

## Summary Table of Carleton Commission Testimonies

| Pages of Enquiry    | Testimony Date       | Testimony Number | Deponent                  | Rank/Title/Occupation   | Affiliation                 | Summary  | Summary (con't)  | Was fire Accidental | Pumps Damaged | Buckets Damaged | Combustibles used | Separate Fires |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Separate Deposition | 10-20 1783 Monday    | 001              | Dr. Mervin Nooth          | Superintendant General of his Majesty's Hospitals in North America                                  | British Auxilliary          | Awakened in Hosp Ship in Harbor Saw Whitehll fire & man torching Trinity Ch. Hospital explosion from   | bundles of matches purposely placed in its chimney. Moderate damage.   | no                  | -             | -               | yes               | yes            |
| 1 - 3               | 10-21 1783 Tuesday   | 002              | Major Frederick Mackenzie | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Btn Welch Fusileers, D. Adjut. Gen. and Sec. to the Com. in Chief                  | British Army                | In Bowery, Fire in several streets & Trinity. Later fire near Inglis house suspect captured & sent to Provost Provided details of guards placed to | prevent troop misconduct. <i>Exceptional handwriting! Wrote out Charter for this Commission as he was Carleton's aide.</i>                                 | no                  | -             | -               | -                 | yes            |
| 4 - 8               | 10-22 1783 Wednesday | 003              | Mister Chew               | Assist. Commissary and Secretary to Indian Affairs  | British Auxilliary          | On ship saw Whthll house on fire then spread to house close by and appeared at another 200 yds away. Description of matches found near             | Cruger's. Barrel's of them in Smith Street. Others on ship see Trinity being set on fire. Matches: 18" long cov'd 6" brimstone & rosin                     | no                  | yes           | yes             | yes               | yes            |
| 8 - 12              | 10-22 1783 Wednesday | 004              | Baltus Dash               | tin man ( <i>smith</i> )/inhabitant <i>John B. Dash, fireman, Ass't to Stoutenburgh, Lamp Super</i> | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | Appn'd to take charge of engines & lamps. Brought 12 eng to Whthll & soon informed that buildng near Trinity on fire 1/2 mile away. Other          | fires. Moved to save S Paul's and did. Men in custody with hidden matches. Believes fires purposefully set apart in many different places. Threats before. | no                  | yes           | -               | yes               | yes            |
| 12 - 17             | 10-23 1783 Thursday  | 005              | Major Adye                | <i>Major apparently selected to investigate fire a few days after to discover culprit.</i>          | British Army                | Took witnesses to identify accused. Examined 2 at length. Tried but results not public. Accused released. Witnesses differed on identity. Gen.     | in American Army admits (hearsay) Finds man hiding. Taken to Provost Fire broke out in different parts at same time.                                       | no                  | -             | -               | -                 | -              |
| 17 - 20             | 10-23 1783 Thursday  | 006              | Capt. Henry Law           | Master/Captain of the Port  | British Auxilliary          | Heard threats before fire. Saw small Whthll hs on fire. On boat saw fire in distant places one from another. Saw combustibles at Cruger's Whrf     | Saw two pumps damaged. Knew man named White put to death and hung by heels. He had cut handles off buckets & woman's arm in way.                           | no                  | yes           | yes             | yes               | yes            |
| 21 - 23             | 10-24 1783 Friday    | 007              | Mr. Wm Backhouse          | Merchant <i>Water Street between Burling's &amp; Peck's Slip</i>                                    | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | Removed his effects from City because of threats. Reports on lamps being returned. Threats by Howe   | of retaliation?  | no                  | -             | -               | yes               | -              |
| 23 - 24             | 10-24 1783 Friday    | 008              | Mr. Edward Laight Sr.     | <i>None given Merchant in Queen Street</i>  | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | On the scene at Whthll at 12 says small house/shed first on fire was a Blacksmith's Shop. Sees person interfering with Fireman Alstine...          | turning pipe away from fire. Fire spread rapidly to Beaver and other parts. Wind strong at first from S.W. in hour S.E. till daybreak then N.W.            | no                  | yes           | -               | yes               | yes            |
