

JOHN READ.

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Assist his Hon<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup> in preparing Oure Defence  
against the s<sup>d</sup>. Petetion.

Past in the Lower House.

Test, JN<sup>o</sup>. RUSSELL, Clerk.

Concurred in the Upper House.

Test, GEORGE WYLLYS, Secret<sup>y</sup>.

JOHN READ TO GOVERNOR TALCOTT.

12 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1739.

S<sup>r</sup>.

I have Writ two letters to you at Newhaven,  
that I judged it of Great importance to Connecticut  
to procure the King's Patent to Coin the Copper of  
your own production: That I had desired M<sup>r</sup>. Wood-  
bridge, of Simsbury,\* to intimate this to you. That  
the mine Adventurers,† M<sup>r</sup>. Cradock & others, com-

for the Colony to appear before the Commissioners' Court in May, 1738.  
—*Yale Biographies and Annals*, 247-51. *Colonial Records*, III. 165.  
Joseph Fowler, deputy to the General Assembly from Lebanon 1726 to  
1759; agent for the Colony before the Commissioners' Court in May, 1738;  
removed to East Haddam, where he died June 23, 1768.—*Genealogical  
Memoir of the Descendants of Captain William Fowler*, 17, 18. *Talcott  
Papers*.

\*Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, minister at Simsbury from 1712 until  
his death, Aug. 28, 1742.

†The Simsbury copper mines were worked as early as 1707 by an  
association of the proprietors of Simsbury. Three clergymen—the Rev.  
John Woodbridge of West Springfield, the Rev. Dudley Woodbridge of  
Simsbury, and the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, jr., of Hartford, after-  
wards of Simsbury—were engaged in the enterprise; and later, wealthy  
capitalists from New York and Boston embarked in the adventure, among  
them Governor Belcher. In 1731 a new company was formed, consisting  
of Adam Winthrop, George Cradock, James Bowdoin, Job Lewis, Joshua  
Winslow, Benjamin Pemberton, and North Ingham, all of Boston; who  
took a lease by which a sixth part of the mines was conveyed to them  
for the term of thirty years. Connected with these mines were works for  
boiling and refining the ore. This branch of the business, however,  
being prohibited by the laws of Great Britain, was carried on secretly,  
and consequently at a great disadvantage and loss. The ore procured at  
these mines which was not smelted was shipped to England.—*Phelps's  
History of Simsbury, Granby, and Canton*, 113-19. *Talcott Papers*,  
I. 307. *Colonial Records*, V. 104, VII. 339. *Connecticut Archives*,  
*Industry*, I. 307.

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