Dear Sir / Fort Johns 26th 1774

I have sent the Bearer Serjeant Smith express
116½ to inform you that the small pox has broke out
among the Men under my Command here & hope that
you will be kind enough by his return to let me have
instructions in what manner I am to act whether
immediately to inoculate the remainder of the Men
or remove them out of the way; I think the latter would
be of no effect as the man who communicated the
infection was a day and night in Company with all
the Soldiers he never combed his hair and often slept
with him he was a Merchant called himself a Quaker
from Lord Dunmore and produced a pass from the
Committee of Essex County in Virginia I have spoke
to Dr Browne who had the care of the fellow and he
says he thinks he was Inoculated I am Dr Sir with
the Greatest Gratitude your Most Obd Hble Servt
B. Bruce

N.B. We have but four Men that have
had the Small Pox