



Bloomsbury Auction The Bibliophile Sale, Lot 43. 25 February 2016

Hood (Sir Samuel, first baronet, naval officer, 1762-1814) Letter of Attorney for the recovery of the booty and effects captured at St Lucia, Tobago, Berbice, Esquibo, Demerary and Suriname in 1803 and 1804, Ds., manuscript on vellum, document by the Lord Mayor of London appended, small red wax seal, a few small holes along folds, slightly yellowed, 570 x 670mm., 14th March 1808.

Outer side

Dated 14th March 1808

Sir Samuel Hood KCB to **William Tatum** Esq., **Letter of Attorney** for the recovery of the booty, goods and effects captured by his Majesty's Army and Navy taken at St. Lucia, Tobago, Demerary, Berbice, Esquiba, Surinam in the year 1803 and 1804

I **James Sutherland** of the City of London notary Public by the Royal authority duly admitted and sworn Do hereby Certify and attest that I was present and did see Rear Admiral **Sir Samuel Hood** Knight of the most Honourable Order of the Bath sign seal and as and for his act in Deed and due from of Law deliver the within letter of Attorney bearing date the Fourteenth day of this instant month of March One thousand eighteen hundred and eight and being a letter of attorney from the said Sir Samuel Hood to **William Tatum** Esquire late Military secretary to the late **General Grinfield** deceased for the several purposes herein mentioned, in presence of **James Sutherland** junior of Birchin Lane in the said City of London Gentleman the witness whose name is thereto subscribed and I Do hereby further certify and attest that the name "**Sam Hood**" to the said letter of attorney subscribed as the person granting and executing the same is of the proper hand writing of the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and that his name and addition "**Jas. Sutherland jun**" to the said letter of attorney subscribed as the witness to the execution thereof are of the proper hand writing of the said **James Sutherland** junior/-

In Faith and Testimony whereof I the said notary have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal at London this twenty sixth day of March one thousand eight hundred and Eight/- **Jas. Sutherland Not. Pub**

We the underwritten notaries Practising and residing in the City of London do hereby certify that James Sutherland whose firm and seal are above Subscribed and set is such notary as he stiles himself and that to all Acts Instruments and attestations by him made and passed in his quality aforesaid full faith and credit are and ought to be given in judgement Courts and thereont ~ Witness our hands at London this Twenty sixth day of March One thousand eight hundred and eight/- **Wilson Forster** Not.Pub, **Johs. Venn** Not.Pub.

