

c. c. Blacks Gap, to shorten the Distance and avoid Fred^k Town. Washington County has been so much burthened already that we cannot expect a Guard can be fully furnished from thence, indeed it gives us real Concern to be obliged to call on the Militia any where for Service, at this Season, but Necessity compels us. We have ordered a Company of one Captain, 2 Lieut^s, 1 Ensⁿ, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corp^{ls} & 68 Priv^{ts} from Frederick and we desire that you will immediately order half a Company of the Militia of your County, of the Classes which have not yet served, consisting of 1 first & 1 2^d Lieu^t an Ensⁿ 2 Serg^{ts}, 2 Corp^{ls} & 34 Privates immediately to hold themselves in Readiness and actually to march so as to be at Fort Frederick the 27th Ins^t where they are to continue on Duty with the Frederick County Company five Weeks & until relived as we desire they may be by such another half Company which you are hereby empowered, in like Manner to call out on Duty, unless, as we hope, the Guard should either not be further wanted or some other Provision should take Place. You are to supply the Militia of your County with Arms & a reasonable Quantity of Ammunition. The inclosed Letter from Col^o Blaine to Col. Rawlings which be pleased to forward immediately, is on the Subject of Provisions, which are to be furnished by the Continental Comm^{ys}. We rely on your Efforts to prevent any Disappointm^t and hope the Militia will perform their Duty with Alacrity in a Service so essential. The rough Fellows to be kept in Fort Frederick will require some Body to superintend on the Spot, who has been used to such People, we have mentioned Col. Rawlings's Vicinity to the Fort and we could wish he would undertake it

We are &^{ca}

Dan^l Hughes Esq^r }
L^t of Washington County }

[Council to N. Bruce.]

In Council Annapolis 11th Sept^r 1779

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Sir.

We received the Day before yesterday a Letter from the Board of War dated the 4th Ins^t informing us that they are much overburthened with Prisoners at Philadelphia (by what we learn from Col^o Blaine they have there about 1000) that they are under the Necessity of sending about four Hundred to Fort Frederick and requesting of us a good Militia Guard over them, we have answered their Letter that we shall endeavour to get the Guard and that the Prisoners may be sent off about this Day week so that about the 28th Ins^t they may