

Dear Sir
 Swan Creek 10th Sept 1777

Please the favor of you to forward the enclosed in the first safe opportunity: my father will be anxious to hear from me. G. Smallwood wants to you by this opportunity to have some selection of the militia, their arms, ammunition, & accoutrements. You have will inform you he proposes to order the militia to rendezvous at Johnson's Ferry: the militia at this place will march tomorrow for that ferry. I shall proceed to head Quarters—no doubt you have better information from Mr. Jones of the enemy's position & motions than I can collect at this out of the way place: Howe I hear is at Aithim's Tavern 5 miles from head of Elk: Col. Rumrey, who is now here, was lately Saturday at head of Elk and made some prisoners: Cornwallis is at Crouch's Mills, Kniphausen at Frier's Mills, & last distant from Newark 3 miles: poor Alinander is gone along with the enemy with all his family—he can never remain in this country unless in the disagreeable situation of seeing it conquered by the enemy: if he has any virtue, this thought alone must pain him. Dr. A Stevenson it is said, cried like a child when he left his plantation in this neighborhood: no forerunner, misguided men! G. W. made a speech (I am told by one Rogers who keeps Susquehanna Ferry) to his army which was read with great applause: officers & men desired to lead to battle Washington is said to be at the head of 30th men: I believe this number exaggerated by at least a third—Believe Gen. Smallwood does not intend to cross Susquehanna till he receives the field pieces, as has now to proceed near the enemy.—Gen Washington I am sure would not hazard a general battle: we this day had a full view ^{from Stony [parish]} of the enemy's fleet lying from mouth of Elk to Sassafras, but chiefly about the mouth of Sassafras—if Mr. Smith should be desirous to return home, as it appears he is by a letter ^{of his} I this day saw written to Col. B Rumrey. I shall proceed to Congress, and [not?] return to join Smallwood's brigade of militia indeed I already found this kind of [sauntering?] life extremely disagreeable and fatiguing, hard lodging, and irregular [hours?] of eating [begins?] to disagree with my puny constitution & habit of body but perhaps I shall soon be more inured ^{to} better able to support the fatigue of a campaign— I humbly wish you well & am
 your affectionate friend
 Ch. Carroll of Carrollton

Dear Sir

Swan [Creek?] [?]th Sept 1777

I beg the favor of you to forward the [inclosed?] by the [first?] safe opportunity: my father will be anxious to hear from me. G. Smallwood [unites?] to you by this opportunity and [???] a return of the militia ^{^here} their arms, ammunition, and accoutrements—and I suppose will inform you he proposes to order the militia to rendezvous at Johnson's Ferry: the militia at this place will march tomorrow to that ferry. I shall proceed to head Quarters—no doubt you have better information from Mr. Jones of the enemy position and [motions?] than I can collect at this out of the way place: Howe I hear is at Aithim's Tavern 5 miles from head of Elk: Col. Rumrey, who is now here, was lately Saturday at head of Elk and made some prisoners: Cornwallis is at Crouch's Mills, Kniphausen at Frier's mills, W. Cash distant from Newark 3 miles: poor [Alinander?] is gone along with the enemy with all his family—he can never remain in this country unless in the disagreeable situation of seeing it conquered by the enemy: if he has any virtue, this thought alone must pain him. Dr. A Stevenson it is said, cried like a child when he left his plantation in this neighborhood: unfortunate, misguided men! G. W. made a speech (I am told by one Rogers who keeps Susquehanna Ferry) to his army which was [said?] with great applause: officers and men desired to be led to battle. Washington is said to be at the head of 30th men: I believe this number exaggerated by at least a third—I believe Gen. Smallwood does not intend to cross Susquehanna till he receives the [field?] [pieces?], as has now to proceed near the enemy.—Gen Washington I am sure would not hazard a general battle: we this day had a full view ^{^from Stony [parish]} of the enemy's fleet lying from the [north?] of Elk to Sassafras, but chiefly about the mouth of Sassafras—if Mr. Smith should be desirous to return home, as it appears he is by a letter ^{^of his} I this day saw written to Col. B Rumrey. I shall proceed to Congress, and [not?] return to join Smallwood's brigade of militia indeed I already found this kind of [sauntering?] life extremely disagreeable and fatiguing, hard lodging, and irregular [hours?] of eating [begins?] to disagree with my puny constitution and [habits?] of body. but perhaps I shall soon be more inured ^{^to} better able to support the fatigue of a campaign—I humbly wish you well and
 am an affectionate friend
 Ch. Carroll of Carrollton

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