

MSA SC 6205-1-1

William Smallwood to John Sterrett¹

14 March 1777

Summary: Smallwood expresses anger that the soldiers in Sterrett's Baltimore militia company would not comply with his orders to provide a fifer and drummer for Smallwood's campaign against the Eastern Shore Loyalists; he will write to the General Assembly about it; disappointed in the conduct of Lt. George Campbell.

Snow Hill March 14th, 1777

Sir,

I have just recd. yours of the 10th Inst. informing me of the Behaviour of most of your Company in refusing to deliver up your Fifer and Drummer to the Officer and Guard, which I had expressly order'd after them and am sorry that my Duty obliges me to lay their Conduct before the general Assembly², and to remark that if they have not disobey'd Orders, they have at least descended to a Degree of Petulance which in this Instance as Gentlemen and well Wishers to their Country, they ought to have held themselves above. At the same Time allow me to return you my Thanks for your Conduct on this Occasion, and I flatter myself you are conscious as Gentlemen I made it my particular Duty to treat with Politeness and extend every Indulgence to your Company which under my Command, and from a Consideration of their respective Circumstance and Situation in Trade and to oblige [them,] discharg'd them, before it was consistent with my Duty or the Exigency of the State.

If these Gentlemen held my Orders in Contempt, they certainly ought not to have suffer'd their own Caprice, or the Convenience of a paltry Drummer and Fifer, to have inflam'd their Conduct to the Prejudice of their Country--for it's very clear your Company could have had no Use for them---have inclos'd your Letter to the Assembly, and shou'd be oblig'd wou'd you transmit me a List of the Names of such, who refus'd to let the Officer comply with his Orders.

I am with much Regard Sir

Your obdt Hbl Servt.

(Sign'd) W Smallwood Brig. General

¹ John Sterrett, captain of an independent militia company from Baltimore County, and a member of the Baltimore County Committee of Observation.

² See letter from Smallwood to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Speaker of the House of Delegates, 14 March 1777, MSA SC 6205-1-2 and Brown Books, vol. 2, no.2. Printed in *Archives of Maryland Online*, vol. 12, p. 175-177.

A Copy

PS I [wish] Lieut. Campbell³ may have acquitted himself on this Occasion in a Manner becoming a regular Officer.

³ Possibly George Campbell, lieutenant in the Baltimore County militia [*Archives of Maryland Online*, vol. 11, p. 467].