

Copy of
Examinations of
Thos. Bedwell
& John Johnston

Read in Council Aug.
1. 1783 - *Thos*

The Examination of Thomas Badwell of the City of Philadelphia
Dealer & taken the 28th July 1782

The said Thomas Badwell saith that on the Evening of Friday the 26th instant, on the Valley Hill near the 38 Mile stone, he was coming with two Waggons in company with John Johnson up the Valley Hill on the Philadelphia Road & was a passenger in one of the Waggons & had got to the top of the Hill & was about a hundred Yards a head of the Waggons & saw to my sitting on a log by the road side with their heads down resting on their hands & had passed those men a few Yards & heard them running after him & was ordered to stop & they came up to him & showed him under their Cloaths some large Pistols with brass Barrels & their faces were blackened & they said they had waited for him some time & he said he believed they were mistaken as to him & they ordered him out of the Road into the Woods & he went as soon as they had him well out of sight, they took off his Garter & bound his hands behind him & they each put a Pistol to his side & obliged him to retire further into the Woods & the Waggons now rose the brow of the Hill & one of them staid with him a short time & the other went toward the Waggons & returned again & then they put him up against a Tree & interrogated him as to the loading of the Waggons, particularly as to what money was in them & he could not tell the loading & they then charged him to continue there on pain of being shot after he had told them that Mr. Johnson had some Money of his to keep for him & they said they belonged to a larger Gang and wanted nothing but public property & would return all private property again or would not touch it & they then left him & went toward the Waggons & they brought the Waggons to where he was, with their drivers & another Passenger named Jacob Miller & they then proceeded with us about a quarter of a Mile further into a deep hollow where there was a clear spot of Ground, taking the Waggons along & they then ordered the Waggons to unload & several Barrels of Vinegar were thrown out and stove to pieces & they got out a Hog head with Cloathing for the Army, a large Bale of Blankets for the Army & many other Articles & also sundry valuable Articles of Merchandise belonging to Col. Swife, Mr. May & Mr. Pillemeier of York Town, being marked for them & they opened all the packages as they came to the Ground & they made up the Articles of Merchandise belonging to those Gentlemen in Bundles & carried them to the right & left of us into the Woods, saying the owners were damned Rebels, always leaving one over us as a Guard & while we were unloading one of the two went to the Road after a Person who was seen riding there on Horseback & the report of a Gun or Pistol was soon after heard & presently that Person on Horseback was brought to us & that Person he hears is called Major Beaton of Chester County & they tied his hands behind him & ordered him to join the rest of us & they then proceeded to unloading & examining the rest of the Goods & presently after an old Man was seen gathering herbs in the Woods & one of them went & brought him & made him join us & after they had carried off a considerable quantity of the Goods, they filled two Bags with silk Handkerchiefs, Jeans & other light Articles & laid the Bags on the Ground & they then proceeded to make a fire of a number of Broom handles which were in the Waggons (which they called flag staffs) & the Hog head which the Cloathing was in & they then put the Cloathing all about it & they burnt all the Cloathing, saying it was a high satisfaction for them to burn it, as it was for the damned Rebels & wished they had a good deal more of it & while they were busy about this they heard three other Waggons go along the Road & lamented that we were not sufficiently secured to enable them to take the other three Waggons & they seemed to be well acquainted with the loading of the Waggons & that it was public property & they kept us in the Woods till near dark & left us with an injunction not to stir for a quarter of an Hour on pain of being shot & about an hour before they went off, they rolled the Bale of Blankets to the fire & set that on fire with the rest & before they went away they apologized to us for their treatment of us, saying they were Friends to the King and his Government, were in the Country

Country & were denied the means of getting out of it. & had no other way to support themselves - he thinks he has seen one of those Persons in Philadelphia - One of them was a light made well proportioned Man, with brown hair cut short - had on a large french cocked Hat - a dyed fishian olive coloured Coat or Frock with outside pockets - a corduroy velvet Breeches of nearly the same colour - had a plain pair of silver Buttons in his sleeves of an oval form - had a small silver Brooch in his Bosom cut in Diamonds - their washing had cleared their faces, so that he could observe him to be a ruddy complexioned Person with a thin Nose & thin Lips & rather sour countenance - The other was a tall well set Man, dressed in - linnen Coat, Jacket & overall, which were tied round the middle of the legs - had brown hair tied behind - a pale complexion with an aquiline Nose -

