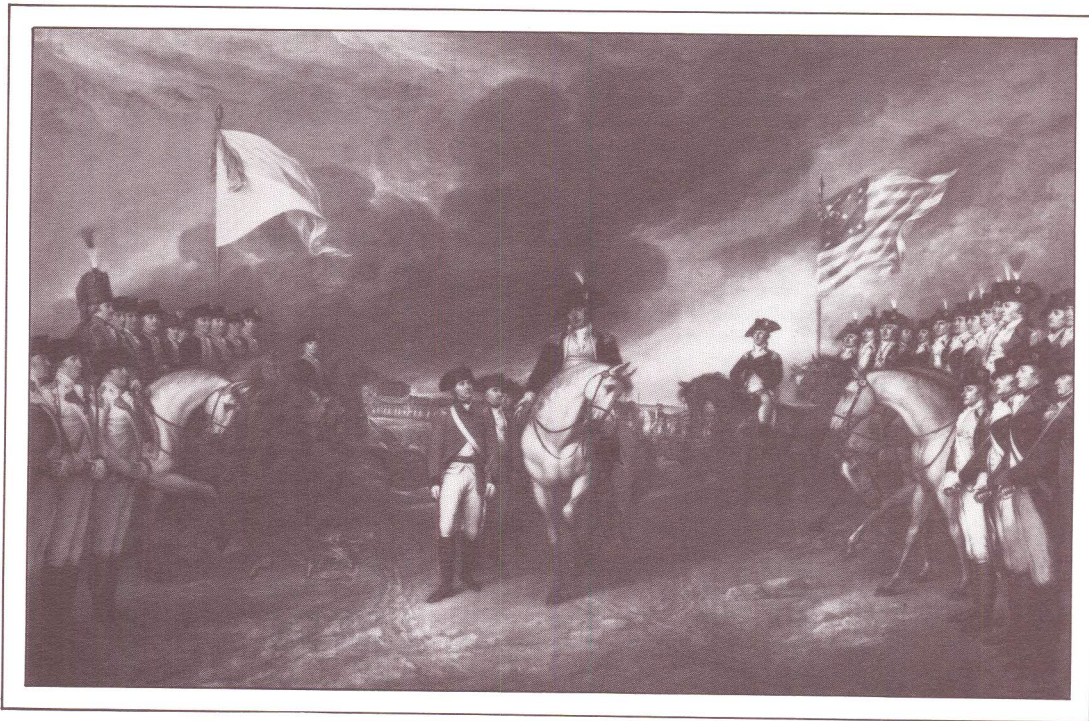


THE
FIRST OFFICERS
OF THE
UNITED STATES
CUSTOMS SERVICE

*Appointed by
President George Washington
in 1789*



by Michael N. Ingrisano, Jr.
June 1987

"Our 198th Year"

The First Officers of The United States Customs Service

An Act to regulate the Collection of the Duties imposed by law on the tonnage of ships or vessels, and on goods, wares and merchandises imported into the United States—dated July 31, 1789—created the United States Customs Service. Section 1 of that Act stipulated that “there shall be established and appointed district, ports and officers, in manner following, to wit: The State of New Hampshire shall be one district to include the town of Portsmouth as the sole port of entry. . . .”

And so follows an entire litany of States and ports. It became the responsibility of President George Washington to nominate and for the Senate to approve Collectors, Naval Officers and Surveyors for the 59 ports cited in the law.

In this document, the officers are listed in the order in which they appear in the statute. To each is added a brief biographical sketch of the individual who was nominated and approved for the various positions. Each peer group is separated by title with the Collectors leading the list, followed by the Naval Officers and Surveyors.

Many of the individuals applied for positions soon after President Washington took office on April 30, 1789. *The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser* for August 7, 1789, included the Act creating Customs in its entirety. Under a New York dateline of August 4, the paper gave a partial list of Revenue Officers nominated by the President, and “advised and consented” by the Senate.

At the end of the list is a notation that “Sharp Delaney, esquire, is appointed Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; Frederick Phile, esquire, Naval-Officer, and Samuel Meredith, esquire, Surveyor of the same.” On the following day, August 8, 1789, the newspaper printed the entire list of nominees.

The official commissions, signed by the President and by the Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, were not issued until March 21, 1791, making recordkeeping a bit confusing. By that time, some of the first appointees had already left office either because of death or to assume other positions. Therefore, in a few cases, one will find in this study two names for the same port: the original appointee and his immediate successor.

For example, Samuel Meredith was the Surveyor at Philadelphia just a few months before he was appointed Treasurer of the United

States. He was succeeded almost immediately by William McPherson.

This study includes a copy of the original commission issued to Richard Taylor of Virginia (father of Zachary Taylor) who was named the first Collector at the Falls of Ohio (now Louisville, Ky.) after Peyton Short refused the nomination. The copy was supplied by the present port director at Louisville, Arthur Trussell.

The availability of biographical information about the 119 officers ranges from readily available to practically nonexistent. Data about the better known figures, such as Joseph Whipple, Benjamin Lincoln, John Lamb and Sharp Delany were readily available from our *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Customs Service*, Volume I.

For men like Christopher Hillary and Cornelius Collins, gathering information was more pure luck than historic research. Even after an appeal to the local historic societies and public libraries, it was a random selection from the book shelf of local histories at the Library of Congress that yielded one entry from the *Historic Collections of the Joseph Habersham Chapter of the DAR* noting that Second Lieutenant Christopher Hillary and First Lieutenant Cornelius Collins were charter members of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati.

