

On the 9th Feby 1776 we happened at a Militia Company to which George
Wales was appointed captain by the Convention where a discontent appeared among
the whole company, upon w^h Captain Wales resigned his commission, & the Compa-
ny proceeded to chuse by Ballot their officers who were Robert Hitch Captain Jacob
Beall, first Lieut. Thomas Humphreys, second Lieut. & George Tule ensign, we being
being by the Company appointed to receive the ballots & attend to the elections do
certify that the above mentioned gentlemen was duly appointed officers by the
Ballots of the people.

Uriah Forrest.

Rob^t. Dashiell

Frederick Town Feby 10th 1776.

Gentlemen. I had the Honor to receive from the delegates of the Freemen of
this Province a Commission as Captain of one of the Independant Companies
in the Regular service, no one would be more happy than myself in the accep-
-tance of it, had the gentlemen who were appointed Lieutenants been known
to the men I would wish to carry into action. It is twenty years since I first had
the Honor to command a Company in defence of my country. since that
time I have commanded many. and being apprehensive at the beginning of
this unhappy, cruel, & unnatural contest between the mother country and her
colonies that I might be once more called on to stand forth in defence of our liberties
I had frequently conversed with and informed my Militia Company and many
others of my neighbours and acquaintance that it was highly probable I might
again solicit them to follow me to the field of Battle they in the general most
cheerfully agreed to march whenever I should call on them, but as it was prob-
-able I might fall if we went into action, they desired that two gentlemen which
they had agreed on might be appointed Lieutenants, and as it had been custom-
-ary with me to nominate the subalterns. I promised that those gentlemen (did
I accept of a Commission) should be my Lieutenants, and had wrote to M^r. John-
-son while at the Convention mentioning the names of the gentlemen and
informing him of my promises but unfortunately my letter miscarried. one of
those gentlemen, was a Lieutenant of mine in a late expedition against the
Indians who behaved himself much to the satisfaction of my Company as well
as to myself. I have come thus far in consequence of a letter from M^r. Johnson,
who inclosed my commission with an intent to accept it and to return and enlist
a Company of Riflemen, which I flatter myself I could have done at furthest
in a week (not knowing but my letter had got safe to hand, and the Lieutenants
(if appointed at all by the Convention) were the gentlemen I had mentioned,
from this disappointment after my engagements I am reduced to the disagreea-
-ble necessity of betraying the confidence of my Company and friends, or to reject
the acceptance of my Commission. To do either is highly distressing, but as
one must be done, and it is too probable I may be much wanting in our own
part of the County upon a similar occasion. I must beg you will appoint
some gentlemen to command in my stead. my resignation I hope will be
no more be imputed to a thrust after a more Honorable appointment than
(my)