I sworn the Subscribed
the 28. July 1782 -
Before me
W. Allen

and further with not
(Copy) A (signed) Tho. Bedwell

The Examination of John Johnson of the Town of Carlisle in Cumberland County Feesherkeeper - Taken the 28. July 1782 -

The said John Johnson saith - On Friday last the 26. instant between the Hours of 5. & 6. of Clock in the Evening at the 38 Mile Stone on the Philadelphia Road, having a Waggon with me loaded with goods for Mr. Swopes, Mr. Hay & Mr. Bellmeyer of York Town, & being in Company with a Waggon drove by Archibald Henderson two Men came to us - Mr. Henderson's Waggon was foremost - The two Men had their faces blacked & their Hair powdered - One of the Men seized Mr. Henderson's leading Horse - the other of the Men presented two Pistols at my Breast - they were large Pistols with long barrels - he had two other smaller Pistols at his Belt - he demanded me to turn round and follow the other Waggon immediately & said if I offered to stop or fasten upon any Tree, designedly he would blow my Brains out - he took us down about a quarter of a Mile from the Road to a small Valley, where there was about an acre of ground, or some small piece cleared - he stopped Henderson's Team and ordered me to drive mine up close along side of it - One of the Men came up to me & presented his Pistols and ordered the other one to tie my hands behind my Back - when I was tied I looked round & saw Mr. Bedwell there tied - Mr. Bedwell was a passenger in my Waggon from Philad^a - the largest of the two Men left the other then as a guard over us & went to the Road again - shortly after I heard a Pistol go off - shortly after he brought a Major's Battalion of Chester County to the place where we was & tied his hands behind him and ordered him to sit down - before the Major came they had ordered the Man who was in Mr. Henderson's Waggon to throw the Load out - while they were unloading that Waggon there was an old Man walking on the side of the Hill, who said he was looking for Herbs - one of the Robbers hailed him & brought him down to us, but did not tie him - the largest of the two Men stood guard over us - the other went to work unloading the Waggon - he went into the fore part of my Waggon first & saw a parcel of Lead laying there - damn you says he, this is to shoot the Indians - then he went to the hind part of that Waggon & pitched out a large Box with Mr. Hay's name on it - after that he threw out another - then he found a little Tray & saying damn you this is the Powder to go with the Lead to kill the Indians he threw that out - it broke with the fall & he then says why damn it, it is Tea - the other made answer it makes no odds, it was that begun the War - then he threw out a Bag of Coffee which burst open - I told him I could not see what service that behaviour would be to him, as he could not take it away in the other one told him then not to throw any more out till he would see what was in the Boxes - they then examined the Boxes and found Mr. Swopes & Mr. Hay's names on them & said they knew them to be damned Rebels & knocked them open - when they had them open & saw that the goods suited them the little Man took a Parcel & carried them to the left of where we were - came back & took another some full & filled his Pocket with snuff Boxes, Papers & other small articles & carried them to the right of us where we were - then he returned and took another some full & pocket full & went to the left of us again - I then plainly heard him talk to somebody, as I thought about fifteen Rods distance from us among the Bushes - I did not see the Person he was talking to - then he returned & went to my Waggon & took two Bags out, & filled the Bags with Holland's Cambricks, Lawns, Christies, Colliaces & other fine articles - when he had the two Bags filled he left them on the ground & they were not taken away till they both went intirely off - before they unloaded my Team they ordered the Waggon of Mr. Henderson's Team to unload - four Barrels of Vinegar were thrown out - they

