

Lib. J. R. been at least honest and sincere, and upon the best of my
 & U. S. Judgment, and devoid of Partiality, or any other Motive but
 a determined Resolution to do my Duty as well in this, as
 every other Instance in the Execution of the Office I have
 borne, nor was it ever my opinion of the law tho' I have been
 inform'd Insinuations have been made to the Contrary, that
 I or any other Justice of the Peace had any judicial Power
 p. 250 of determining the Right of the Officer to command the
 Militia to serve in Arms, or of their Refusal but that on the
 Return of the Certificate the Justice of the Peace was imme-
 diately (and merely ministerially and not judicially) to issue
 his Warrant and that on the Person so refusing to serve
 appearing before him he then was only to judge of the Reas-
 onableness or Sufficiency of the Person's Excuse for not
 doing that Duty he had been commanded by his Officer to do,
 which Excuse I never thought could include any Denial of
 the Right to give the Command but could only relate to the
 particular Circumstances attending the Man himself so re-
 fusing and his Affairs, and that if their particular Excuses
 had not appeared sufficient, and reasonable, I should not
 have made the least Hesitation, as I looked upon it to be my
 Duty to have committed them as the Law directs, or have
 bound them over in sufficient Security to answer, which I
 think the Law implicitly gives a Power to do, and did not
 intend to subject the Parties to the Charge and Pain of a
 Commitment to Prison if they had sufficient security ready,
 and so I shall act with the rest if brought before me. I
 beg Leave to subscribe myself your Excellency and Honours
 most obed^t and humble Servant.

May 8th 1758:

[Seal]

W^m Ringgold.

Whereas it is certified to me by Capt. Peregrine Brown
 Captain of the seventh Company of the Foot Militia of Kent
 County that there is now a foreign Invasion of the Province
 of Maryland, and that he hath commanded Thomas Honour,
 Thomas Bryant, John Edmonson, James Poole, John Rosser,
 John Glassford, John Deale, James Kulley, George Brown a
 Boatman, Charles Welding junior, Isaac Allwinkle, James
 Underhill, Edmund Carter Merchant, William Coburn,
 Thomas Kennard, James Hull, Stephen Roe, Benjamin
 Greenwood Bartholomew Haven, Samuel Tonsey, John
 Hicks jun: David Wood, Edward Swaney, James Price,
 Timothy Course, James Price jun: John Redding and James
 Jackson of the County aforesaid Farmers, who are inlisted
 Soldiers in his Company to appear and serve in Arms for the
 necessary Defence of this Province, and they have obstinately