

In Council Annapolis 27th October 1779

On hearing that the two Companies of Malpas kept here and at Baltimore
State, were directed by the Assembly to be incorporated and sent into the
Continental Service, Capt. Lieut. James Smith of Brown's Company & Capt.
Lieut. Edward Dunley of Donsey's Company, wrote to the Governor protesting
their Pretensions to rise if any Appointments were to take Place in that
Company. The Manner of their Writing, it being with great Temper and
what they esteemed an interesting Point of Right, is a Confirmation in some
Degree, of what we have heard of their Merit: before we received their
Letter, the Company was commissioned, and that as we conceive in the
Manner we should have been obliged to commission it if we had
received the Letter immediately on the Act of Assembly passing. It is much
our Desire to remove every ^{good} Ground for Complaint amongst our Officers from
Maryland and perhaps as to the Artillery Officers from Maryland, it might
be done by making, of the three Maryland Companies, a fourth, the whole to
be considered as one Corps under the Command of a Major; this would
leave Room to place every Officer in the Situation he thinks himself entitled
to, each Company would still have more Men than the Establishment and
we apprehend, it would be more convenient for every Purpose. If your
Excellency should entertain the same Sentiments, we shall be obliged to you
to regulate this Matter in the way proposed, or to recommend it so
that it may be done. We have the Honor to be with the most perfect
Esteem & Respect
Yours

Genl. Washington.

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Genl.
Col. Hall of the 5th Maryland Regiment, same Time since, wrote us,
"Mr. James Smith's Resignation dated 20th June 1779 and Mr. Nathaniel
"Twining's dated 1st June 1779 leaves a Capt. Lieutenancy and a first Lieutenancy
"vacant - Lieutenant Crumwell is entitled to the Capt. Lieutenancy
"and Mr. John Hamilton, who has acted as Paymaster to my Regiment
"these two Years and by the Arrangement appointed to an Ensigncy is
"by Promotion, entitled to the first vacant Lieutenancy". By another
"Letter Col. Hall recommends Mr. John Gaudall for a Commission in
"the same Regiment; we approve the Promotions and appoint Mr. Gaudall
"to an Ensigncy in the fourth Maryland Regiment and request Com-
"missions may issue accordingly. Col. Williams of the 6th Maryland
"Regiment writes the 11th Inst. "Same Time in August, I furnished
"Major General the Baron DeKall with a List of Vacancies in the
"Maryland Line, to be transmitted to your Excellency; the Officers who are
"entitled to Promotion are impatient for their new Commissions and I am
"sorry to inform you there are some, where, for want of them, Officers do not
"that Duty which otherwise might be expected and would be done
"with Satisfaction - Mr. Samuel Hamilton, whom I took the Liberty to
"recommend for the Commission of Ensign about the first of June
"last and whose Name was afterwards inserted in a List of those to be
"recommended to the Board of War, has been doing Duty in my Regiment
"since the first of August, if my Recommendation is not rejected, Mr.
"Hamilton will bear Rank in the Regiment next after Mr. Lynn". We have