On August 7, 1789, The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser printed the Act that established the U.S. Customs Service.

Philadelphia, August 7.
Congress of the United States,
Begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.
An ACT to regulate the COLLECTION of
the DUTIES imposed by Law on the TONNAGE
of SHIPS or VESSELS, and on GOODS, WARES,
and MERCHANDIZES, imported into the United
States.
BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the due
collection of the duties imposed by law, on the
tonnage of ships and vessels, and on goods,
wares, and merchandizes imported into the U-
nited States, there shall be established and ap-
pointed, districts, ports, and officers, in manner
following, to wit:
The state of NEW-HAMPSHIRE shall be
one district, to include the town of Portsmouth
as the sole port of entry; and the towns of New-
bury, Dover, and Exeter as ports of delivery
for all vessels bound to or from
said first

First Officers of the United States Customs Service

COLLECTORS Port of Entry

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | |
| Joseph Whipple, | <i>Portsmouth</i> |
| MASSACHUSETTS | |
| Stephen Cross, | <i>Newburyport</i> |
| Epes Sargent, IV, | <i>Gloucester</i> |
| Joseph Hiller, | <i>Salem</i> |
| Richard Harris, | <i>Marblehead</i> |
| Samuel R. Gerry, | <i>Marblehead</i> |
| Benjamin Lincoln, | <i>Boston</i> |
| William Watson, | <i>Plymouth</i> |
| Joseph Otis, | <i>Barnstable</i> |
| Stephen Hussey, | <i>Nantucket</i> |
| John Pease, | <i>Edgartown</i> |
| Edward Pope, | <i>New Bedford</i> |
| Hodijah Baylies, | <i>Dighton</i> |
| MAINE* | |
| William Webb, | <i>Bath</i> |
| John Lee, | <i>Penobscot</i> |
| Meletiah Jordan, | <i>Frenchman's Bay</i> |
| Lewis Frederick Delesdenier, | <i>Passamaquoddy</i> |
| Stephen Smith, | <i>Machias</i> |
| Nathaniel Fosdick, | <i>Portland</i> |
| Jeremiah Hill, Jr., | <i>Biddeford</i> |
| Francis Cook, | <i>Wiscasset</i> |
| Richard Trevett, | <i>York</i> |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| CONNECTICUT | |
| Samuel Smedley, | <i>Fairfield</i> |
| Jedediah Huntington, | <i>New London</i> |
| Jonathan Fitch, | <i>New Haven</i> |
| NEW YORK | |
| John Lamb, | <i>New York</i> |
| John Gelston, | <i>Sag Harbor</i> |
| NEW JERSEY | |
| Eli Elmer, | <i>Bridgeton</i> |
| John Ross, | <i>Burlington</i> |
| John Halstead, | <i>Perth Amboy</i> |
| PENNSYLVANIA | |
| Sharp Delany, | <i>Philadelphia</i> |
| DELAWARE | |
| George Bush, | <i>Wilmington</i> |
| MARYLAND | |
| Otho Holland Williams, | <i>Baltimore</i> |
| John Scott, | <i>Chester</i> |
| Jeremiah Nichols, | <i>Chester</i> |
| Jeremiah Banning, | <i>Oxford</i> |
| John Muir, | <i>Vienna</i> |
| John Gunby, | <i>Snow Hill</i> |
| John Davidson, | <i>Annapolis</i> |
| George Biscoe, | <i>Nottingham</i> |
| John Courts Jones, | <i>Nanjemoy</i> |
| James MacCubbin Ligan, | <i>Georgetown**</i> |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| VIRGINIA | |
| Jacob Wray, | <i>Hampton</i> |
| William Lindsay, | <i>Norfolk</i> |
| William Heth, | <i>Bermuda Hundred</i> |
| Abraham Archer, | <i>Yorktown</i> |
| Hudson Muse, | <i>Tappahannock</i> |
| Charles Lee, | <i>Alexandria</i> |
| Richard Marshall Scott, | <i>Dumfries</i> |
| George Savage, | <i>Cherrystone</i> |
| Nathaniel Wilkins, | <i>Cherrystone</i> |
| William Gibb, | <i>Folly Landing</i> |
| Thomas Bowne, | <i>South Quay</i> |
| Vincent Redman, | <i>Yeocomico</i> |
| Richard Taylor, | <i>Falls of Ohio</i> |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| John Cogdell, | <i>Georgetown</i> |
| George Abbott Hall, | <i>Charleston</i> |
| Andrew Aggnew, | <i>Beaufort</i> |
| GEORGIA | |
| John Habersham, | <i>Savannah</i> |
| Christopher Hillary, | <i>Brunswick</i> |
| Cornelius Collins, | <i>Sunbury</i> |
| James Seagroove, | <i>St. Mary's</i> |

*All the Maine ports were part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until 1820.

