

Newspaper Articles Related to the New Boston Counterfeiters discovered and transcribed by Jennifer M. Allocca

“Caution.—The public are cautioned against counterfeit bills of New Hampshire Bank, payable in Philadelphia, as many of them of 10 dollars are in circulation. They are executed very poorly; and the forgery is discovered by the least imperfection.”

-- *The Reporter*, February 18, 1804, Saturday, Page 3

ARREST

AMHERST, (New-Hampshire) April 10.

Bank bills! The business of counterfeiting Bank Bills has for some time been going on swimmingly; and not withstanding the vigilance of the civil officers, and the exertions of several active citizens, the feat of mischief has long lain concealed, and the credit of the banks, and the property of individuals threatened with ruin. —Some important information having been obtained during the two last weeks, arrangements were made for the apprehension of the villains, and a little before sunset on Sunday evening last, the important blow was struck, which we hope will suspend, at least for a time, this new kind of Banking business. Four men were arrested, by surprise, at the house of Mr. John Lynch, in New Boston, in the very act of striking off the bills, and just before they had finished their Sunday’s work! They had with them between *fifteen and twenty thousand dollars!* in bills of different descriptions, and the plates, on which they were impressed. The plates and bills were, ‘Beverly Bank’ 30 dollars; ‘New Hampshire Bank,’ payable in Philadelphia, 10 dollars; Boston ‘Union Bank’ 10 dollars; ‘Essex Bank,’ Salem, 8 dollars; and ‘Portsmouth Bank,’ 4 dollars. The plates were extremely well executed, and the best judges of bills have declared, they should have had no hesitancy in receiving any of them had they been signed; and the blanks been filled. Yesterday morning one other person was arrested, and brought to town, who had 80 10 dollar bills of the New Hampshire bank, payable in Philadelphia, 40 of which were signed, and is supposed to be the person, who has been the principal hand in signing the bills. Several have been committed to gaol, and others laid under heavy bonds for their appearance at the superior court to be holden at Hopkinton on the last Tuesday in the present month.

To provide a more suitable punishment for this crime seems to have become absolutely necessary; and we hope soon to see it exciting legislative attention. Until this is the case, our citizens must be continually exposed to the impositions of the basest of mankind.

April 17.

Bank Bill Counterfeits, again. We last week mentioned the arrest of several persons for making and counterfeiting Bank Bills. Since that time, four others have been committed to the gaol in this town, belonging to the same gang. There are now 7 in close confinement, in this gaol, and 3 or 4 under bonds, with sureties, for their appearance at court. Among these we find the hoary head, just ripening for the grave, and youth, who were “in the full tide of successful experiment,” in the ranks of iniquity. Father and son are lodged in the same prison, and brothers here meet to join in fraternal embrace.—A Mr. Raymond, and a Mr. Roberts, with several others of the same fraternity, were arrested in Boston, and committed to the gaol in that town last week; and also a Capt. Flint, and two persons by the name of Batchelder, were arrested in Danvers, and committed to the gaol in Salem. Peasley, the engraver of the plates, is confined in Newburyport gaol. The work of arrest we believe is still going on in the lower towns of Massachusetts, and when all are collected, would make a fine freight for a new settlement at Botany Bay, or in the Ingraham Islands. The Supreme Judicial Court commences its Spring term for

this county, on Tuesday next, at Hopkinton, when those who are here confined will be brought to an impartial trial. Until this takes place, we shall forbear mentioning their names, as we would not wish to cast a reproach on any one, who is not really guilty.

The energy and spirit with which this prosecution has been conducted reflects great credit on those who have been engaged in it.

-- *Weekly Wanderer*, April 23, 1804, Monday, Page 3.

TRIAL

AMHERST, (New-Hampshire) May 8.

At the late term of the Supreme Court, at Hopkinton, for the County of Hillsborough, John Stewart was indicted for passing a forged Bill of the Essex Bank, of 8 dollars; for counterfeiting a New-Hampshire Bill, of 10 dollars, payable at Philadelphia; for having a large number of said New-Hampshire Bills in his possession, with an intention to pass them, and for a conspiracy with others to counterfeit the Bills of various Banks. ---Timothy Call, David Call, and William Gilman were indicted severally for aiding and assisting in the forgery of Essex Bills, of 8 dollars, and, together with John Stewart, for a conspiracy to counterfeit the Bills of various Banks.—John Silver was indicated for the forgery of a New-Hampshire Bill, of 10 dollars, payable at Philadelphia, and for having in his possession counterfeit bills of said New-Hampshire Bank, with an intention to pass them.—They were Arraigned, and plead, not guilty, to all of the indictments. The trial of John Stewart first came on. The Jury having left the stand, in a few minutes returned a verdict of guilty. During this trial, the other prisoners were at the bar, and the Law was so clearly and forcibly laid down by the Chief Justice, that they prayed liberty to withdraw their pleas, and to trust in the mercy of the Court, which was granted; and they are now under the following sentences: --Two and one half years imprisonment on all of them, excepting *Silver*, whose imprisonment is only two years, in addition to pecuniary fines.--Wm. Gilman and Timothy Call, having been before convicted of a similar crime, were farther sentenced to stand in the pillory one hour each.

