

Henry's yard for post is dated 1815

or

via

On the receipt of your letter of the 10th calling for
information respecting the Canal leading from Alburnham
Sound to Norfolk I hasten to answer.

There is not more water in the
Canal than 2 ft or thereabouts. The boat constructed for the
Canal and loaded at the Navy yard for Mr. Gallatree
drawing two & half feet was obliged to lighten before she
reached Elizabeth City -

There is now a large quantity of
timber both Oak & pine offered for sale which is up the
River and the Agent is now loading the vessel I am sending
him to purchase for that purpose which I hope you
will approve of when you see her -

There is in our Magazine 118 barrels of powder
fifty tons of which some the War Department borrowed for
the Gun boat. No vessel can be procured by hire for the
purpose you intend carrying as a look out boat, and have
been these two days about the purchase of one. She is a very
fast sailing schooner fifty nine tons fitted for a privateer
two years old mounting one six pounder Amidships &
one two pounder bow - twenty four muskets completely
fitted & this moment Captain Butler concluded to take
\$2750 which I hope you will not consider high or improper
in the way of a salary, being at such distance & the vessel being out
flown for a year. The vessel is now taking out of her, I consider her
very cheap. She can be procured by a trader who is smart &