

Original plans had been thought of that above mentioned was esteemed the most eligible, and indeed the only one that could be accepted, as the introduction of those Gentlemen into the line would have been impracticable.

I have, agreeable to the powers vested in me, appointed a Board of General Officers to take into consideration and report to me the rank of the Maryland line. I do not imagine that it will be possible to give general satisfaction, but I am convinced that the Gentlemen who have the Business in hand will pay the strictest attention to the claims of all parties, and give the most disinterested decision.

Whatever that decision may be, I hope it may be considered by the State as definitive, and that they will not in future pay any regard to the importunities of those who may be discontented with the arrangement which is about to be made.

I have sent off as many Officers as can possibly be spared with recruiting Serjeants, Drums and Fifes. They are directed to report to your Excellency for instructions and money. I have but one matter to recommend which is, that the Officers be ordered in the most express manner not to enlist any British Deserter under the penalty of being obliged to refund the Bounty, as the Recruit, upon being discovered to be a Deserter, will be dismissed the Service. These people not only debauch our other troops, but are sure to desert again to the enemy upon the appearance of an offer of pardon, or any the least encouragement, and more than probable carry others with them. I have the honor to be

Your Excellen^{cys} most ob^t
G^o Washington

Gov. Johnson.

C. B.

Friday 9 April 1776

Present as on Yesterday

Ordered that the western Shore Treasurer pay to Benjamin Harwood, Three hundred Pounds to be delivered over to Benjamin Nicholson due him for one Years Salary as Judge of the Court of Admiralty per Acc^t passed by the Aud^r Gen^l

That the said Treasurer pay to George Ranken seventy five Pounds due him per Account passed by the Dep^y Aud^r

That the said Treasurer pay to James Houston Fourteen Pounds due to him per Account passed by the Dep^y Aud^r

That the Commissary of Stores deliver to Duncan Campbell a Nine months Soldier in the 5th Regiment, Discharged the Amount of Twenty three pounds in Cloathing and 1 Blanket due him by an Act of Assembly to procure Troops for the American Army