

point to see there on that evening, and to wait there until my arrival
as perhaps I may not reach that point until next morning, the distance
being 35 miles. I shall take three days provisions as it will require
at least that time to march down and return along the line.

With great respects

B. Genl. Williams
Comd - 2nd Brig,
M. A.

I am, Sir,
G. M. Thurston,
Col.

Annapolis Sep 24th 1859

Your letters of the 2nd and 20th ult, enclosing those of
Col Thurston of the 24th with the report of Capt. Hall and Lieut.
Need, were received on the 1st instant while I was on the western
service, from which place I returned on Monday evening. I
am glad to learn that disturbances were continued to occur on the
canal, and that a military force is the only means of preventing
further violence. The measures you have adopted, in obedience
to the requisition of the civil authorities, appear to be such as the
occasion demanded; and I have no doubt that Col Thurston will
discharge the duties imposed upon him with the discretion and firm-
ness which the nature of the case requires.

I do not entertain doubts whether a
risk of this kind presents such a case as would authorize a call
upon the general government for aid; or whether a permanent force,
either of regular troops or State militia could be legally employed
for the purpose of preventing disorders on the line of the canal. I
find, however, that, in August 1825, a requisition was made upon
the general government for a military force to suppress the mob in
Baltimore; and that General Jackson had given orders for com-
plying with it. There can be no doubt of the propriety of keeping
a militia force near the works, while there is reason to apprehend
a disturbance. The president is now absent from the seat of Govern-
ment; but it is my intention, as soon as he returns, to ascertain
his views in relation to the power vested in him by the Act of 1795.
In the mean time, the militia ought to be held in readiness to obey
the legal requisitions of the civil authorities; and if the disturban-
ces should extend to Virginia, the militia of that State will no
doubt be required by the proper authority, to cooperate with your
brigade in maintaining order on both sides of the line.

Yours truly
B. Genl. Williams

Yours very Respectfully
G. M. Thurston