

MSA SC 6205-1-12

Thomas Price to William Smallwood

4 April 1784

Summary: [Price](#) writes to Smallwood seeking a certificate of his service to help him secure his back-pay.

Baltimore 4th Apl. 1784

My dear Sir,

Not receiving an Answer to my letter wrote you from Annapolis some time last Feby. makes me wright you the second time. to request a certificate that I was Continued on duty till the arrangemt of our line took place I believe it was the first of August Until which time I declare to you On Honor that I was continued on Duty at Fredk. Town if you want a further proof I will shew you Majr. Hardmans<sup>1</sup> Certificate the next time I have the pleasure of seeing you. Mr. Carlton<sup>2</sup> who does business in the Minister's at War Office acknowledges the justice of my Acct. and says he will give me a Warrant for the money on getting yours of Genl. Gist's certificate.

I Cannot be possitive as to the time of the arrangement takeing place nor do I expect any pay after that time. If youl send me a certificate by the first Oppty Ill much Oblige

Yr. Servt

Thomas Price<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry Hardman (?-1798) of Washington County, Maryland, began his military career in 1776 as a captain in the Flying Camp. Taken prisoner at Fort Washington in November 1776, he was held captive until August 1778. Promoted to major of the Seventh Maryland Regiment in 1779, he served until the end of the war in 1783.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Carleton (1754-1812), the U.S. Secretary of War, was actively engaged in settling the outstanding pay accounts of Continental officers.

<sup>3</sup> [Thomas Price](#) (1732-1795) was named a major in the First Maryland Regiment in January 1776 and served as the *de facto* commander of the Maryland Independent Companies that year. He was promoted to colonel of the Second Maryland Regiment in December 1776, and served in that role until he resigned from the army on [May 1](#) (or [April 31](#)), 1780. His last years in the army were clouded by allegations of cowardice and misconduct. In November 1777, he was [cleared by a military tribunal](#), but the following summer, ten high-ranking Maryland officers [wrote to George Washington](#) to claim that Price's acquittal had occurred because a number of witnesses had agreed not to testify against him after Price promised to resign from the army. Price subsequently stayed in his position, however. He was [tried again in November 1778](#) on a wide array of charges, beginning with "Cowardice on York-Island in the face of the enemy," apparently during the New York campaign of 1776, as well as cowardice in the 1777 battles of Brandywine and Germantown. Price was again acquitted, though his reputation doubtless never recovered.

A letter directed to me and left at the post office in Balt. will meet with a quick conveyance from that place