| 24 - 25             | 10-24 1783 Friday    | 009              | John L.C. Roome Esq.      | <i>Loyalist imprisoned by 1776 and not in city at time of fire. A lawyer perhaps with 'Esq.'</i>    | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | When paroled he heard an American officer tell of raid near Trinity night of fire by 8 men from Paulus   | Hook (NJ). 6 survived. Heard threats to burn City before British arrived.  | no                  | -             | -               | yes               | yes            |
| 26 - 27             | 10-24 1783 Friday    | 010              | Francis Panton            | <i>None given</i>   | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | Not in city night of fire. Next day flushed man from house while patrolling who threatened to burn   | house he had just come from. Saw arrested persons with combustibles going to City hall under Guard.  | no                  | -             | -               | yes               | -              |
| 28 - 29             | 10-25 1783 Saturday  | 011              | Mr. Comfort Sands         | Member of the NY Provincial Congress in 1776 (later NY NY State Assembly)                           | American Patriot Legislator | Fire not ordered by any American Authority (civil or military), not even debated in Congress.  | Thinks fire accidental. Never knew of fire buckets taken or lamps taken down.  | yes                 | -             | no              | -                 | -              |
| 29 - 32             | 10-25 1783 Saturday  | 012              | Wm. Waddell Esq.          | Alderman of City  | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | Examined buckets & engines prior to fire to ensue readiness. Saw some buckets with handles cut. Many matches/combustibles at Cruger's              | Wharf in Stores for use in fire ships. Feels many with matches out of curiosity not arson. Asked man who hid fire ladder who helped. Didn't know!          | ?                   | -             | yes             | yes               | -              |
| 32 - 33             | 10-25 1783 Saturday  | 013              | Wm. Hervey                | Merchant  | NY Civilian <i>Loyalist</i> | Appointed to search houses after fire. Found powder keg with a train of powder out back door as fuse.  | Removed powder keg after getting a neighbor to witness explosives.   | -                   | -             | -               | yes               | -              |

|         |                         |     |                      |  |                                   |  |   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------|-------------------------|-----|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 33 - 34 | 10-25 1783<br>Saturday  | 014 | Joseph Totten        | <i>None given</i>  | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Saw Lord Dunmore with matches Dunmore got in a barrel of combustibles. Searched all vacant houses in   | Montgomery Ward with six others but found no Combustibles in any house.   | no  | -   | -   | yes | -   |
| 34      | 10-27 1783<br>Monday    | 015 | James Deas           | Hair Dresser/Inhabitant  | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Commanded a patrol after the fire. <i>This testimony crossed out.</i>  |   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| 35 - 37 | 10-27 1783<br>Monday    | 016 | Mr. Andrew           | <i>None given</i>  | NY Civilian                       | Btwn 1-2 AM saw Whthll fire then South Side of Trinity on fire from sparks. Fire then up Broad St near Beaver St. Wind from SW then S.                 | Tells of reports that Washington prohibited burning. Buckets and bags carried off. Bell from Trinity taken.   | no  | -   | yes | -   | yes |
| 37 - 39 | 10-27 1783<br>Monday    | 017 | William Shipman      | Office of Paymaster General  | British<br>Auxilliary             | Walked by Whthll small house he saw Sailors, women, & others he supposed British some drunk. Saw fire in chimney. Awakened 1AM by                      | alarm of fire & saw only small house on fire. Went to office and 2 hrs later saw sparks ignite Trinity 5 side from Lutheran Ch. Thinks fire accidental. | yes | -   | -   | yes | -   |
| 39 - 41 | 10-27 1783<br>Monday    | 018 | Jeronymus Alstine    | Blacksmith<br><i>Fireman</i>   | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Directed engine at fire. 'Key' put out of place twice. Trinity's roof/steeple on fire from flakes on SW side while Lutheran Ch on fire, past Beaver on | Broad. No opinion on cause - maybe Americans but spread from strong SE wind. Matches found. Came as fire reached bridge in Dock Street.                 | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| 41 - 43 | 10-28 1783<br>Tuesday   | 019 | Alexander Bridges    | <i>None given</i>  | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Matches on Cruger's fitted for fire ships. Man in custody after fire with powder cask and matches. Landlord  | tells him persons breaking windows with apples intending to later burn city by their own account.   | no  | -   | -   | yes | -   |
| 43 - 44 | 10-29 1783<br>Wednesday | 020 | Dr. Charles Inglis   | Rector of Trinity Church<br><i>Inglis gave extensive written testimony(see below)</i>  | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Saw battalion of Amer seamen in city. Prov Cong. Men said they were to burn boats. Along shore they  | were to burn barns and grain. Heard Vanderbilt reproved for not being punctual enough with destruction.   | no  | yes | yes | yes | -   |
