Copy of a Letter from Captn. [John] Cochran Commander of William & Mary Castle in New-Hampshire to Governor [John] Wentworth, Dated 14th, Decr. 1774, December 14, 1774

May it please your Excellency: I received your Excellency's favour of yesterday, and[d] in obedience thereto kept a strict watch all night, and added two men to my usual number, being all I could get. Nothing material occurred till this day one o'clock, when I was informed there was a number of people coming to take possession of the Fort, upon which, having only five effective men with me, I prepared to make the best defence I could, and pointed some Guns to those places where I expected they would enter. About three o'clock the Fort was beset on all sides by upwards of four hundred men. I told them, on their peril, not to enter; They replied they would. I immediately ordered three four pounders to be fired on them, and then the small arms, and before we could be ready to fire again, we were stormed on all quarters, and they immediately secured both me and my men, and kept us prisoners about one hour and a half, during which time they broke open the Powder House, and took all the powder away, except one barrel, and having put it into boats and sent it off, they released me from my confinement. To which can only add, that I did all in my power to defend the Fort, but all my efforts could not avail against so great a number.

I am your Excellency's &c.

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1. Force, comp. *American Archives*, 4th, I, 1042. Cochran's letter was enclosed in John Wentworth's letter of the same date.

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