

will consider those arms as our property. We make no doubt all the militia have been furnished out of these. Many have been lost or changed for worse arms. Congress is responsible to us for the deficiency at least and we apprehend, it would be improper to give an absolute order for their until the point is settled. We take it for granted arms will be furnished by order of the board of war at Ph<sup>a</sup> and there we request you to apply. Congress have said in their requisition arms should be furnished. 500 pair of shoes we have sent forward to Jesse Hollingsworth through the stages to be sold out to the Soldiers at 12/6 under your directions, and we have sent by the post the circumjuncions you wrote for. We heartily wish you success in the military line, since it seems to be your choice and would gladly gratify you in every thing, but we apprehend it may involve the state in a dispute about the arms should we give you an absolute order. It would be an evidence against us that we consider them as our own, which we think at present would be a disadvantage to the state. Few or none of the good arms we bear will be got at any rate, - and we should be extremely obliged to you to enquire into the affair and let us know your opinion when you get to Philadelphia what arms that did belong to this state can now be got. We are with esteem and regard,

To Genl Johnson.  
Lieut.

Yr Mo. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Sixty Pounds Currency was sent by Mr Ford the 23<sup>rd</sup> January by order of our board to Mr Thomas Johnson at Frederick Town and in his absence to you to be expended in the purchase of Gun Locks for the use of the Province; but as we have not heard any thing from him or you upon the subject and are in very great want of that article, we desire you will inform us how many were bought and where they are, or if there have not been any purchased whether there is a probability of applying the money to that use in your County.

We are Yr Mo. obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

To R. J. & C. Brakely

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1776.

Genl. We have heretofore wrote you with regard to the Station of Capt Wm Allen Thomas's Company, not receiving any answer we expected the Station allotted him at Leonard Town would have been agreeable to you and to him; and indeed to every body else, as being the most central place and from whence the Company might march on short notice to any part of the County. He informed us by his letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, that he is positive that 'tis the opinion of every gentleman in the County that the troops should be stationed at or near the mouth of Patuxent and Potomack; which we are surpris'd at. This would not only divide the Company but leave a very great extent of Country along the water in a manner defenceless. What is to become of Micomico, Clements and Britons Bay and all down to the mouth of the Mary's river, in case the men of war should hap unnotic'd in the night or in foggy hazy weather? When the Company gets well disciplined, perhaps some of them may be stationed to advantage at or near the mouth of Patuxent. We think best to keep them together at present till further advanced in military knowledge, and that Leonard Town is the proper Station. Should you think otherwise, we should be glad to know your reasons, that we may concur with you. We wish to harmonize in every thing that is for the good of the County.

We are Yr

To Committee of St Mary's County.

Shir