

In Council August 9 1798

Sir

I have received information that some danger  
is to be apprehended from the notorious disposition  
of the Negroes in and about Cambridge. I have  
sent the 40. Tons of arms which is all that are  
in this place and what are in the hands of  
the Militia as this force may be inadequate  
to the service I request that you and your Com-  
pany may be held in readiness to march at  
whenever the safety and tranquillity of the Town  
and Neighbourhood may require it.

You will be a great assistance in this  
business and I am sure you will take such  
measures as will enable you upon the shortest  
notice to send your force into service and  
assist.

I am to request to give no unnecessary alarm  
and as little as possible to make this business  
the subject of public conversation such a  
conduct will cause these people to think and  
attempt measures which they do not now  
dream of.

I request that you will give necessary inform-  
ation of the number and condition of your  
Company and also what number of arms can  
be had in and about Boston. I am  
Captain John Coats  
Jno Henry

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Sir

In the attendance of the Field Officers of  
the 1st Regiment of Militia for two hundred  
Tons of arms we have taken the liberty of  
enclosing to you an order on the Armours  
at Providence for that number but it is  
thought advisable to be cautious to these