

The Fr. Minervas - a Forgotten Record.

In the year 1795, three hundred and fifty no
merchant craft carrying the flag of the United States, -
a nation hardly out of on-adding clothe, - entered
the harbor of Bordeaux, then the chief port of France.
Some of these vessels were ships, & most of them were little
~~These vessels~~, Pollys, Sallys and Mary Anne,
Lafayette, Congress, Constitution and Independence,
~~were ranging~~ from 70 tons burden to 300. They
were maneged by small crews, the smallest five
and the largest fifteen men. They came from
every port on the Atlantic and Gulf coast, laden
with ~~the~~ the products of the western world - sugar,
cocoa, rice, tobacco, rum, copper, cotton, fish, dye-
stuffs, turpentine and furs. In the lists of masters
and crews, there is hardly an ~~un-~~English name.
The captains were skilful, spryly men, traders as
well as bold seamen, who had fought with Paul
Jones and Perry and were to fight with Decatur,
when the navy of the youngest of nations put down
the Mediterranean piracy, that had held Europe in
terror since the fall of Constantinople.

In 1795, the American Consul has the arbitrator
protection and servant of all his countrymen to
brace the sea in ships. He judged their disagreements
set in motion for them the machinery of local law, and
above all, recorded the protest by which ~~the~~ responsi-
bility for damage to ship or cargo was shifted from
the shoulders of the captain, and laid to the winds or
waves, the treacherous sand banks of the Bay of Biscay,
dishonest charterers, mutiny, pirates or privateers as
the case might be.

The records are scattered and incomplete. Some
of the folios are missing, others are damaged. But
in some the hand made linen paper is as firm as

More than a century ago, the carrying
trade of the Atlantic was done in small
bottoms.

One of the first Consulates our country -
then scarcely out of our infancy, clotheing - established
was at Bordeaux, ~~at first time~~ the chief port of France ~~was~~
one of the most important on the continent. ~~to~~
~~was opened in the fall of 1790. October 1790, officially~~
~~recognized in March, 1791. The shipping requests of~~
~~the Consulate show that in~~

The day it came from the mill, the entries, ~~written~~
in a hand flowing ^{dearly}, hand, as clearly legible as if written
yesterday, while the Indian manner ~~desertion~~ ^{desertion} branding is
vulgarly, mispelt of dust and the neglect of now ~~then~~ ^{then}
a century. There are found hints of a ~~poor~~ and romances,
suggestions of countless tragedies. Sometimes an
incident can be traced to a sort of ending. The "The
hidden sea and a hidden fight", of the Minerva
is one of these.

The "Protocol" says:

In this publick Instrument of Protocol be it
known to all whom it may concern that on the
Twelfth day of April, One Thousand eight hundred,
before me, Isaac Cox Barnett, Agent of the United
States of America and charged with the Consulate for
the Port and District of Barbadoes, ... personally ap-
peared Wilkes Barber, Master and Commander,
Abraham Hallett, Second Mate, & Boat Train, James
Gibson, Gunner, and John Ann Ellis, seaman, of the
Ship Minerva, of Boston, and William Tudor, Jun^r
Edward Sharp and Oliver L. Brewster, Passengers:
And the said Wilkes Barber made on his
solemn oath the following Declaration, to which
[the others] have severally sworn...

I, Wilkes Barber, Master of the Ship Minerva,
of Boston in the United States, armed with fourteen
Carriage guns, twelve of which were four pounders &
two of six pound shot, and equipped with thirty
men of Boys, besides Passengers, sailed from the
Port of London on the sixteenth day of March last,
bound for Boston, in company with the Ship Diana,
Capt. Davis, & Sarah, Capt. Bricley, both of Boston,
the Belvidere, Capt. Ross of Philadelphia, & Halcyon
Capt. Wroe, of Baltimore, under verbal agreement
to keep Company with each other until clear
of the English Channels; on the twenty second day
of March at night, being off Beachy Head &

In this weather, the Ship Belvidere parted company; the truly bad at about five o'clock was brought to by His Britannic Majesty's ship Babet, went on board with Capt. Price of the Halcyon & was detained about two hours from continuing our voyage.

