

MSA SC 6205-1-3

William Smallwood to Nicholas Thomas¹

20 March 1777²

Summary: Smallwood writes to the Speaker of the House of Delegates about the process of enlisting troops and naming officers for the new regiments that Maryland was required to raise for the Continental Army

Sir,

In Answer to yours of the 14 Inst. beg leave to inform you that the Requisitions, in his Excellency Genl. Washingtons Ltr by this Opportunity have in a great Measure been complied with by my Orders issued to 5 of the Commandants of the Regts. in this State in consequence of the late Resolve of Congress transmitted to me by the Board of War for the Express Purpose of forwarding the Troops raised for this state upon the Continental Establishment & such of his Orders as were not comprehended in that Resolve are now complied with by the necessary Orders being rendered in the inclosed Ltrs which I beg the favor of your forwarding immediately and directing the Blanks³ to the officers appointed to Comd. the 6th-7th-8th Regemts.⁴ as I am not informed who have been appointed to those Commands & in obedience to the Request of the Honble Ho. of Delegates you'll please inform I shall wait on them next Sunday farthest and from the following considerations hope they will be induced to excuse my not complying with their Requisition in seting of immediately one of the Regts of this Coly. was reviewed yesterday & from the Transactions of the Day and appearances I flatter myself it will be attended with good Consequences and by appointment the other meets tomorrow and on Thursday & Friday following the two meet in Sommerset. as these musters will fall in my Way and may be predictive of good purposes declined setting out upon Rect. of yours being sensible I shall be at Annapolis before the Comts. of the Regts. can have complied with their Orders with much Regard I have the honor to be Yrs W Smallwood

¹ Nicholas Thomas of Talbot County was the Speaker of the House of Delegates, elected to that position on March 13, 1777, to replace Thomas Sprigg Wootton.

² No date is given in the letter itself; this date comes from the version published in Thomas Balch, ed., *Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution* (Philadelphia: The Seventy-Six Society, 1857), 86-87.

³ Blank officers' commissions.

⁴ Congress initially directed Maryland to raise eight infantry regiments for the Continental Army in 1777. The state's quota had been just one regiment in 1776. Eventually, Maryland raised only seven regiments, and got credit for the German Battalion, which was jointly supported with Pennsylvania.