

c. s. c. tion for Charles County, and if they are not shortly complied with, will send you some Powder from hence. As to furnishing you with Arms, tho' it would afford us the highest Satisfaction, yet from our Inability we cannot experience the Pleasure of gratifying you, not having a Sufficiency for the Regular Forces.

22 March 1776

No. 76.

[Council to Elk-Ridge Committee.]

To the Committee of Observation for the Elk
Ridge Department in Ann Arundel County

Gentⁿ

We have called James Morris before us and not finding his Affair in such a Situation as that we can go into a plenary Hearing we have thought proper to oblige him to give Security for his good Behaviour, and also for his Appearance before the Committee of Observation on the first Thursday in April next against which Time, if you think it necessary, you may order Witnesses to attend to enforce his Charge & send him down to us again or not as the Facts may appear. Stephen Gartrell hath been heard and is ordered to make proper Concessions at the Head of the Elk Ridge Battalion at their next Meeting and to pay one Moiety of the Expense of bringing him down, Guards & James Morris to pay the other moiety.

No. 77.

[Council to Thomas.]

To Captⁿ John Allen Thomas

Sir.

We received a Letter of the 15th Inst. from M^r Mackall advising us that you thought a Virginia Pilot-Boat which the Calvert County Guards had stopped some Days past would be very useful, as well for conveying the Troops from one County to the other, as for taking any small Tenders which might come into your River, and that the Owner would sell her on reasonable Terms, and requesting our Opinion upon the Expediency of purchasing and arming her for the Use of the Province. We cannot conceive a Pilot Boat properly calculated to transmit Troops across a narrow River in which upon an Alarm given, unless the Wind should suit, they cannot sail from one place to another with that Expedition the Service might require, and as to repelling any hostile Attacks which may be made by Tenders, we do not think that Boat would be sufficient for the Purpose as nothing less than an eight or ten Gun Vessel would offer to run up our Rivers to commit Dep-