On the twenty fourth spoke the other ships; Capt. Davis of the Diana came on board ~~&~~ left a Letter for Boston, saying he was going into Ponto-
mouth, for having engaged by his insurance to sail with ships, on of which had already left him, he
beared the others road to the same; the Captains
of the other ships still agreeing to keep Company,
all stood together until night when in a thick
Foggy Capt. Davis called and said the Minerva
would be aboard him; upon which I ordered sail
shortened, to let him shoot a Head; made signals
all night which were not answered and next
morning the Diana was out of sight.

The Halcyon and the Sarah still being in Company
continued our Course together until about mid-
night, being off the Start, parted from the Sarah.
On the twenty seventh... at ~~to~~ ten A.M. it being
very squally & a heavy sea, carried away the Main
Top Mast, - cleared the rigging & on the following
morning got up another & was all compleat at
Midday. On the ~~the~~ twenty ninth at twelve o'clock
Took sight of the Halcyon some miles north, being
then in long. 31° N. & lat. 48, in consequence of the
heavy gales ~~and~~ & the very high sea running,
I stood on our Course as near as possible until
midnight wind from N.N.W 10° N.W, very squally
& heavy sea, everything in good order; about four
o'clock in the morning saw sail in the N.E. which
tacked ~~to~~ & wore ship several times & about ten o'clock
made sail and gave chase to the Minerva, - on
overrunning which I crowded on all sail the weather
allowing cutting out the reef for the Top sails ~~and~~
⁸ reefs from

immediately got clear for action, determining, if possible to save my ship from capture - if the vessel in chase prove to be a Privateer, - in which resolution I has fully concurred by my officers & crew, who showed the greatest alacrity - & good discipline.

The sail in sight gained on me fast & at half past ten fired a gun, being distant one & half miles to leeward, hoisted French Colours & appears to be a Privateer of 18 guns. I ordered a shot-fired to leeward and hoisted the Amst Colours & made ready for defense with all hands at their quarters. Shortly after the french ship hailed in English & commanded me to send my boat on board. I answered that "if he wanted anything of me to send his own boat on board me." He then hailed a second time & said "Sail you, send a boat or I will fire into you!"

To which I replied "fire and be damned" He fired a gun the shot of which cut away the Minerva's starboard main clew Garnet. I then fired a gun at the Privateer which was returned by a Broadside, produced one man badly. The Minerva then being within pistol = shot fired her broadside broadside twice while the Privateer kept up a continual fire from her Battery, Musketry & large blunder busses fixed in her Taps; during the action a Case killed two men at the Helm by the name of Cudrow Hannicks a Dane by Birth and naturalized Citizen of the United States...

Finding the great superiority in men & forces of the Minerva & had a longer contest would only be certain loss... I struck my Colours, after which the men from the Privateer fired their musketry to the number of Sixty- or seventy-rounds, contrary to the laws of Nations & the well-known rules of war & humanity; after they had ceased I was ordered to

lower my Boat... I went on board the privateer
accompanied by Mr. Tudor one of the passengers.
Their English talked to me in a very abusive
manner But Mr. Tudor speaking the french
language answered to the Captain's questions, that
the ship was the Minerva of Boston in the United
States bound from London and loaded with-
& dry goods belonging to American merchants &c
The Captain of the Privateer took my
papers Eighteen in number among which was
an attested list of my Crew or Roll & Equipage,
Register, Mediterranean Pass, Commission of Letter
of Marque, Sea Letter &c, &c; the papers were
then sealed up and delivered to a prize Master,
who had sent on board the Minerva with a Mate
& twenty men, & twenty two of the Minerva's crew
were brought on board the Privateer with no of the
passengers, Mr. Edward Sharpe & Mr. Oliver C.
Breckinridge, who were forced into the Boat... at risk
of their lives from the great sea & swell, & more-
over were shamefully abused on their passage to
the Privateer by an American Negro - man
one of her crew.. I mentioned several times to
the Captain Capt^y of the Privateer the dangerous
condition of the wounded men left on the Minerva
& requested a Surgeon being sent, which has not
done it being objected that the sea was too rough
otherwise the ~~man~~ he (said he) would have sent
to bring off Mr. Tudor's and my clothes.

