

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF COMMITTEES  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
Held at Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia,  
FROM JUNE 18 TO JUNE 25, 1776.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

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PHILADELPHIA, *Tuesday, June 18, 1776.*

This day a number of gentlemen met at Carpenter's Hall, in Philadelphia, being deputed by the committees of several of the counties of this province, to join in provincial conference in consequence of a circular letter from the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, inclosing the resolutions of the continental congress of the 15th May last.

Col. M'Kean, as chairman of the city committee, declared the motives which had induced that committee to propose the holding of the present conference, and then laid on the table a certificate of deputies appointed to attend on the part of said committee.

Returns were also given in from the counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Berks, Northampton, York, Cumberland, Bedford and Westmoreland, by the deputies of said counties, by which it appears the following gentlemen were appointed, \*viz :

*For the Committee of the City, &c., of Philadelphia.*

Dr. Benjamin Franklin,*	Capt. Joseph Moulder,
Col. Thomas M'Kean,	Mr. William Lowman,
Mr. Christopher Marshall, Sen.,	Dr. Benjamin Rush,
Major John Bayard,	Mr. Christopher Ludwig,
Col. Timothy Matlack,	Mr. James Milligan,
Col. Joseph Dean,	Mr. Jacob Schriener,
Capt. Francis Gurney,	Capt. Sharp Delaney,
Major William Coates,	Major John Cox,
Mr. George Schlosser,	Capt. Benjamin Loxley,
Capt. Jonathan B. Smith,	Capt. Samuel Brewster,
Capt. George Goodwin,	Capt. Joseph Blewer,
Mr. Jacob Barge,	Mr. William Robinson.
Mr. Samuel C. Morris,	

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\*All the members attended except those marked with an \*.

*For the Committee of Philadelphia County.*

Col. Henry Hill,	Major James Potts,*
Col. Robert Lewis,	Major Robert Loller,
Dr. Enoch Edwards,	Mr. Joseph Mather,
Col. William Hamilton,*	Mr. Matthew Brooks,
Col. John Bull,	Mr. Edward Bartholomew.*
Col. Frederick Antis,	

*For the Committee of Bucks County.*

John Kidd, Esq.,	Mr. James Wallace,
Major Henry Wynkoop,	Col. Joseph Hart.
Mr. Benjamin Segle,	

*For the Committee of Chester County.*

Col. Richard Thomas,	Col. William Montgomery,
Major William Evans,	Col. Hugh Lloyd,
Col. Thomas Hockley,	Richard Reiley, Esq.,
Major Caleb Davis,	Col. Evan Evans,
Elisha Price, Esq.,	Col. Lewis Grono,
Mr. Samuel Fairlamb,	Major Sketchley Morton.
Capt. Thomas Levis,	

*For the Committee of Lancaster County.*

William Atlee, Esq.,	Capt. Andrew Graaff,
Mr. Lodowick Lowman,	Mr. William Brown,
Col. Bartram Galbraith,	Mr. John Smiley,
Col. Alexander Lowrey,	Major James Cunningham.
Major David Jenkins,	

*For the Committee of Berks County.*

Col. Jacob Morgan,	Col. Daniel Hunter,
Col. Henry Haller,	Col. Valentine Eakerd,
Col. Mark Bird,	Col. Nicholas Lutz,
Dr. Bodo Otto,	Capt. Joseph Hiester,
Mr. Benjamin Spiker,	Mr. Charles Shoemaker.

*For the Committee of Northampton County.*

Robert Levers, Esq.,	Nicholas Depue, Esq.,
Col. Neigal Gray,	Mr. David Deshler,
John Weitzel, Esq.,	Mr. Benjamin Dupue.

*For the Committee of York County.*

Col. James Smith,	Col. William Rankin,
Col. Robert M'Pherson,	Col. Henry Slagle,
Col. Richard M'Allister,	Mr. James Edgar,
Col. David Kennedy,	Mr. John Hay.*
Capt. Joseph Reed,	

*For the Committee of Cumberland County.*

Mr. James M'Lane,	Dr. John Colhoon,
Col. John Allison,*	Mr. John Creigh,
John M'Clay, Esq.,	Mr. Hugh M'Cormick,
William Elliot, Esq.,	Mr. John Harris,
Col. William Clark,	Mr. Hugh Alexander.

*For the Committee of Bedford County.*

Col. David Espy,	Col. John Piper.
Samuel Davidson, Esq.,	

*For the Committee of Westmoreland County.*

Mr. Edward Cook,	Mr. James Perry.
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A quorum of the members from the above counties being met, except that only two appeared from Chester county, proceeded to the choice of a president, vice-president and two secretaries, and Col. Thomas McKean was chosen President; Col. Joseph Hart, vice-President; Jonathan B. Smith, Samuel C. Morris, secretaries.

Then the conference adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

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*June 18, 1776, 3 o'clock P. M.*

The conference met, present as above, and adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

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*Wednesday, June 19, 1776.*

The conference met, present 12 committees, 97 members. A return was delivered at the table from Northumberland, and the deputies attended, being Col. William Cook, Alexander Hunter, Esq., Messieurs John Weitzel, Robert Martin, Matthew Brown, As did those also from Chester.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, unanimously, That in taking the sense of this conference on any question which may come before them, the city and counties respectively have one vote.

