

Doer. 7 May 1813

Sir.

On the 28th of last month, Mr. Hall Esquire, the Secretary of State, put into my hands your letter of that date stating that you had made application to Joseph Bloomfield Esquire Brigadier General commanding the military district N^o. 4 and to William Duane Esq. Adjutant General of that district, for the supply of one thousand stands of muskets with the requisite equipments and a supply of ammunition for them, six four pounders for field pieces mounted with the requisite implements & a supply of ammunition for them, and arms for sixty troopers, and requesting me to proceed to Philadelphia with your letters to those gentlemen, and to receive and provide for the conveyance of such arms and ammunition as should be furnished pursuant to the said application: At the same time Mr. Hall delivered to me your letters to General Bloomfield and Adjutant General Duane. The next morning, pursuant to your request, I started on my journey. At Newcastle, James R. Black Esquire, whom you had authorised to proceed to Philadelphia for the purpose of procuring large cannon for the defence of the State, joined me, and we arrived in Philadelphia on the last day of April, about two o'clock in the afternoon. In the course of the afternoon we called twice at the House of Mr. Duane and were informed, each time, that he was not at home. We also went to the head quarters of General Bloomfield and were told that he was out of the City and would not return before the next Monday. In the morning of the first of May we again repaired to General Bloomfield's head quarters and delivered to Adjutant General Duane your letters addressed to him, also those to General Bloomfield: He told me that as it respected four pounders there were none of them in Philadelphia at the disposal of the United States, they were now considered as of little use for any purpose; I then suggested that

them, six four pounders for field pieces mounted with the requisite implements & a supply of ammunition for them, and arms for sixty troopers; and requesting me to proceed to Philadelphia with your letters to those gentlemen, and to receive and provide for the conveyance of such arms and ammunition as should be furnished pursuant to the said application: At the same time Mr. Hall delivered to me your letters to General Bloomfield and Adjutant General Duane. The next morning, pursuant to your request, I started on my journey. At Newcastle, James R. Black Esquire, whom you had authorised to proceed to Philadelphia for the purpose of procuring large cannon for the defence of the State, joined me, and we arrived in Philadelphia on the last day of April, about two o'clock in the afternoon. In the course of the afternoon we called twice at the House of Mr. Duane and were informed, each time, that he was not at home. We also went to the head quarters of General Bloomfield and were told that he was out of the City and would not return before the next morning. In the morning of the first of May we again repaired to General Bloomfield's head quarters and delivered to Adjutant General Duane your letters addressed to him, also those to General Bloomfield: He told me that as it respected four pounders there were none of them in Philadelphia at the disposal of the United States, they were now considered as of little use for any purpose; I then suggested that four pounders might perhaps be supplied instead of them; he replied that all the four pounders in Philadelphia were wanted for the light artillery of the army of the United States: As it respected the arms for the troopers, he informed me that there were none, all having been sent to the army on the northern and western frontiers of the United States: Some muskets he thought might be furnished, & he promised me, that day, call on the Commissary General to enquire what arms were supplied. He also this day wrote to your Excellency and sent under the same cover with my lodgings the open letter I now enclose.

On Monday the 3^d Inst. Mr. Black & I again called on Mr. Duane; he informed me that he had seen the commissary general and that the United States would so far comply with the requisition of the Governor, made thro' me, as to supply arms and equipments complete for such portion of the militia of Delaware as should be taken into the service and pay of the United States so soon as they reached the place of rendezvous and were reported to General Bloonfield; and that they could not further comply with the said requisition.

About the middle of this day General Bloonfield arrived in Philadelphia, and in the afternoon Mr. Black and myself waited on him and had much conversation with him on the subject of our mission so far as it regards that part of the requisition made thro' me, he told me that the United States could not furnish either four or six pounders: That he thought it probable arms for sixty troopers could be supplied, but that they were old and rusty; with respect to the muskets he promised that so soon as any portion of the militia of Delaware were taken into the service and pay of the United States and reported to him as having arrived at the place of rendezvous, they should be immediately armed and equipped completely by the United States.

It was considered as unnecessary for Mr. Black and myself, both, to remain longer in Philadelphia as the receipt of either of us would be deemed sufficient for any arms or ammunition of any kind that could be furnished and as Mr. Black consented to stay for a day or two longer, I left the city on the morning of the fourth Inst. on my return.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Yours Ob^t Serv^t

A M Richards

Dear Sir,

Cedar Creek Sussex May 7th 1813

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I Received your several communications
and Note the contents, I regret very much I was
absent from home when yourself & Mr. Riddle was
at my House I should have been happy to have seen
you — the application made by the Military Council
of Newcastle for the sum of five thousand Dollars being
part of the money directed by the Legislature to be applied
in defending the State against the common Enemy
cannot at this time be furnished for the following reason,
the pay & rations of the Officers and men who have been
in the service of the State for near two months are not
yet paid, those claims together with others which must be
immediately discharged will reduce the sum directed by
the appropriating act so much that the sum required
by the Military Council cannot I presume be furnished.
It is my wish to do any thing that is practicable and
consistent for the safety of your place the Legislature
will soon be in Session and should the Gen^l Government
~~to~~ render you no aid in defending your Town previous
to the commencement of the Session — I shall certainly

~~Just~~ ~~the~~ call their attention particularly to this subject, you may however in the present moment of danger conceive that all this is doing nothing, I would beg leave to observe to you on the present emergency the immediate necessity of your completing the fortifications at your place and depending on a remuneration either from this State or the United States, my impression at present is, that your Town will be attacked by the Enemy and that probably in a short time, you should be on the alert I feel for you much —

In reply to your application for a military appointment I have to observe to you that there is not such an Officer as Colonel of Cavalry recognised in our Militia law it would afford me infinite pleasure to confer any appointment on you that would be acceptable to you and which could consistently be done,

you will please to excuse my not writing before this, a press of business has prevented —
in great haste, I am with great Respect
Your Obedt. Servt

Joseph Haslet

From Historical Society of Dela