There were left on the Minerva my Chief Mate
John Norwood, Robert Coland Passenger and acting
officer, three Seamen & four men, two women & his
children Passengers.

After being a short time on board the Privateer
I learned that she was called la Minerve of Brestay
commanded by Langlois, armed with 18 carriage guns
of twelve & nine pounders & one hundred & fifty

five men. On the third day of April following,
the wind being from the Northwest blustery and
thick weather, - the Minerva with her prize Crew
then in company with the Pioneer & close a
board at about nine o'clock in the Morning,
a sail was discovered standing towards us. ~~the~~
Us were immediately ordered below & with
my Passengers & the Minerva's Crew confined in
the hold under double guards. The Vessel in
chase coming up very fast in about an hour.
I could distinguish her from the cabin windows
of the Pioneer to be an English Frigate. I saw
her fire a gun at the Minerva & soon understood
that she had boarded and taken possession of
my ship. The Minerva then hauled away to the
N.E. & the Frigate gave chase to the Pioneer, in
order to lighten which & help her sailing part of
the guns, spare spars, some shot & other heavy
articles were thrown overboard & several casks
of water sloshed ~~out~~ & scattered out, the stanchions
between decks knock'd away, and stays
slackened. about an hour afterward the Frigate
gave over chase.

On the fifth day of April we arrived in the
Gironde River & on the ninth following anchored off
Bordeaux. I was kept on board said Pioneer all
day of the tenth with my Crew and Passengers & not
allowed to communicate with the shore, & on the eleventh
about ten o'clock in the Morning three Frenchmen
came on board, one of which having a tricolored
ribbon around his neck with a Silver Badge to it &
took to be a Civil Officer. I was requested to attend
in the cabin where I was questioned in English by
one of the above mentioned men Frenchmen, on many
points relating to my Ship Minerva, her cargo, &
my passengers, all which questions with my answers
are committed to paper & to which by their desire

I subscribe my name, after having them read to me in English & finding nothing contrary to the answers previously given.

My examination took up three hours & an half and about half past one P.M. & as it was finished I Isaac Cox Barnes Esq^r; Agent of the United States, came on board & told me he had liberty for me to go on shore Accordingly I accompanied him on his invitation, leaving my Passengers & men to be examined, who were there after and on his information did at liberty - in the course of the day came afternoon. It is in the morning of the twelfth of April 3, the said Wilkes Barber, do by these presents solemnly protest against the said Private Ship la Minerale Cap^r Langlois, her officers & crew, owners & all interested therein, for the Capture of my Ship Minerva & for all damages, costs, interests, salvoes, detriments, injuries, loss & consequence what so ever, to the said Ship Minerva, her tackle, furniture, apparel & cargo, & all interested therein... In consequence whereof I the said Wilkes Barber & Isaac Cox Barnes Agent.. at the request of the aforesaid Wilkes Barber.. have protested as by these presents solemnly protest..."

a full page of seals, signatures and attestations follows

Mr. Isaac Cox Barnes was a conscientious official. His ~~term of office~~ has a brief one, but the times were stirring, and more records of his incumbency remain than of any proceeding or following. See a book of Auspicious Safe Conducts, 14 of the 36 copies of Minerva people can be traced a step further. They were indeed a gallant young company. The vessel has 36

a few days after the "protest" It appears that eight of the Minerva's crew, headed by Abraham Wallen, the Second mate, are

