

Levi Allen to Henry Dundas, Onion River, Vt., 27 November 1791 (excerpt)¹

As the Courier from Canada for New York is Put in here in a gale of wind, I take the liberty (tho' out of the channel proposed through Governor Simcoe) to write you as the same will come sooner to hand.

I sailed on the Grantham, Capt. Bull the 11th of September arrived at Halifax in 27 days, the next morn[ing]. [i.e., morning] took a Passage in a little fishing sloop for Boston, where I arrived the sixth day, bo[ugh]t a horse and saddle, etc., and in three days rode to Windsor in Vermont where the Legislature of Vermont had a few days previously met, and much to my great mortification found that there had been an adjourned session between Oct. session 1790 and Oct. 1791, also a convention of deputies from each town, Previous to said adjourned session, in which Vermont had fully joined the United States. I remained at the General Assembly to the close thereof, twenty-one days. I think I may affirm without arrogance that if I had got up the River St. Lawrence last year with the well-chosen assortment of goods, Vermont would not have joined Congress, in fact a majority of both Houses now confess they are sorry, and feel themselves much hurt on hearing many advantages that would have accrued to Vermont if they had remained Independent, and at the same time on the other hand I made an estimate of the Probable Duties Vermont would be obliged to pay annually, which had not been before properly stated. I made no mention of anything, only my own opinion and what I had found would have been done in the course of negotiating the commerce of Vermont.

The facts are a number wanted to go to Congress, and tho' but four can go, yet 44, at least, expected to be appointed.² Ethan Allen being dead, and Ira Allen was silent on account of the land he owned, and Caldwell first claimed,³ that Governor Chittenden thought it unpopular to oppose the current, so that poor Vermont had not a man of any considerable consequence to say a word for her real interest. . . .

¹ Printed: Duffy, *Allen*, I, 383–84.

² When it became a state, Vermont was entitled to elect two U.S. Senators and two U.S. Representatives.

³ Henry Caldwell of Belmont, near Quebec, had a conflicting claim to land with Ira Allen in Alburgh, Vt.