

ing 50 prisoners under guard, I have not felt authorized to diminish my small force by sending any other detachment to Watson's.

SIGNED, E. L. FINLEY, Major,  
Commanding detachment.

TO GENERAL RIDGELY.

( 4 )

*A letter from General Charles Sterett Ridgely, to the Governor of Maryland.*

FORT HALL, August 2d, 1834.

SIR:

On the 17th of July last, Mr. Merrill sent me his bill for supplies furnished the different detachments of troops called out to quell the late riot on the Baltimore and Washington Rail Road, for my signature, amounting to the very extravagant sum of \$872, which I could not approve, in as much as I discovered palpable errors in some of them, and he was not authorized by me to supply any thing more than the necessary provisions and refreshments for the men and prisoners that were stationed at Waterloo.

Previous to the arrival of the Baltimore troops, I had made arrangements with the Agents of the Rail Road Company, to have them supplied with provisions and quarters at the several stations where I thought it necessary to place guards, and never ordered or intended that more men should be left at Waterloo, (Merrill's) than were necessary to guard the prisoners, and I believe there were not; but as it was the most central point to assemble at, we found it convenient to procure provisions (dinners and breakfast) at that place for the several detachments as they came in, previous to their being detached to the stations assigned them on the line of the Rail Road, and I believe the detachment from Annapolis, under Col. Chase, lodged there one night.

I was not consulted, nor did I authorize liquors to the officers and men—and while I was at Waterloo, I saw none on the table. The bill for the detachment from the Savage Factory, amounts only to \$42 out of the \$872. I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise, that the officers commanding detachments should have suffered such wanton extravagance. Lt. Col. Campbell did not authorize Mr. Merrill to furnish his men with liquors as you will see from his endorsement on Merrill's bill. Major Finley has signed the bill for supplies furnished his men—and James H. Wat-