sent by the Consul to Copenhagen ("in search of Ships") on the Danish Barque Bengala-Maria of Frederickstadt, Capt. Eric Rasm. John Malcolm, the "Boy", fifteen years old, went with them. Captain Barber seems to have been intended to go with them when he took out his first Seafarers' conduct on April 15th. But on the 24th he receives an order granting him "Leave to go to Paris on matters connected with his Ships." In it the "Cap = devant commandant" is described as 30 years of age, of shortish stature, red-haired and grey-eyed. — just the breed for a ^{merchant} captain who ^{gives} ~~roads~~ fights to a superiority of five times his own strength. Greenleaf and Sharp, described as "Boston" merchants of Boston in the U.S. are respectively 22 and 26 years of age. They go to San Sebastian in Spain "to embark for the United States", probably making the transfer on the Cugger Marie-Therese, of Baye, which took Thomas Howland to London there "in search of a ship of his nation." The safe conduct called Howland "deems sufficient" of the foreign ships, which does not agree with Barber's statement that his chief mate has left on the Minerva.

And last of all comes the Mr Tudor who spoke French so well. He is a venerable Boston merchant just of age. He goes to Paris at the time Captain Barber does, with six months' notice, and in August returns to Bordeaux to embark for home on the "American parliamentary ship", Benj Franklin, Capt. Panty.

More than a century ago the carrying
trade of the Atlantic was done in American
Gallons. In the year 1795, a ~~year~~^{gallon} a day, flying
the stars and stripes, entered the harbor of
~~Bordeaux~~ ^{Bordeaux}, at that time the chief port of
France if not the most important of Southern
Europe.

One of the first consulates established by
our country - then scarcely out of swaddling
clothes - was at Bordeaux officially. ~~The~~^{Request of Joseph Brandy} the first ~~incapable~~^{unpaid} ~~consul~~^{agent} was ~~accepted~~^{accepted} in March
1791. Though the office was opened the previous autumn
and the shipping register shows that in that year
ninety craft under the Am. flag entered the harbor.

1791 - 33 In 1791 there were 33

in 1792 - 49 Some of these vessels were
1793 - 155 ships; most of them ^{bags & casks} were
1794 - 186 ^{nus} "Polly," "Lally," "Mary Anna"
1795 - 362 Lafeyette, Congress, Constitution etc.
1796 - 308 ^{incapacities} ranging from
1797 - 290 70 tons burthen to 300. They

were navigated by small crews, the
smallest six and the largest 16 men. They
came from every port on the Atlantic or
Gulf Coast, laden with all the produce of the
western world - sugar, cocoa, rice, tobacco, gums,
cotton, cotton, fish, dye stuffs, turpentine and wax.

In the lists of masters and crews there is
scarcely an ~~real~~ English name. The captains
were shrewd, sturdy men, traders as well as
seamen, who had fought well - Paul Jones & were to
fight with Decatur when the navy of the youngest
of nations put down the Mediterranean pirates
which had held Europe in terror. Read the
fall of Constantinople

In 1790, nineteen craft; in 1791, thirty three; in
1792, forty nine; in 1793, one hundred fifty five,
in 1794, one hundred eighty six; in 1795, three
hundred fifty two; ~~in~~ in 1796, three hundred eight
in 1797, ~~to~~ two hundred nineteen.

Diplomatic relations were becoming
strained, hence the falling off.

In 1798, fifty six; in 1799, four.

More than a century ago, the carrying trade
of the Atlantic was done in American bottoms.

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Country - then scarcely out of swaddling clothes -
was at Bordeaux, at that time the chief port of
France, if not the most important in Southern Europe.
Officially recognised in ^{March} 1791, though opened the
previous autumn, the shipping register of the consulat-
shows that in 1790, nine hundred craft flying the
American flag entered the harbor. On 1791 there were
nearly three; in 1792, forty-nine; in 1793, one hundred
fifty-five; in 1794, one hundred eighty-six; in 1795,
three hundred fifty-two; in 1796, three hundred eight.
In 1797, two hundred ninety.

In 1797, two hundred in 1798, fifty-six. In 1799,
four.

