

time before cloathes and blankets could be furnished. You will therefore be pleased to endeavour at supplying them with blanketts and whatever other necessaries can be had your way as this State is much drained of all articles required by the Army. If musketts were given them instead of rifles the service would be more benefitted, as there is a superabundance of riflemen in the Army. Were it in the power of the Congress to supply musketts they would speedily reduce the number of rifles and replace them with the former, as they are more easily kept in order, can be fired oftener and have the advantage of Bayonetts.

I have the honor to be your very obed^t Serv^t
Richard Peters, Sec^y

[H. Hollingsworth to J. Gilpin.]

Original.

Head of Elk 26th October 1776.

Dear Sir. Yours of the 11th I yesterday received and not before, having been from home at Philadelphia this twelve days endeavouring to settle my accounts for provisions, carriages &c of the 4, 5th and part of the sixth Regiment of Virginia from Elk to Chester, the men being near halfe sick has made their carriage very tedious and expencive and has taken up my whole time since the 26th of September. You are a judge how much my time was taken up with the Maryland forces before that date, so that for the last two months I have been prevented from taking proper care of my buisenis, otherways should have been at Annapolis before this day, could wish a commissary was appointed, as I am now while I am wrighting applyed to by Cap^t Johnson of the sixth Virginia Ridgmt to provide barracks, waggons & provisions for his company to pass them on to Phil^{da}, and that there is 800 Carolinahans in the river which must be provided as above, you sir are, as is the honourable Council of Safety better judges how necessary it is to forward those troops than myselfe, and you also know th^t no person hear will forward them but myselfe, (in your absence) I must therefore Begg the Idulgence of the Honnour Council if the arrival of those troops, and transporting them over, should delay my coming to Annapolis longer than they may expect, as I assure you and them on the word of a Gentlemen that nothing else shall delay my coming one day, when I hope to satisfy their Honnours, that every thing has been done by me that could, by a man so circumstanced. As to the first 90 bayonetts sent M^r Winters they are not so good as they ought, as most of them were made by young hands in the Buisenis, and many of the best of what was then made, picked out for the Marching Companyes going to flying Camp,