

MSA SC 6205-1-11

John Steward to William Smallwood

23 October 1782

Summary: Steward expresses understanding at not hearing from Smallwood; describes precarious situation of artillery, intentions to reform the artillery, and the dangers of this plan.

Dr Genl

I did expect to hear from you by Mr. Nelson but I suppose your Town and situation did not furnish much matter of information -- and I know you to be an Enemy to a superfluouse use of Paper

I beg you will acquaint the Executive of our State that their Artillery are in a precareous situation I have had information of an intention of G---l -- G---n¹ to form them into a Corps with 4 Companie from Virginia as a Command for Coll. Carrington² Lt Col to the Virgn Regt which they propose (G---n g G---n) to have desolved in order to give C---n a Command - he is G---ns first favorite and will have every support he can lend however -- as the men are held under enlistment to the State only, it will not be in their power without consent of the Legislature to do it - the great danger is that it may cause a total dissolution of these two Companies, without your immediate interference should prevent it

We shall march Northward by the last of Novm at farthest. I will tell you a great deal which cannot trusted to the frail conveyance of paper till the[n] Dr Genl. I wish you all happiness possible

John Steward³

23 Octr 1782

Camp So. Car.

Genl. Smallwood

¹ General Nathanael Green (1742-1786) served for the entire war, and was seen as Washington's most dependable officer. He commanded the Americans during Southern Campaign 1781-1783, including the Marylanders.

² Edward Carrington (1749–1810) from Virginia, served in several positions for the entire war, and was appointed by Green in 1780 as the army's deputy quartermaster general. After the war, he served as a member of the Continental Congress.

³ [John Steward](#) (1753-1783) was a lieutenant in the Fifth Independent Company in 1776, was promoted to major of the Second Maryland Regiment in early 1777, and was captured at the Battle of Staten Island in 1777. He died in 1783, just as the war ended.