

1781
May 29 The Trust with which we have been honour'd was not to commence on a day prefixed, or on any certain Event nor was it to expire at any certain period of Time, but rested on the opinions & Judgments of those in whom it was reposed, and the powers of Gov^t for this Shore were either to be exercised or not exercised according to their Determination on Circumstances & Events. A Trust so constituted cou'd not be thought eligible

When we were cloathing ourselves with Authority on our own Judgments of Facts and determined that the powers of Gov^t shou'd be taken up, we cou'd not but look forward to the Difficulties which might occur whenever the Time shou'd arrive in which it might be apprehended they ought to be laid down; from these Considerations, had we consulted our private Interest only, we should not have embarked in a Business likely to be attended with great perplexity & in the Transaction of which we cou'd not expect to escape Censure but in the Calamitous Situation of the State at that Time and particularly of that part of it for whose safety & Protection the provision was made, we cou'd not withhold our Services from the publick and having from the best of motives undertaken the Trust, we most chearfully submit the propriety of our Conduct to the Examination of those, from whom it is derived.

May 29 At a General Court martial held at Lowes's Point in Somerset County on the 29th day of May Anno Domini 1781 in obedience to an appointment of George Dashiell Esq^r County Lieutenant

Present Esme Bayly Maj ^r S. B. President	
Capt ⁿ Levin Irving	Lieut. Benjamin Venables
Capt. Joseph Venables	Lieut. Joseph Cotman
Capt. Henry Gale	Lieut. Edward Killum
Capt. James Bennett	Lieut. John Leatherbury
Lieut. Gilliss Polk	Ensign Joseph Piper
Lieut. James Polk	Ensign William Byng
M ^r Isaac Henry Judge Advocate	

John Brereton a Private in the White-haven Company, in actual Service charged by Lieutenant Ephraim Stevens the Officer Commanding the detachment with the following offences to wit

First. With deserting his Post at Lowes's Point on the 27th Instant, and attempting to Join the enemy with the Arms, Ammunition and accoutrements, with which he was intrusted.

Secondly. With having voluntarily agreed to the escape of Nathanael (alias Nathan) Bloodsworth a Soldier in the British Service, and then a prisoner over whom the said Brereton was acting as a Sentinel.

Thirdly. With having declared since his return, that the said Prisoner, with whom he deserted inform'd him that the enemies