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(July 10 1780)

(George P. Keepports Baltimore to Gov. Lee)

***** I have Examined the stores at Fort Whetstone Point Canot Find any that may be sold (as Useless as Long as the Cannon are Kept) Except ~~the~~ Brimstone a Fishing Seine @ 74 Bbri Salt Petre the Spare Carriages and Cariage Wheels and the Spears for Defending the Works and Agreeable to the Return Delivered in and Some old Iron. There is 9 or 10 Pieces of Large Hewed White Oak Timber at the Fort which was got for building a Powder Magazine and a Parcell of Stone which Maj^r N. Smith says he is ~~the~~ ^{Intiled} to and Claims as his Property some of the Stone he has Already Taken away and Converted to his Own Use he says he never made a Chрге for the Timber it was Cut on his Land and on the Stone also Raised By the Soldiers on his Land.

Journal and Correspondence of the
Council of Maryland, 1780-1781,
Archives of Maryland,
Vol. 45, Page 78.

September 5, 1780.

(Edwd. Giles, Ph'a, to His Excellency Govr. Lee)

Sir I have the Satisfaction to inform your Excellency that I have obtained Arms &^c & also a Warrant for clothing for the Regiment. The Cloathing is at Morris Town to which Place I have sent to Secure it. Hats of a very good Quality, we shall obtain in a few Days, an Express having been dispatched Yesterday to Lancaster to roder fifteen hundred to be sent immediately from that Place. We are to have a uniform Coat, Wollen Jacket & Overalls, one Shirt and one Hat P^r Man. The Board of War inform me, that a large Quantity of Wollens are now fulling to make Blankets of, part of which we may expect to obtain before Winter sets in. The Board as well as our Delegates, advise me not to march from here, till I have the Men properly cloathed & till the whole joins us there is no immediate Call for men I have wrote to his Excellency the General on this Subject & shall wait his further Orders. The Time we spend in this City shall be employed in getting the men acquainted with the use of the Fire Lock, of which they are now amazingly ignorant. On my first Arrival I waited on the Delegates & the Board of War, I received their orders to Land the Men & march them to the Barracks. We have very good Quarters & are well provided with Provisions. Tis whipered that we are to be sent to the southward.

I have the Pleasure to inform your Excellency that the Acct^s from Gen^l Gates's Army appear to be rather exaggerated, as an officer arrived at this City yesterday from N. York, who reports that he read in the N York Paper an Acc^t pf the Action near Cambden to the following Effect.

That our Army had been successful in several Skirmishes viz. the two Generals meeting near Cambden on the 16th a general Action ensued, that the Militia gave way on the first fire, I left the Continentals unsupported, who being hard pressed by Lord Cornwallis, retreated & were pursued for four miles with considerable Slaughter. It mentions no officer of Distinction either killed or taken Capt. Higgins the Gentleman alluded to, told this to the Board of War in my hearing.

Journal and Correspondence of the
Council of Maryland, 1780-1781,
Archives of Maryland,
Vol.45. Page 100.

September 12, 1780.

(Edward Giles, Philadelphia, to His Excellency Governor Lee)

Sir Your Excellency will doubtless ere this have received a Letter from Gen^l Washington , directing our Regiment to march to the Southward. In consequence of this order, I shall set out the men tomorrow M^o under Cap^t Murdoch, & proceed myself immediately to Morris Town to secure & forward on the Cloathing there. This Business appears to me to be of such Importance, that a failure would involve the total Ruin of the Regiment, have therefore been induced rather to attend to it myself, than to depend upon others. The Board of War have advised me to march the men to the Head of Elk, & there retain them, until I can get them cloathed. In this Step I flatter myself I shall have Your Excellency's Concurrence. I have an absolute Order for 450 Coats, Jackets & wollen overalls, Shoes, Shirts & Hats, shall obtain Tents in a few Days with every necessary Camp Equipage.

Since my Arrival at this City I have lost upwards of fourteen men by Desertion, I shall be obliged to leave upwards of 20 in the Hospitals, with these I shall also leave an Officer. The Desertions were unavoidable Privater's men, paint such golden Prospects, that is not to be wondered that the men have been seduced from their Duty. Whilst I lament the Loss, I have the pleasing Reflection, that the Landing the men was in consequence of an absolute Order from the War Office & that every precaution in my Power has been used to prevent the Consequences that

have flowed from that Order. I hope I shall at least Stear clear of Censure. I have obtained an Proclamation from Governor Reed. I have searched every Vessell in Port, three of the Men I shall recover, they being on board the Confederacy.

Journal and Correspondence of the
Council of Maryland, 1780-1781,
Archives of Maryland,
Vol.45. Page 110.

(Excerpt from a letter dated)

September 19, 1780,

Edw'd Giles, Pha., to Gov. Lee.:

. Vests I expected to have procured at
Trenton, but to my great mortification they were all
forwarded to Camp & issued out. some indeed there
were at Newberg about 100 miles beyond Morris Town,
but I conceived the Distance joined with the Rough-
ness of the Road, would render it impossible to trans-
port them from that Place in any reasonable Time.

Journal and Correspondence of the
Council of Maryland, 1780-1781,
Archives of Maryland,
Vol.45. Page 151.

