

another hand riding after teams, getting carriages and 2 horses is not enough some
times we 2 clank with myself at the head of them. I shall be from home in Petasco
next this 2 weeks getting timber with 20 hands from home day and night and 2 or 3 teams
up to my middell or make in water rafting and getting myself and a thousand dispo-
sitions that you are matters of. I shall be as punctual as possible in my charges
and do your business as well as I possibly can, and make the best bargains I can for you;
but I declare if any person will do it on better terms I should be pleased. The tim-
ber is purchased ready and most of it down and I will hire them my carages (there
is no other) at a moderate rate - if any person will now bring it into the yard on
better terms - than the proposals I make. We shall buy one of the wheels this day and
and the other next week I hope, but expect a line from you on the before mentioned
matters. I have furnished the yard with beer rum at market prices and my charges of
every kind has been thought reasonable and they beg of me to be ready for them again
with all my teams, carriages and hands. As please gentlemen to write me in of the
rum is to be furnished for the yard 2 drinks a day of grog and no more, the centes and
people rafting and getting timber must have rum, in that I want neither more nor
less than I had with the Drigg, but thought it my duty to obtain my bargain
for you that you might see the matter. I have bought a show that will carry 600 bushels
for 28 pounds a very good one. As is need for here I have sent one off by tea and
mails to Annapolis, rum pots to Capt Neasey at Newtown. I have never heard of the case
recd. Please let me know about the bales I wrote by Mr. Jackson; Excuse this
long letter. Please answer it from your Noble Servant -

Belt Aug 15th 1776.

John Drigg, son to

To the Honble Council of Safety.

Chester Town August 10th 1776.

Gentlemen.

Mr William 1st Lieutenant of my company writes to you for
my marching orders and any other you may please to give to me. My company now
want nothing but knapsacks to equip them completely, which, (as I suppose you have them
not) I shall be glad you'll please to order me to procure furnishing me with money for
that purpose.

I shall be glad to receive your orders concerning baggage horses. They can
be either hired or purchased here very readily and I believe at a very reasonable
rate. The money you are pleased to let me have to advance to the men for the pur-
chase of necessaries, is entirely expended, and we have and must run in debt for
many things we cannot do without. Most of the men require a full months pay,
and some more, to procure necessaries to enable them to march. I hope your Honors
will supply me with money for this and the above mentioned but do not forget
that our travelling expenses will be considerable.

The 20 pieces of linen you ordered over for our tents are not suf-
ficient for the purpose. They will generally hold out 40 yds to a piece, and each
tent requires 30 yards, according to this calculation, which is just there will be 120
yds or 3 pieces wanting. I am sent with the gentle respect of the Hon: Obad: Kent:
To the Honble Council of Safety of Maryland

Thomas Smyth Esq.