On motion, it was ordered, That the resolution of the continental congress of 15th May last, recommending the total suppression of all authority under the king of Great Britain, &c., be read, and it was read accordingly, and is in the words following, viz :

IN CONGRESS, *May 15, 1776.*

\* WHEREAS, his Britannic majesty, in conjunction with the lords and commons of Great Britain, has, by a late act of parliament, excluded the inhabitants of these united colonies from the protection of his crown. AND WHEREAS, no answer whatever to the humble petitions of the colonies for redress of grievances and reconciliation with Great Britain, has been, or is likely to be given, but the whole force of that kingdom, aided by foreign mercenaries, is to be exerted for the destruction of the good people of these colonies. AND WHEREAS it appears absolutely irreconcilable to reason and good conscience, for the people of these colonies now to take the oaths and affirmations necessary for the support of any government under the crown of Great Britain; and it is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of government under the authority of the people of the colonies for the preservation of internal peace, virtue and good order, as well as for the defence of their lives, liberties and properties against the hostile invasions and cruel depredations of their enemies; Therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the respective assemblies and conventions of the united colonies, where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs has been hitherto established to adopt such government as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constituents in particular, and America in general.

By order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK,  
*President.*

By special order of the same was read a second time, and after mature consideration,

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the said resolution of congress of 15th May last, is fully approved by this conference.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the present government of this province is not competent to the exigencies of our affairs.

On motion, *Resolved*, N. C. D., That it is necessary that a provincial convention be called by this conference for the express purpose of forming a new government in this province on the authority of the people only.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That a committee be appointed to ascertain the number of members of which the convention ought to consist, and the proportion of representatives for the city and each county be appointed on said committee, except from Westmoreland, which can furnish but one, and the following gentlemen were appointed, viz: Messieurs Bayard, Bull, Kidd, Davis, Atlee, Bird, Matlack, Mather, Hart, Levis, Cunningham, Haller, Gray, Smith, McClean, Espey, Weitzell, Cook, Levers, McAlister, Creigh, Piper, Hunter.

*Resolved*, That the committee now appointed be instructed to fix upon some number, not less than ninety nor more than one hundred and ten, for the whole province. Then the conference adjourned to half after three o'clock P. M.

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June 19, P. M.

The conference met.

A petition from the German associators of the city and liberties of Philadelphia was read, praying that all associators who are taxables may be entitled to vote. Ordered to lie on the table for perusal of the members.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That this conference will now enter into a consideration of the qualifications of electors and of persons who may be elected.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That this conference will immediately resolve itself into a committee of the whole to enter upon said consideration.

The president left the chair.

The president resumed the chair.

Col. Hart reported from the committee of the whole that they had come into two resolutions, which he was ready to report when the conference would receive them.

*Ordered*, That they be received forthwith; then the said resolutions being read and considered were agreed to by the conference without one dissenting voice and are as follows, viz :

*Resolved*, That every associator in the province shall be admitted to a vote for members of the convention in the city or county in which he resides; *provided*, such associator be of the age of twenty-one years, and shall have lived one year in this province immediately preceding the election; and shall have contributed at any time before the passing of this resolve to the payment of either provincial or county taxes, or shall have been rated or assessed towards the same.

*Resolved*, That every person, qualified by the laws of this province to vote for representatives in assembly, shall be admitted to vote for members of the intended convention, provided he shall first take the following test, on oath or affirmation, if thereunto required by any one of the judges or inspectors of the election who are hereby impowered to administer the same :

"I ..... do declare that I do not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to George the third, king of Great Britain, &c., and that I will not, by any means, directly or indirectly, oppose the establishment of a free government in this province by the convention now to be chosen, nor the measures adopted by the congress against the tyranny attempted to be established in these colonies by the court of Great Britain."

*Ordered*, That the committee of the whole have leave to sit this afternoon at three o'clock.

Then the conference adjourned to three o'clock this afternoon.

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June 20, 1776, P. M.

The conference met.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That whereas the county of Westmoreland hath been exempted from the payment of taxes for three years last past, and thereby many persons may

be excluded from a vote at the ensuing election in consequence of the foregoing regulations contrary to the intention thereof, therefore every person of 21 years of age, being a free man residing in said county, shall be admitted to vote, he being an associator and having lived one year in this province next preceding the election, and taking the test aforesaid, if thereunto required.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the election shall be made by ballot in the manner heretofore used in this province at the general elections.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That no person who has been published by any committee of inspection, or the committee of safety in this province, as an enemy to the liberties of America, and has not been restored to the favor of his country shall be permitted to vote at the election of members for said convention.

The conference then adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow A. M.

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*Friday, June 21, 1776.*

The conference met.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That every voter, at the proposed election, shall be a free man, and if thereunto required by any of the judges or inspectors shall, before his vote is received, take the foregoing test.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That any person qualified to vote for members of assembly, by the laws of this province, may be elected a member of convention, provided that he shall have resided at least one year immediately preceding the said election in the city or county for which he shall be chosen, and shall, before he takes his seat in convention, take the following oath or affirmation, viz :

‘I,..... do declare that I do not hold myself bound to bear allegiance to George the third, king of Great Britain, &c., and that I will steadily and firmly at all times promote the most effectual means according to the best of my skill and knowledge, to oppose the tyrannical proceedings of the king and parliament of Great Britain against the American colonies and to establish and support a government in this province on the authority of the people only, &c. That I will oppose any



measure that shall or may in the least interfere with or obstruct the religious principles or practices of any of the good people of this province as heretofore enjoyed also."

*Resolved*, That no person elected to serve as a member of convention, shall take his seat or give his vote, until he shall have made and subscribed the following declaration :

"I,..... do profess faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ his eternal Son, the true God and in the Holy Spirit, one God blessed for evermore; and do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the old and new testament to be given by divine inspiration."

An address and petition from the commanders of the thirteen row gallies in the service of this province, praying to be heard on a difference with the committee of safety, was presented at the table and read.

Ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Moulder, Lollar, Wallace, Hockley, Lowry, Eackard, B. Dupue, McPherson, Clarke, Davidson, Cook and Perry, be a committee to consider of the proper time, place and manner of holding and regulating the ensuing election, and to fix a day for the meeting of the representatives of the people so chosen.

A memorial from the patriotic society of the city of Philadelphia was delivered at the table by a committee from said society, and read by their clerk on special request.

Ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The conference adjourned to three o'clock P. M.

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*June 21, 1776, P. M.*

The conference met.

The committee appointed to ascertain the number and proportion of members to represent the province, and each particular city and county in convention, made their report in the words following, viz :

The committee appointed for, &c., report, that your committee, having conferred together, and endeavored to obtain the best intelligence that can be had, find that full information respecting the number of taxables in each county cannot now be had; and therefore cannot be adopted as a rule in fix-

ing the number of representatives for the city and counties respectively; your committee, however, are satisfied that the number of taxables in the counties respectively does not differ so much as to make it of any probable disadvantage to allow an equal representation from each county; especially as the convention will probably vote by city and counties, (as in the preceding conventions) upon the questions which shall come before them.

We therefore recommend, that it be resolved that eight representatives be sent by the city of Philadelphia, and eight by each county in the province, to the convention. On motion, that the inhabitants of the city be divided from the county of Philadelphia, and that they be not admitted to vote or be voted for, in the election of the county members for the convention.

It was moved that the previous question be put, viz: Whether this question shall be now put?

And it was put accordingly and carried in the negative.

*Resolved*, That this conference approve of the report of the committee.

The conference then adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow A. M.

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*Saturday, June 22, 1776, A. M.*

The conference met.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the determinations of this conference on the representation of the city and of the county of Philadelphia, shall not be drawn into precedent in the future.

An address from the committee of privates of the association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, was delivered in and read, praying this conference to take into their consideration divers matters relating to the present state of this province.

Ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the petitions and addresses from the commanders of the row gallies, the patriotic society, and the committee of privates of the association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia be read a second time, and they were read accordingly.

A paper, being a copy of a minute from the proceedings of the committee of safety of this province, was read, and is in the words following, viz :

IN CONGRESS, *June 20th, 1776.*

Robert Morris, one of the delegates from the province of Pennsylvania, reminded the congress that the assembly of said province had adjourned on the 14th inst. without having been able to carry into execution the resolves of congress of the 3d inst., for raising 6,000 militia for establishing a flying camp. And then informed the congress that their said resolve not being directed in terms to the committee of safety, but addressed to the colony, the said committee were in doubt whether it would be expected from them to execute said resolve, as they are, in recess of assembly, the executive body of this province. He also alledged that if the congress expected the committee to proceed in this business, it would be necessary or adviseable that they should recommend it expressly to them, for under the present circumstances of the province he much doubted if they would be obeyed unless so authorized ; and added, that if the congress did not see proper to take further order in this matter, he hoped the committee of safety would always be held blameless, as they now gave congress this necessary information for the express purpose of having an explicit declaration if they were expected to act in this important business, which they were ready to undertake if so desired. This application was made by Mr. Morris, by order of the committee of safety, and after a debate of a considerable length, and two motions made and seconded, one was withdrawn, the other determined in the negative ; in consequence whereof I have made this memorandum immediately in the spot to appear when it may be necessary, and to prevent blame being cast where it is not merited.

R. MORRIS.

The above is a true state.

JOSEPH HEWES,

E. RUTLEDGE,

T. HOPE.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the consideration of the said petitions and paper be referred to the afternoon.

The conference then adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

June 22, 1776, P. M,

The conference met.

The committee appointed yesterday to consider of the proper time, place and manner of regulating the ensuing election, and to fix a day for the meeting of the representatives so chosen, made their report.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this conference will take into consideration the propriety of dividing all or any of the counties into several districts in which the election shall be held, when the said report shall be considered.

On motion, The said report being read a second time, by paragraphs, was by order recommitted.

The conference then adjourned to eight o'clock to-morrow.

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Sunday, June 23, 1776.

The conference met.

The committee appointed to consider of the proper time, &c., of holding the election, delivered their report at the table, which, being read by order, was unanimously agreed to by the house, and is in the words following, viz :

The committee appointed to consider of the proper time, place and manner of holding an election for members of convention, and the time of the meeting of the persons so chosen, report as followeth : That they appoint Monday the 8th day of July next for electing said members ; that the several counties proceed to choose their respective members at the following places, viz :

For the city and county of Philadelphia, the counties of Bucks, Berks and Bedford, at the usual places of election.

Chester county to be divided into three districts, that is to say :

Chester, Upper Chichester, Lower Chichester, Bethel, Ashton, Concord, Middleton, Thornbury, Birmingham, Nether Providence, Upper Providence, Ridley, Marple, Springfield Darby, Haverford, Newtown, Edgmont and Willistown, being the first district, to be held at Chester.

The second district, London Grove, East and West Marlborough, Kennet, Pennsburgh, New Lynn, New Garden, London-Britain, New London, Londonderry, East and West Not-

tingham, Oxford, East Fallowfield, West Fallowfield, Sadsbury and West Caln, to be held at Chatham, commonly called the Half-way House.

The third district, East and West Fallowfield, East and West Bradford, Charlestown, Tredyffren, Uwchland, Pikeland, Coventry, East and West Nantmill, East Caln, East Town, West Town, Goshen, Vincent, Radnor, to be held at the White Horse.

York county to be divided into five districts, viz :

The first, Yorktown, the townships of York, Manchester, Codorus, Shrewsbury, Windsor and Hellam, to be held at the court house in Yorktown.

The second district, Cumberland, Hamilton's Ban, Streban, Mountjoy, Menallan and Tyrone, to be held at the House of Samuel Gaddis.