To all the whom these presents shall come Rear Admiral **Sir Samuel Hood** Knight of the most Honourable order of the Bath sendeth greeting **Whereas** at the capture and reduction of the Islands of **Saint Lucia** and **Tobago** and the colonies of **Demerary Berbice** and **Essequibo** in the year one thousand eight hundred and three several ships and vessels and also great quantity of stores booty and effects were seized by the Army and Navy serving under the command of the late **General William Grinfield** and the said **Sir Samuel Hood** then Commodore Hood which said ships booty and effects have been condemned as prize to his Majesty and his High Court Admiralty **And Whereas** at the capture and reduction of the colony of **Surinam** in the year one thousand eight hundred and four several ships vessels and also a great quantity of booty and effects were seized by th Army and Navy serving under the command of **Sir Charles Green** and the said **Sir Samuel Hood** And Whereas His Majesty by His Royal Warrant or Grant bearing date at St. James's the twenty first day of January one thousand eight hundred and six has been graciously pleased to give and grant unto **Major General Sir George Prevost** who was next in command to the said **General Grinfield** since deceased, and the said **Sir Samuel Hood** all the proceeds of the said property so captured at **St. Lucia** and **Tobago** after the final adjudication thereof to His Majesty in Trust to be by them paid and distributed to and amongst such persons employed in His Majesty's Army and Navy at the said capture and reduction of **St. Lucia** and **Tobago** as might beaccording to the plan of distribution mentioned set forth and alluded to in and by the said Royal Grant or Warrant **And Whereas** by such a Royal Grant or Warrant bearing date as Saint James's the twenty seventh day of March in the said year one thousand eight hundred and six His majesty has been graciously pleased to give and grant unto the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and **Captain William Tatum** late military secretary to the said **General Grinfield** the proceeds of the property so captured at the reduction of the said colonies of **Demerary** and **Berbice** as aforesaid after adjudication thereof as lawful prize to His Majesty. In trust to be by them distributed to and amongst such persons employed in his Majesty's Army and Navy in the said last mentioned capture as might be entitled thereto according to such plan of distribution as aforesaid and as therein also mentioned **And Whereas** by another Royal Grant or Warrant bearing date at Saint James's on or about the sixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and six His majesty has been graciously pleased to give and grant unto the said **Sir Charles Green** and **Sir Samuel Hood** the proceeds of the property so captured at the said colony of **Surinam** as aforesaid after adjudication thereof in Trust to be by them paid and distributed to and amongst such persons employed in His Majesty's Army and Navy in the said last mentioned capture as might be entitled thereto according to such plan of distribution as aforesaid and as therein likewise particularly mentioned and specified as by the said three Royal Grants or warrants reference being thereunto, or to authentic copies thereof, respectively had may more fully and at alrge appear **And Whereas** a very considerable part of the proceeds of the said respective captured properties now remains in the hands of Registers, Agents or Officers Civil or Militray and other person or persons in the West Indies or elsewhere in America who are still liable and accountable to the said Trustees and captors for the same and it being inconvenient for the said **Sir Samuel Hood** by reason of his other [public] duties and avocations to give his immediate personal attention to the business of the said captured property in getting the same of the proceeds thereof realized, recovered and brought to England for distribution according to His Majesty's gracious intentions in that behalf and he the said **Sir Samuel Hood** being particularly desirous of facilitating such distribution as far as in him depends The said **Sir Samuel Hood** hath determined to appoint an active and responsible agent under him and as far as he is concerned for that purpose and having full and entire faith and confidence in the integrity ability and responsibility of the said **William Tatum** his co-trustee as hereinbefore mentioned and who is shortly about to depart for the West Indies to be such agent for the purposes aforesaid **Now therefore know ye** and these presents witness that the said **Sir Samuel Hood** hath made constituted and appointed and by these present doth make constitute appoint and fully authorize and empower the said **William Tatum** to be his true and lawful attorney and agent for him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and in his name and on his behalf according to his interest in the premises and as one of the trustees and grantees nominated and appointed by his Majesty in and by His said three several Royal Grants or Warrants herein above in part recited jointly with the said **Sir George Prevost** and **Sir Charles Green** and their respective representatives or otherwise as may be necessary, and him the said **William Tatum** as a trustee named in one of the said Grants as aforesaid, and for the purposes and upon the trusts mentoned and specified in the said three several Royal Grants or Warrants to ask demand recover and receive of and from all and every Register or Registers Agent or Agents and all and every other person and persons whomsoever in the West Indies or elsewhere in America whom the same now doth or shall or may hereafter in any wise concern and who now is or are and that shall or may hereafter be found liable or accountable in that behalf All the said ships and stores property booty and effects of every description that was or were so captured seized and taken at the said Islands of **Saint Lucia** and **Tobago** and the said colonies of **Demerary Berbice Essequibo** and **Surinam** by the Army and Navy serving under the said respective commander or any or either of the said places and their respective Dependencies or such part or parts of such captured properties respectively and the proceeds thereof respectively as now remain in the hands custody or power of any person or persons whomsoever in the West Indies or elsewhere in America unaccounted for (no person matter or thing reserved or excepted) and for him, the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and in his name and on his behalf jointly with his said co-trustees or with any or either of them and their respective agents or representatives as may be deemed necessary to call to account and reckoning touching the premise and any or every part thereof respectively all and every person and persons whom the same now doth or shall or may hereafter in any wise concern in the West Indies or elsewhere in America and to state liquidate and finally adjust and settle all accounts and reckonings whatsoever noe depending remaining open unliquidated and unsettled and that shall