| 44 - 47 | 10-29 1783<br>Wednesday | 021 | Benjamin Moore       | <i>None given</i><br><i>Asst Rector of Trinity Church</i>                              | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Went to Rector's hse 1AM on cry of fire. Saw fire flakes ignite Trinity roof. Impossible to save Rector's hse. Went to steeple, back door unlocked     | Sexton Whaley now dead. Lutheran Ch not on fire at time. Prisoner with tub of matches. Wind moderate S.E. Increased and shifted to S.W.                 | no  | -   | -   | yes | -   |
| 47 - 49 | 10-29 1783<br>Wednesday | 022 | Mr McIntyre          | Army Surgeon 43rd Regt.  | British<br>Army                   | Came with Regt to city. Saw man made prisoner with matches under clothes. Sent to Provost. Man struck  | officer in New St. Surgeon knocked him down. Claimed to know where Rebel officer was. Handed to Guard.  | no  | -   | -   | yes | -   |
| 49 - 51 | 10-29 1783<br>Wednesday | 023 | Capt. Cunningham     | Provost Marshall   | British<br>Army                   | Alarmed in Provost. Saw fire in five different places: 2 - Whthll, 1 - New St, 2 - back of Gen Rbrtsn's hs on Broadway. Before 12 noon over 200        | prisoners sent to Provost, some dressed like seamen. All denied setting fire. Later Gen Rbrtsn examined: all but 6 released. Left- no info on trials.   | no  | -   | -   | ?   | -   |
| 52 - 56 | 10-30 1783<br>Thursday  | 024 | Isaac Stoutenburgh   | Member, Provincial Congress in 1776. <i>Also commissioned officer in Patriot Army.</i> | American<br>Patriot<br>Legislator | Never proposed or debated in Cong to burn city. Gen Lee's purpose to defend not burn city - unwelcome. No one in authority ordered fire.               | Buckets removed to City Hall - ready in case of fire. People left on own not Lee's order. Afraid of bombardment and general calamities of war.          | yes | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| 56 - 58 | 10-30 1783<br>Thursday  | 025 | John Alstyne         | <i>None given</i><br><i>former fireman</i>   | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Says Prov Cong. Polhemus said it had resolved to destroy L.I. Narrows to Brklyn, then city if necessary.   | Polhemus taken prisoner. Expresses hope city not burnt. Alstyne believes city was burnt at behest of P. Cong.   | -   | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| 58 - 60 | 10-30 1783<br>Thursday  | 026 | John Burns           | <i>None given</i><br><i>fireman</i>  | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i>    | Saw small hs at Whthll on fire and no others- spread rapidly. Broke out in many places. Many Amer army taken into custody. Worked engine.              | People said would burn own homes - prevent British use. Pumps damaged. Trinity on fire before Lutheran when fire reached Steven's house on B'way.       | no  | yes | -   | yes | yes |
| 60 - 62 | 10-31 1783<br>Friday    | 027 | Captain George Tripp | Midshipman of Eagle in 1776. Commander of HMS Dolphin in 1783.                         | British<br>Navy                   | Fire broke out in 2 or 3 places far apart. Soon fire in Trinity. Ship was between Governor's and Oyster islands. No shore leave. Marines sent          | to prevent plunder until army came. General order that all boats of HMS back to ships before sunset.  | no  | -   | -   | -   | yes |

|                    |                         |     |   |   |                                |  |   |                        |                  |                    |                        |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----|---|---|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 62 - 63            | 10-31 1783<br>Friday    | 028 | Brig. Genl. Clarke                          | Genl of 54th Regt.  | British<br>Army                | On entry to city fire put out - had mark of being set...powder train. Buildings on narrow street wooden.   | City set on fire deliberately but Trinity was accident as he saw flakes of fire fall and take fire 2 or 3 places.                                   | no                     | -                | -                  | yes                    | -                 |
| 64 - 68            | 11-3 1783<br>Monday     | 029 | Samuel Bayard Sr.                           | <i>None given</i>   | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i> | Fire publicly threatened. Smith says will set Bayard's hs on fire. American Capt tells of Amer Co's intent on burning city. On own B'way hs          | fire 100 yrds away. Hs next to his set from below and catches his on fire. Saw matches under a flight of wood steps in little Dock Street.          | no                     | -                | -                  | yes                    | yes               |
| 68 - 70            | 11-5 1783<br>Wednesday  | 030 | William Ellsworth                           | <i>None given</i><br>Fireman  | NY Civilian<br><i>Patriot</i>  | Retired from city to country 10 days before fire. Summer of 1776 Prov Congress directed him and others to take fire buckets from abandoned           | houses to City hall. Had to pick locks. Buckets often hidden. Heard many inhabitants say they would set fire to their houses to keep from B Troops. | -                      | -                | -                  | -                      | -                 |