**Later a section in Washington, D.C., Georgetown was a part of Maryland in 1789.

NAVAL OFFICERS Port of Entry

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | |
| Eleazer Russell, | <i>Portsmouth</i> |
| MASSACHUSETTS | |
| Jonathan Titcomb, | <i>Newburyport</i> |
| William Pickman, | <i>Salem</i> |
| James Lovell, | <i>Boston</i> |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| NEW YORK | |
| Benjamin Walker, | <i>New York</i> |
| PENNSYLVANIA | |
| Frederick Phile, | <i>Philadelphia</i> |
| MARYLAND | |
| Robert Purviance, | <i>Baltimore</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| VIRGINIA | |
| Philomen Gatewood, | <i>Norfolk</i> |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| Isaac Motte, | <i>Charleston</i> |
| GEORGIA | |
| Lachlan McIntosh, | <i>Savannah</i> |

SURVEYORS Port of Entry

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | |
| Thomas Martin, | <i>Portsmouth</i> |
| MASSACHUSETTS | |
| Michael Hodge, | <i>Newburyport</i> |
| Samuel Whittemore, | <i>Gloucester</i> |
| Bartholomew Putnam, | <i>Salem</i> |
| Josiah Batchelder, Jr., | <i>Beverly</i> |
| Jeremiah Staniford, Jr., | <i>Ipswich</i> |
| Thomas Melvill, | <i>Boston</i> |
| MAINE | |
| James Lunt, | <i>Portland</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| CONNECTICUT | |
| Nathaniel Richards, | <i>New London</i> |
| Jonathan Palmer, Jr., | <i>Stonington</i> |
| Asher Miller, | <i>Middletown</i> |
| Hezekiah Rogers, | <i>New Haven</i> |
| NEW YORK | |
| John Lasher, | <i>New York</i> |
| Jeremiah Lansing, | <i>Albany</i> |
| John C. Ten Broeck, | <i>Hudson</i> |
| PENNSYLVANIA | |
| Samuel Meredith, | <i>Philadelphia</i> |
| William McPherson, | <i>Philadelphia</i> |
| MARYLAND | |
| Robert Ballard, | <i>Baltimore</i> |
| Robert Young, | <i>Town Creek</i> |
| Robert Chesley, | <i>St. Mary's</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| VIRGINIA | |
| Daniel Bedinger, | <i>Norfolk</i> |
| Archibald Richardson, | <i>Suffolk</i> |
| James Wells, | <i>Smithfield</i> |
| Christopher Roane, | <i>Bermuda Hundred</i> |
| James Gibbon, | <i>Petersburg</i> |
| Zachariah Rowland, | <i>Richmond</i> |
| John Spotswood Moore, | <i>West Point</i> |
| Staige Davis, | <i>Urbanna</i> |
| George Catlett, | <i>Port Royal</i> |
| William Lewis, | <i>Fredericksburg</i> |
| Samuel Hanson, | <i>Alexandria</i> |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| Edward Weyman, | <i>Charleston</i> |
| GEORGIA | |
| John Berrien, | <i>Savannah</i> |

Belonged to the Committee which was organized to raise men to go to Canada ... None went and the committee was dissolved ... Died in office in 1805.

John Pease ... Edgartown, Mass. ... 1789-1809 ... Fifth generation at Edgartown ... Ancestor believed to be first settler ... Merchant and Selectman ... Served in militia in 1753 ... Naval Officer from 1783-1790 ... Died at age of 82 in 1813 ... Father of 10 children.

Edward Pope ... New Bedford, Mass. ... 1789-1808 ... Self-educated; Quaker and nonmilitant ... Operator of general store on the waterfront ... Judge on the county court of common pleas ... Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives ... "One of the most prominent cutizens of New Bedford."

Hodijah Baylies ... Dighton, Mass. ... 1789-1809 ... Graduate of Harvard College ... Enlisted as lieutenant in Continental Army ... Rose to rank of major; served with distinction: aide to General Washington ... Managed his family's ironworks at New Bedford while serving as Collector of Customs at Dighton ... Active in Massachusetts chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati.

William Webb ... Bath, Me. ... 1789-1803 ... Had been Naval Officer at the port under the State government from 1779 until 1789 ... "A prominent man of his day." Served as Federal Collector from 1789 to December 21, 1803 ... A corporator of the King Turnpike and Bridge in 1805, and a trustee of the Bath Academy ... Died in 1822 at 58 years of age.

John Lee ... Penobscot, Me. ... 1789-1801 ... Had been Naval Officer under the State government for two or three years before he was replaced.

Meletiah Jordan ... Frenchman's Bay, Me. ... 1789-1818 ... There had never been a Customs Collector or Naval Officer at Frenchman's Bay under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ... Jordan, a prominent citizen of the town of Ellsworth, Me., was picked as the Collector ... Complained to Secretary Hamilton that he had nothing to do but collect tonnage duty (50¢ per pound) and worried if the Secretary was receiving his mail ... Died in office.

Lewis Frederick Delesdenier ... Passamaquoddy, Me. ... 1789-1811 ... Born in Nova Scotia, Canada, of Swiss immigrant parents ... Revolted against British ... Joined Continental Army; made Lieutenant in 1777; taken captive ... Moved permanently to Passamaquoddy after the War ... Was made Collector under the State ... Appointed first postmaster in 1795 ... Although an old friend of Albert Gallatin, he was replaced as Collector in 1811 ... For his services in the Revolutionary War, he was granted a liberal land grant in Ohio ... Appointed a member of the General Court in 1811 and 1812 ... Died in Machias, Me., in 1831.

