

April 16 of the several Services required, which shall be layed out to best  
 Red Book advantage, I am sorry to inform your Excellency and Honors that I  
 No. 30 am grown too poor in your Service (and that of the Continent) to  
 Letter 106 undertake this matter without; public officers being much out of  
 Credit with the people at large, and as this business is to be done at a  
 distance from home I have no prospect of doing it with the neces-  
 sary dispatch without money, Col<sup>o</sup> Yeates called on me last night to  
 know what prospect I had of procuring him Forage, this I mention  
 as I am Sensible M<sup>r</sup> Williams has it not in his power to procure any  
 untill money or an order on the Treasury is sent him, Colo. Blain will  
 furnish a good opportunity to forward those orders to M<sup>r</sup> Williams  
 and myself, and I shall endeavour to persuad him to go down the  
 State with me, where corn may be had on the best Terms and if  
 the Bay continues clear a few days, may be sent up by Craft, which  
 as we shall attempt from the difficulty of getting waggons I must  
 Intreat the earliest Inteligence be given us if any of the Enemies  
 Cruisers appear to be standing up,

April 17 [Jos<sup>a</sup> Beall, Lieu<sup>t</sup> P<sup>s</sup> G<sup>s</sup> Cty Bladensburgh to His Excell<sup>y</sup>  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> Simm Lee, Esq<sup>r</sup>]

Agreeable to order I have sent the Prisoners Under Guard com-  
 mitted to the Care of Cap<sup>n</sup> William Patterson now a resident of  
 this Town a person who has formerly been in the regular Service  
 & has shewn a good deal of Spirit in Turning out on the present occa-  
 sion. It is with Pleasure I can asshure Your Excellency & Honors  
 that the Militia of this county Turned out with Spirit & alacrity  
 nothing but arms were wanting to have embodied a Considerable  
 force on the river, inclosed you have a list of those Brave men who  
 Attacked the Enemies boats under the Muzzalls of the Cannon of  
 their shiping, & secured one of their Boats & Crew out of three that  
 landed, and there is reason to belive that another of their boats crews  
 suffered very mutch as I could perceive but very few hands in her,  
 on her return, to their shiping, who sent another Boat off to Assist  
 her in geting along side. Wee have only to regret the want of some  
 field Peices & persons who could have managed them well, had that  
 been the case I think it would have been in our powers last friday to  
 have destroyed all their shiping excepting one that fell down Earley  
 in the morning, the rest had all got under way, but from the winds  
 springing up very hard from the North West about sun rise they  
 were all obliged to come to in a Cluster within about half a mile of  
 M<sup>r</sup> Diggsses Point where they were obliged to remain that and the  
 Next day, on Sunday morning they got under way earley in the  
 morning I sent an Express to Coll<sup>l</sup> Lyles desiring he would observe  
 their motion and Act with the men under his command Accordingly,  
 and to let me know if they Attempted a landing below, and went  
 myself to broad creek to meet the prisoners, to send them to some