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War Against War

ALSO INSIDE:

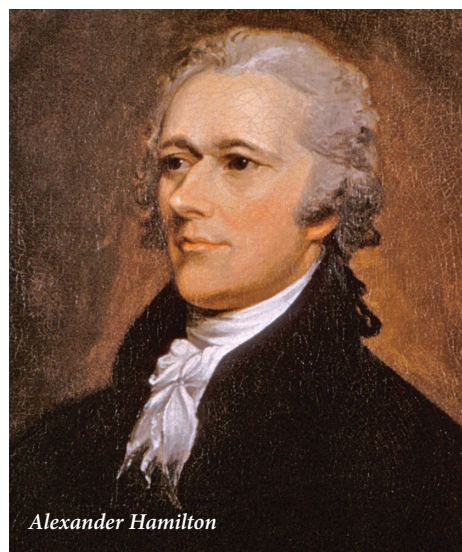
Frances Perkins

Game Protectors

Cold War Sky Corps

State travel expenses a bane for even a Founding Father

BY ADAM LEVINSON



WIKIMEDIA

Department of Taxation and Finance Journals, Ledgers, and Registers of Receipts and Payments by the State, a collection containing 442.2 cubic feet of records.

Virginia, the largest state in 1787, authorized the payment of \$6 per day for its delegates to attend the Constitutional Convention. New Jersey reimbursed \$4 per day, while Delaware paid 40 shillings per day. Maryland's delegates were paid based on the same rates used for Congress. We now know that Alexander Hamilton was reimbursed exactly 121 pounds, 12 shillings and 0 pence for his attendance in Philadelphia in May, June, August, and September of 1787.

With these discoveries we are also beginning to better understand the bookkeeping and reimbursement process used by New York. Journal entry 298 reflects a payment to Hamilton for attending the convention and demonstrates, among other things, that Hamilton in effect made an interest free loan to the State of the New York, since it took almost a year to be reimbursed. By contrast, some states paid their delegates in advance.

It is likely that the state treasurer would have approved the reimbursement, which would have been sworn to and subscribed by Hamilton. Once we found the May 1788 payment to Hamilton, we realized that we would likely also find the amount paid to Hamilton for attendance at the Annapolis Convention in 1786. And we did, among the 826 volumes of financial records dating back to 1775. Journal entry 296 reflects payment to "Benson & Hamilton [for] their expenses in attending a Convention in Anapolis [sic]." Of course, the Annapolis Convention laid the groundwork for the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Indeed, the Report of the Annapolis Convention was written by none other than Hamilton.

Even Alexander Hamilton had to deal with state travel expenses—and waiting to be reimbursed. During the summer of 1787, Hamilton was one of three delegates sent by New York to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Virginia's seven-member delegation was led by George Washington, who was unanimously selected to preside over the Convention. Pennsylvania sent an eight-member delegation headed by Benjamin Franklin. Over 230 years later, we are still learning new information about the process which led to the creation of the US Constitution.

Until recently, it was unclear if Hamilton had to pay his own way to the Constitutional Convention. The process of reimbursing delegates was also uncertain. Newly discovered journal entries in the New York State Archives shed light on this formative period. I recently unearthed these exciting discoveries, working with John Diefenderfer and Jamie Brinkman, archivists in the New York State Archives. The journal entries appear in the *New York State*

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New York May 19. 1788

Brought Forward	\$1,296. 3	
206 To Montgomery County O. Rec. of Deane & Sons Treas.	15	
219 To Suffolk County P. Rec. of Allah Strong Treas.	1,143. 5	
211 To New York County P. Rec. of Abel Hayman Treas.	145. 5	2699 13
21		
253 D. State of New York		
237 To Cash p. Alexander Hamilton for his attending the Convention at Phil. 5372.	121 12	
21		
53 D. James Angles		
209 To Vendue duty on his sales to 29 th April last	11 8	
21		
237 D. Cash		
53 To James Angles in full	11 8	
22		
241 D. Custom House in New York To Sundry Accounts		
242 To John Lasher Surveyor & Charmer	5373 10	
258 To William Hurstin Tide Waiter	5374 15	
259 To Aaron Stockholm D.	5375 15	
276 To William Lasher D.	5376 15	
242 To Henry Bicker D.	5377 15	
259 To William Archam D.	5378	
213 To John Stephens D.	5379	
260 To Samuel Dodge Sen. D.	5381	
253 To Samuel Scudder D.	5388	
244 To Henry Dufour D.	5389	
243 To John Targe D.	5393	
257 To John Banks D.	5394	
257 To Judediah Waterman D.	5395	
22		
208 D. Sundry Accounts To Cash		
242 John Lasher	5373	
258 William Hurstin	5374	
259 Aaron Stockholm	5375	
276 William Lasher	5376	
242 Henry Bicker	5377	
Carried Forward		

Above: Journal entry 298 reflects a payment on May 19, 1788, to "Alexander Hamilton for his attending the Convention at Phil."

Below: Journal entry 296 reflects payment to Hamilton for attending the Annapolis Convention in 1786.

Interestingly, Hamilton's reimbursement for the Constitutional Convention was paid in May 1788, the month preceding the bitterly contested New York ratification convention in Poughkeepsie. New York narrowly ratified the Constitution by a vote of 30-27, becoming the eleventh state to join the union. The out-numbered Federalists were led by Hamilton. The Anti-federalists opposing ratification included New York Governor George Clinton and Hamilton's co-delegates in Philadelphia, John Lansing and Robert Yates. ■

More details about this ongoing research can be found on the free history website www.StatutesandStories.com. These topics, including a pending documentary about the Constitution's "Cover Letter," will be discussed during New York Archives magazine's Online Speaker Series on November 9. See page 13 for details.

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New York May 5. 1787

30 D. Annot Cannon		
299 To Vendue Duty on his sales to 29 th April last	6 11 9	
5		
246 D. Cash		
30 To Annot Cannon in full	6 11 9	
7		
35 D. James Delancey		
296 To Cash. Repaid Henry Broadwell for a building he erects on James Delancey's Land	4 0 25	30
7		
5 D. Andrew Hoodie		
296 To Cash. to enable him to collect Military Stores	4 8 26	150
8		
37 D. John Reming		
299 To Vendue Duty on his sales to 3 rd April last	1 1	
8		
246 D. Cash		
37 To John Reming in full	1 1	
8		
37 D. Abraham Hardenbergh William Morris		
296 To Cash. paid them as commissioners to complete the running out the Pennsylvania line	4 8 27	600
9		
246 D. John Cochran (Commis. Law Office)		
296 To Cash. in part of the Acquisition of August 2. 1786	4 8 28	2 400
9		
296 D. Sundry Accounts To Cash		
18 Eden Hunt an Annot 2. Mar.	4 3 7	139 4
21 Gilbert Benson Attorney Genl.	4 8 29	530
9		
277 D. Loan Office fortificates (p. in April 25 th)		
32 To Nathan Whitney, Recd. of Henry Strong & Abraham Purdy by the hands of Thomas Haged for their Bond to pay Whitney dated July 2. 1786 for 165	4 8 30	91 10