

in this County I should have then returned it. I was nominated by the officers of the Companies of w^h the lower Battalion is composed, as a field officer of that Battalion & as the Gentlemen thought me unworthy of a Comⁿ there, I beg leave to return the one they sent me. I never aspired after a Comⁿ any where, but as the gentlemen officers afs^d thought proper to mention me in their return, I shou'd have done all in my power to render them satisfaction had I been appointed. I hope my refusal to act under this Commission may not be construed into any disrespect shewn to you & those under your command as I can assure you nothing of the sort is intended.

I am respectfully
Your hum^l Servant.
Geo. Lee.

To Col^o Joshua Beall.

c. s. J.

Wednesday 31 January 1776.

Council met. Present the same members as yesterday.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Western Shore pay to M^r Hercules Courtenay two hundred & eleven pounds and two pence Currency, being the Ballance due him from this Province as p^r Account filed.

Ordered That a Letter in the following words be sent to the Brigadiers General of this Province respectively

Baltimore Town 31 January 1776.

Sir,

As we are desirous of knowing what number of Muskets are in the Hands of the Militia of your Brigade either belonging to the public or to Individuals, we request you'll furnish us with an Account of them as soon as you conveniently can, distinguishing to what Companies they respectively belong; and those which are good and serviceable, from what are unfit for use. And that you recommend to and earnestly admonish those of your Militia whose Guns are out of Repair, and whose Circumstances will admit of it, to have them immediately put into good Order; but that if the Owners of any such Guns cannot, from their Poverty, repair them and they are only defective in the Locks, that you have the same repaired and rendered fit for use at the public Expence. Writing immediately to the Colonels and other inferior Officers we recommend as the best Method of gaining Information in the above particulars.

We are very respectfully, Sir
Y^r mo. obed^t Serv^{ts}
(Signed by the Council)