The third district, Heidelberg, Berwick, Mountpleasant, Manheim, Paradise and Germany, to be held at Hanover town.

The fourth division, Fawn, Hopewell and Chanceford, to be held at Nicholson's mill.

The fifth division, Dover, Newberry, Warrington, Mannahan, Huntingdon and Reading, to be held at the house of Robert Stevenson.

Northampton county to be divided into four districts.

The first, Easton, William, Lower Saucon, Bethlehem, Forks, Mount Bethel, Plainfield, to be held at Easton

The second district, Northampton, Saltsberg, Upper Saucon, Upper Milford, Maccongy, Weisenberg, Lynn, Whitehall, Heidelberg, to be held at Allen's town.

The third district, Allen, Moore, Chestnuthill, Towamensing, Penn, Lehigh, to be held at Peter Anthony's.

The fourth district, Hamilton, Lower Smithfield, Delaware, Upper Smithfield, to be held at Nicholas Dupue's.

Cumberland county to be divided into three districts, viz :

The first and third divisions, Carlisle, East Pennsborough, Allen, Middleton, West Pennsborough, Newton, Hopewell, to be held at Carlisle.

The second and fifth divisions, Antrim, Peters, Guilford, Hamilton, Thannet, Lurgan, Letterkenny, to be held at Chambersburgh.

The fourth division, Tyrone, Tyboyne, Rye, Milford, Greenwood, Armagh, Lech, Derry, Fermanagh, to be held at Robert Campbell's in Tuscarora.

Northumberland county, to be held at George McCandlish's in Turbert township.

Westmoreland county to be divided into two divisions, that on the south side of Youghagena river, at Spark's fort, and northern district at Hannah's town.

The county of Lancaster to be divided into six districts, viz: in the first, the borough of Lancaster, Lancaster township, Leacock, Warwick, Manheim, Hempfield, Manor, Conestoga, Lampeter, to be held at the court-house in the borough of Lancaster.

The second division, Little Britain, Drummore, Bart, Cole-raine, Martick, Strasburgh and Sadsbury, to be held at James Porter's, Jun.

The third division, Derry, Londonderry, Ralpho, Donnegall, Mountjoy, to be held at Elizabeth Town.

The fourth division, Salisbury, Carnarvon, Brecknock, Earl, Cocolico, to be held at New Holland,

The fifth division, Elizabeth, Heidelberg, Bethel, Lebanon, East Hanover, to be held at Lebanon town.

The sixth division, West Hanover, Paxton, Upper Paxton, to be held at Garber's mill.

And that the electors of every borough, ward or township, in each of the counties, shall meet on Saturday the 6th of July next, between the hours of two and six o'clock in the afternoon, and chuse inspectors to receive the votes from the electors of their boroughs, wards or townships respectively. The place for said electors to be advertised by the county committee, who shall also superintend such elections and make returns of the inspectors chosen to the judges of the general election. And if any district shall neglect to chuse inspectors as aforesaid, in such case the judges of the election shall appoint inspectors for those who so neglect on the morning of the day of the general election; and that each of the said inspectors, on the day of the general election, shall, before he

proceeds to take or receive any votes, take the following oath or affirmation, viz :

“I, A. B., do declare, that I will duly attend the ensuing election during the continuance thereof, and will truly and faithfully assist the judges of said election to prevent all frauds and deceits whatever of electors or others, in carrying on the same, and in causing the poll or votes at such election to be marked off on the respective lists, and fairly cast up,” which oath or affirmation to be administered by any one of the judges.

And that the deputies from the city of Philadelphia, and from each county, shall nominate and appoint three discreet and able members of their respective committees residing within the several districts, to be judges of the general election within said districts ; which said judges, together with the inspectors, shall appoint clerks for taking the polls at the said election ; and the said judges and clerks shall respectively take the same oath or affirmation as is required to be taken by the inspectors, which shall be administered by any one of the judges to the others, they being hereby authorized and appointed to administer the same.

And that the commissioners of the city and counties in this province, when required, shall deliver unto the judges of said election true duplicates of all the taxables in the several districts of their respective counties. And that the judges aforesaid shall, and are hereby required and impowered to act in all cases respecting said elections in the room and places of sheriffs, until the same are finished ; and when the polls are closed and the votes counted off, or cast up, in the several districts of such counties as are divided as aforesaid, the judges and inspectors shall cause certified accounts thereof to be taken by some of them, to their respective county towns, on the next day, and of the names of the persons chosen in the several districts, with the number of votes for each candidate ; which, when compared and added together, the eight highest numbers shall be the persons to represent such county in convention ; and also that the judges, or any two of them, for the city and counties respectively, shall certify from under their hands and seals to the convention, on the day appointed for their meeting as aforesaid, a true list or certificate of the names of the members so chosen in the city and counties respectively,

together with the number of votes for each of them. And the captains or commanding officer of each company in the several battalions of this province, are hereby required to furnish complete lists of their companies to the judges and inspectors of the several districts, on the morning of the election. Which persons so chosen to be members of the convention shall meet at Philadelphia on Monday the 15th day of July next, in convention aforesaid.

*Ordered*, That the following gentlemen be appointed to be judges of the election in the counties and in the respective districts, viz :

*City, &c., of Philadelphia.*

Samuel Massey,  
Frederick Kuhl,  
Thomas Cuthbert.

*County of Philadelphia.*

William Coates,  
Frederick Antis,  
Robert Lollar.

*Bucks County.*

At Newtown.  
Henry Wynkoop,  
James Wallace,  
Joseph Hart.

