

By his Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly. The House's Message in advising proportional Parts of the publick Arms and Ammunition to the severall Counties and committed to the Care of the Chief Officers of the Militia in the said Counties has been read, and in Reply thereto we acquaint you, that the publick Arms & Ammunition are purchased out of the Quarter Part of her Majesty's Revenue of  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the <sup>Part</sup> granted by her Majesty for the Defence of this Province, and that altho' it be sometimes necessary for the immediate Safety and Defence thereof that some small Quantity of Arms and Ammunition may be lodged in the severall Counties to be made use of by such who are not able to procure Arms at their own Costs (as required by the Act of Assembly for regulating the Militia) at the Chief Officers Discretion upon a sudden Invasion or Incursion; yet in regard a strict Account of the said Arms & Ammunition purchased with the  $\frac{1}{12}$  is expected to be given by the Government how is answerable therefor; and that it has been found by Experience the small Quantities of Arms and Ammunition heretofore lodged in the severall Counties have been misused, spoiled, and lost, so that the greatest Part thereof are unfit and consumed or rendered altogether useless. We cannot advise his Excellency to send to the severall Counties, any more than what may be thought necessarily requisite for a competent Supplement. But that pursuant to her Majesty's Royal Instructions a Place of Arms or publick Magazine of Arms and Ammunition be kept at the Town and Port of Annapolis where the Arms and Ammunition may be well preserved and on all Occasions be distributed and applied as his Excellency shall see fit, and this being the Seat of Govern<sup>t</sup> where her Majesty's Governor resides and the Courts of Justice are kept, and Records lodged, it will be highly necessary the House would consult some Measures for the Safety of the said Magazine here at this Town and Port. And in Order thereto since we cannot think the publick Arms well secured in the Place where at present lodged, therefore it is proposed (if the House are willing) the said Arms may be lodged in some of the square Rooms of the Court House where they will be far more secure from Fire and preserved from the Dampness of the Air which occasions them to rust; And <sup>that</sup> a select Number of Arms belonging to Ann Arundel County be hung up in the Court House and fixed by Iron Bars and Pad Locks that they may not be handled or taken down, unless by those who have Authority so to do. Signed by Order W Bladen C. Secy

Which foregoing Message by Col<sup>l</sup> Hammond &c being again read it is resolved to be answered as follow viz<sup>t</sup> By the House of Delegates April 5<sup>th</sup> 1707

In Answer to the Message wherein 'tis proposed that a Room in the Court House be ordered for the Reception of the publick Arms this House do approve thereof and that the Room appointed for the Petit Juries be set apart for that Purpose, but as to the Arms applied to the particular use of Ann Arundel County, being laid up in the Court Room the House think that will not be convenient, but that the said Arms may be put into the Room where the publick Arms are appointed to be kept, if his Excellency do approve thereof. And as to the Security of Ammunition this House do pray a Consideration with her Majesty's Council in Order to settle that Matter. Signed by Order W Bladen C. Secy