

Washington 27th Feby. 1806

Gentlemen,

You are now legislating at Boston,
for the interests of the District of Maine.
Permit me to ask you if severing Maine
from Massachusetts would not be serving
your country & promoting its best Interest
& Honors.

The Representatives from Maine, who are here,
are all waiting to hear of some of your trans-
actions relative to the subject--.

When shall the old State of Maine shake
off its degradation of district?—When shall
this immaterial servitude cease?—a servitude
of Magnitude, to a bagatelle—How long shall
the Maine body be embraced by a wing?—
How long shall the Trunk be in servitude &
pay suit, service, homage & tribute—to a Limb, long
since amputated by N. Hampshire? Are we always
to be a kind of sub Colony, to a sub state--?

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 103678
Date: February 27, 1806
Description: Orchard Cook on his frustration with Maine's seperation movement,
Washington D.C., 1806

If we wait till Land Holders (who now un-
righteously pay one third their quota of Taxation)
be in favour of it far, far distant will
be the era of our freedom & independence—
At your next meeting you will probably take care
to invite no 2 per ct. Land Holders—
Cast your eyes on the map of the united States, &
say if Maine with 200,000 souls, & a Territory
equal in extent to the other 5 N.E. States, & rapidly
populating, should longer hug her chains—
Part of the Evils attendant— are, imperfect Legislation,
(our interests being last—procrastinated— or overborne
by the superior numbers of the dominant wing)
By a continuation of connexion the Judiciary of
the whole State is distracted & operated with
impracticable & neglected requisitions; to the great
& incalculable injury of the suitor of all
Massachusetts.
Our wealth flows to Boston— Our Lands, sold in
such manner as to discourage our growth—
while Land Holders pay at 2 per ct. their Taxation
(or 1/3 of what the Plaintiff equity requires)—
will they sell those Lands— & can the Country
grow—? most respectfully your friend.
O. Cook

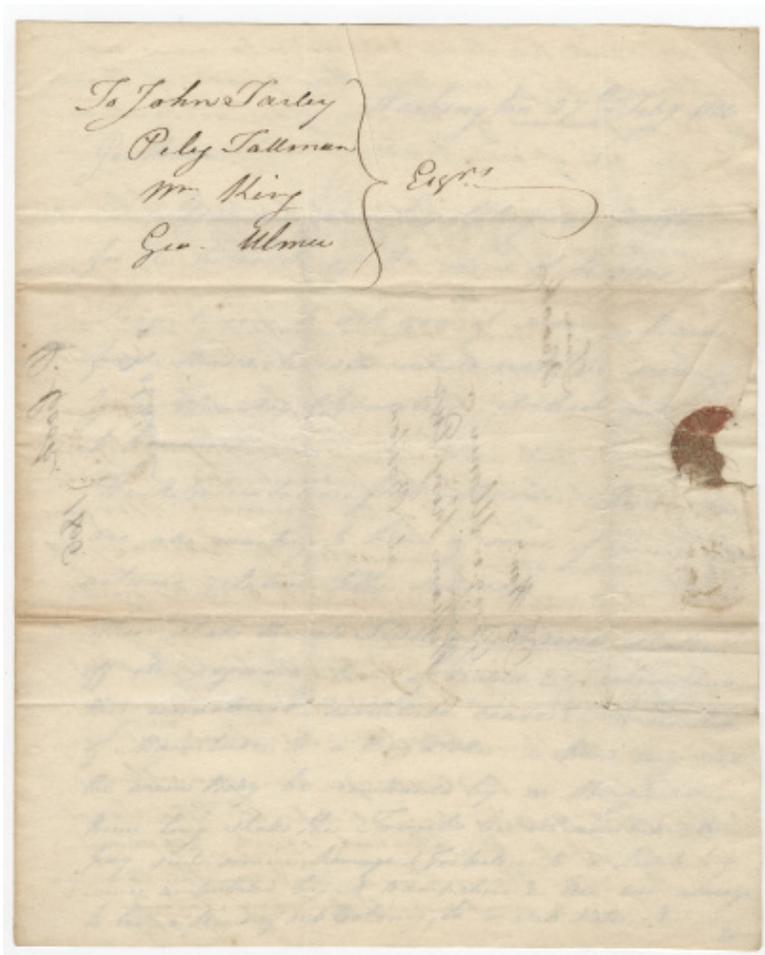
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To John Tanley
Peleg Tallman > Esqrs.
Wm. King
Geo. Ulmer