*Chester County.*

First division, at Chester.  
Hugh Lloyd,  
Thomas Levis,  
Mark Wilcox.

Second division, at Chatham.  
John McKay,  
Joseph Gardner,  
Thomas Welsh.

Third division, at the White Horse.  
Richard Thomas,  
Lewis Grono,  
Thomas Bull.



*Berks County, at Reading.*

Valentine Eakerd,  
Jacob Morgan,  
Daniel Hunter.

*Lancaster County.*

First division, at the Borough.  
William Bowsman,  
H. Dehuff,  
Jacob Erb.

Sec. div., at James Porter's, jun.  
Richard Ferree,  
John M'Mullen,  
Robert Tweed.

Third div., at Elizabeth-Town.  
Daniel Elliot,  
Robert Clark,  
Jacob Haldiman.

Fourth division, at Lebanon.  
Casper Kuhn,  
Jacob Eckart,  
Philip Greenawalt.

Fifth division, at New Holland.  
J's McCamant,  
Gab. Davis,  
Michael Whitman.

Sixth division, at Garber's Mill.  
John Rogers,  
John Harris,  
James Morrow.

*Cumberland County.*

First division, at Carlisle.  
Robert Miller,  
Benjamin Blyth,  
James Gregory.

Second division, at Chambersburg.  
John Allison,  
James Maxwell,  
John Beard.

Third division, at Robert Campbell's.  
 William Brown,  
 Alexander Morrow,  
 James Taylor.

*York County.*

First division, at York-Town.  
 Charles Lukens,  
 John Hay,  
 Michael Hayn.

Second div., at Samuel Gaddis's.  
 William M'Clellan,  
 John Agnew,  
 James Dickson.

Third division, at Hanover.  
 Joseph Jefferies,  
 Thomas Lilly,  
 Frederick Wolfe.

Fourth div., at Nicholson's Mill.  
 James Leiper,  
 Patrick Scott,  
 James Savage.

Fifth div., at Robert Stevenson's.  
 John Nesbit,  
 James Nayler,  
 William Mitchell.

*Bedford County.*

at the usual place.  
 Samuel Dividson,  
 James Anderson,  
 William Todd.

*Northumberland County.*

at George M'Candlishs.  
 Thomas Hewit,  
 William Shaw,  
 Joseph Green.

*Westmoreland County.*

First division, at Spark's fort.

George Wilson,  
John Kile,  
Robert M'Connell,

Second div., at Hannah's Town.\*

James Barr,  
John Moore,  
Clement M'Geary.

*Northampton County.*

First division, at Easton.

Abraham Berlin,  
Jesse Jones,  
Jonas Hartzell,

Second division, at Allen's Town.

John Gerhart,  
David Deshler,  
George Breinig.

Third div., at Peter Anthony's.

Simon Dreisbach,  
Neigel Gray,  
Peter Anthony.

Fourth div., at Nicholas Dupue's.

Robert Levers,  
Nicholas Dupue,  
Jacobus Vangarder.

*Ordered*, That doctor Rush, the chairman, colonel Hill, and colonel Smith, prepare a draft of an address to the inhabitants of the province, and report to the conference.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That messieurs Bayard, Bird and Smith, be appointed a committee to wait upon the chairman of the committee of safety, and desire a copy of all orders given to captain Samuel Davidson, since his appointment as principal commander of the navy of this province, to be laid before this conference.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it be recommended to the said convention to choose and appoint delegates or deputies to represent this province in the congress of the united colonies ; and also a *Council of Safety*, to exercise the whole of the ex-

ecutive powers of government, so far as relates to the military defence and safety of the province, and to make such allowance for the services of the said delegates and council of safety respectively, as shall be reasonable. Which said delegates and council of safety are to continue for six months, unless a new government shall be formed within that time, in which case their appointment is to cease.

The conference then adjourned to three o'clock, P. M.

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*June 23, 1776, P. M.*

The conference met.

The gentlemen appointed to prepare a draft of an address to the inhabitants of this province, delivered at the table a draft which was read. On motion, That divers resolutions of congress, of 3d and 4th days of July, inst., requiring 10,000 of the militia of the colony of Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, and the colony of Maryland, be raised to form a flying camp, be read, the same were read accordingly, and are in the words following, viz :

IN CONGRESS, *June 3.*

“*Resolved*, That a flying camp be immediately established in the middle colonies and that it consist of 10,000 men, to complete which number, *Resolved*, That the colony of Pennsylvania be requested to furnish of the militia. . . . . 6,000  
 Maryland . . . . . 3,400  
 Delaware government. . . . . 600

10,000

“*June 4th, 1776. Resolved*, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions of the colonies requested to supply or furnish militia by the resolution of yesterday, to take particular care that the militia come provided with arms, accoutrements and camp kettles.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

“That three provincial brigadier generals be employed for the flying camp, two from Pennsylvania and one from Maryland. That the said brigadier generals be appointed by the colonies

abovementioned. That the flying camp be under the command of such continental general officers as the commander-in-chief shall direct. That the militia when in service be regularly paid and victualled in the same manner as the continental troops.

*“Resolved,* That the militia be engaged to the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by congress.

*“That* the pay of the militia commence from the day of their marching from home, and that they be allowed one penny a mile, lawful money, in lieu of rations, for travelling expences, and one day’s pay for every twenty miles, between home and the general rendezvous, going and returning.

Extract from the Minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*”

By special order the same were read a second time.

On motion, *Ordered,* That a resolution of the assembly of this province of June 14th inst., in consequence of the foregoing requisition of congress be read, and the same was read accordingly.