Diplomatic relations restored

Isaac Cox Barnet, son of a distinguished
officer of the N. A. Continental Line, Surgeon
John Messenger Barnet, has been appointed in 1797
by Washington Consul at Brest. He was now
transferred to Bordeaux as "an official Agent of the
U. S." in Jan. 1800. ~~Diplomatic relations having~~
~~been resumed,~~ he was made Consul

A Forgotten Record

long at 4. & the 48. in consequence of the heavy gales.

The United States consulate at Bordeaux is one of the oldest in our sea faring, open on our Consul until March 1793, and from N.Y. to service. Its doors have not been closed a business day for a century. ~~It is~~ ~~open~~ ~~equally~~ ~~every~~ ~~sea~~. ~~every~~ ~~year~~ ~~since~~ ~~1790~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ ~~old~~ ~~and~~ ~~worn~~ ~~records~~, scattered and incomplete, extend years back of that. There are ~~now~~ ~~several~~ ~~hundred~~ ~~books~~; about four hundred in the ~~old~~ ~~one~~ ~~volume~~, great slices of hand-made linen paper as solid as the day it came from the mill; the distinct flowing writing of the entries is unbroken by time, ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~hand~~ ~~written~~ ~~several~~ ~~times~~ ~~black~~ ~~and~~ ~~clear~~; the Indian-tanned deer-skin that binds them is intact and velvety yet, ~~through~~ ~~plenty~~ ~~of~~ ~~years~~ ~~of~~ ~~neglect~~ ~~and~~ ~~heat~~. In the year 1795, ~~they~~ ~~concern~~ ~~chiefly~~ ~~shipping~~ ~~matters~~. ~~between~~ ~~and~~ ~~352~~ ~~craft~~ ~~under~~ ~~the~~ ~~color~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~ship~~ ~~Minerva~~ ~~sailor~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~.

vessels carrying the American flag entered the port of Bordeaux.

In the last ~~year~~ there has not been a single one--unless by ~~accident~~ that ran

into the mouth of the Garonne to avoid phantomagical cruisers, can

be counted. Those ~~old~~ ~~ships~~, the Pollys and Sallys, and Lafayettes and

Independences, were of from 70 to 300 tons burden, navigated by from

five to sixteen men, came from every Atlantic and gulf port laden with

all the produce of the western world--sugar and cocoa, rice, tobacco, gums,

lumber, cotton, fish, dye-stuffs and furs. There is hardly an unenglish name i

in the lists of crews and captains; shrewd, sturdy men, traders as well

as bold navigators--would we had such a merchant marine nowa--who had

fought with Paul Jones and Perry, and were to fight with Decatur, when

the navy of the youngest of Nations put down the Wigerling piracy that

had held Europe in terror since the fall of Constantinople.

In these days the consul was the arbitrator, protector and servant of

was trying to make up for having enraged by his insatiable avarice

all his countrymen who braved the sea in ships. He judged their disagree-

ments, he set ~~them~~ ~~in~~ ~~motion~~ the machiency of local law for them, and recor-

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shifted from the shoulders of the captain ~~or~~ ~~upper~~ ~~man~~, and laid to

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to the winds and waves, the treacherous sands of the Bay of Biscay, dis-

to be shortened to let him shoot a Head-made signals all night which no

honest charterers, mutiny, pirates, or privateers as the case might have been.

In these old books are the hints of a thousand romances, the suggestions

the Sarah still ~~lives~~ ~~scraped~~ ~~down~~ ~~with~~ ~~legible~~ ~~lines~~ ~~but~~ ~~sometimes~~ ~~one~~ ~~can~~ ~~follow~~ ~~out~~ ~~a~~ ~~few~~

tale, such as the "Hidden sea and hidden flight as they of the Two Minerv-

as" ~~which~~ ~~pappened~~ ~~just~~ ~~one~~ ~~Wind~~ ~~ago~~. ~~The~~ ~~consul~~ ~~says~~:

the main Top Mast, -altered the rigging on the following morning got

had up another & was all compleat at Meridian. On the twenty ninth at twelve o'clock took sight of the Halcyon some miles north, being then in long 31 W. & lat 48. / in consequence of the heavy gales & the very high sea running; stood on our Course, untill March first..wind from N.E.W. to N.W. very squally & heavy sea..everything in good order & standing on my course as near as possible; about four o'clock in the Morning saw sail in the N.E. which tacked & wore ship several times & about ten o'clock