Stephen Smith ... Machias, Me. ... 1789-1806 ... Descendant (maternal) of John Tilley and John Howland who came on the *Mayflower* ... Merchant in Boston (1761) and in Machias (1772) and mill owner (lumber) ... Delegate to the Continental Congress and brought the news of Bunker Hill to Machias ... Commissioned Captain and Commissary Officer ... Served around the area of St. John's in Nova Scotia ... Appointed Naval Officer of Customs at Machias in 1782 ... Had been a delegate to the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1775 ... Died in office as Collector in 1806.

Nathaniel Fosdick ... Portland, Me. ... 1789-1803 ... Native of Salem, Mass. ... Graduate of Harvard College ... Under 30 at the time of his appointment as Collector ... Not too successful as a merchant ... Extremely active in local politics ... Served for several years as Naval Officer at Portland under the Commonwealth ... In 1803, returned to Salem, Mass.

Jeremiah Hill, Jr. ... Biddeford, Me. ... 1789-1809 ... Enlisted in April 24, 1775 ... Was chosen Captain ... Served with Colonels Scammel (1775), Phinney (1776) and Vose (1778) ... Served as major and Commissary of Prisoners under General Sullivan ... Was Adjutant General under General Gates in the "expedition to the Penobscot" ... Was granted an Honorary Degree of Master of Arts from Harvard College, 1787 ... Collector under the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during the Confederation Period ... Served as Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace ... Owner of large tracts of land ... Leader in the Federalist party ... Died in 1820 at age 73.

Francis Cook ... Wiscasset, Me. ... 1789-1829 ... Active in local politics ... Held several offices ... Built home in Wiscasset in 1795 ... Used a small building on his land as the Custom House ... Was also collector of revenue ... Had been Customs collector for the State of Massachusetts in 1787, 1788, 1789 ... "Mr. Cook, the old and very respectable Collector of Wiscasset, who has been removed by General Jackson to make room for a foreigner, had his commission from George Washington, and is said to have been the only Collector remaining in office of Washington's appointment. Deacon Cook is a very worthy man ..." (from *Poulson's Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia, April 10, 1829. Dateline: Augusta, Me., March 27, 1829.)

Richard Trevett ... York, Me. ... 1789-1793 ... A seamen before the Revolutionary War ... Appointed Naval Officer of York in 1776; succeeded in 1777; reappointed in 1780, and remained until named Collector in 1789 ... Served on the local Committee on Correspondence prior to the War ... Commanded a privateer during the War ... Died in office.

Samuel Smedley ... Fairfield (Bridgeport), Conn. ... 1789-1812 ... Member of the Connecticut State Navy, serving first as a lieutenant and in 1777 as captain and commander of the *Defence* ... From May 1776 to June 1778, the *Defence* took 12 prizes and over 600 prisoners ... Was wrecked in 1779 ... After British burned and destroyed Fairfield and Smedley's property, he took command of the *Recovery* ... Was taken prisoner and sent to Plymouth, England ... Escaped and arrived in Philadelphia in 1782 in command of the *Heer Adams* ... Returned to Fairfield at War's end and was appointed Collector ... Served until his death in 1812.

Jedediah Huntington ... New London, Conn. ... 1789-1815 ... Graduate of Harvard College ... Son of General Jabez Huntington ... Leader of the Sons of Liberty ... Raised a regiment and ended his service with the Continental Army as a Major General ... President of both the state and national chapters of the Society of the Cincinnati ... Deeply religious, he founded the American Society of Missionaries ... Family relationship with first Commissioner of Customs, Charles Rockwell.

... Ended War as General ... Member of the Society of the Cincinnati ... Was Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation ... Judge in the Baltimore County Criminal Court and officer in the Bank of Maryland ... Was chosen to escort President Washington through Baltimore on Washington's inauguration trip to New York.

John Scott ... Chester, Md. ... 1789-1790 ... Native of Kent County ... Literate landowner and physician ... Member of the lower house of Maryland, 1784 ... Justice of Kent County, 1777-1780, 1782-1790 ... Justice of Orphan's Court, 1778-1780, 1782-1790 ... Naval Officer of Customs, 1785-1789 ... At death, personal wealth totaled 912 pounds (including 15 slaves and 145 books).

Jeremiah Nichols ... Chester, Md. ... 1791-1806 ... Literate landowner ... Member of the lower house of Maryland, 1787-1788 ... Justice, Kent County, 1774-1777, 1787-1789, 1791-1794; Orphan's Court, 1787-1789 ... Was Quartermaster of the 13th Battalion, Kent County Militia, commissioned in 1777 ... Assessed value of personal property: 1,335 pounds (including 27 slaves and 210 oz. plate).

Jeremiah Banning ... Oxford, Md. ... 1789-1795 ... Spent 25 years at sea as mate, master and manager of a merchant vessel ... Served in Maryland militia during the Revolutionary War ... Reached rank of colonel ... Was Inspector of the Currency ... "He did not live at Oxford, and as his gout was so bad that he could not get about without great uneasiness he seldom went there. From his description of the desuetude of trade at that point, it is certain that the official demands upon his time were infrequent." (From the Log and Will of Jeremiah Banning).

John Muir ... Vienna, Md. ... 1789-1795 ... Born in Scotland; came to America at an early age ... Took an active part in the Revolutionary War ... Represented Annapolis in the Maryland Legislature for six years ... Succeeded his brother, who was the incumbent Naval Officer at Vienna, but who lived 20 miles from the port ... Was President of the Farmers' Bank when he died at age 60.