By special order the same was read a second time, and is in the words following, viz :

IN ASSEMBLY, *June 14, 1776.*

*“Resolved,* By the members of assembly now met, that they are earnestly desirous of carrying into execution the resolutions of congress of 1st inst., but that as they despair after repeated disappointments of procuring a quorum of the house, they find themselves unable at this time, to proceed on said resolutions.

*“Extract* from the Minutes.

ABEL EVANS, *Clerk.*”

On motion, *Ordered,* That the copy of a minute from the proceedings of the committee of safety of this province, entered on the journal of this conference on Saturday last be read, and it was read accordingly.

WHEREAS, It appears to this conference that the six thousand militia required of this colony by congress, and agreed by the assembly of this province to be raised are absolutely necessary for the defence and security of the thirteen united colonies : AND WHEREAS, It appears that the requisition of congress was made to the colony of Pennsylvania, and that the same cannot

be complied with by the assembly or committee of safety of this province ; and that unless this conference, being the only representative body of this colony that can at this time with propriety interpose in this business, undertake to accomplish the desires of the congress and of the assembly in the premises ; the aforesaid flying camp cannot be raised in due time ; and the liberties and safety of this province as well as of the other colonies may be thereby endangered : AND WHEREAS, The militia of this province at first associated by the advice and under the authority of the committees of inspection and observation of the city and the several counties ; Therefore, *Resolved*, unanimously, That this conference do recommend to the committees and associators of this province to embody 4,500 of the militia, which with the 1,500 men now in the pay of this province, will be the quota of this colony required by congress.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That messrs. Hill, Gurney, Hart, Montgomery, Morgan, Cunningham, Gray, M'Calister, M'Clean, Espy, Cook and Perry, be a committee to devise ways and means for raising the said 4,500 men, and to enquire into all matters necessary to fit them for taking the field.

On motion, Unanimously ordered, That the chairman, Dr. Rush and Col. Smith, be a committee to draft a resolution declaring the sense of the conference with respect to an independence of this province from the crown and parliament of Great Britain, and report to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it be recommended to commodore Samuel Davidson and to the captains of the row-gallies, &c., to forbear to take any steps which may involve the fleet in confusion, and that they wait the result of an interview which this conference intend to propose to the committee of safety, and that messrs. Blewer, Levis, Bird, Loller and Colhoon, be a committee to wait on those gentlemen on board their vessels to-morrow morning.

The committee appointed to wait on the chairman of the committee of safety reported, that they had waited on George Clymer, Esq., according to order, and had delivered the message they had in charge, and that he said he would immediately call the committee and give an answer this afternoon.

The draft of an address, &c., was by order read a second time, and being considered and amended, was agreed to unanimously, and is in the following words :

### THE ADDRESS OF THE DEPUTIES

FROM THE COMMITTEES OF PENNSYLVANIA, ASSEMBLED IN PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, *June 22, 1776.*

*To the People of Pennsylvania :*

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN :—In obedience to the power we derived from you, we have fixed upon a mode of electing a convention to form a government for the province of Pennsylvania, under the authority of the people.

Divine Providence is about to grant you a favor which few people have ever enjoyed before, the privilege of choosing deputies to form a government under which you are to live. We need not inform you of the importance of the trust you are about to commit to them. Your liberty, safety, happiness and every thing that posterity will hold dear to them to the end of time, will depend upon their deliberations. It becomes you, therefore, to choose such persons only to act for you in the ensuing convention as are distinguished for wisdom, integrity and a firm attachment to the liberties of this province, as well as to the liberties of the united colonies in general.

In order that your deputies may know your sentiments as fully as possible upon the subject of government, we beg that you would convey to them your wishes and opinions upon that head immediately after their election. We have experienced an unexpected unanimity in our councils, and we have the pleasure of observing a growing unanimity among the people of the province. We beg, that this brotherly spirit may be cultivated, and that you would remember that the present unsettled state of the province requires that you should show forbearance, charity and moderation to each other. We beg that you would endeavor to remove the prejudices of the weak and ignorant, respecting the proposed change in our government, and assure them that it is absolutely necessary to secure property, liberty, and the sacred rights of conscience to every individual in the province. The season of the year and the exigencies of our colony require

dispatch in the formation of a regular government. You will not, therefore, be surprised at our fixing the day for the election of deputies so early as the 8th of next July.

We wish you success in your attempts to establish and perpetuate your liberties, and pray God to take you under his special protection.

Signed by unanimous Order of the Conference,

THOMAS M'KEAN, *President.*

Col. Roberdeau and Mr. Parker, from the committee of safety, delivered in at the table a letter from George Clymer, Esq., chairman of said committee, inclosing the instruction given to Capt. Davidson, by that committee.

*Ordered,* To lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

*Monday, June 24, A. M.*

The conference met according to adjournment, but many of the members being on committees, the conference adjourned to three o'clock this afternoon.

The conference met, June 24, 1776, P. M.

The committee appointed for that purpose brought in a draft of a declaration, on the subject of the independance of this colony, of the crown of Great Britain, which was ordered to be read by special order, the same was read a second time, and being fully considered, it was with the greatest unanimity of all the members agreed to and adopted, and is in the words following, viz :

