

of Virginia gives us great satisfaction and convinces us that as the nature of the service requires it the same spirit will induce you and your companies to continue in it for the time mentioned by the Convention altho by the terms of the indentment they were obliged only to serve till the first of March, this we assure you we sincerely wish, and it is likewise our desire and opinion, that you continue to keep your men in a body till they return to and reach their respective counties, to which time they are to continue in pay. As it may be convenient and necessary for you and your men have been one month in service to draw for their pay we hereby authorize you to do it on the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore to whom we shall send directions to pay your orders. We are persuaded you will think with us that as you go as auxiliaries it will be proper and necessary that you act under the instructions and orders of the officer of the Colony of Virginia having the command in the places where you shall be stationed; but in case there should not be an officer appointed for that purpose and there should be a necessity for the two Companies acting together it is then our opinion that Capt Kent should take the command of both Companies and also of that of Dorchester County if that Company should, as we are not without hopes it will, march down as directed. Should any thing occur to you that may be further necessary for your companies or the service which they are required you will be pleased to acquaint us with it as soon as you can and all proper attention shall be given to what you desire. We are your most humble servants.

In Council of Safety

Annapolis Feb 14th 1776.

To Capts Kent and Henry Virginia.

Sir. We have given power to Capts Kent and Henry now in Virginia as soon as the Companies under their command have been ^{one month} in the service to draw for their pay. We desire you will on their orders being delivered to you immediately comply with them and it may be necessary for the public service to have the inclosed letters to them delivered with all possible dispatch. We request you will send some trusty person with it as soon as you can and charge the public with the expense of the messenger.

Annapolis Feb 14th 1776

We are &c

To William Birdman Esq

Treasurer of the Eastern Shore.

Sir.

In consequence of a letter received this day from Mr John Mifflin dated 7th Feb the Council of Safety have determined to purchase the whole of the gun powder imported by Mr Nathaniel Rumsey in partnership with a gentleman of Philadelphia - or if that cannot be done then so much as you can agree for, and request you would make the contract for the use of the province. They have sent by Capt Craig 500 £ Currency to pay for the tow already engaged, but do not intend the whole for the separate use of your County, they will take care you shall be plentifully supplied in proportion to other Counties. You will purchase upon the most reasonable terms. The price we expect will not exceed 25 pounds Currency per c: unless the Committee of Philadelphia should give more; the balance of cash shall be immediately paid to your order as soon as the powder is landed or put into our custody.

To Col John Keagy

We are &c

Gentlemen