

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 Mr. Girth'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 Mr. Girth's conduct. But this is not thought of.

I have enquired of the prisoners, respecting the subject of your last letter; and they are unanimously of opinion that they make not the best 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 Mr. Girth's conduct. Presently after the evacuation of Sunbury by your Guard on an event which will take place very shortly I fear, from the return of its Garrison, and the general report of your raising

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MMN # 102187

Date: October 13, 1779

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

¹ the Siege of Savannah. This being their situation, it is difficult to determine the best way to act. 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 judgment, 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, I should instantly be made a hostage for them. Had you have ordered Colonel Cruyer into the States, I should have had the satisfaction of being with you in this Siege. They will keep me, unless I

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.

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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.

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 men-
tioned; 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 Mrs Walton &
her servants, under the protection of your
army, it will be extremely mortifying, and
may injure me materially. With diffi-
culty 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,
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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 injure
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.

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