To unlimited areas, to
order, little on Leaping To
headfenders from here. To play
To his Excellency, Washington
March 30, 1760
Dollar
To my Suspence to 300 mile 3rd
To my Suspence whole 8th Me 1765
To my wife 28th 1797
a 60 Dollar note

245-04
266-2
8093

May 12th 1780
Muster Roll or Summary of Troops Present to be Paid, in March 1780
March 30, 1780 Express Mail to George Washington Pay Order

By
Calvet M. Hahn ©2002

The date ten days before General Benjamin Lincoln was forced to surrender Charleston which was invested by the British forces and the entire American southern army originally misled me into believing it might involve that disastrous event, particularly when I failed to find General Bayley in any of the standard references or in the DAR lists, although the rider, Moses Little, was in the DAR lists of Revolutionary War express riders. The solution came when a NYPL librarian descendent of English loyalists driven out of American referred me to an article¹ on the attempt to kidnap General Jacob Bayley of Newbury, VT in 1782. This in turn led me to a biography of Bayley from the Vermont Historical society Proceedings 1917-1920 published by a descendant, Fred P. Wells, in the 1920 volume pages 58-92.

Bayley was born July 19, 1726, the 9th child of Joshua and Sarah Coffin Bayley of Massachusetts, who moved to Hampstead, NH while Bayley was a young

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March 30, 1780 Pay order by express mail to George Washington.
man and he died March 1, 1815 at age 81. He became a soldier at 23 and served at Fort William Henry in 1757 barely escaping the massacre there, he then was at Ticonderoga and participated in the 1759 siege of Montreal. In 1762 he was at Grown Point, where he wrote his brother-in-law, the express rider, Moses Little of Newbury, MS, to purchase cattle for him and reported he had 40 families ready to move to found Newbury, VT in Coos County. He became a general June 1775 and was at the American siege of Boston, was with Ethan Allen’s Green Mountain Boys at the capture of Ticonderoga and participated in the defeat of Burgoyne at Saratoga at which time he was both Brigadier General and Commissary General of the Northern Department under Gates. In 1779 he constructed the first 20 miles (to Wells River) of the 100-mile Bayley-Hazen Military Road from Newbury to St. Johns in Canada.

Amidst the welter of claims to the area (New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire) Bayley declined to support Ethan Allen in opposing joining New York and supported such a decision in 1777; however, by 1780 he became an advocate of Vermont as an independent state. In 1781 he was involved in recruiting Indian Rangers from the Abnaki along with Timothy Bedell (1737-1787). On May 1, 1780 he sent Washington a list of 17 Rangers used to patrol the Canadian frontier, whom he had enlisted on his own surety for years. He comments “a much larger number had been here at times, but are now rambling in the woods (;) Thos have been serviceable as scouts, &c.” These apparently are the Indian Rangers referred to in New Hampshire Colonial Records 8, pg. 137, “Muster Roll of Capt. John Vincent’s company of Indian Rangers.” Bayley never was compensated for his services and wrote Washington in September 1782 regarding pay from November 1778 to February 1781. At the time of his death he had already sold his estate to pay the obligations and was $60,000 in debt.

British General Frederick Haldimand apparently subverted Ethan Allen, who had been captured by the British in 1775 and exchanged in 1779. At the close of the war Haldimand conceived the idea of detaching Vermont from the U.S. and eliminating Bayley who would be a major opponent. Haldimand had at his command British secret service agent Capt. Justus Sherwood (who was 28 in 1776), a one-time Green Mountain Boy, who led the Indian raid on Royalton, VT of October 16, 1780 that killed some and captured 32 men as well as endangering the entire upper Connecticut Valley. He also had as well as Dr. George Smythe of Ft. Edward (code name Hudibras) the Albany agent in 1780-1781. According to the Canadian archives3, their task was to,

“capture General Bayley and bring him in but if he was not able to walk to kill him and bring his papers.”

The raid, with 47 scouts from the Loyal Block House on Dutchman’s Point, which took place on June 15, 1782 failed due to jealousy and suspicions among the officers and scouts.

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2 Of the four contemporary Moses Littles, this is probably the one born May 8, 1724, who died May 27, 1798. The others were born in 1738, 1742 and 1747 respectively and were much younger.

3 Canadian Archives Haldimand B 1770-1782 page 196.