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MMN # 102187

Date: October 13, 1779

Description: George Walton on the state of the war prisoners to General Lincoln, Georgia

Sunbury 13 October 1779

Sir,

I had the honor of your favor of the [10], by Colonel White, and thank you for your attention to the prisoners. It is the wish – I might add the right – of all the prisoners to be exchanged, or to have their limits extended. They all think with me, that the Enemy, by withdrawing their protection and support, independent of McGirth's threats, gave up the matter of confinement; and I believe a court of honor would absolve the obligation of the parole on account of McGirth's conduct. But this is not thought of.

I have enquired of the prisoners, [reporting] the subject of your last letter; and they are unanimously of opinion that they make not the last [breach] of a parole of honor by going where they please (except to operating armies) in the department, and this opinion they found on what has already been communicated to you, and on the certainty of being at least insulted by McGirth's [bandth] presently after the evacuation of [Sunbury] by your Guard, an event which will take place very shortly I fear, from the return of its [Garvision], and the general report of your raising

The lige of lavannah. This being their fite-It to extend their limits it will amount an anhould germent that they think them. Crujer mto the Hates

the Siege of Savannah. This being their [Interaton], it is difficult to determine the best way to ask. If an application is made to General Prevost to extend their limits, it will amount to an acknowledgement that they think themselves still confined to [Sunbury]. I have, however, in behalf of the officers wrote to General Prevost, and refer it to your judgement, whether you had best send [that] in, or an application from yourself. If you have already begun any such business with him, the objections suggested in your last letter will be done away.

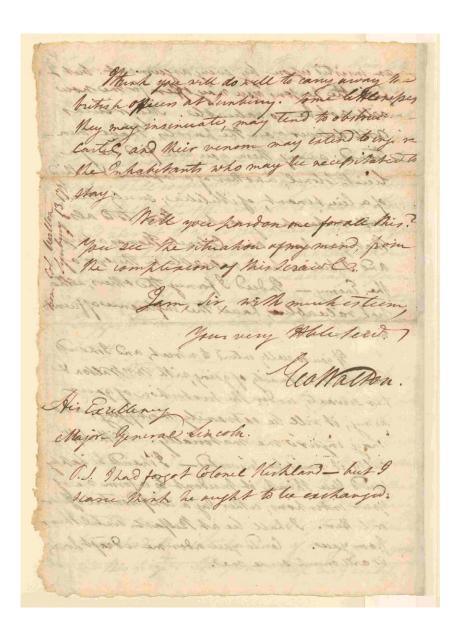
With regard to my self, particularly, I must rely upon your doing every thing in your power to effect my Exchange, a much more desirable object than its alternative- an extension of limits. I must go, at any rate; the other prisoners will go, and were I to stay, Whould instantly be made a hostage for them. Had you have ordered Colonel [Creyer] into the States, Whould have had the satisfaction of being with you in this Seige. ¹ They will keep me, unless I

¹ Major [Habersham] told me that you said a Colonel of Militia ranked with the youngest Colonel of regular troops. No, Sir, he ranks with the oldest lieutenant-Colonel. I had the honor of a seat in Congress when the regulation of the army took place, & remember a debate upon that subject.

an insisted whom by every argument: but I few the persons you may offer for me now will not be so valuable. Major buras will deliver you the paroles Thave men tioned; among them you will find one of a liest bolonel, another of a Captain ta third of a lietenant, of Militia; surely Mise with make up my ranh. Iam toto also that you have one Colonel Thomas a prisoner, and I believe he is naturable in The eyes of the Enemy - Indeed I fancy the other, altho not valuable, have the influence of priends in broannah. If you do really intend to wheat, and Ishauld lase The apportunity of going, with my Wallon & her rewants, under the probution of you army, it will be extremely mortifying, and may injure me makinally. With difficulty it must be prevented - I should be happy lands you think it predent to inform me of your intentions, either by a confidentel officer or liker. I shall be at Belfast with thear from your. Could you ader me a draft dorn, it will much serve me.

am insisted upon by every argument: but I fear the persons you may offer for me now will not be so valuable. Major [Lucas] will deliver you the paroles I have mentioned; among them you will find one of a lieut. Colonel, another of a Captain & a third of a lieutenant, of Militia; surely these will make up my rank. I am told also that you have one Colonel Thomas a prisoner, and I believe he is valuable in the eyes of the Enemy__ Indeed I fancy the others, altho not valuable, have the influence of friends in Savannah.

If you do really intend to retreat, and I should lose the opportunity of going, with M^{rs} Walton & her servants, under the protection of your army, it will be extremely mortifying, and may injure me materially. With difficulty it must be prevented__ I should be happy could you think it prudent to inform me of your intentions, either by a confidential officer or letter. I shall be at Belfast until I hear from you. Could you order me a draft horse, it will much serve me.



I think you will do well to carry away the British Officers at [Sunbury]. Some littleness they may insinuate, may tend to [obscure] [Cartil], and their venom may extend to inure the Inhabitants who may be [recipitated] to stay.

Will you pardon me for all this? You see the situation of my mind, from the complexion of this [Scrawl].

I am, Sir, with much esteem, Your very Hble. Serv.

Geo. Walton

His Excellency Major-General Lincoln

P.s. I had forgot Colonel [Kirkland] but I scarce think he ought to be exchanged.