

July 5 [H. Hollingsworth, D. Q. M. G., Head of Elk, to His Excellency, Thomas S. Lee, in Council.]

Gentlemen A few days since I inclos'd your Excellency & Honors an Account of the Flour, received at this Post, which I hope came safe to hand. the Packetts which came to hand from the Southward on Sunday last was delivered to Congress by the bearer Tho^s Giles who has been a diligent and Punctual Express at this Post, above two years which I shall continue if supported, shall thank your Excellency & Honors, to furnish me with a List of the Rout, Posts and persons by whom dispatches are to be forwarded, as it does not appear proper to me that my Messengers should go further than Baltimore & Philad^a otherways. He may be wanted before He can return and of Course a second will be wanted. (and must be employ'd)

He now sets out without one shilling to bear his expences nor can I procure any from the Treasury of the United States, your Excellency and Honors will think it a little Extraordinary that tho at this Post, I have about Seventy Teams Continually at work and lately almost as many vessells the ware and tare of these waggons to keep up, all the Grain and Provision to receive Examine (& pack when necessary) Deliver Coopers and fattigue men, to employ and pay, all of which I am from three to six months in arrears too. I say you will think it a little Extraordinary when I tell you I have not received a farthing, to carry on this whole work for near two months. 'tho I have made three formal applications and in my last assur'd the Quarter Master General and Board of War, that the Scene would close and Business stop unless I was supply'd, 'tis well known that we have not been allowed to do any business for ourselves, the last years, therefore can have no money of our own, and as to my own Part. I ever parted with my money to the Public when I had any, without the Least restraint. I mentioned those Circumstances to your Excellency and Honors as a Plea, that the Bearer may be furnished with at least a sum to Pay his expences back, and to enable me to forward him on any future service. He can inform you that his last Journey to Philad^a was done on Credit, and let me in this assure you, that I borrowed Pocket Money to come to Annapolis while this state owes me in Certificates about Twelve thousand Pounds, and the United States near Fifty Thousand as a private Debt, and at the same time owe at this Post, which I am a Sponser for above five hundred Thousand, I have kept the Credit of the Post, (to my Satisfaction) untill lately but 'tis all over unless I am relieved Immediately, yesterday one of the Continental vessells was left by the Hand and very honestly told me it was because they saw no Chance of getting their money, the waggoners will follow their Example I fear, as many of them have received no pay since last February. I have been obliged to exchange part the Public Corn for Cloth to make baggs to forward the remainder.