

In Council Annapolis 10th Feb^y 1778.

Sirs
You will see by the inclosed Depositions of Isaac Sterling and Thomas Moore, that our Enemies have been but too successful in employing a Set of Villians to recruit in Sussex and the disaffected Parts of this State, our Endeavours will not be wanting to put a Stop to it and bring the Guilty to Punishment. Isaac Sterling promises to wait on you and you will, perhaps, be able to secure some of the Offenders who may possibly be passing through your Parts -
Col^o Simpson, Accomack
Virginia

We are Sirs &c

In Council Annapolis 11th Feb^y 1778.

Sirs
It is a very unlucky Circumstance that the Commissioners did not meet to adjust the Assessment. The voluntary Payments were ^{by the Assembly} relied on, as a Fund to carry on the Recruiting Service; we would, by all Means, have the principal People applied to and, we flatter ourselves, that many of them will pay in part of their Assessment at least. There can be no well grounded apprehension but that if a Man should pay in more than what he is charged with on his final Assessment, the Assembly will have the Overplus repaid or deducted from his future Taxes.

William Gillis Esq^r
Sheriff of Somerset County

We are Sirs &c

In Council Annapolis 11th Feb^y 1778.

Sirs
We are very sorry that the Conduct of any Set of People should make Protection and Assistance necessary to the Civil Officers in carrying the Laws into Execution, but, where it is rendered necessary, it must be afforded and we request you to give the necessary Aid, of the Militia under your Command, to enable the Sheriff to collect the Substitute Money. A like Opposition was made in Baltimore, and also in St. Mary's but, in both Places, it was quieted by vigorous Measures. We think it would be proper that Affidavits should be made of the Opposition given to the Deputy Sheriffs with the Circumstances attending it and that one or two of the Justices of the Peace should issue Warrants against the Principals, at least, for the Riot; a prosecution & an exemplary Fine might produce salutary Effects. If you are apprehensive that the Opposition will be too general for you to go through with it, we would, on being so advised, send you a few of the Miströses and a Field Piece or two, tho' we much rather chuse not to employ a Regular Soldier in enforcing the Laws, if the Business can be done without them.

William Wensley Esq^r
Act. Genl. Annapolis County

We are Sirs &c