

Prince William County, Virginia, Militia to George Washington, April 26, 1775, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF PRINCE WILLIAM.

DUMFRIES 26th. Apl. 1775.

SIR

We have just received a letter from the Officers of the Independant Company of Spotsylvania which I have herewith inclos'd;¹ I immediately call'd together this Company and had the vote put whether they would march to Williamsburgh for the purposes mentioned in that letter which was carried unanimously.

I have nothing more to add but that we are Well assured you may depend on them either for that or any other service which respects the liberties of America. We expect yr. answer & determination by Mr. Daviss. We have the honor to be

Yr. Most Obedt. Servts. WILLM. GRAYSON. PHIL. RD. FRANS: LEE By order of the Co.

¹ FREDRICKSBURG 24th. April 1771. SIR/ From undoubted Authority we receiv'd here this day Morning the very disagreeable Intelligence that in the Night of Thursday last, Capt. Collins Commander of one of his Majesty's Sloops of War by Command of his Excellency the Governor assisted by a Company of Marines carried off all the powder from the Magazine in the City of Williamsburg & deposited it on board his Vessell which lay at Burwell's fferry, about five miles below the City. The said Authority informs us that the Corporn. of the City of Wms.burg addressed the Govr on that Occasion The people had receiv'd no Satisfaction nor are they likely to recover the powder tho' it is so very necessary for the security of the Country. This being a day of Meeting the independt. Co. of this Town, they considered it necessary, to take the Matter into serious Considn. and are

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come to an unanimous Resolution that Submission to so arbitrary an Exertion of Government may not only prejudice the common Cause by introducing a suspicion of a defection of this Colony from the noble pursuit but will encourage the tools of despotism to commit further Acts of Violence in this Colony and more especially subject the Arms in the Magazine to the same fate of the powder. In these sentiments this Compy. could but determine that a Number of public spirited Gentr. should embrace this oppority. of shewing their Zeal in the grand Cause by marching to Wms.bg to enquire into this Affair and there to take such steps as may best answer the purpose of recovering the powder & securing the Arms now in the Magazine to this End they have determined to hold themselves in readiness to march from this place as light horse on Saturday Morning and in the mean time to submit the Mre to the deternn. of yours & the neighbouring Countys to whom Expresses are purposely forwarded We address you in the Name of our Co. as their Officers & are Sir Yr. very hble Servt HUGH MERCER
G WEEDON ALEXR SPOTSWOOD JNO WILLIS To CAPT. WM. GRAYSON (Copy)