They all ston'd but one - then a large Thoghead was thrown out, filled with soldiers Coats, blue faced with white, the buttons marked U.S. & a large Bale of Blankets - the lead of the two Rebels then came to my Waggon & took away five Bush handles to the place where the Thoghead was laying - he then made a fire out of the Pan of one of his Pistols & kindled a fire - set then a fire round the Thoghead - some of the Cloaths were in it & some out - he then threw light stuff on it to make it burn - when they were about half burnt he rolled the Bale of Blankets close up to them & set them on fire likewise - while he was burning these things he was damning Gen: Washington & the Rebels & saying it was true the soldiers had read of them, but it made no odds as they were damned Rebels - the larger of the two then came to me two or three different times & asked me if I knew him - I might have seen his face but did not choose to say much to him for fear - he said he knew me and asked me my name & said he knew where I lived & that I travelled the Road pretty often - he said that if ever I described him or one of them, they would take our life the first time we travelled the Road - he said it was some satisfaction to them to them for Liberty, what they had done, but was not half what they would do & said they had a number of men & if they were collected they would go through the whole Country - We asked them if they would untie us before they went away, as we saw them preparing to go off - they untied me & Capt: the Major and Mr. Bedwell tied - neither Mr. Henderson nor Jacob Miller were tied during the whole transaction - they then charged us not to move from the place till a full quarter of an hour after they were gone on penalty of our lives - we were there about three hours - it was night before they went away - they bid farewell to us - went away & took the two Bays with them - I heard their horses feet going directly towards that old Mans House - on a coat I heard his name was - they told us that if we said any thing of them for four hours after we did go away that we should suffer for it - we went from the place about ten minutes after they were gone - enquired for a Magistrate - found that Squire Clogren was from home & proceeded on our Journey - I have seen the two men before - dont know where - with their wools & wiping their faces they took the black off - one of them was a well made man about five feet eleven inches high - hair brown coloured hair tied behind in a round heaver or furs thall - a white Coat Linen - with Sack & Overall of the same tied in his shoes - had a pair of oval pinkish buckles in his shoes - he seemed full faced & rather of a swarthy colour - I think he is grey eyed & has a rounding roman Nose & is thin lipped - I could not see his teeth - The other was a man I think about five feet seven inches high - a well made & straight little man - seemed of a fresh complexion thin nose - had on a large french hat coated - had short hair - dark or brown coloured - had a frock coat on of a dark greenish colour - breeches & Sack of corded velvet - rather darker - had a large pair of silver shoe buckles & shoe buckles of the same stuff - they appeared to be slaves - had white stockings on - whether woollen or cotton I dont know - the buckles were of a square form as while they were looking over the articles on the ground, the little fellow met with a Package of Handkerchiefs, with Gen: Washington stamped on them - upon seeing the Stamp, he said Gen: damn them, if he was here we would burn him along with the Cloaths - I told the biggest of the two men, that I hoped they would not take any thing about ourselves - he said by no means - the little fellow then came to me & asked me for my money - I gave it to him tied in a linen purse - he went away with it on pretence to get a drink - when they were going away I spoke to the big one & said that he had promised that nothing should be taken from myself - he then asked the little one to return my money - he returned me my purse & I found upon examination that there was £7. 15. s gone out of it - it was all my own money - I had none in keeping for Mr. Bedwell but threw it into Mr. Bedwells bundle as we came along - the big one had given me that Bundle as I claimed it when they were examining the Waggon - I did not hear them call one another by their Names - they said one was Captain one boy & the other the next -

Swoon & Sub called
the 28. July 1782 -
Propose me
G. Altice

And further with me
(Copy) (Signed) John Johnston

Copy of
Examinations of
Arch^d. Henderson
& Jacob Miller

Read in Council
Aug^t. 1. 1782

Thy

The Examination of Archibald Henderson the younger of Saltburg Township, Lancaster County - taken the 28th of July 1782. -

