

At a meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of 58
Pelham on Monday the ninth day of February, 1778 the following
Instructions, were reported by us the Subscribers, a committee appointed
for that purpose which were accepted by said Town.

To James Gibson Esq^r Representative for the Town of Pelham.
Gentleman.

You being chosen by the voice of the town of Pelham, to represent them
in the great and general court, and as it must be agreeable to you to
know the minds of your constituents in all important matters we think
fit to give you the following Instructions.
With respect to the articles of confederation, you are directed to move for, and
Exert your self to get an alteration of a part of the fifth Paragraph in the ninth
article, where they mention proportioning the number of land forces by the white
Inhabitants in each state, which we conceive to be unequal ~~and~~ our
reason is because of the vast disproportionable number of black Inhabitants
in this, and some of the southern States, in them, the husbandry labour
is chiefly done by black men, when we in this state have but few of that
colour, and whether these Blacks be continued slaves or not, many of them
make good soldiers in the field of battle therefore making the proportion
of soldiers by the white Inhabitants only, leaves their fields full of labourers
when ours are empty.

You are also directed to move for and urge the calling a full and free repre-
sentation of all the people in this state to meet in convention at such time
and place as shall be appointed by the general assembly for the sole
purpose of framing and laying a permanent plan or system for the future
government of this State.

These matters with all others, that may come before the general Court
we leave to your firmness and prudence, and trust your exertions
in the common cause, will be such as shall recommend you to all
lovers of freedom and liberty, and what is more gain you the approba-
tion of God and your own conscience.

Saml Colburn
Josiah Gage
Ben Gibson
Asa Richardson
John Mufsey
Robert Gwynne
Thos Swan
Jacob Butler

1778, Feb. 9.

William Ingham's

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Feb. 9, 1778.