

ought for which reason am very desirous of getting Arms & Blankets to remove to my station.

I am Gentⁿ Your most obd^t h^{ble} Serv^t
James Hindman

Original.

[Ray and others to Council.]

Bladensburgh 10th April 1776.

Gentlemen. As we would not willingly interfere with any person's private Character unless obliged so to do on a matter of the utmost consequence, which in the present case we are under the necessity of doing, so far as is consistant with our opinions and safety ; yet far be it from us, and sorry indeed we should be to do the smallest injustice to any person whatever, nor will we in any respect condesend to do it. We are apprehensive that M^r William Hamilton may be appointed Captain in place of Captain Andrew Beall, by the recommendation of Col^o Joshua Beall through prejudice to our late Captain, who would not condesend to serve as Captain under him. There has been great confusion in the Company since our Captain resign'd, and it will be much more so if Hamilton should be appointed Captain, as a great majority of the Company are determin'd not to serve under him, he not being a proper person in any respect whatever for that office ; and sensible we are, in the event of his being appointed (should it so happen) that a Company inferior to none in the Province, in the Militia, must inevitably come to nothing, wholly from the dislike they have of his filling that station : We therefore hope, and entreat your honours, not to be the cause of destroying so good a Company, which you might innocently be induced to by the recommendation of the Colonel, but we trust, that you will take the matter into your serious consideration, and reflect that we are free people, and have a right, to the choice of our own Officers, under whom we are to risque our lives and fortunes with theirs, which we will most chearfully and readily do when ever called upon, provided we have Officers agreeable, and such only we will obey. We therefore pray your honours would gratify us in granting a Commission to M^r Andrew Beall Jun^r as our Captain in place of his Father, a young man that we choose in preference to any man in the Company, and who is Balloted in by a great majority, having thirty odd votes out of fifty, and there were four candidates. And we further entreat you, to give us the liberty of choosing our other officers, which will give great satisfaction to the