ordered him to veer his said Ship about bring her under the Commodore's lee. They then demanded of Capt'n Endicott our said Ship's papers and he went into the Cabin with them to show them the said papers accordingly as they went down the companion way we heard them say, in a low voice, by God he is a Frenchman, After Capt. Endicott and the officers from the man of war had been below about a quarter of an hour Capt. Endicott gave the Signal agreed on which was the ringing of the cabin bell & the said Haskell immediately sunk the said package and letters which had been delivered to him by said Capt. Endicott as aforesaid, the package & letters aforesaid had been previously put into a bag with some shot and suspended by a rope yarn in the rudder case which the said Haskell cut, on the signal being as aforesaid – the officers of the said men of war remained onboard our ship about an hour, and in about an hour after they left our ship, a signal was given from the Commodore's ship, that we might

Commented [WD3]: downwind side

proceed on our voyage. While the said officers were on board our said ship, they observed to Captn Endicott, that the Bay of Biscay was full of British cruisers, and that many of the French ports in said Bay were blockaded. After the said squadron had left us, Capt. Endicott consulted with us what was best to be done whether to proceed on our voyage to L'Orient or to return directly to America, considering that our papers had

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been destroyed, that there was war between France & England, that there were many British cruisers in the Bay of Biscay & that possibly the port L'Orient might be blockaded, and also that if we should attempt to go to L'Orient we should in all probability be captured and carried into some British port and even if we should arrive at L'Orient, having lost our papers, there would be no person there on whom we could call to receive our cargo or fulfill the contract which Capt. Endicott had made at the Isle of France, we of opinion that it would be most advisable not to proceed for L'Orient as we had intended, but to return directly to America. We accordingly proceeded directly for Salem, where we arrived the eleventh day of September AD 1803. We never recovered our papers aforesaid which were sunk as aforesaid. We were proceeding on our voyage to L'Orient when we met with the British squadron aforesaid, and we have no doubt we should have continued our said voyage direct

to L'Orient but of the information given us by the officers of said British squadron that there was war. and the case of our papers as aforesaid, & before this time we never heard an[...] in- [formation] from the master or any one on board, that we should not continue our voyage to L'Orient. And we further testify that our adventures were sold at the Isle of France with the rest of the cargo & for the same price which we then thought & until our arrival at Salem continued to think was a greater price than it would bring in America.

William Haskell, Hezekiah Wilkins

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Essex. This twenty ninth day of November in the year of our Lord on thousand eight hundred & three William Haskell and Hezekiah Wilkins above named personally appeared before us two of the Justices of the peace within and for the county of Essex, Luorum unus, and after being carefully examined & duly cautioned to testify the whole truth and nothing but the truth, made oath that the foregoing deposition by them subscribed is true. Taken at the request of Joseph Peabody of Salem in said county of Essex merchant to be preserved in perpetual remembrance of the thing, & we not knowing any persons interested in the property to which the aforesaid deposition related did not notify any person to attend the above captain.

Commented [WD4]: The 307,824 pounds of pepper would be about \$60530 according to historical statistics

