

internal defence, and have also placed a sum of money
to be at the disposal of the President for the purpose
of fortifying such places as he may think the exigencies
of the times require. We have thought proper to beg
the attention of the President to this City so far as he
thinks its importance and the Interest of the Union
may require it. We are &

John Adams Esq

John Henry

President of the United States

In Council August 14 1798

Sir,

at the time your application was made for a
Captains Commission. I had not leisure to express the
high sense which ought to be entertained of your
patriotic exertions in forming a company of Riflemen
at this interesting crisis of our public affairs.

Injuries to our property and Indignities to our
national Character would long ago have justified an
appeal to arms. but the wisdom of our Councils have
thought proper to exhaust the peaceful methods of
redress which the laws of Nations or our own moderation
could suggest all of which have been rejected with
additional indignities.

The distance of France will render it difficult
for the Directory to land a formidable army on our
peaceful shores. it is however possible, and as long
as the most remote danger is to be apprehended, our
directs that we should be prepared to meet it.

Zeal like yours, should it become universally prevalent
throughout the United States, will combine a mass of
strength which will form a rampart round the
Constitution and rights of the people which will
render them secure against the utmost efforts of their