A Roster of Duty for the Officers of a Battalion in the Militia

No. of Company	Captains Commanding Companys	First Lieutenants	Second Lieutenants	Ensigns	First Sergeant	Second Sergeant	Third Sergeant	Fourth Sergeant	Corporals	First Lieutenants	Second Lieutenants	Ensigns	Rank & File Divisions
1	Capn	2	3	4	1	2	3	4					
2	Capn	1	4	3	2	1	4	3					
3	Capn	4	1	2	3	4	1	2					
4	Capn	3	2	1	4	3	2	1					
5	Capn	6	7	8	5	6	7	8					
6	Capn	5	8	7	6	5	8	7					
7	Capn	8	5	6	7	8	5	6					
8	Capn	7	6	5	8	7	6	5					

The above Roster is made out agreeable to an Act of Assembly pass in June 1777 for regulating the Tower of duty, for the severals officers in a Battalion of the Militia. By that Law companys are to be divided into 8 Clases; This regulation will throw many of the men under the command of the Officers of Other companys, which cannot be so agreable to them as serving under their own Officers, and may Possibly occasion great discontents among the men. To prevent which, I shall submit to the judgment of the Gentlemen who have the direction of those matters whether it would not Answer the End proposed as well, to divide the companys into four Clases only. That is, that each Officers division or platoon should compose a Clas; By this regulation the men would always go under the command of their own Officers, which must be much more agreable to them, than serving under Others. ——

The intention of the General Assembly in drafting Officers from part, and men from the whole Battalion, to form a company to act on any sudden occasion, I apprehend, was to prevent any particular neighbourhood, from being left too defenceless. But, as the captains, & Subalterns are to be drawn from different companys, the divisions they command would likewise be drawn from different neighbour=hoods, and therefore would not weaken any particular neighbourhood, in any great degree. ——

The dividing companys into 4 or 8 Clases will make a meterial difference in point of time in collecting the men together, in case there should be occasion call for them; To prevent loss of time, suppose there were to be no more Clases in a Battalion than there are Officers to command them, which would be 32 in each: And suppose the ranks, and Tower of duty, of the severals Captains, and Subaltern Officers in each Battalion were settled in such a manner, that every Officer might know when he was liable to be called on, to take the field at the head of his clas or division: Could it not be done in a much expedier & easier manner, than by calling one or two clases from the companys of the whole Battalion: Loss of time in military