John Gunby ... Snow Hill, Md. ... 1789-1794 ... Colonel Gunby organized and equipped his own company in 1775 ... Fought in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Trenton and Brandywine ... Then led first Maryland regiments in the Southern campaigns in 1780-1781, in action at

Camden, Guilford Courthouse and Cowpens in South Carolina ... Prosperous landowner supported the families of three officers killed in the South Carolina campaigns ... Ended War with title of Brigadier General ... Died at age 63 at his Snow Hill farm ... Buried in Stockton, Md.

John Davidson ... Annapolis, Md. ... 1789-1793 ... Scottish-born, was in the Colony by 1766 ... Owned land in Alleghany County (near Cumberland, Md.) ... Partner in one of the few Maryland-based tobacco firms, 1771-1777 ... Was deputy Naval Officer under the British ... Resigned his post as Collector at Annapolis in 1793, apparently because of the decline of income resulting from the eclipse of Annapolis as a port by the City of Baltimore ... Hamilton expressed regret but could not offer an increase of salary.

George Biscoe ... Nottingham, Md. ... 1789-1817 ... Had been Naval Officer at Patuxent, Md., for 20 years ... In 1807, he applied for the Collector's position at Baltimore.

John Courts Jones ... Nanjemoy, (St. Mary's) Md. ... 1789-1802 ... Was a clerk in the State Customs as a youth ... Entered the Army during the Revolution and was commissioned a captain of the line ... Was made major of brigade and aide-de-camp of general Smallwood ... Fought at Camden where he rallied the brigade to which he belonged after his general had left the field ... After the War, was elected to the Maryland General Assembly ... Was appointed Naval Officer of the North Potomack first division by the Governor.

James MacCubbin Lingan ... Georgetown (D.C./Md.) ... 1789-1807 ... Born in Maryland ... Enlisted and commissioned second lieutenant ... Fought at Long Island ... Captured and wounded brutally ... Prisoner aboard the *Jersey* ... Served from 1776-1783, and was a prisoner for three and one-half years ... Member of the Society of the Cincinnati ...

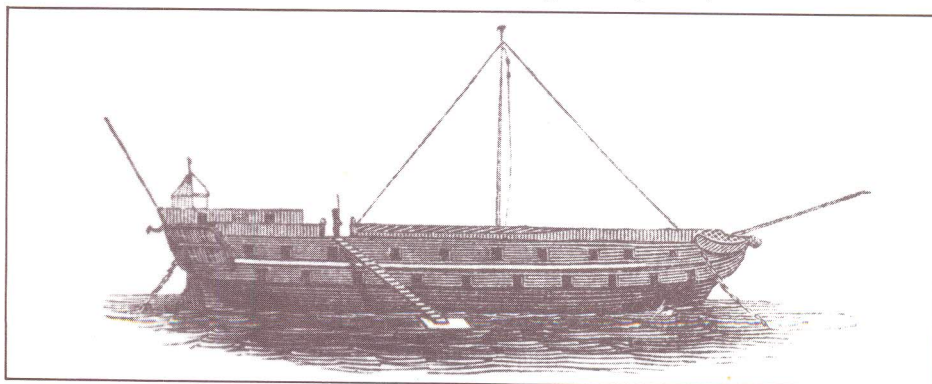
Known as General ... Brutally killed by a mob in Baltimore in 1812 during a political riot ... Also injured severely at the same time was General "Light Horse Harry" Henry Lee ... Honored with a military funeral ... Buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Jacob Wray ... Hampton, Va. ... 1789-1791 ... Longtime Collector under the Confederation ... Recommended that his brother, George Wray, be appointed to care for the lighthouse at Cape Henry ... He described himself: "I am a Theocratic under the auspicious Saviour. The world that quickening spirit that is to influence the whole world in good time." ... Requested that he be succeeded by his son, George Wray, Jr., Collector under the Confederation.

William Lindsay ... Norfolk, Va. ... 1789-1797 ... Served in Revolutionary War, first with Virginia Dragoons, and then as lieutenant with the First Continental Dragoons ... Wounded at Valley Forge ... Fought in New Jersey ... Resigned from Army in 1778 with the rank of major ... Lawyer ... Received grant of 4,000 acres of land in Kentucky at the end of the War ... Died in office ... Succeeded by Otway Byrd ... Lindsay had the lighthouse at Cape Henry built.

William Heth ... Bermuda Hundred, Va. ... 1789-1802 ... Politically influential ... Officer of the line ... Colonel ... Later member of the Virginia executive council ... wrote of himself to George Washington ... "My birth, education, my pursuits and conduct in life are unknown to you. Of the first I can boast nothing; nor has the other been marked with anything conspicuous or extraordinary. Still I am vain enough to believe that the part which I have borne in the Revolution of my Native Country, from the hour of its commencement to that which gave Independence to America, has met with your approbation."

The prison ship Jersey.



John Cogdell . . . Georgetown, S.C. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Born in North Carolina . . . A Georgetown merchant . . . Elected by the General Assembly as the port's first postwar Collector in February 1783 . . . Left the post in September 1783 because of legislation which fixed the Collector's salary in lieu of the traditional fees . . . Became Collector under the Federal system . . . Died at age 78 on his plantation near Georgetown in 1807.

