Charge exhibited against Robert Gafaway

On the twenty Sixth of February One thousand seven hundred and seventy Six at a Meeting of Capt. Valentine Creager and Philip Smith's Companies of Militia, the said Robert Gafaway when at Exercise as a private Man in Capt. Smith's Company stepped out of his Rank, and publickly and loudly declared, before the aforesaid two Companies and in the Presence of several other Spectators, that it was better for the poor People to lay down their Arms, and pay the Duties and Taxes laid upon them by the King and Parliament, than to be brought into Slavery, and to be commanded and ordered about as they were, he was asked who he meant had brought the people into Slavery, he said it was a parcel of great Men. That at first, they destroyed the Tea at Boston, and then knowing they had done wrong, did not know what they should do to save themselves, therefore ordered all America to be brought under Arms, and say now my brave Boys fight away (clapping his Hand to his Neck) for fear their Necks should be stretched, that this was only done to save themselves, when they had done wrong and were in fear of suffering for it; Mr Gafaway was told that this was only his own Opinion and that he had better keep it to himself, he Gafaway said he was satisfied he was right, and further said the best way was for the People to lay down their Arms, and petition the Congress to petition the King and Parliament, and if the Congress would not do that then the people ought to petition the King and Parliament themselves, letting them know that they had laid down their Arms, that this was the best Method of having a Reconciliation and further said that he wished the Lives of the Multitude

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