

will be the best way to move them to the poor House and inoculate them immediately. If they are suffered to remain in the Barracks and take it in the natural way, the greater part will certainly be lost. There has been fire sent up within this two days, and I don't expect above one will be saved. There can be nothing else expected, considering their way of living. Those who were inoculated are in a very good way, but the poor fellows who has it in the natural way, are in the most horrid situation. I am, Gent,

Paul of St Thomas Lember, Esq. President. Your most Obedient Servant.
P. S. There has no one broke out except in B. Stubbs
the Barracks before mentioned this twelve days past

Worthy Gentlemen - February the 1st 1777.

As a vacancy has happened in the field officers of Taverner Battalion, by a choice of our worthy Colon's Hall and Hammond as Representatives for the House, as our Major has risen to the degree of Colonel, I apprehend that a regular rise for the Inferior officers takes place. If you think (but am not convinced) that my Enrolment is the second in the Battalion, Capt. Hammond commanded the first, he being promoted gave his first Lieutenant the rise to a Captaincy, myself commanding the second Company, was then the oldest Captain, which with submission I presume entitles me to a Major's Commission. If a recommendation is necessary to promotion, I flatter myself I can come well recommend for my assiduity and heartiness in the common Cause. From Gentlemen, with all due respect.

The Honble the Council of the State of Maryland, This. Your most Obedt. and very humbl. Servant,
Joseph Merrilere.

Gent^{le} Dorchester County Feb^y 3^d 1777.

I have now to acknowledge your favor of the 25th ulto covering an order on the Eastern Shore Treasurer for £ 250, which probably may be more than I may have occasion to expend in the purchase of beef at this advanced season, but if I find it otherwise I will call on him for a further sum agreeable to your instructions. It is a great misfortune this Commission was not given to me about the first of December. At that time I could have purchased a hundred thousand with as little trouble as I now expect to buy a fifth part of the quantity (if to be had at all) and at 25 percent less. I have employed one of the most skillful hands on this shore about this kind of business who is now out and will secure all he can that is yet remaining to be disposed of hereabouts.

I have also to inform you that I received yours per Capt. Patterson of the 22nd Ult, and by him I was informed he had no other salt on board but the 50 bushels you sent for me that he was certain the quantity would hold out and that it would not be worth while to measure it as he wanted to be despatched accordingly I sent my carts with large cans (which I use on like occasions) to receive the salt intending to take it upon his word and in order to hurry the people I went to town myself.

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