George Abbott Hall . . . Charleston, S.C. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Merchant . . . Had been collector under the State government for 13 years, since the Revolution . . . Died in office, August 1, 1791.

Andrew Agnew . . . Beaufort, S.C. . . . 1789 . . . Deputy Collector of Customs under the British (1760) . . . Notary Public (1768) . . . One of the Commissioners of Fort Lyttleton for putting the fort in repair (1772) . . . Collector of Customs under the Confederation, and Tide Water (Inspector of Customs, 1786-1789) . . . Justice of the Peace during the Colonial Period and after Independence, 1783 and 1791 . . . Died sometime after 1795, as the last document bearing his signature was dated November 6, 1795 . . . In the 1790 Census, his household consisted of nine persons and eight slaves . . .

There is no evidence of when he was succeeded as Collector; it is possible that he died in office in 1795.

John Habersham . . . Savannah, Ga. . . . 1789-1799 . . . Graduate of Princeton in 1776 . . . Made a major in the Continental Army and took part in the unsuccessful invasion of Florida in 1776 . . . Fought in the unsuccessful battles in Savannah in 1778 and 1779 and in the final victory over the British in Savannah in 1782 . . . A delegate to the Continental Congress from 1785 to 1787 . . . Secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . A founder of the University of Georgia.

Christopher Hillary . . . Brunswick, Ga. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Enlisted and made second lieutenant . . . Member of the Georgia Line . . . Captured by the British in May 1781; exchanged February 1782 in Ashley Ferry, S.C. . . . Charter member of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati . . . Became prominent in Glynn County affairs after the War . . . Served in the Georgia House in 1787, 1788, 1789 . . . Member of

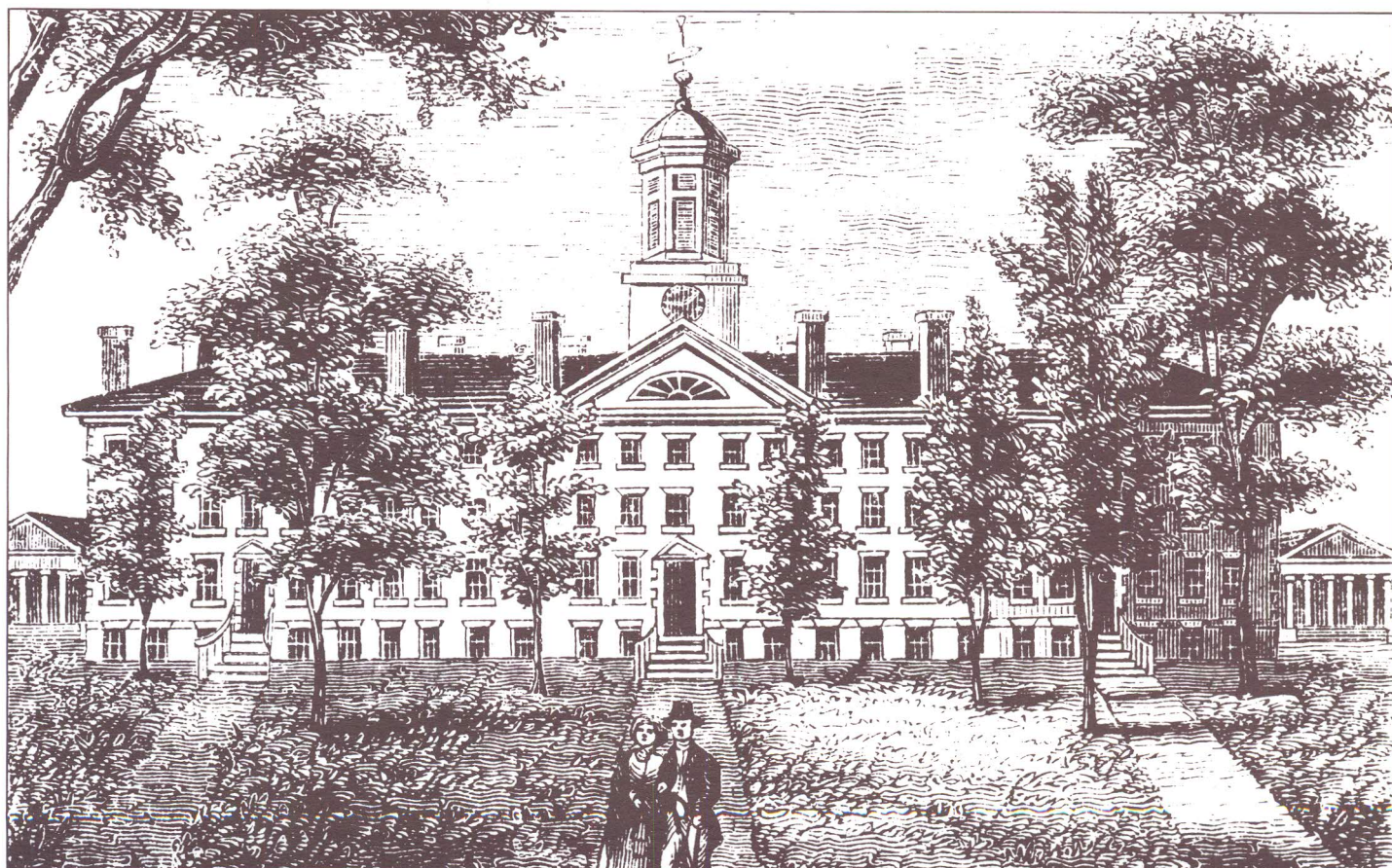
the Constitutional Convention in 1787 . . . Commissioned colonel in the Georgia Glynn County Militia, 1790 . . . Was an extensive landowner, owning over 1,000 acres on St. Simons Island . . . Hillary Island, once owned by him, is named in his honor . . . Died in office after a brief illness on February 18, 1796.

