

[John Smith Brookes, Upper Marlbro, to The Hon<sup>ble</sup> The Governor & Council.] (Favour of D. Craufurd Esq<sup>r</sup>) June 11

I Received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> instant giving me directions for the purchase and seizure of one hundred Beef Cattle. You refer me to an Act of the Assembly for particular directions, which act you have omitted to enclose. The present is therefore to request you will forward me the act by the very first conveyance, as I cannot well set about the business without it. I also beg you will give me some directions how, and in what manner, I am to ascertain the Value of each Beef; whether by the pound, or the gross, if by the pound, an injustice will certainly arise to the People, and it is to be observed, that notwithstanding the Beef is far from being fall, yet the holders will Expect as much as if they really were, because no expence is to attend there being made so; therefore if I am to fix the price by the pound, respect ought to be had to what they would weigh when good Beef. I Pray you to give me your opinion upon the matter and I will loose no time in having the business effected, as far as the nature of the case will admit. I could have wished you had Pointed out, what parts of the County you considered most immediately subject to the Enemys Ravages. If I am to take the Beef generally, I apprehend no difficulty will attend the number your mention being had, but if I am confined to the shores, I fear the q<sup>ty</sup> cannot be got

I shall be under the necessity of employing drivers, in such cases certificates will not answer; I shall therefore be much obliged, if you can furnish me with a small sum of Money. I have suffered much for the noncompliance of some money contracts which I have been unavoidably obliged to make, and cannot well make my returns to you without a settlement of their demands, as the accounts stand yet unsettled.

I have your favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> and have paid due regard to the contents. I shall be much obliged, for an order on M<sup>r</sup> Rozier for the Barrels I wrote to you about—if you think proper to let me have them.

[John Smith Brookes, U. Marlbro, to The Hon<sup>ble</sup> The Governor & Council.] (By Col<sup>o</sup> Lyles) June 11

The Lieutenant of the County informs me that a number of the Militia will rendezvous at M<sup>r</sup> Digges on Potomack River, and it will be necessary for me to make the proper provision for them. I am at a loss how to act, as not having any orders from you on the Subject—some erregularitys was committed at their last collection & I shall be glad to receive your full instruction upon this subject tis expected they will be furnished with Rum or rather whisky, and the Commissary is called upon I have no orders from you for such a procedure and cannot think of acting without such—therefore I pray you will not omit to write me fully by the return of Maj<sup>r</sup> Lyles

I hope to receive your answer to the letter I wrote this day—by M<sup>r</sup> Crawford