or may hereafter be depending between the said captors and trustees as far as the said **Sir Samuel Hood** is concerned and interested therein as aforesaid and any person or persons whomsoever in the West Indies or elsewhere in America touching or concerning the premises or any of them or any part of thereof respectively and to receive or pay the just balance or balances amount or amounts of any such account or accounts as the case may be or require and upon receipt of the premises or any of them or any part thereof respectively for him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and in his name and on his behalf as such Trustee and Grantee as aforesaid jointly with his said co-trustee or trustees and their respective representatives or otherwise as may be necessary to give sign seal and execute full absolute and sufficient acquittances releases and discharges for the same or any part thereof respectively on receipt accordingly and if necessary for him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and in the name in his capacities as Trustee and Grantee as aforesaid or otherwise as may be necessary either jointly with the said **Sir George Prevost Sir Charles Green** and **William Tatum** his said co-trustees or their respective agent or agent representative or representatives or with any or either of them or otherwise as may be necessary to commence sue and prosecute with effect and final judgement and execution any action or action suit or suits or other process or proceeding whatsoever in and court or Courts of Law Equity or Admiralty or before any other Tribunal or Tribunals in the West Indies or elsewhere in America for the recovery of the premises or any of them or any part thereof respectively and for him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** and in his name and on his behalf to appear and to defend him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** in any action or suit touching or any way concerning the premises or any of them with full power and authority to the the said **William Tatum** to appoint one or more responsible and sufficient attorney or attorneys agent or agents under the said **Sir Samuel Hood** or substitute or substitutes under him the said **William Tatum** for all every or any of the purposes herein contained and the same respectively at pleasure to revoke and displace and another or others again to reappoint in their respective place and steads for the same purpose and with the same or the like authorities as aforesaid And also with full power and authority for him the said **William Tatum** and such substitute or substitutes to direct insurances to be effected on the said captured property or on the proceeds thereof or on any part thereof from the West Indies or any other part or place in America to the Port of London where (and no where else) it is meant and intended the final distribution of the said captured and granted property or the proceeds thereof respectively shall finally made conformable to His Majesty's directions that behalf contained in the said three several Grants or warrants hereinbefore respectively in part recited And when and so soon as the proceeds or valuation of the said captured and granted property and effects shall be collected recovered received ascertained and realized into money and sent home to England the said **Sir Samuel Hood** or one of the appointed trustees or grantees thereof as aforesaid and as far as he can or may doth hereby order and direct that the same shall be added to such part or parts of the said respective captured and granted properties and effect as as may already have been remitted home to England in order in order that the net proceeds of the whole may be divided and distributed to and amongst the captors thereof and other persons legally entitled thereto and respectively and their respective legal representatives pursuant to His Majesty's directions in that behalf and the plan of distribution contained or alluded to in the said three several Royal Grants or Warrants hereinto in part recited as aforesaid And generally to do perform execute all and every other and further Act deed matter and thing whatsoever needful or necessary to be done in or about the premises or any of them and for accomplishing the same as fully amply and effectually to all intents and purposes as he the said **Sir Samuel Hood** as Trustee and Grantee as aforesaid or otherwise could or might do himself if personally present at the doing thereof and whatever the said **William Tatum** and his substitute or substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done in the name and or on behalf of him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** touching and concerning the premises or any of them under and by virtue of these presents he the said **Sir Samuel Hood** doth hereby promise to agree to allow ratify and confirm And whereas the said **Sir Samuel Hood** in and by a certain letter of attorney bearing the date the seventeenth of March one thousand eight hundred and six so far as he could or might hath made ordained nominated constituted and appointed **Thomas Daniel** and **John Daniel** of Mincing Lane in the City of London esquires jointly and severally his true and lawful attorneys and attorney to act for him the said **Sir Samuel Hood** in Great Britain and Ireland in all matters and things touching and concerning the said premises and captured properties respectively as fully and effectually as the said **Sir Samuel Hood** could or might do himself if personally present which said letter of attorney he the said **Sir Samuel Hood** doth hereby ratify and confirm and continue in full force and virtue anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding **In Witness** whereof the said **Sir Samuel Hood** hath hereunto set his hand and seal at London this fourteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eight.

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped in the presence of) **Jas. Sutherland jun**.....**Sam Hood**

Appended to it is;

Signed confirmation by **John Ausley** esq, Lord Mayor of London on 26th March 1808 that in accordance with the pursuance of the Act Geo. II for the recovery of debts in his plantations and colonies in America

Letter signed by James Sutherland confirming the matters and correctness of signatures of Samuel Hood and himself dated 26th March 1808.

The Naval Chronicle Vol XVII 1807, gives a full account of the captures and details of the terms of surrender. St. Lucia surrendered on 22 Jun 1803 and with Tobago upwards of 1,200 French troops were made prisoner and French trade completely destroyed in those seas. Within three months Gen. Grinfield and Sir Samuel Hood took the provinces of Demerara, Issequibo and Berbice [taken on the 19th September] and Surinam [4th May 1804] reducing the island of Martinique to great distress. In January 1804 the Diamond Rock at the entrance to Fort Royal harbour, Martinique, had

been occupied, armed, and commissioned as a sloop of war . In addition Sir Samuel Hood took or sunk a great many of the enemy's privateers or ships of war upon the Leeward Island Station – for which he had the Order of the Bath bestowed upon him.