Cornelius Collins . . . Sunbury, Ga. . . . 1789-1791 . . . First lieutenant of the line during the Revolutionary War . . . Received his final pay on May 18, 1785 . . . Charter member of the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati . . . Large landowner and planter; bought the Cherry Hill Plantation and "Dublin" on the Ogeechee River in 1786 . . . Major Collins died in office on December 22, 1791.

James Seagrove . . . St. Mary's, Ga. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Irish-born . . . Merchant in New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah and Havana . . . Member of the Georgia House of Assembly . . . Negotiated with the Spanish in St. Augustine on the problem of fugitive slaves . . . Was a Creek Indian agent.

Chris Hillary Jr.

Customs officers Charles Lee, John Habersham and William McPherson were graduates of Princeton, shown below.



The First Surveyors

Thomas Martin . . . Portsmouth, N.H. . . . 1789-1798 . . . Kept a general store . . . Served in the customs service during the Confederation . . . Named Collector to succeed Joseph Whipple in 1798 . . . In that office until 1801.

Michael Hodge . . . Newburyport, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Merchant from a prominent family, before and after the Revolutionary War . . . Naval Officer of Customs during the Confederation . . . Resigned from the post in protest against the Embargo of 1809.

Samuel Whittemore . . . Gloucester, Mass. . . . 1789-1803 . . . Harvard graduate . . . Teacher . . . Member of the Constitutional Convention . . . Served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives . . . Collector during the Confederation period, serving from 1778-1789

Bartholomew Putnam . . . Salem, Mass. . . . 1789-1808 . . . Ship's officer and master . . . Owned his own vessel during the Revolutionary War . . . Active in both the local militia and as a privateer operating out of Salem.

Josiah Batchelder, Jr. . . . Beverly, Mass. . . . 1789-1809 . . . Seaman who became the master of his own vessel . . . In 1761 on a passage from Georgia to St. Christopher, taken prisoner by a French privateer . . . Elected six times to Massachusetts General Assembly . . . Member of the Provincial Congress in 1775, 1776, 1777, 1779 . . . Justice of the Peace . . . Surveyor and Inspector of Customs when Salem and Beverly were formed into one district in 1789 . . . Born in 1736 . . . Died in office December 10, 1809 . . . The first Sunday school in New England was founded in his home in 1810 by his daughter, Joanna Batchelder Prince, to take care of the children of seamen who were beached by the Embargo Act of 1807.

Jeremiah Staniford, Jr. . . . Ipswich, Mass. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Enlisted as a Minuteman on January 24, 1775 . . . Served for a short period as a private with Captain Nathaniel Walde's company of volunteers in Colonel John Baker's (3rd Essex Co.) Regiment . . . Part owner of the sloop *Fox* (built in Ipswich) in 1786 . . . Born September 28, 1751 . . . Died, February 29, 1816 . . . As a Minuteman, was required to "provide for and equip himself with an effective Fire Arm, Bayonet, Pouch, Knapsack, & Thirty round of Car-

Surveyors

It shall be the duty of the surveyor to superintend and direct all inspectors, weighers, measurers and gaugers within his district, and the employment of the boats which may be provided for securing the collection of the revenue; to go on board ships or vessels arriving within his district, or to put on board one or more inspectors, to ascertain by an hydrometer, what distilled spirits shall be of Jamaica proof, rating all distilled spirits which shall be of the proof of twenty-four degrees as of Jamaica proof, and to examine whether the goods imported are conformable to the entries thereof; and the said surveyors shall in all cases be subject to the control of the collector and naval officer.

Beverly august 11th 1789

Honored Sir, this is to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor dated the 4th inst. enclosing an act of Congress Regulating the Collection of Duties imposed by Law, on the Tonnage of Ships or Vessels and a Commission by which I am appointed a Surveyor of the Port of Beverly, in the state of Massachusetts, it is with sentiments of gratitude I accept the trust, shall Qualify myself and Enter on the Execution of my office immediately. I sincerely hope my conduct will give satisfaction, and have the honor to be with the highest sentiments of Respect.

Your excellencies most obedient
Honorable, Devoted J. Batchelder

His Excellency George Washington, Esq
President of the United States of America

Beverly august 11th 1789

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Your Excellencies most Obedt

Hon^{ble}, Devoted J. Batchelder

His Excellency George Washington Esq
President of the United States of America

[Signature]

the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Commanded the "McPherson Blues," the best militia cavalry unit in the country . . . Participated in the suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion and the Fries's rebellion.

Robert Ballard . . . Baltimore, Md. . . . 1789-1793 . . . Volunteered and commanded in the first regiment of Virginia . . . Fought at Heights of Haarlem . . . Was in the retreat through New Jersey . . . Fought at Trenton and at Brandywine . . . Was in the defense of Fort Mifflin . . . And in the winter camp at Valley Forge . . . Attained rank of colonel . . . After the War, speculated in land and lost his fortune . . . Applied for a position as Clerk of Court . . . Instead appointed Surveyor of Customs.