Greenleaf, Passengers; and said Wilkes Barber made on his solemn oath the following Declaration to which [the others] have severally sworn,

---- I, Wilkes Barber, Master of the Ship Minerva of Boston in the United States, armed with fourteen Carriage Guns, twelve of which were four pounders & two of six pound shot, and equipped with thirty men & Boys, besides Passengers, sailed from the Port of London on the sixteenth day of March last, bound for Boston, in Company with the Ship Diana, Capt.

Davis & Sarah, Capt Brickly of Boston, the Belvidere, Capt Ross of Philadelphia & Halcyon, Capt. Wise, of Baltimore, under verbal agreement to keep Company with each other untill clear of the English Channel; on the twenty second day of March, at night, being off Beachy Head in thick weather the Ship Belvidere parted company, the twenty third at about five o'

clock was brought to by his Britannic Majesty's ship Babot, went on board with Capt. Wise of the Halcyon & were detained about two hours from con-

sidering our Voyage. On the twenty fourth joined the other ships, Capt Davis of the Diana came on board & left a letter for Boston, saying that he was going into Portsmouth for having engaged by his insurance to sail

with ships, one of which had already left him, he feared the others would do the same; the Captains of the other ships still agreeing to keep Company all stood on together until night when, in the thick fog Capt. Davis hailed and said the Minerva would be aboard him upon which it ordered sail to be shortened to let him shoot a Head; made signals all night which were

not answered and next morning the Diana was out of sight. The Halcyon the Sarah still being in Company, continued our Course together until

about midnight, being off the Start, parted from the Sarah. On the twenty seventh, at ten A.M. it being very squally & when we were carried away from the Main Top Mast, -- cleared the rigging & on the following morning got

" By this public Instrument of Protest be it Known & to all whom
it may Concern that on the twelfth day of April, One thousand eight hundred,
before me Isaac Cox Barnett, ~~Agent of the~~ ^{Capt.} ~~United~~
~~States of America and Charged~~
~~with the Consulate for the Port and District of Bordeaux~~ personally
appeared Wilkes Barber, Master and Commander, Abraham Walton, Second Mate
& Boatswain, James Gibson, Gunner, and Jonathan Ellis, seaman of the Ship
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up another & was all compleat at Meridian. On the twenty ninth at twelve o'clock took sight of the Malcyon some miles north, being then in long 31 W. & lat 48. in consequence of the heavy gales & the very high sea running; stood on our course until March first..wind from N.E.W. to N.W. very squally & heavy sea..everything in good order & standing on Privatear took my passage Lighter in port & starboard & made my course as near as possible; about four o'clock in the Morning saw sail in the N.E. which tacked & wore ship several times & about ten o'clock of latter of Marques Sea letter to go; the papers were then sealed up & made sail and gave chase to the Minerva;--on observing which I crowded delivered to a prize Master who was sent on board the Minerva with a boat on all sail the weather allowed by letting out the reefs from the Top & twenty two of twenty five of the Minerva crew were brought on board the sails and kept on to the S.W. & immediately got clear for action, determined if possible to save my ship from capture if the vessel in chase proved to be a privateer, in which resolution I was fully seconded by my officers & crew, who showed the greatest alacrity & good order. The sail in sight by an American Marques was one of her tops & hoisted several times to half miles to leeward, hoisted French Colours & appeared to be a Privateer of 18 guns. I ordered a shot fired to leeward and hoisted the Am- ing signified that the Colours & made ready for defence with all hands at their quarters; shortening off Mr Tudor's and my clothes. There were left on the Minerva only after the French ship hailed in English & commanded me to send my Boat Chief Mate John Marwood, Robert Clegg Passenger and acting Officer, three on board. I answered that if he wanted anything of me to send his own passenger & ^{one} child. He then hailed a second time and said "a---you send a boat or I will fire into you!" To which I replied "fire & be ----". He fired a gun the shot of which carried away the Minerva's starboard eighteen Carriage Gun & drove a hole through the main deck & one through the Main clew Garnet. I then fired a gun at the Privateer which was return fire. On the third shot of ours the wind came from the Eddy a Broadside, wounded one man badly, the Minerva then being within Westward & on the weather, the Minerva pistol-shot fired her larboard broadside twice whilst the Privateer kept close aboard, at about nine o'clock in the morning. The Minerva up a continual fire from her Battery, Musketry & large blunder busses fix-standing towards us. We were immediately ordered below & the Minerva ed in her Tops; during the action a ball killed the man at helm by the name of Andrew Nannicks a Dane by Birth & naturalized Citizen of the United States... .

