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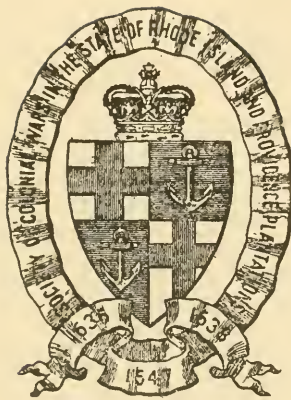
















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THE  
MUSTER ROLLS

OF

*Three Companies Enlisted by the Colony  
of Rhode Island in May, 1746, for an  
Expedition Against Canada proposed by*

GREAT BRITAIN

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ISSUED at the *General Court* of the SOCIETY OF  
COLONIAL WARS in the State of Rhode Island and  
*Providence Plantations*, by its

Governor, GEORGE LEANDER SHEPLEY, Esquire  
and the

Council of the Society

August 19, 1915

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PROVIDENCE: Printed for the Society by the Standard Printing Co.  
from original MSS. in the archives of the State of Rhode Island

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THE war between Spain and Great Britain, which started in 1739, was the forerunner of the French and English War, in which the American colonies were active from 1744 to 1748.

The following description of Rhode Island's part in the struggle is taken from Arnold's History of the State, and the Muster Rolls of three of the companies enlisted are here first printed from the manuscript copies in the archives of the State.

The year 1744 saw the entire continent of Europe in arms, and the American colonies were soon drawn into the struggle. England declared war against France in March. In May, the Rhode Island Assembly met, and measures were adopted for strengthening the defenses of the colony. The French colonies, earlier informed of European hostilities, were first in the field, and sent out privateers against the New England coast. Commissioners from the English colonies met at Albany, New York, in June, to determine upon defensive measures. Rhode Island was invited by Governor Shirley to take part in the deliberations, but we find no record that the colony was represented. The colony, however, was active in preparations both for defense and offense. By February of 1745 three

hundred men were enlisted in both sea and land forces for the proposed expedition against Louisburg. In March the Assembly voted to raise three companies, to consist of three hundred and fifty men, to be received in the pay of Massachusetts, and Rhode Island paid a bounty of two pounds to each man enlisted. These troops saw service in garrisoning Louisburg after its surrender.

This capture of Louisburg gave impetus to the old project of the conquest of Canada, and in May of 1746 England ordered the colonies to raise an army for the proposed invasion. Rhode Island immediately raised three more companies of one hundred men each. It is the rolls of these companies that we print. These troops were quartered on Goat Island by July, and from that time until November 2, when they finally sailed for Nova Scotia, they were in a state of uncertainty as to their destination. At one time they were on transports, waiting to be sent to Louisburg. Later they expected to be taken to Albany to take part in an attack on Crown Point. The news of the sailing from Rochelle, France, of a great armada of sixty-six sail, including twenty-five ships of war, and carrying fifteen thousand men (and having Nova Scotia as its probable point of attack) reached New England by

the middle of September. Early in November the Rhode Island contingent sailed for Annapolis Royal. The number of desertions in the third roll is noticeably large. The fact that the pay of these men was recorded just as it was for those who stayed with the colors is evidence that the authorities knew of extenuating circumstances, or in some way looked leniently upon what is technically a serious fault.

Rhode Island furnished the famous war sloop *Tartar* and many transports. Her merchants fitted out numerous privateers and contributed largely in money. England afterwards acknowledged these services by a grant of money to the colony.

The incorporation of Rhode Island troops in both Massachusetts and Connecticut regiments makes these Rhode Island troops appear officially as a part of the forces of the two other colonies, and hides from the casual observer the important part which Rhode Island really played.

E. A. B.  
N. M. I.  
C. E. C.



Before the Honble William Greene Esq: Governour —  
of the Colony of Rhode Island &c in New England — Personally appeared—  
Stephen Hopkins and made Oath that he received from y<sup>e</sup> proper Office  
in said Colony Bills of Credit Equal in Value to One thousand three—  
hundred and fourteen pounds eighteen Shillings and eight pence Steriing  
for the payment of y<sup>e</sup> Wages due agreeable to y<sup>e</sup> within Muster Roll and  
hath paid y<sup>e</sup> same to y<sup>e</sup> respective persons to whom y<sup>e</sup> same was due  
as far as it hath been demanded

*Step<sup>n</sup>. Hopkins*

Newport Rhode Island

June 17th 1749

*W<sup>m</sup>. Greene*

Copies of the Muste  
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raised for the Exped  
ag<sup>st</sup> Canada / *Anno*  
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Officers & Soldiers  
sworn Anno 1749 b  
Hon<sup>r</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Greene



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Before the Honble William Greene Esq: Governour  
of y<sup>e</sup> Colony of Rhode Island &c in New England — Personally appeared  
Robert Hafsard and made Oath that he received from y<sup>e</sup> proper  
Office in said Colony Bills of Credit equal in Value to eight  
hundred and four Pounds seven Shillings and four Pence Sterling  
for y<sup>e</sup> Payment of the Wages due agreeable to the within Muster Roll  
and hath paid the same to y<sup>e</sup>  
respective Persons to whom the same was due as faras they have been demanded