WHEREAS, George the third, king of Great Britain, &c., in violation of the principles of the British constitution, and of the laws of justice and humanity hath, by an accumulation of oppressions, unparrelleled in history, excluded the inhabitants of this *with the other American colonies from his protection* : AND WHEREAS, He hath paid no regard to any of our numerous and dutiful *petitions* for a redress of our complicated grievances, but hath lately purchased foreign troops to assist in enslaving us, and hath excited the savages of this country to carry on a war against us, as also the negroes to embrue their



hands in the blood of their masters, in a manner unpractised by civilized nations, and hath lately insulted our calamities, by declaring that he will shew us no mercy until he has reduced us: AND WHEREAS, The obligations of allegiance (being reciprocal between a king and his subjects) are now dissolved on the side of the colonists, by the despotism of the said king, insomuch that it now appears that loyalty to him is treason against the good people of this country: AND WHEREAS, Not only the parliament, but there is reason to believe too many of the people of Great Britain have concurred in the aforesaid arbitrary and unjust proceedings against us: AND WHEREAS, The public virtue of this colony (so essential to its liberty and happiness) must be endangered by a future political union with or dependance upon a crown and nation so lost to justice, patriotism, and magnanimity. “ We, the *deputies* of the people of Pennsylvania, assembled in *full provincial conference*, for forming a plan for executing the resolve of congress of the 15th of May last, for suppressing all authority in this province, derived from the crown of Great Britain, and for establishing a government upon the authority of the people only, now in this public manner in behalf of ourselves, and with the approbation, consent and authority of our constituents, unanimously declare our willingness to concur in a vote of the congress, declaring the united colonies free and independent states: *Provided*, The forming the government and the regulation of the internal police of this colony be always reserved to the people of the said colony; and we do further call upon the nations of Europe, and appeal to the great arbiter and governor of the empires of the world, to witness for us, that this declaration did not originate in ambition, or in an impatience of lawful authority, but that we were driven to it in obedience to the first principles of nature, by the oppressions and cruelties of the aforesaid king and parliament of Great Britain, as the only possible measure that was left us to preserve and establish our liberties, and to transmit them inviolate to posterity.”

*Ordered*, That this declaration be signed at the table, and that the president deliver it in congress.

The committee appointed to wait on the captains of the row-gallies, &c., made their report which was read, and is in the following words: That they had proceeded to said fleet in

order to execute their appointment and wait on said captains, (the commodore being gone to Philadelphia,) who declare solemnly that they would pursue no measure that would involve the fleet in confusion, or in any wise incapacitate them from serving the public in the most effectual manner for the support, safety and defence of this province, further than that they would not submit to, but would ever protest against the advancement of Capt. Davidson whom the committee of safety have appointed commodore of said fleet, and further requested to be heard by this board or the convention, respecting the premises as will appear by a declaration of said captains to said board.

J. BLEWER,  
T. LEVIS,  
M. BIRD,  
ROBERT LOLLER,  
JOHN COLHOON.

The committee also delivered a written report of the captains of the provincial gallies which was read and is in the following words, viz :

We the said commanders, do resolve, to abide by the determination set forth in our remonstrance of the 18th inst. to the committee of safety, respecting the appointment of a commodore. (We do therefore warmly remonstrate against any such appointment, and declare to this board that we will not submit to it.) We do also report to the sub-committee, that the reports which has prevailed in town about our going on board the province ship to strike the board pennant, with boats manned and armed, is false, and without the least foundation. There was not a single fire-arm in one of the boats, neither the smallest appearance of hostility or design on our parts, even orders were given to our men not to stir out of their boats or attempt to come on board the ship. We do pray, when convenient, that we may have a hearing before the honorable the committee of conference or convention ; in the interim your committee may rest assured that we will constantly remain in the line of our duty for the defence of our river and province, and that no differences of whatsoever kind shall in-

terfere with the good of the public and glorious cause in which we are engaged.

(Signed,)

H. DOUGHERTY,  
JOHN HAMILTON,  
JAMES MONTGOMERY,  
RICHARD EYRES,  
ALEXANDER HENDERSON,  
HUGH MONTGOMERY,  
WILLIAM GAMBLE, of fire-ship,  
BENJAMIN THOMSON,  
ROBERT HUME.

*Ordered*, That the above reports lie on the table for perusal of the members.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the same committee be appointed to wait on the committee of safety, and desire a conference on the subject matter of their report, from their conversation with the captains of the row-gallies, &c., in the service of this province, and to make report of their proceedings in the premises.

*Resolved*, That messrs. Bayard, Rush and Smith, be a committee to prepare a draft of an address to the associators of this province, on the subject of embodying 4,500 men.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means, &c., made their report, which being read, was referred to to morrow.

The committee appointed to wait on the committee of safety, reported in the following words: That in conversation they found they were willing to agree to any thing with this conference in reason, that would promote harmony and good order; and further, that any of the conference was welcome to examine any of their accounts or proceedings.

(Signed)

J. BLEWER,  
M. BIRD,  
ROBERT LOLLER,  
JOHN COLHOON.

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June 25, 1776.

The conference met.

The conference resumed the consideration of the report on the ways and means, &c., and after full consideration, *Re-*

*solved*, unanimously, That it be recommended to the associators of the city of Philadelphia, and the several counties, to embody themselves in the following proportion, viz :

City of Philadelphia.....	210
County of Philadelphia.....	746
Bucks .....	400
Chester .....	652
Lancaster .....	746
Berks.....	666
Northampton .....	346
York .....	400
Cumberland.....	334
	<hr/>
	4,500
Troops under colonel Miles .....	1,500
	<hr/>
	6,000