| 70 - 71            | 11-5 1783<br>Wednesday  | 031 | Peter Bilter                                | <i>None given</i>   | NY Civilian<br>?               | Working in father's house in Fly Market. Man outside window looked through shutters then ran off. Next   | morning Peter found bundles of matches under window which he thinks man put there to set on fire.   | no                     | -                | -                  | -                      | -                 |
| 72 - 78            | 11-7 1783<br>Friday     | 032 | James Wells                                 | <i>None given</i>   | NY Civilian<br><i>Loyalist</i> | Dog alerts him to small hs fire in Whthll. Rapidly spreads. Tells of woman displacing people in her house who later were in small hs on fire.        | Searched for combustibles after fire. Found matches used by privateers. Fire threatened by lower classes. Will stay in city after B troops leave.   | yes?                   | -                | -                  | yes                    | -                 |
| 78 left<br>of page | 11-10 1783<br>Monday    | 033 | Mrs. Lynch                                  | <i>None given</i><br><i>Woman referred to in Wells' Testimony. Her Testimony is crossed out. See Page 79.</i> | NY Civilian                    | Found two men and two women in her house. Applied to Gen Robrtson to evict which he did. Appeared to be soldiers with bayonets around waist          | In contradiction to Wells' relation of what she told him, none of these 4 people were drinking or drunk. Left her house around half after 2 (PM?).  | -                      | -                | -                  | -                      | -                 |
| 79 left<br>of page | 11-10 1783<br>Monday    | 034 | Recapitulation of<br>previous two witnesses | Board/Wells/Lynch<br>(see note in Board of Enquiry<br>Transcription)  | Mixed                          | Lynch denied having conversation with Wells. Examined for two hours<br>Makes bad impression on Board: ignorant, forgetful, incoherent.               | Wells returns and confirms earlier testimony. Says her account to him seemed accurate to him based on what he observed at the time.                 |                        |                  |                    |                        |                   |
| 79 - 80            | 11-10 1783<br>Monday    | 035 | Lee Ashton                                  | Private, 43rd Regt.   | British<br>Army                | Ordered to assist extinguishing fire. Wind very high. Trinity on fire then Observed man cutting handles of buckets. Took knife -sent to Provost.     | Saw old man with bundle of matches on his back under brown coat. Seized man with another soldier & push'd him into fire. Doesn't know result.       | -                      | -                | -                  | yes                    | -                 |
| 80 - 83            | 11-12 1783<br>Wednesday | 036 | John Grundy                                 | Private, 43rd Regt.   | British<br>Army                | Sentry at City hall. Sent to find and stop those setting fires. Cry alerted him to man torching shed. Man fled to boat-offered \$2 for oar. Seized & | gave him to Guard. Came to testify at Court Martial for days-never called. Saw many buckets cut to pieces and combustibles at Guard House.          | -                      | -                | yes                | yes                    | -                 |
| 83 - 84            | 11-12 1783<br>Wednesday | 037 | John Cochran                                | Private, 43rd Regt.   | British<br>Army                | Saw man with matches. Sent to seize him with other soldiers and carried him to the Provost. Wore   | brown coat with round hat. Short. Attempted to escape.  | -                      | -                | -                  | yes                    | -                 |
| 84 - 85            | 11-12 1783<br>Wednesday | 038 | George Kerr                                 | Private, 43rd Regt.   | British<br>Army                | 5 men and a woman in back of St. Paul's with a keg of powder and a bundle of matches. Seized men, powder, men and took to Provost.                   | Woman offered him money to release which he took also. Powder and matches usually in building before the war.                                       | -                      | -                | -                  | yes                    | -                 |
| 86                 | 11-12 1783<br>Wednesday | 039 | Sergeant Norton                             | Sergeant, 43rd Regt.  | British<br>Army                | Saw fire on small house in Chatham Row in shingles. Went into garret &   | saw some matches. No fire inside. Fire soon extinguished.   | -                      | -                | -                  | yes                    | yes               |
|                    |                         |     |   |   |                                |  |   | Was fire<br>Accidental | Pumps<br>Damaged | Buckets<br>Damaged | Combus-<br>tibles used | Separate<br>Fires |