The said Archibald Henderson saith - On Thursday the 25th instant, I was engaged in Phila^{del}: by Joseph Patton to take a load of continental property from Phila^{del}: to Lancaster - I on that Day took into my Waggon a Hogshead of Bleaching, four Barrels of Vinegar & a Bale of Blankets belonging to the public, & had in my Waggon some Sugar and Coffee & some small Articles of private property - my Waggon left Philadelphia on Thursday Day about five o'clock having Jacob Miller of Piqua as a Passenger - I proceeded to the Valley Hill on the Lancaster Road & on Friday Evening left between 8 & 6 o'clock near the 38th Mile stone, Mr. Bedwell had walked forward - I saw two Men coming towards us - my Waggon was three or four Rods before Mr. Johnson - Jacob Miller was asleep in it - One of the Men, the little Man, came & took my Horse by the head & laid him towards the Woods - I ran up & washed him where he was going with the Horses - he pointed a Pistol towards me & said if I would say a Word he would blow my Brains out - Jacob Miller then awoke & was coming off the Waggon - the Man ran up to him & presented two Pistols to him & told him if he came down he would blow his Brains out - I heard the other Man behind swearing to Mr. Johnson that if he touched a Tree or a Sapling in driving he would blow his Brains out - the little Man told the leading Horse by the head and lead him on - & ordered me to drive on the others - we came to the place where Mr. Bedwell was & he told Bedwell to walk along side of him & told me to drive after him, as fast as I could & not hitch on a Tree for if I did he would shoot my Horses & myself too - we came to a little clear place about fifty Rods off the Road - he told me to turn the Horses round & let the tail of the Waggon stand down the Hill - & told Johnson to drive along side of me - I was then standing by the tail of my Waggon & he told me to stand back - he then pulled off the end gate from the tail of my Waggon & told me to throw out the Blanketing - before I had time to get on my Waggon he told me to Jacob Miller (who was take in it) you big son of a bitch took them out - Miller then rolled out the Bale of Blankets - when the Blankets came out the little Man said that belongs to the continental Brouges - they then ordered the Vinegar Barrels to be rolled out - we rolled one out that did not break - the tall Man then got a stone & smashed in the head of it - the others were rolled out & stove except one which remained - they then ordered the Hogshead of Bleaching to be rolled out - it did not break - the little Man with a stone smashed the Hoops of it & smashed the Hoops out - they took part of the clothing out & throw'd them in a heap - they said here will do us no good & as they belong to the continental Brouges we will burn them - they then went from my Waggon to Johnson's Waggon - the little Man went into Johnson's Waggon & saw Lead in the fore part of it - this says he is to kill the Indians - he then took up a Keg - this says he is Powder to go with the lead & throw the Keg from him as far as he could - the lead flew out & show'd that it was Tea - the other? Damn the odds, this is what began the War - he then went to the hind part of the Waggon & pushed two Boxes out of it - before they began to unload the Waggons the tall Man went up to the Road & after he was gone a little time I heard a Pistol go off & presently he brought Major Beathon with him & his Horses - he tied Major Beathon's hands behind his back & made him sit down - they then opened the Boxes - the little Man carried two compasses of Goods away into the Woods, one to the left hand and the other to the right - the big Man in the mean time guarded us with two Pistols - about this time an old Man who asked us if we were not dry & took us one by one to a spring to drink - about this time an old Man who was gathering herbs appeared just at the edge of the cleared place - the big Man ran to him and told him to stand & brought him and placed him with us - they then began to fill two Baggys with goods out of a Chest from Mr. Johnson's Waggon - the little fellow filled his Pistols with snuff Boxes and such articles - any thing they did not choose to take they kicked away - while they were filling the Baggys the big Man went towards the spring - I at that time saw a Man on a Sorel Horse a few Rods from the spring & the big Man talking to him - I could not hear what they said & do not know the Man who was on Horseback - he had a long quater like Coat on buttoned - & a round Hat & was without a saddle - the Man on Horseback went away & the big Man returned they then took some Brouch handles from Johnson's Waggon - the little one then put a peg in the touch-hole of his Pistoll - took some pieces of paper & some Tow & snuffed his Pistoll & made a fire - putting on light stuff & the Brouch handles - when the fire burst he throwed the Coats on it - saying he knew the soldiers had need of them, but it made no odds as they were damned Rebels - they burnt the Hogshead with the remainder of the Cloaths likewise - they then rummaged the Boxes from Johnson's Waggon again & finding a parcel of Handkerchiefs with Genl. Washington stamped on them, they kicked them about saying they would burn them - & son of a bitch took if they had them - they put the Handkerchiefs then into a Bag - they then tied the Baggys - one of them then rolled the Bale of Blankets to the fire & put a stick against it that it might be kept to the fire - after they came to us & told us not to describe them & that if we did they would catch us going up & down the Road -

