

[Edward Hamilton, Charles County to Council]

June 21

[Asks commission in army.]

[Jos'a Beall, P^s G^s C^{ty} to Gov Lee]

June 21

S^r I was informed the Other day that one Andrew Wailes who lives in Bladensburgh, had Entertained one of the Convention prisoners who had made his Escape from Virginia, I Examined the person who I was informed, had seen him there on Oath, But by his deposition he appeared to be something of a pedler, I can as yet here of no Other person who saw or knows any thing about this Stranger, but what is somthing remarkable, this Wailes the next morning made several bets two to one that Charles Town surrendered to the Enemie the Twelfth of May.

Wailes is one of those fellows who was accused with Assisting one of the Goodricks & some Other prisoners in making their Escape from Alex^a some years ago, and though he was Acquited of the charge in Virginia, The People in Alex^a were so fully convinced of his Guilt in that & Other Villenys, that they drove him from thence; And he on taking the Oath to the State has been suffered to live since that, in Bladensburgh. But from what I can learn of the fellows behavior, he is as vile a tory as any in America, he is now become one of the greatest traders in Town, and by his artfull conduct seems to be gaining some influence over the weak unthinking People, and has of late become a companion & high in Esteem among the Torys of the first rank, having been lately Admitted as I understand to a very high Entertainment kept by them, some say to celebrate the Kings birth day, Others on the News of the surrender of Charles Town, which seems to have been the real & true cause of their feastivity, For certain it is, that the Torys & Enemies to America, have mutch speedier & Truer Acc^{ts} of those Events, than any other people on the Continent. But, This is not mutch to be wondered at, While there are such Numbers of people daily Passing & repassing & no Question Askt, some as Officers, some as Express, & others as Speculators, many of whome though they have bound themselves by Oath to support the independance of America, its to be feared are the worst kind of Torys among us; I fear without some change in our conduct, America will at length be Duped out of all she has been contending for. Would it not be highly Necessary at this time to issue Orders, or rather pass an Act Enjoyning all Officers both Civil & Military, to take up & Examine all persons whatever that are passing through this State let their business be what it may, & those who cant give a very good Acc^t of themselves, or some Testimonials of their honest intentions, to confine in Goal till such time they can give such Satisfaction; some such Expedient seems to be highly Necessary for the welfair of America at this juncture. Would it not be necessary to Oblige this