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Frederick Town July ~~20th~~ 23rd 1776

Gentlemen

Colonel Stull informs me that at your last Convention at Annapolis you did me the very great Honor of appointing me Colonel of the Frederick County Battallion to Serve the United States of America in the flying Camp untill the first day of December next ——

Ever since the commencement of the Unnatural War Waged by a Wicked Ministry against this Country I have Consider=ed it as my Indispensible duty to exert my feeble Abili=ties in its defence and entering early into the Service have had the good fortune to be so far recommended to the Honorable the Continental Congress as to Obtain a Com=mission as Major ~~of a Battallion~~ of Rifle Men to serve the United States three Years: And being diffident of my Abilities to discharge the duties of a more Exalted station at present beg leave to decline the very Honourable Appointment by which you, Gentlemen, have confer'd an Obligation on me ever to be most gratefully remembered and Acknowledged. I beg leave in a Particular manner to profess my gratitude to those worthy Gentlemen by whose recommendations I obtain'd so respectable an Appointment, their favourable opinion I trust will always be maintain'd by a Propriety of Conduct in Gentlemen,

Yr. mo Obligd Obedt. Hble Serv.t O. H. Williams

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.