

MSA SC 6205-1-4

John Gibson to William Smallwood

6 January 1781

Summary: Gibson, the commander of Fort Pitt, writes to Smallwood with information about Baron von Steuben's orders regarding raising and reorganizing of troops to prepare for that year's fighting in the Southern Campaign and to defend Virginia.

Colo. Banisters¹ Jany 6th. 1781.

Dear Sir

Colo. Liniff has Instructions of the Baron de Steubens² to carry into Execution which he will communicate to you for the accomplishment of which he will require about Twenty Horsemen properly officered – These I would recommend to be furnished immediately out of the Voluntier and other Corps which may be at hand and whom you may judge best adapted to that particular Duty as I don't propose taking Command here I shall leave it to your Judgement and discretion to carry the Barons orders into Execution in that manner you may judge most expedient and conducive to the Service and shall be happy in consulting and coinciding in Sentiment with you and him in every Measure to promote the public Good at this alarming Crises tho' I do not wish to interfere in the Command.

I am with sencire Regard.

Dear Sir,

Your Most Obed Humbl. Serv.

Col. Gibson³

¹ Lieutenant Colonel [John Banister](#) (1734-1788) served in the Virginia Militia from 1778 to 1781.

² Major General Baron von Steuben was the inspector general of the Continental Army. A professional soldier from Prussia, he overhauled the Continental Army's organization and training. In 1781, he was overseeing logistics during the American's campaign in the South.

³ [John Gibson](#) (1740-1822) a Virginia colonel, was the commander of Fort Pitt (located at modern-day Pittsburgh), the headquarters of American operations in the west.