The following pages give a transcription of a letter of Col. Abraham Hasbrouck about the burning of his property.

This volume can be accessed at Archive.org:

https://archive.org/details/accountofbritish00prat/page/n3
variance with the evidence to be offered in favor of the date of the 16th. Sir James Waldoes gives no time.

The following will fix the true date to be that of the sixteenth:

Letter from Governor Clinton to Gen. Gates: Kingston, 16th Oct. 1777, 1 o'clock. "I am to inform you that the Revere's Fleet, consisting of upwards of thirty sail, anchored last night about six miles below the Landing Place of the town which they now lie opposite to and appear to be making preparations for landing, &c."

Letter from Gov. Clinton to Gen. Putnam, dated "Marlbatown, seven miles from Kingston, 17 October, 1777." "* * * Kingston was burnt yesterday afternoon, because I had not troops to defend it."

Draft of a letter from the Council to the N. Y. Delegates in the Continental Congress: "* * * And on the sixteenth instant about two hours before the Governor's troops, who made a forced march could arrive, gained the landing, and had barely opposed by about 150 militia only, marched immediately up to Kingston and reduced the whole town to ashes."

The sort of journal of the events of the expedition, printed in the Rhode Island Gazette of Nov. 3, 1777, dates the burning on the 16th, and in this differs from the other account in that paper.

The testimony of another eyewitness I am permitted to quote, through the customary courtesy of our respected President; it is taken from a valuable diary which the heads of the well-known family of Hasbrouck have kept for several generations. The entry is in the handwriting of Col. Abraham Hasbrouck, and runs thus:

1777. Oct. 16. Then the enemy under the command of General Henry Clinton and General Vaughan, came to Kingston, in Keops, and burnt my dwelling houses, barn, sider house or store house, and another barn, wagon house at my late dwelling house, and also a small duck-kitchen which was left standing when my dwelling house was burnt down the 23d of October, 1776, and the enemy burnt all the houses, barns (except one horse and barn) in the town, church and county house likewise, laid everything in a rubbish of ashes;

--[Footnotes: 1. Letters of Correspondence of the American Revolution, II, 548. 2. Mr. Pro. Gov., I, 1622.]--

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forces and everything they came to, and they conveyed with them one negro man named Henry, two negro wenchs, Nancy and Flora, and destroyed all my household goods and furniture, and my library of books. My loss I sustained this time, I compute no less than $5000 at least, and house I had in New York burnt by the enemy last year, or in the year 1776. Thanks be to God for his great goodness, I, my wife and children escaped and unhurt out of the enemy's hands. Yet my son Jacobus, Abraham and Daniel was in the opposing of the enemy from landing and to oppose them to come to Kingston, and showers of shot flew on every side of them.

I pray the Lord will support me under so heavy a trial, and must say with Job, The Lord hath given and the Lord hath taken, the Lord's name may be praised. The Lord is able to restore it again, and much more even an hundred fold. He will be done. * * *

And after some further pious remarks, concludes, "I write this at my son-in-law's, Abraham Hoagsteling, where I am at present, Nov. 10, 1777."

A petition of the trustees of Kingston for the rebuilding of the court-house, dated in 1782, and preserved in the Legislative papers in the State Library, and the inscription placed upon the new court-house both mention the day.

If further evidence could be required, it might be added that no difference of opinion, as to the date of the sixteenth, has ever existed among the descendants of the villagers of 1777.

The principal events upon the North River which immediately preceded the attack upon Kingston, may not, perhaps, be more precisely stated than by copying the following dispatch, the most of which, appeared in the London Gazette, of Dec. 24, 1777, but the present complete copy, has been recently obtained from the Admiralty, in London.

Dispatch from Commodore Hotham to Vice Admiral, Lord Viscount Howe:

PENSON, Off Peer's Hall Creek, 9 October, 1777.

My Lord:

Sir Hyde Clinton having thought it advisable to make a Diversion at this juncture up the North River,