The Captain thought of the Privateer to be an English privateer. I saw her finding the great inferiority in men & forces of the Minerva & fire a gun at the Minerva & soon understood that she was no privateer. I knew that a longer contest would only be certain loss.. I struck my Colours, at possession of my ship. The Minerva then hauled away to the N.E. after which the men from the Privateer ..fired their Musketry to the number of sixty or seventy rounds, contrary to the laws of Nations & the well-known rules of war & humanity; after they had ceased I was ordered to lower my thrown over board several casks of water. After this the assault

Boat I went on board the Privateer accompanied by Mr Tudor one of the passengers. Their linguist talked to me in a very abusive manner..but Mr Tudor speaking the french language answered to the Captain's questions that "the ship was the Minerva of Boston bound from London and loaded with Bail & Dry goods belonging to American merchants, &c" The Captain of the Privateer took my papers Eighteen in number among which was an attested list of my Crew or Rôle d'Equipage, Register, Mediterranean pass, Commission of Letter of Marque, Sea letter &c, &c; the papers were then sealed up and delivered to a prize Master who was sent on board the Minerva with a Mate & twenty men, & twenty two of the Minerva's crew were brought on board the Privateer with two of the passengers, Mr Edward Sharpe & Mr Oliver C. Greenleaf who were forced into the Boat..at risk of their lives from the great sea & swell & moreover shamefully abused on their passage to the Privateer by an American Negro-man one of her crew..I mentioned several times to the Capt^t of the Privateer the dangerous condition of the wounded man left on the Minerva & requested a surgeon ~~beirz~~ sent which was not done, it being objected that the Sea was too rough..otherwise he would have sent to bring off Mr Tudor's and my cloaths. There were left on the Minerva my Chief Mate John Norwood, Robert Cleland Passenger and acting officer, three seaman & four men, two women & two children Passengers.

After being a short time on board the Privateer I learned that she was called La Minerve, of Bordeaux, commanded by Langlois, armed with eighteen Carriage Guns of twelve & nine pounders & one hundred & fifty five men. On the third day of April following, the wind being from the Westward & thick weather, the Minerva then in Company with the Privateer & close a board, at about nine o'clock in the Morning a sail was discovered standing towards us. We were immediately ordered below, & with my Paraguue sufficiently protest^{ed} and a grant folio page of seals, signatures of the Minerva's Crew confined in the hold under double guards..The Vessel in chase coming up very fast, in about an hour ..I could distinguish from the Cabin windows of the Privateer to be an English Frigate. I saw her fire a gun at the Minerva & soon understood that she had boarded & taken possession of my Ship. The Minerva then hauled away to the N.E. & the Frigate gave chase to the Privateer, in order to lighten which & help her sailing part of the guns, spare spars, some shot & other heavy Articles were thrown over board, & several casks of water stove & pumped out, the standin-

