

Governors Executive Papers

James Patton Preston

Box 2, Folder 6

Dumfries, 11 Feb 1817

Dear Sir,

It will be recollected by you that at November Court in this County in the year 1815 Edmond Brooke who had been Sheriff for one year did not appear to give bond and qualify to his Commission as Sheriff for another year he being beyond sea and the court of Prince William ordered a notification of his circumstance to the Executive and that the County of Prince William was without a Sheriff during the month of November, the coroner of the county doing the duties of the Sheriff on the 22nd of November 1815 I was commissioned by the Governor to act as Sheriff for one year, that at November Court 1816 the Court of Prince William obliged me again to give bond and qualifies as Sheriff for one year and that without the interference of the Governor and Counsel I shall be compelled to give plan at next November term although the laws of our state give me two -----

Governors Executive Papers

James Patton Preston

Box 8, Folder 2, Letter from Col. John Linton

Dumfries, 15 July 1819

Dear Sir

Since I have qualified to my commission as commandant of the 36th Regiment of Militia, I find that there is but four companies of infantry & two volunteer companies in the whole regimental district, which six companies, does not contain quite four hundred men & I am informed that the 89th Regiment which is in the upper part of the county, contains not more than two hundred. I imagine that regular & exact returns have been made by this time to the Adjutant General of the amount of both regiments if so, the executive can be accurately informed as to the real amount of the two regiments, at present there are a great many vacancies in both regiments 7 the Magistrates of the County are summoned to August Court to nominate suitable characters to fill up all the vacancies, in a conversation I lately had with General Hunton he stated to me that the law authorized the Executive if they thought proper to consolidate the two Regiments, which when put together will not make one full one, it appears clearly to me that the public good would be promoted by a consolidation, for if the two Regiments remain there must be two full sets of officers which in time of war creates a double expense & you I dare say remember that during the late war when both Regiments were called out & were in Dumfries that there was a very great over proportion of officers for the men. In making this communication to you at this time I can assure you I have no personal motive. I thought if the Executive was to turn their attention to this subject that it would be a good time now as there are so few officers at present holding commissions, there would be no superemeraries in either Regiment, for in the 89th Col Gerrard Alexander informed me he should not qualify and there is no Major at present in that Regiment. It has not been many years since we had but one regiment in the county when our general musters were held in the Center of the County & as the county is a small one there certainly would be no inconvenience in consolidating the two in one, the Counties of Fairfax & Stafford

have but one Regiment in each & they I believe are as prosperous as Prince William, if the Executive should act on the subject you will much oblige me by informing of the same.

I am Dear Sir
with great respect yours &c
John Linton

Strength of Regiments in Prince William

36 th Regt. Infantry, Grenadiers & Riflemen	347
Cavalry	<u>73</u>
	420
89 th Regt. Infantry, Grenadiers & Riflemen	199
Cavalry	<u>67</u>
	266
Total	686

Return of the strength of the 89th is not of the current year – but taken from the return of 1816
C. W. Gooch A.G.