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John Chipman and Prince Hall, Impeachment Ordered. Dismissed, 1800

As with William Coley, the Council of Censors brought impeachment orders against John Chipman, Addison County Sheriff, and Prince Hall, Franklin County Sheriff, for mal-administration over the collection of fees. Despite the argument that the House could only prosecute impeachments orders brought by the Council of Censors, the General Assembly investigated and dismissed the charges.

On October 16, 1800 the General Assembly appointed a committee to "inquire into the order of impeachment of John Chipman, Esq., sheriff of the county of Addison, whose duty it shall be to produce the evidence, and state the facts to the house, that if sufficient facts be found the house may draw up articles of impeachment against him, and proceed thereupon." On October 20th the General Assembly responded in similar fashion the Council of Censors' impeachment order against Prince Hall.

On October 22, 1800 the committee considering the charges against Hall offered a resolution that the charges be dismissed on the grounds that Hall's accounts had been "presented and allowed by the supreme court." The resolution was rejected by a 31 to 132 roll call vote. Stephen R. Bradley then offered an impeachment resolution, which was tabled.

On October 23rd the committee report on Hall was read. It noted that while "it appears from the face of the return that the sheriff did charge and receive greater fees" than allowed, the Supreme Court had approved Hall's accounts. The report was accepted and the House resolved, "That in the opinion of this house, the council of censors not being informed of the manner in which the supreme court allowed the charges of said Prince B. Hall, nor of the said services by him rendered, as taxed in the same, the house will take not further order thereon." Immediately following this action the House accepted a similar report on Sheriff Chipman and resolved to take no further action on his impeachment.

See Journal of the General Assembly of the State Of Vermont, 1800, pp. 72, 104, 120-121, 129-131.