In the **Royal Navy** during the Napoleonic Wars prize distribution was by eighths

Two eighths of the prize money went to the **captain** or commander. **One eighth** of the money went to the **admiral** or **commander-in-chief** who signed the ship's written orders (unless the orders came directly from the Admiralty in London, in which case this eighth also went to the captain). **One eighth** was divided among the lieutenants, sailing master and captain of marines, if any. **One eighth** was divided among the wardroom warrant officers (surgeon, purser and chaplain), standing warrant officers (carpenter, boatswain and gunner), lieutenant of marines and the master's mates. **One eighth** was divided among the junior warrant and petty officers, their mates, sergeants of marines, captains clerk, surgeon's mates and midshipmen. The final **two eighths** were divided among the crew, with able and specialist seamen receiving larger shares than ordinary seamen, landsmen, and boys. The pool for the seamen was divided into shares, with each able seaman getting two shares in the pool (referred to as a fifth-class share), an ordinary seaman received a share and a half (referred to as a sixth-class share), landsmen received a share each (a seventh-class share), and boys received a half share each (referred to as an eighth-class share). A sailor might earn £18 per annum and his prize money could equal several years pay! The Captains became the equivalent of millionaires.

A rough guide is that £1 in 1808 equalled around £50 today.

The distribution of the prize monies

London Gazette p.1709 1811

London September 3, 1811

Notice is hereby given that an account of the sum of £6000 intended to be distributed to the military and naval forces under the command of the late **General William Grinfield** and Commodore (now Vice-Admiral) **Sir Samuel Hood** K.B. Present at the reduction of the colony of **Tobago**, on the 30th of June 1803 being a first payment on account of the booty &c taken and condemned as prizes will be registered in the High Court of Admiralty agreeably to Act of Parliament. **William Tatum**, trustee under his Majesty's grant for the Army, **John Daniel** Attorney to **Sir Samuel Hood** Trustee under ditto for the Navy

London Gazette p. 92 1812

London January 18th 1812

Notice is hereby given to the respective military and Naval forces under the command of the late General William Grinfield and Commodore (now Vice-Admiral) Sir Samuel Hood K.B. Who were present at the surrender of the Colony of St. Lucia and its dependencies on 22nd June 1803 that an account of the produce of the booty & captures and condemned as prize will be deposited in the Registry in the High Court of Admiralty pursuant to Act of Parliament.

William Tatum, and **John Daniel** Attornies to the Trustees.

London Gazette Part 1 pp. 431/2 1812

London March 8 1812

Notice is hereby given that an account of the sum of £3000 intended to be distributed to the military and naval forces under the command of the late **General William Grinfield** and Commodore (now Vice-Admiral) **Sir Samuel Hood** K.B. Present at the reduction of the colonies of **Demerara**, **Essequibo** and **Berbice** in September 1803 being a second payment on account of the booty &c taken and condemned as prizes will be registered in the High Court of Admiralty pursuant to Act of Parliament. **William Tatum**, trustee under his Majesty's grant for the Army, **John Daniel** Attorney to **Sir Samuel Hood** Trustee under ditto for the Navy

London Gazette Part 2 p. 2275

London Nov 6 1813

Notice is hereby given to the military and armed forces employed under the late **General Grinfield** and Commodore (now Vice-Admiral) **Sir Samuel Hood**, Bart and .K.B. At the reduction of the colony of **Tobago** on the 30th of June 1803 that an account of the several sums received as the proceeds of the booty &c captured and condemned as prizes will be deposited in the Registry in the High Court of Admiralty, pursuant to Act of parliament.

William tatum and **John Daniel** attornies for the captors

Journals of the house of Commons Vol 70 Appendix p. 512 A. 1814-15

Date of Payments: 1814 August 15th

To Vice Admiral Sir **Samuel Hood** and **Captain Tatum** for the values of **Slaves** condemned to the captors of **Demarara** and **Essequibo** and delivered over by them for the use of His Majesty's Government, to be distributed amongst the persons employed in the Army and Navy in the Capture of the said colonies; **£15,795 6s 8d**.

This is probably not all the moneys dispersed, but all that I could find so far.