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sons between Decks knock'd away and stays slackened; about an hour afterwards the Frigate gave over chase. On the fifth day of April we arrived in the Gironde River & on the ninth following anchored off Bordeaux. I was kept on board said Privateer all day of the tenth with my Crew and Passengers & not allowed to communicate with the Shore, & on the eleventh about Ten oClock in the Morning three Frenchmen came on board, one of which having a Multicolored Ribbon around his Neck with a Silver Badge to it, I took to be a Civil Officer. I was requested to ascend in the Cabin where I was questioned in English by one of the above mentioned three Frenchmen, on many points relative to my Ship Minerva, her Cargo & my capture, all which questions with my answers were committed to Paper & to which by their desire I subscribed my name, after having them read to me in English & finding nothing contrary to the answers previously given. My examination took up three hours & an half and about half past one P.M. & as it was finished Isaac Cox Barnett Esq^r Agent of the United States, came on board & told me he had liberty for me to go on shore. Accordingly I accompanied him on his invitation, leaving my Passengers & men to be examined, who were thereafter and on his Intercession set at liberty in the course of the ^{evening} afternoon. And in the morning of the twelfth of April I, the said Wilkes Barber, do by these Presents solemnly protest ~~against~~ the said Privateer Ship In Minerva Cap^r Langlois, her officers & Crew, owners & all interested therein, for the Capture of my Ship Minerva & for all Damages, Costs, Interest, salvage, detriments, Injuries, loss & consequences whatsoever .. to the said ship Minerva, her Tackle, Furniture, apparel & cargo & all interested therein .. In consequence whereof I the said Isaac Cox Barnett, Agent..at the request of the aforesaid Wilkes Barber..have protested, and do by these presents solemnly protest...." and a grant folio page of seals, signatures and attestations follow.

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Mr. Isaac Cox Barnett was a conscientious official. His ~~work~~ from
was short but more records of his time ~~exist~~ remain than of any other
one preceding or following him. In a duplicate book of safe-conducts
~~captured~~ ^{captured} 14 of the 26 Minerva people are accounted for. They were a gallant
young company. The oldest was 36. ^{for the crew, headed by Walton, the 2^d}
~~are sent (in search of ships)~~
Mate, go to Copenhagen on the Danish barque Bengt Matia of Frederickstadt
Capt. Eric Olsen. John Malcolm, the fifteen-year-old "boy", goes with them
and the Capt. Barber seems to have had the same intention when he took
out his first pass with them on April 15, but on the 24th he receives another
having ^{leave} ~~leave~~ ^{to go to Paris on matters connected with his ship}. The
"cy-devant commandant" is described as 30 years ^{old}, shortish stature,
~~red~~ ^{a fighting pig build} chestnut haired and grey eyed. Greenleaf and Sharpe, venerable Boston
merchants of 22 and 26 respectively, go to San Sebastian in Spain "to em-
bark for the U.S.", probably making the transfer in ~~the~~ the Marie
Threse of Blaye, which carried Thomas Howland there "in search of a ship
of his nation". The safe conduct calls Howland "seconds captaine" of the
Minerva, which does not agree with Barber's statement that his chief man
was left on the ^{cruge} ~~capturing~~ ship. And last of all comes young Mr. Tudor, ^{the}
Boston merchant, just of age, who spoke French so well. He went to Paris
~~in 6 months~~ about the time Barber did and in August returns to Bordeaux to embark for
home on the "American parliamentary ship" Benj. Franklin, Capt. Sammy. And
a fine tale of adventure he must have had ~~for~~ his grand-children and
great-grandchildren. I wonder if any of them are reading this?

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Arrivals of American Ships -

1790.	July to Dec.	19.
1791	Jan. to June	14
	July to Dec.	19.
1792	Jan. to June	19
	July to Dec.	30
1793	Jan. to June	42
	July to Dec.	113
1794	Jan. to June	18
	July to Dec.	128
1795.	Jan. to June	210
	July to Dec.	142.
1796	Jan. to June	139
	July to 12 th Aug.	54.
	13 Aug. to 31 Dec.	169
add		308
		495
1797	Jan. to June	152
	July to Dec.	67
1798	Jan. to June	42
	July to Dec.	14
1799	Jan. to 1 st May.	4
		13