

was raised under the auspices of the Governor or State of Maryland; it did not at that time belong to any Maryland Regiment, it had received no aid, nor patronage from said Governor nor State. It was and always had been a part of a Virginia Regiment officially known as such. "Harcot" H. Cannon, a Virginian, was its only patron. The company was raised with the assurance that the members should have the choice of their officers. Could, therefore, the Governor of Maryland properly appoint and commission a Lieut. in the company?

Lieut. Cannon is a man of undoubted courage, but I do not think that he has the talent requisite to a 2nd Lieut. He happened to know the region about Bloomsburg. He piloted the late Genl. Lander thither correctly and on the spur of the moment the late lamented Genl. requested you to appoint him as my 2nd Lieut. But really he has no faculty for commanding men.

Most Respy.

Your obtt. servt.

C. H. Russell Capt.

Comdg. Russell's Cavalry

State of Maryland

Executive Chamber

Annapolis March 25th /62

Capt. C. H. Russell

Sir

Your letter of 25th Inst. has been received enquiring as to the appointment of John Cannon as 2nd Lieutenant of Company commanded by you, and suggesting doubts of the legitimacy of that Commission, because as you state, that Company was not raised under the auspices of the Governor or State of Maryland &c.

This perhaps makes it necessary that I should state the circumstances under which the Commission referred to, was issued. On the 17th Feby. I received from Genl. Lander, then I believe, commanding the Brigade in question, a Telegram in these words "Please appoint John Cannon 2nd Lieut. of Capt. Russell's Cavalry Company, Lamons Brigade for gallantry in Action - I should like to receive notice of his appointment by return dispatch."

Lamons Brigade was understood to be composed of Volunteers raised and organized partly in Virginia and partly in Maryland, and I could not believe that a gallant officer like Genl. Lander would apply to the Governor of Maryland for the Commissioning of any officer that he had no authority to Commission; and as the Genl. was evidently anxious for prompt action as shown by the character of his Telegram, I issued the Commission at once and should have considered his recommendation under the circumstances as sufficient to justify such a course.