(Excerpt from letter of Ephraim Blaine, Philadelphia,
to President Huntington.)

October 17, 1780.

. when our Army marched from
Morristown against the enemy (then) in
Jersey, which he gave me express Orders to
settle and pay for.

December 23, 1780.

You are to proceed immediately in the State Boat
Plater to the Fort at Baltimore and Station her in
such a Manner as to prevent all Vessels in Patapsco
River and its Branches and Creeks except the Porpus
and Nautilis from departing or removing therefrom
for nine Days or you receive our further Order to
the contrary.

June 2, 1781.

[Geo. P. Keepports, Baltimore, to Gov. Lee] (Fav^d by Col^o Smith)

* * * * * The Workmen that were Engaged Repairing the
Carriages for field peices & Carriages at the Fort have Quitt
for want of money and I Cannot get any work Executed wihtout
Paying for It Immediately.

Thursday 11 January 1781

(Council to Captain George Keepports)

We request to have all the Cannon Carriages for field Pieces under your Direction repaired with all possible Expedition to render them fit for service, where the old cannot be repaired, new ones must be immediately made, you will also have all the small Arms repaired, cleaned and made fit for the field, heavy Cannon except four which may be useful at the Fort must be removed to Elk Ridge Landing. as soon as the small Cannons are fitted with Carriages you will order Carriages to be made for the heavy Cannon that they may be removed into the Country if necessary. We expect your Utmost Exertions in this Business and flatter ourselves that the workmen in Baltimore Town will readily undertake this Business. We refer you to General Buchanan for any further Directions.

Monday 19th ²March 1781

(Part of Council Proceedings:)

That Capt George Keepports deliver to Brigadier
Gen^l Gist Ammunition for the use of the Fort and
Arms and Ammunition for the Regular Troops in
Baltimore Town.

Saturday 14 April 1781

(Council to Gen'l Buchanan)

Col. Smith writes us that it is inconvenient for the Militia of Baltimore Town to perform the Duty of Guards on the north side of the Patapsco. It was never our Intention that the Militia of the Town should do any Duty but at the Fort and in the Town. We do not think it necessary at this Time to have any Guards posted on the North Side of Patapsco as the Enemy are down the Bay, but would have them armed and in Readiness to act at a moments warning, certainly there will be sufficient Notice given of the Approach of the Enemy for the Militia to be prepared to received them. If there is good Cause to suspect particular Persons in Baltimore Town or County of Disaffection to the Government or to the Militia or any of them will point them out and communicate the Grounds of their Suspicion to this Board and we should think them sufficient to justify an Exertion of the extraordinary Powers vested in us by the Law for the Safety of the State. We will most chearfully and readily take the proper Measures for their Apprehension and Confinement.

Saturday 14 April 1781

(Council to Capt. Keepports)

You will herewith receive an Order on the Collector of Baltimore for three hundred and seventy-five Pounds to enable you to purchase Lead to rectify the Carriages for the Fort which ought to be strong for the Service required of them, and ^{to} employ Men to make up the Cartridges.

Monday 6th August, 1781.

[Council, to Nathaniel Ramsey Esqr.]

We have at your Solicitation reconsidered the Terms upon which Whetstone Point is to be disposed of, and cannot concur with you in Opinion that any bad Effect will result from our not offering them. You must be sensible it was the Intention of the Assembly to sell that Property for the Purpose of procuring a Sum of hard Money according to their Engagement for the Officers and the Soldiers. The reasons which induced us to fix and still adhere to the Terms of Sale published that no other Money besides Specie will answer the Purposes of the Officers and Soldiers of our Line in the Southern Army and going thither that we have engaged to send the Specie to them as soon as we can possibly obtain it and that we would not appropriate what came in to any other Purpose, until they were supplied with what the Assembly have allowed, that Whetstone should be sold for Specie only and that we have no Prospect of acquiring a Sum soon by any other Means, many other Reasons have occurred to us could be assigned if it was necessary; in disposing of this Property you will be governed by your own Discretion having an Eye to the Necessities of the Officers and Men and we are convinced the Public will not suffer. We have sent you an Extract of a Letter from M^r Lee from whence we are led to conclude that M^r Washington will have no objection to sell his Part, the States entering his Portion of the Money, as it was the Intention of his father that his Interest should be sold, if you dont think you are authorized to sell his Part, it will be proper to have it laid off in the same Manner M^r Russell's was.

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August 29, 1781.

(Council to Colo. Samuel Smith.)

* * * * * The Proposition in yours of the 28th relative to the Money to be deducted from your second Payment for Lots purchased on Whetstone Point is inadmissible, we send by this opportunity a thousand Pounds agreeable to your requisition. If whatever Articles of Cloathing you have been requested to procure, cannot be purchased with the new Money as Specie, we wish you to apply to Cap^t Keeports who will seize them according to the Directions given by this Board.

October 8, 1781.

(Council to Thomas Yates, Esqr.)

As more than ten Days have expired Since the last Sale of Lots on Whetstone Point, we apprehend a considerable sum of Hard Money has been deposited in your Hands, and being much in Want of it for the Officers and Soldiers, we request you would be so obliging as to have it sent to the Treasurer immediately. We should have wrote to Col^o Ramsay on this Subject, but are informed he is gone to Philadelphia.

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