*Robert Hafsard*

Newport Rhode Island

June 17<sup>th</sup> 1749

*W<sup>m</sup> Greene*













Before the Honble William Greene Esq<sup>r</sup> Governour  
of the Colony of Rhode &c in New England Personally appeared  
James Sheffield and George Wanton and made Oath that they  
received from the proper Office in said Colony Bills of Credit Equal  
in Value to Seven hundred and fifty nine Pounds nineteen Shillings  
and eight Pence Sterling for y<sup>e</sup> Payment of y<sup>e</sup> Wages due  
agreeable to the within Muster Roll and have paid the same to y<sup>e</sup>  
respective Persons to whom y<sup>e</sup> same was due

Newport Rhode Island

June 17<sup>th</sup> 1749

*James Sheffield*

*George Wanton*

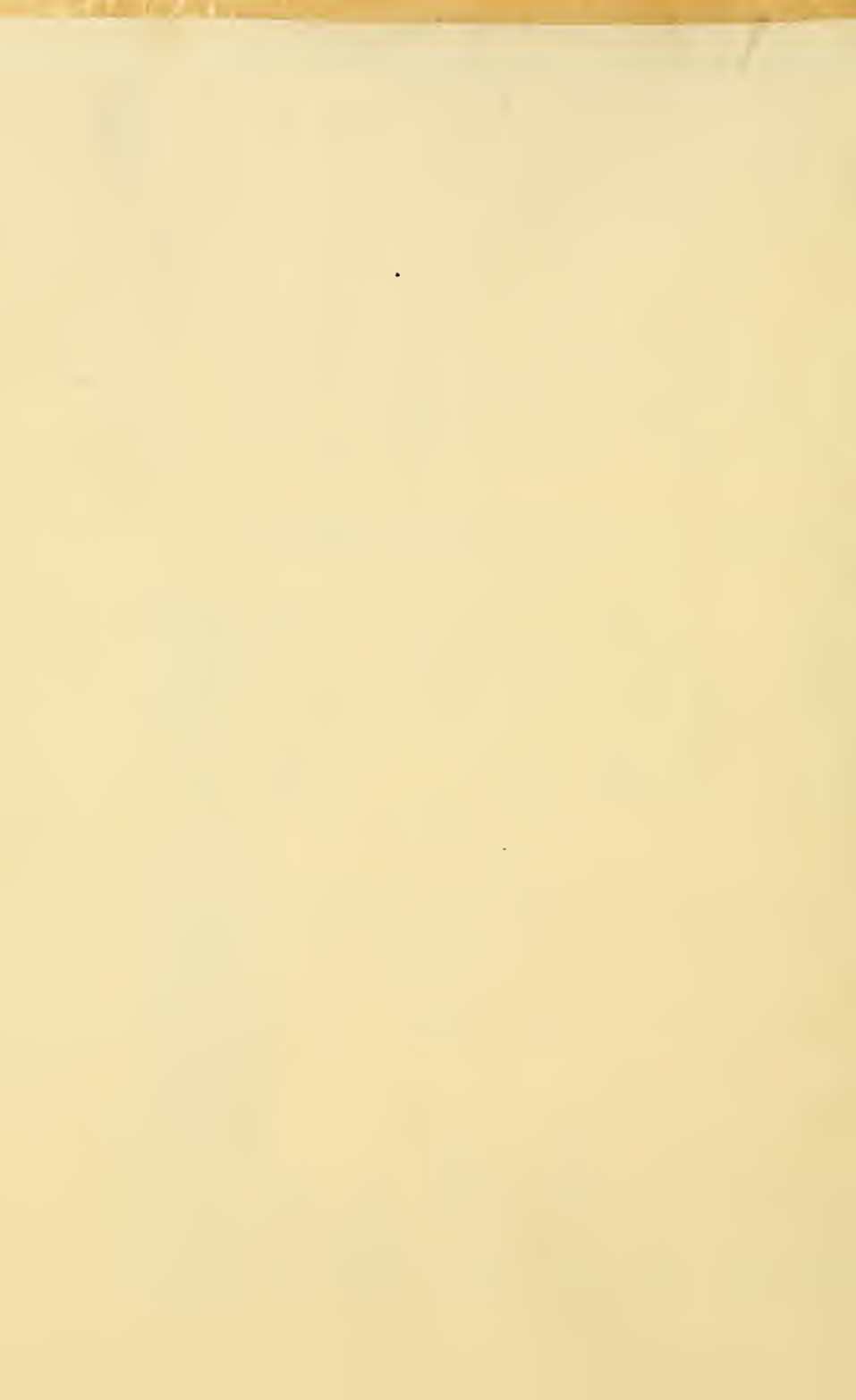
*W<sup>m</sup> Greene*



























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