& if we stirred from that spot for a quarter of an Hour after they were gone, they would shoot our Horses and ourselves too - they said they knew Johnson and knew me & if I said anything about them they would not leave me a Horse - & told us not to take any thing away, not a single word about the matter for four Hours - they went away then & took the Chaggs with them I heard one of them say that he had rode up the Road that Day with a continental Officer, who had told them of the Waggon & their loading - I had not seen either of these men the Road before they met us on the Hill - nor in Philadelphia - I noticed them after the sweat and labour had taken the black off their faces - they are such men as are described in the examinations of Bedwell & Johnson - I dont know either of them - I think I have seen them, but dont know when or where - I never saw Tho: Buller or Pile and dont know if it was them or not - one of the Teeth of the little Man, before, stood out further than the others & a little across them -

I sworn & subscribed
the 28th July 1782 -
Before me
W. Atlee

And further saith not
(Copy) (signed) Archibald Henderson

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The Examination of Jacob Miller of Salisbury Township in Lancaster County joined, taken the 29th July 1782 -

The said Jacob Miller saith - On Friday last in the afternoon between 5 & 6 of clock (as I think, I was in a Waggon of Archibald Hendersons coming up from Philadelphia, near the 38 mile Stone on the Lancaster Road - had been asleep in the Waggon - the Waggon turned off the Road & seemed as if it would overturn, which awakened me - I jumped up & looked out - saw a fellow with his face blackened having hold of the Horses - the fellow when he saw me came to me & presented two Pistols to me, and said he would blow my Brains out if I stirred a step - I upon that kept in the Waggon & saw another Man with his face blackened having hold of the Horses of Johnsons Waggon which was a little behind - they took the Waggon into the Woods swearing that if the drivers ran against any Saplin or Tree they would blow their Brains out - took the Waggon to a clear spot at some distance from the Road - they then tore out the endgate of Hendersons Waggon - & tore out a Bale of Blankets - they then told Archibald Henderson to get up & throw out the Load - he refused & said they might do it themselves - they then ordered me to throw the things out - I was obliged to obey their orders & rolled some Barrel of Vinegar forward, which broken when the Vinegar was out they made me roll out the Hogs head with the Cloathing in - when the Hogs head fell down the little Man took a stone & smothered in the Head & took it out - he then pulled out a quantity of the Cloathing - he then called me a damned Heppian Bourgeois & bid me come down - when I came down he presented his Pistols to me & made me pull out more of the Cloaths - they then made me go towards the other Waggon - the little fellow then went into Johnsons Waggon & threw some Goods out - he met with a Key which he said was Powder dogs against the Indians - he threw it out & it broke & appeared to be lead - upon which the big fellow said damn it this begun the War - after some time the big fellow went up to the Road, we presently heard a Gun fire & directly after he returned & brought Major Beaton with him, who was tied and made to sit down - they took out the Goods & put them in Bags - the little fellow filled his Pockets with small articles & went sometime to the Woods - I heard some talking in the Woods but saw none but the two men - about sun set the little fellow made a fire by snapping his Pistol to some Tow & putting some light wood & some Branch handles together - he then put the Hogs head to the fire & throwed the Cloathing on, saying that the damned poor Rebels wanted the Cloathing less enough, but it was no matter - during these transactions they catched an old Man by the Hill side & brought him

I sworn & r
the 29th Ju
Before

him down to us - they also rolled the Bale of Blankets to the fire & put a stick
against it to keep it to the fire - they did not burn any thing but the public property -
they then made us promise not to show for a quarter of an hour & not to say any thing for
four hours after - they said they knew us all well enough & threatened that if we
described them: they would burn and destroy every thing we had - they then went away
on foot - I presently heard the feet of Horses rattling along towards our left -
I dont know either of them nor never saw either of them before to my knowledge -
I dont know Tho. Bullen nor Pale - I did not hear them call each other by any
Name - the little man had four Pistols in his Belt & two in his Hands - &
the big man had four Pistols that I saw - they damned us for Rebels & said
this was only the beginning in satisfaction for Fitzg who was hanged - they said
they would be revenged for him - before they went off they took the Saddle
& Bridle from Major Beattons' Horse & let him run - I told the Major that
he should not ride -

Sworn & subscribed
The 29. July 1782
Before me
W. Atlee

and further, with not
(Copy) - signed Jacob. Miller