Robert Young . . . Town Creek, Md. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Part of the committee that picked a member of the Continental Congress from Charles County, Md. . . . Justice of the Orphan's Court in 1778, 1779, 1784 . . . Justice of the Peace in 1782, 1784 . . . Succeeded as Surveyor by Charles Chilton.

Robert Chesley . . . St. Mary's, Md. . . . 1789-1799 . . . As a cadet on March 8, 1776, was appointed to the Council of Safety . . . Served during the Revolution with the 2nd and 4th Maryland Regiments as a captain . . . Applied for the Surveyor's position on June 20, 1789.

Daniel Bedinger . . . Norfolk, Va. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Ran away from home in 1776 at age 16 to join the Revolutionary Army . . . Taken prisoner by British, and exchanged in 1778 . . . Rejoined the army . . . Discharged with rank of lieutenant in 1783 in South Carolina . . . Member of the Society of the Cincinnati . . . Opened a book store in Norfolk . . . Married a wealthy woman . . . Became a landowner . . . Appointed Navy Agent by Jefferson, 1802-1808 . . . Built a manor home in Shepherdstown (now West Virginia), "Bedford" . . . The manor was destroyed by Federal troops during the Civil War . . . Died in 1818 of lung disease from the effects of his long imprisonment by the British.

Archibald Richardson . . . Suffolk, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Justice of the Peace . . . Member of the voting committee to count ballots for the Governor's election in 1795 . . . Later appointed Collector at South Quay to succeed Captain Thomas Bowne in 1798 . . . served until 1804.

James Wells . . . Smithfield, Va. . . . 1789-1792 . . . Veteran of the Revolutionary War . . . Succeeded by Cope-

land Parker as Surveyor . . . Lieutenant colonel and commander of the militia at the Isle of Wight . . . Court martialled in 1794 as a result of delinquency in failure to take action on the illegal provisioning of a privateer (*The Unicorn*). At that time, it was a high crime against the Government to fit privateers in the United States and for Americans to serve on board . . . Owned 11 slaves.

Christopher Roane . . . Bermuda Hundred, Va. . . . 1789-1795 . . . Veteran of the Revolutionary War . . . Captain in the State Artillery . . . Appointed Searcher (Surveyor) of Customs during the Confederation . . . Died in 1796, just after he left office.

James Gibbon . . . Petersburg, Va. . . . 1789-1800 . . . Taken prisoner at Fort Washington in 1776; exchanged and made lieutenant in 1777 . . . Hero of Stony Point in 1779 . . . Led one of the two "forlorn hopes" of 20 men when General Wayne carried the fortress at Stony Point. Of his 20 men, 17 were killed or wounded . . . Promoted to captain . . . Ended the War as a colonel . . . Moved to Richmond where he was Collector for many years (possibly 1800-1835) . . . Died in 1835 at age 77.

Zachariah Rowland . . . Richmond, Va. . . . 1789-1796 . . . Merchant . . . Loyalist . . . Arrested just prior to the Battle of Yorktown . . . Succeeded by his son, James, who was just 21 years old.

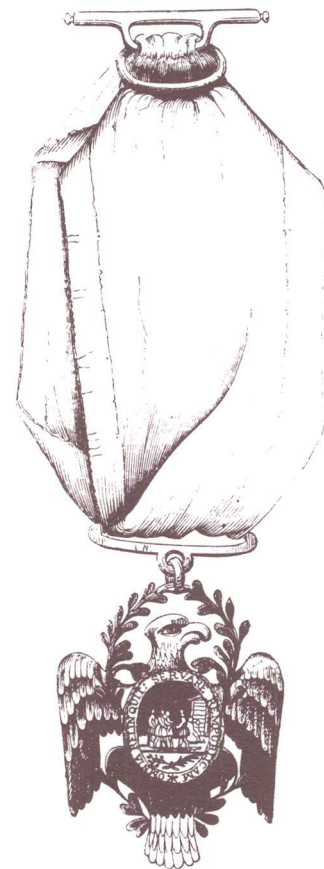
John Spotswood Moore . . . West Point, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Searcher for State Customs, succeeding Corbin Braxton on February 4, 1788 . . . Wrote the Governor in July 1788, ". . . needs a boat, inasmuch as vessels frequently escape after being forfeited." . . . In 1801 showed up as a tradesman selling brick and lime for a new tobacco warehouse to be built.

Staige Davis . . . Urbanna, Va. . . . 1789-1791 . . . Succeeded his brother, George B. Davis, as Surveyor of Customs during the Confederation period . . . A man of property, Davis owned one plantation, "Fairfield," which was deeded to him by his father in 1784 (358 acres) and "Prospect Hill" (460 acres) which he purchased in 1808.

George Catlett . . . Port Royal, Va. . . . 1789-1815 . . . From an old Virginia family with ancestors dating back to 1630's . . . Served as a lieutenant of marines aboard the *Pocahontas* . . . In December 1776, as captain commanded 25 marines aboard the *Mosquito* . . . Was taken captive by British in June 1777 . . . Imprisoned in Britain . . .



A McPherson Blue.



ORDER OF THE CINCINNATI.

Society of the Cincinnati—Many of the first U.S. Customs officers belonged to this fraternal organization, composed of officers who had served in the Revolutionary War.