-- *Weekly Wanderer*, May 21, 1804, Monday, Page 3.

ESCAPE

AMHERST, (New-Hampshire) June 5.

Rogues gone! On the night of Wednesday last, the prisoners confined in the Gaol of this town, for making counterfeit Money, made their escape. The doors were unlocked by some person from without and left open, and were found in this situation by the Gaoler, the next morning. Their escape had undoubtedly for some time been premeditated, as several of them left manuscripts behind them, of a taunting threatening nature. Among other threats of their file leader, the noted Timothy Call, was one, that they would “soon be in a situation to furnish the public with *thousands*, and perhaps *millions*” of this genuine paper money.

- - -

Robert Miller, James Brown and --- Merrill were convicted, at the late term of the Superior Court of this State, holden at Plymouth, (Grafton County) of passing counterfeit Bank Bills. They belonged to the same gang with those lately convicted in this county.

-- *Weekly Wanderer*, June 11, 1804, Monday, Page 3.

A similar article printed the next week in The Vermont Gazette provided descriptions of all the escapees:

AMHERST, [N. H.] June 5.

Rogues gone.

On the night of Wednesday last, the prisoners confined in the gaol of this town, for making counterfeit money, made their escape. The doors were unlocked by some person from without and left open, and were found in this situation by the gaoler, the next morning. The names and description of the persons escaped are as follows:

Timothy Call is about five feet five inches high, stout built, dark complexion, sandy hair, considerably freckled, middle aged.

David Call is about six feet high, dark complexion, black eyes, and dark hair, about forty years old.

William Gilman, about five feet six inches, fair countenance, black eyes and hair, about 25 years of age.

John Silver, about five feet seven inches high, light complexion, bald on top of his head, middle aged.

John Stewart, about five feet eight inches high, brown hair, blue eyes, about twenty four years old.

William J. Ayers, about five feet eleven inches, dark hair and eyes, middle aged.

Ephraim Bailey, about five feet five inches, black hair, full black eyes, swarthy complexion, a deep scar on his cheek, about twenty seven years old.

Editors of newspapers, particularly those in the northern states, are requested to take such notice of this escape in their papers as will assist in having the villains arrested.

Their escape had undoubtedly for some time been premeditated, as several of them left manuscripts behind them, of a taunting, threatening nature. Among other threats of their file leader, the noted Timothy Call, was one, that they would "soon be in a situation to furnish the public with thousands, and perhaps millions" of this genuine paper money.

Yesterday a pewter key, which was used in unlocking the outer door, was found a few rods from the gaol, between that and the bridge below the prison.

-- *The Vermont Gazette*, June 19, 1804, Tuesday, Pages 2 & 3.

PURSUIT

Timothy Call, one of the convicts, who lately escaped from the gaol in this town, was seen in Lebanon, on Connecticut river, the 15th ult. and pursued by a party, who recognized him from his description in the advertisement. Finding himself likely to be overtaken, he rode towards a thicket, quitted his horse and furniture, and sought safety by concealment in the wood. Whether he has been taken we have not heard.

-- *Weekly Wanderer*, July 9, 1804, Monday, Page 3.

CALL'S END

Drowned, on the west side of Lake Champlain, "the noted" Timothy Call, of money-making memory.

– *Amherst pap.* [Source: an Amherst N.H. newspaper]

-- *Weekly Wanderer*, August 13, 1804, Monday, Page 3

SIX YEARS LATER

Is this the same William Gilman who was arrested with Timothy Call in 1804???

CONVICTS.

Two hundred dollars Reward!

ESCAPED from the State's Prison, on the night of the 20th inst. four Convicts, by the names of *Samuel Hemingway*, *Daniel Wilbour*, ***William Gilman***, and *Ezekiel Flanders*. – Hemingway is about 53 years of age, five feet 5 and 5 eighths inches high, light blue eyes, grey hair, and light complexion – Wilbour is thirty-six years old, five feet eight and an half inches high, dark grey eyes, brown hair, and dark complexion. Gilman is 27 years of age, 5 feet 7 and one quarter inches high, dark grey eyes, black hair and dark complexion. Flanders is 23 years old, 5 feet, 5 & 1 quarter inches high, grey eyes, light hair and light complexion – wore away the uniform of the prison, the garments being made of green and red cloth.

Whoever will take up said convicts and return them to the State Prison in Windsor, State of Vermont, shall receive the above reward, or Fifty Dollars for each, and all reasonable charges. Thomas Leverett,

Superintendent.

Windsor, February 21, 1810.

-- *The Vermont Republican*, March 12, 1810.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

TIMOTHY CALL, A.M. the son of Moses and Mehitabel (Jackman) Call, was born at Boscawen, Feb. 13, 1763, and was drowned in Lake Champlain in July 1804, AE 41. He read law; practiced in Gilmanton, but left in 1801. His reputation suffered from charges connected with spurious money. He married ----- Cleveland of Ct.

– *Sketches of the Alumni of Dartmouth College from the First Graduation in 1771 to the Present Time, with a Brief History of the Institution, by the Rev. George T. Chapman, D.D.* printed 1867, pg. 53