We William Haskell and Hezekiah Wilkins of lawful age both of Salem in the commonwealth of Massachusetts testify and say that we were mates, viz, William Haskell first mate and Hezekiah Wilkins second mate on board the ship *Cincinnati* of Salem aforesaid whereof John Indicott of Danvers in said commonwealth of Massachusetts was master, and sailed from Salem aforesaid in May Anno Domini 1802 for Sumatra where we arrived in October following, where we loaded the said ship with pepper, from thence we sailed for Salem, but on our passage being in want of provisions we put into the Isle of France on the eleventh or twelfth of May 1803, while we were at the Isle of France Captⁿ Indicott informed us that he had sold the said ship's cargo of pepper to Mess^{rs} Pitot Leclerio & Scery of the said Isle of France at twenty sous per pound and that he was to deliver the same to Mess^{rs} Dugray & Co. agents of the said Pitot Leclerio & Scery at L'Orient in France, and that the same was to be transported to said L'Orient in our said ship at the request of the owner Captⁿ Peabody, and if prevented from delivering the same by capture, loss from dangers of the sea or any other unavoidable casualty the said pepper was not to be paid for. Before we sailed from the Isle of France the said Indicott agreed with us and the rest of the crew to proceed in said ship to said L'Orient at the same rate of wages for which we originally shipped. We sailed from said Isle of France with said ship and cargo for said L'Orient in the month of May 1803, & proceeded on our said voyage for L'Orient until the thirty first day of July following, when being in Lat. 12, 50 north and long. 22 west five men of war which afterwards proved to be English, appeared and gave us chase & fired a shot to bring us to. at first they displayed French colours, but as they came along side they took in those & hoisted English colours. This conduct led the captain & us to suppose that there was war between France & Great Britain, and fearing if that should be the case & they should find the said Indicott's agreement with said Pitot, Leclerio & Scery & their letters to their
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said Agents on board our said ship they would capture and carry her into some English port, the captain therefore, before the said ships came along side, delivered to the said Haskell a packet which he said contained the aforesaid agreement with the said Pilot, Leclerc & Cory the bill of lading of the said cargo, and their letters to their said Agents at L'Orient aforesaid, and directed him the said Haskell to sink them on a signal to be given by the said Endicott after the officers from the said ships of war were on board if he found them determined to make a strict search. Immediately afterwards a boat with two officers was dispatched from the Commodore's ship, who came on board the Cincinnati and enquired of Capt. Endicott, from whence he came & where he was bound, he answered he was from the Isle of France and bound to L'Orient, they then informed Capt. Endicott that war had commenced between France and England, and ordered him to veer his ship about and bring her under the Commodore's lee. They then demanded of Capt. Endicott our said ship's papers and he went into the Cabin with them to show them the said papers accordingly as they went down the companion way we heard them say, in a low voice, by God he is a Frenchman. After Capt. Endicott and the officers from the man of war had been below about a quarter of an hour Capt. Endicott gave the signal agreed on which was the ringing of the cabin bell & the said Haskell immediately sunk the said package and letters which had been delivered to him by said Capt. Endicott as aforesaid, the package & letters aforesaid had been previously put into a bag with some shot and suspended by a rope yarn in the rudder case which the said Haskell cut, on the signal being given as aforesaid. The officers of the said man of war remained on board our ship about an hour, and in about an hour after they left our ship, a signal was given from the Commodore's ship, that we might proceed on our voyage. While the said officers were on board our said ship, they observed to Capt. Endicott, that the Bay of Biscay was full of British cruizers, and that many of the French ports in said Bay were blockaded. After the said Squadron had left us, Capt. Endicott consulted with us what was best to be done whether to proceed on our voyage to L'Orient or to return directly to America, considering that our papers had

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been destroyed, that there was war between France & England, that there were many British cruizers in the Bay of Biscay & that possibly the port of L'Orient might be blockaded, and also that if we should attempt to go to L'Orient we should in all probability be captured and carried into some British port and even if we should arrive at L'Orient, having lost our papers, there would be no person there on whom we could call to receive our cargo or fulfil the contract which Capt. Endicott had made at the Isle of France, we were of opinion that it would be most advisable not to proceed for L'Orient as we had intended, but to return directly to America. We accordingly proceeded directly for Salem, where we arrived the eleventh day of September A.D. 1803. We never recovered our papers aforesaid which were sunk as aforesaid. We were proceeding on our voyage to L'Orient when we met with the British Squadron aforesaid, and we have no doubt we should have continued our said voyage direct to L'Orient but for the information given us by the officers of said British Squadron that there was war. and the loss of our papers aforesaid, & before this time we never heard any intimation from the master or any one on board, that we should not continue our voyage to L'Orient. And we further testify that our adventures were sold at the Isle of France with the rest of the cargo & for the same price which we then thought & until our arrival at Salem continued to think was a greater price than it would bring in America.

William Haskell
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Essex. This twenty ninth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & three William Haskell and Hezekiah Wilkins above named personally appeared before us two of the Justices of the peace within and for the county of Essex, In quorum unius, and after being carefully examined & duly cautioned to testify the whole truth and nothing but the truth, made oath that the foregoing deposition by them subscribed is true. Taken at the request of Joseph Peabody of Salem in said county of Essex merchant to be preserved in perpetual remembrance of the thing, & we not knowing any persons interested in the property to which the aforesaid deposition relates did not notify any person to attend the above caption.

John Freadwell Justice of Peace
Saharod Tucker J. Quorum Honoris

Essex. Recd. Jan'y. 23. 1804 & recorded & examined by John Pickering Reg^r
Essex. August 18. 1804 The foregoing is a true copy from the Records in the Registry of Deeds for said County, Book 173, leaf 132
Attest. John Pickering Reg^r