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the 4,500 militia, recommended to be raised, be formed into six battalions ; each battalion to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major ; the staff to consist of a chaplain, a surgeon, an adjutant, a quartermaster, and a surgeon's mate ; and to have one serjeant-major, one quartermaster serjeant, a drum-major and a fife-major ; and to be composed of nine companies, viz : eight battalion companies, to consist of a captain, two lieutenants, and one ensign, four serjeants, four corporals, a drummer, a fifer, and sixty-six privates, each ; and one rifle company, to consist of a captain, three lieutenants, four serjeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and eighty privates ; excepting that for the Chester county battalion ; one company of artillery is to be raised in the city of Philadelphia, instead of a rifle company.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it be recommended to the committees of inspection and observation for the city and liberties, &c., of Philadelphia, and for each county, to order the militia aforesaid to be raised out of the battalions associated within their respective limits, in such proportion as they shall judge most equal.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the committees of inspection and observation in each county, wherein a whole battalion is

to be raised, shall nominate and appoint the field and other officers to command such battalion; and that the committees aforesaid of the city and the counties wherein only a part of a battalion is to be raised, shall have the right, respectively, to nominate and appoint the field officers and other officers as nearly as may be in proportion to the number of men raised in the same, and they are desired to send sub-committees to confer together on such appointment, that harmony may prevail in this whole transaction.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That each private procure his own musket or rifle, with the other accoutrements required by congress; but if they cannot be procured, it is recommended to the colonels of the several battalions in this province to lend the colonels of the battalions now to be raised, the muskets which have been made by order of the house of assembly, and have been delivered to them for the use of the militia; and the colonels are hereby authorized and directed to receive the arms so to be delivered, and to lend the same to such privates as cannot procure arms for themselves until the expiration of the present service; and if any private shall neglect or refuse to return the arms to him lent, in good order, to the colonel of the battalion to which he belongs, at the end of the service, the original price thereof shall be deducted out of his pay.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it be recommended to the committees aforesaid, to advance to each private engaged in this service, the sum of fifty shillings, being the first month's pay, and also to furnish one camp kettle for every six men, and to take particular care that the troops, now recommended to be embodied, provide themselves with good arms and accoutrements, a blanket, a haversack and knapsack each, at their own expence. The camp kettles to be returned to the colonel of the respective battalions at the end of the campaign.

On motion, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of this province to confine the command of commodore Davidson to the ship of war and floating battery belonging to the province, and to issue no orders to the captains or other officers of the row-gallies, fire-ship or fire-rafts, through the said commodore, until the convention meets, and that it be recommended to the captains and other officers of the

gallies, &c., to pay all due obedience to the committee of safety until that time, and until a new appointment shall take place.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. Hill, Smith and Blewer, be a committee to wait on the committee of safety, with a copy of the said resolution.

The above committee reports that they have delivered the said recommendation to the committee of safety, which was then sitting.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to every county and district committee in this province, to pay the strictest attention to the examination of all strangers or persons travelling through the city or counties, and permit no persons travelling through the city or counties to remain therein, unless they produce a pass or certificate from the city, county or district committee from whence they last came; and it is further recommended to all committees to furnish proper passes to all friends to American Liberty upon their application therefor.

The committee appointed to compare a draft of an address to the associators, on the subject of embodying 4,500 men in consequence of the resolution of congress, &c., presented a draft thereof which was read.

By special order the same was read a second time and agreed to unanimously and is as follows, viz :

#### THE ADDRESS OF THE DEPUTIES

OF THE COMMITTEES OF PENNSYLVANIA, ASSEMBLED IN PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, AT PHILADELPHIA, *June 25, 1776.*

*To the Associators of Pennsylvania :*

GENTLEMEN :—The only design of our meeting together was to put an end to our own power in the province by fixing upon a plan for calling a convention to form a government under the authority of the people. But the sudden and unexpected separation of the assembly has compelled us to undertake the execution of a resolve of congress for calling forth 4,500 of the militia of the province to join the militia of the neighbouring colonies to form a camp for our immediate protection. We presume only to recommend the plan we have formed to you, trusting that in case of so much consequence your love of virtue and zeal for liberty will supply the want of authority delegated to us expressly for that purpose.

We need not remind you that you are now furnished with new motives to animate and support your courage. You are not about to contend against the power of Great Britain in order to displace one set of villains to make room for another. Your arms will not be enervated in the day of battle with the reflection that you are to risk your lives or shed your blood for a British tyrant, or that your posterity will have your work to do over again. You are about to contend for permanent freedom, to be supported by a government which will be derived from yourselves, and which will have for its object not the enrolment of one man, or class of men only, but the safety, liberty and happiness of every individual in the community.

We call upon you therefore, by the respect and obedience which are due to the authority of the united colonies, to concur in this important measure. The present campaign will probably decide the fate of America. It is now in your power to immortalize your names by mingling your achievements with the events of the year 1776 . . . . a year which we hope will be famed in the annals of history to the end of time, for establishing upon a lasting foundation the liberties of one-quarter of the globe.

Remember the honor of our colony is at stake, should you desert the common cause at the present juncture, the glory you have acquired by your former exertions of strength and virtue will be tarnished, and our friends and brethren who are now acquiring laurels in the most remote parts of America will reproach us and blush to own themselves natives or inhabitants of Pennsylvania. But there are other motives before you—your houses, your fields, the legacies of your ancestors or the dear bought fruits of your own industry and your liberty—now urge you to the field. These cannot plead with you in vain, or we might point out to you further, your wives, your children, your aged fathers and mothers, who now look up to you for aid and hope for salvation in this day of calamity only from the instrumentality of your swords. Remember the name of Pennsylvania. Think of your ancestors and of your posterity.

Signed by an unanimously Order of the Conference.

THOMAS M'KEAN, *President*.

June 25, 1776.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That thanks be given to the president for his impartiality and close attention to the business of this conference.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the thanks of this conference be given to the committee of this city and liberties of Philadelphia, &c., for their unwearied endeavours in the public service, and particularly for their patriotic exertions in carrying into execution the resolve of congress of May 15th last, for suppressing all authority under the crown of Great Britain.

Then the conference dissolved itself.

THOMAS M'KEAN, *President*.

JONATHAN B. SMITH, }  
SAMUEL C. MORRIS, } *Secretaries*.