

In Council Annapolis 20<sup>th</sup> May 1779

Sir We have directed the Order for the Flour to be put into a few sailing  
Virginia built Sloop to be sent to you of our fellow with a  
Board of War from York-Borough, the Arms which lay at the  
Head of Elk belonging to the State, were sent to Nottingham; we request  
they may be sent to Baltimore with all Expedition. By a Letter from the  
Board of War, received today, we are to expect three hundred Stand of Arms  
to be sent to the Head of Elk from Lancaster; there also we  
suppose may be sent to Balt<sup>e</sup>, immediately on their getting to Elk. The Virginia  
Post has just come in, there are no Letters giving an Account of the Situation  
of Things in Virginia or any late Intelligence from thence; your being  
clear of stores and its being generally known, may, perhaps, save your  
Neighbourhood a Visit. What Flour is stored at the Head of Elk, or  
that lies within three or four Miles of it, ought by all Means to be  
removed to Christen, as quick as may be; what lies in a safe Situation, ought  
to remain there, we do not know where it may be wanted.

Cal<sup>o</sup> Henry Stollingworth. We are &c<sup>as</sup>

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507. Sir. Anxious to be informed of the Situation of Things in Virginia, we have  
sent Col<sup>o</sup> Hyde, the Bearer of this, to obtain and convey us all the interesting  
Intelligence he can: He may be very safely trusted as a discreet Friend and  
we shall be much obliged to you to promote the End of his going. We  
should have requested regular Information <sup>from</sup> you of every Thing you  
might judge useful to us to know, but that we have no Doubt of your  
being fully taken up in your present Circumstances; however Sir, if there's  
any Thing which you may judge more proper to write us than to put  
into the Packet mentioned above, we shall most thankfully acknowledge  
the Favor of your immediate Communication. We have the Honor to be  
Governeur Henry. &c<sup>as</sup>

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508. Sir. We have not got the Returns from the Purchasers of Flour &c<sup>as</sup> to that Exactness  
which we desired by the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>o</sup>; we inclose you the best we are enabled to furnish  
and as the Quantity requested is nearly if not fully secured, We have directed the  
Purchase to stop. That Part of the Flour which lay between the Head of Elk  
and Christen Bridge, we directed to remain in the Mills where it was, for the  
Convenience of removing it to this or Delaware Bay, occasionally; some had been  
carried to the Head of Elk under the Orders first given, before your Directions for  
sending it to Landings on this Bay could have their Effect; this last, as well as  
what lies within three or four Miles of the Head of Elk, we ordered, with a  
View to the Safety of it, to Christen, and the Board of War, by their Letter, seem  
to have had the same Idea. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Gustavus Deisberg & James White were here  
the other Day, they expressed a strong Desire to have about 1000 Barr<sup>ls</sup> of Flour  
purchased by Mr. Ballam before our Appointment of him, sent forward for the Expense  
of the Army, they represent that the Army is in Danger of wanting; we advised  
them, if any of the 1000 Barr<sup>ls</sup> were to be applied that way, beyond what was  
sent & would be sent, for the Reasons mentioned above, to Christen, which we suppose go  
with the Army to get you Orders for that Purpose: the inclosed may enable you  
to give the Order immediately to the Purchasers, or, if there's Time, on your desiring  
any particular Quantity to be furnished, we shall readily give the particular  
Orders. We are &c<sup>as</sup>