

c. s. c. Murrays on Hunting Creek, which is also in this county, and there got from M^r Murray, the Key of a House in which there was some salt and took from thence by their account fourteen and a half bushels of salt for which they offered to pay, M^{rs} Murray fourteen and one half dollars that she refused to take the money on which they left that sum in the House and went off with the Salt.

On receiving this Information we ordered the Evidence to appear again on a certain day to which Day we summoned those of the af^d company who reside in this county, and appeared to have been the most active in the outrage, to appear to answer, some of them appeared agreeable to summons and behaved orderly and offered some excuses for the non attendance of the others under these circumstances and as some of the most material witnesses did not attend we postponed the hearing of the matter till Wednesday last, when we ordered the parties charged and witnesses to attend us which they promised to do, the Parties charged came on Wednesday, but contrary to our Expectation they came headed by Capt. Andrew and upwards of one hundred armed men to support them, and the company behaved so riotous and disorderly that it was out of our power to proceed in the Business, and their coming so unexpectedly it was impossible for us to collect a force sufficient to stop them before they returned in the evening. Many of the Men swear they will support what they have done at the Hazard of their lives as it seems they have associated to do, and by their declarations against the present measures of the country and in favour of the King shew themselves intirely disaffected to our cause.

If these men were all we had to contend with it is probable our Militia might be sufficient, but from the best information we can obtain we are of opinion they have a very formidable number to protect them from Caroline, Worcester and Sussex in Delaware, and as (since their outrages) several Companys in this county have taken salt nearly in the same way which will of course stop them from opposing them if they do not join them, we are unanimously of opinion that it is very improbable there can be in General Hoopers Brigade a sufficient number of the militia raised, who wou'd on the present occasion take up arms to suppress and stop the progress of these Rioters and their adherents and bring the offenders to Justice; and we therefore think it most prudent to decline making the attempt as a failure would be very detrimental to our cause, and give Strength and Spirits to their party & Friends. And have sent this by an Express hired for the purpose to inform your Honours of what we have done and what we apprehend is our real Situation, and we would beg leave to Submit to your