

the first men in the Elkridge District, that requested a meeting of the people, to form themselves into a Company of Militia, which was accordingly done & M<sup>r</sup> John Burgess chosen Cap<sup>t</sup>, your Memorialist having declined that Honour, altho unanimously offered to him, knowing he could be of more service to the cause in assisting in the formation of other Companies; And accordingly in the month of June last, your Memorialist went into the neighbourhood of M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Dorsey who had been six months unsuccessfully striving to raise a Company; and after advertizing a Meeting of the Inhabitants a number of them met & would have chosen your Memorialist Captain, but were prevailed upon by him to chose M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Dorsey their Cap<sup>t</sup> who appeared exceedingly desirous of the Command. Your memorialist conceives that agreeable to the resolves of the late Convention he is exempt from serving in the Militia as a private, or in any station lower than he hath heretofore filled, nevertheless, as the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Convention did not distinguish between the officers commissioned under the legal or old Form of Government, & those under the authority of the Convention, your Memorialist did enroll himself as a private in Cap<sup>t</sup> Tootell's Company altho at the distance of twenty miles from his Habitation, rather than be harassed by the Committee of Observation composed entirely of Militia officers except one man, And to avoid the indignity of being commanded by the first officer of the Elkridge Battalion who most shamefully & cowardly quited his post when under your Memorialists Command twenty one years ago. Your Memorialist hath nothing more to ask of your Honours than a candid Consideration of this Memorial & pass a resolve for his Exemption from further Duty as a Militia man, at the same time he most solemnly assures your Honors that he doth not desire or intend to withdraw himself from the service of his native Country but on the Contrary will stand forth as far as in his power layeth as (a Volunteer or an Independant with the stoutest champion for American Liberty: In full expectation of a favorable issue, the above is most chearfully submitted to the consideration of your hon<sup>ble</sup> House by your Memorialist:  
Elkridge May the 20<sup>th</sup> 1776. H. Ridgely:

[Baltimore Committee to Council.]

C. S. C.

In Com<sup>ee</sup> Baltimore 20 May 1776.

Gentlemen. We are favoured with your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> inclosing a copy of a certain Purnall Johnson's Petition to your Hon<sup>l</sup> House, and your resolve thereon, in answer to which we beg leave to inform you, that we are possessed of no facts relative to any disputes on M<sup>r</sup> Johnson's account, and so far